

PHOR 2225

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Dade	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 2 SEP 1972	DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME	
COMMON: Douglas Entrance (Douglas Village)	
AND/OR HISTORIC: (La Puerta del Sol) (The Gate of the Sun)	

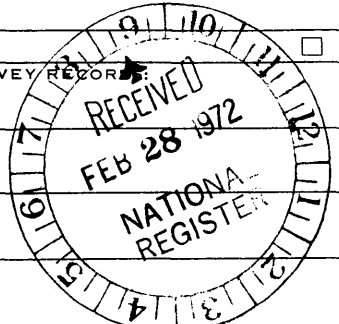
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Intersection of Douglas Rd. and S.W. 8th. St. (Tamiami Trail)			
CITY OR TOWN: Coral Gables			
STATE Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Dade	CODE 037

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Douglas Village Corporation			
STREET AND NUMBER: Douglas Road and Tamiami Trail			
CITY OR TOWN: Coral Gables	STATE: Florida	CODE 12	

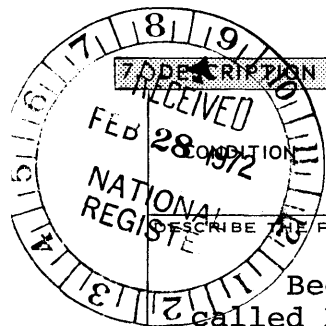
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dade County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 73 West Flagler Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Miami	STATE: Florida	CODE 12	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: N/A			
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Local		
STREET AND NUMBER: 			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	



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DESCRIPTION	(Check One)					
CONDITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Begun in 1924, the entrance to the City of Coral Gables, called La Puerta del Sol (Gate of the Sun) was constructed in the Mediterranean style so popular during this era in South Florida. The structure features a 90-foot tower and a gracefully curved arch 40-feet high. The tower, because of its height, belfry, and town clock, created an impressive structural appearance.

Through the arch, on which a stone carving appeared, entry is gained to La Puerta del Sol. Passing under the arch and on to a central plaza, the visitor is surrounded by the atmosphere of a village square. In the center of the 250 foot plaza stands a large fountain. The interior courtyard with a circular stairway, and the tower which was designed to hold the water supply for the immediate community, now houses the central cooling equipment. The original plans for the Entrance called for the inclusion of a complex of arches, towers, and colonnades, thereby evoking the atmosphere of a walled Spanish village. Other notable features included shaded terraces, quaint balconies, shadowed galleries and winding stairs, cloistered walls, sunken gardens, and the numerous smaller archways.

Construction of the building progressed in stages; the first phase included a library, ballroom, apartments and offices. A carefully selected team composed of designers, artists, and architects combined their talents in creating the impressive structure. Authenticity of detail and materials was an essential factor in planning and building the structure. Carloads of old barrel tile were imported from Cuban villages, and careful attention was given to details such as selecting the appropriate color of paint for the exterior. The apartments featured wood-burning fireplaces, high-beamed ceilings, wrought iron balconies, and unusually placed staircases. The experienced contractor chosen for the project, John B. Orr, had achieved recognition for his work on the Deering Estate, Vizcaya. Design was the work of Walter Degarmo, Phineas E. Paist, and Denman Fink. Interior design was by John Wanamaker of New York.

Before George Merrick's creation reached completion, however, the Florida Boom burst, bringing to a halt any further construction of the Entrance. Work on the building had reached a point where the structure was considered as complete, even though much of the planned construction was never realized.

During the late 1920's and subsequent years, ownership of the building passed into many hands, and it settled into a dormant period. During this period, the building was re-named simply the "Douglas Entrance", and it served primarily as an apartment complex and office building. The building was faced with destruction, but prevented when the

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

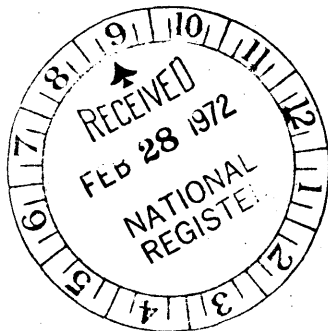
STATE	Florida	
COUNTY	Dade	
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ENTRY NUMBER	22	DATE
		SEP 1972

(Number all entries)

7. Description

Douglas Development Corporation purchased the property and surrounding acreage. Subsequently, the property was slated for sale and for construction of a supermarket and parking lot. This plan caused much controversy among the public, and, in 1964, the proposed action was fortunately blocked. A group of architects, engineers and professional men formed the Douglas Village Corporation, purchased the property, and began the necessary work of preservation of the building for its historic and architectural significance. Their plans proceeded, and as a result, the Entrance one again became a hub of cultural and commercial activity. As financial difficulties beset the Douglas Village Corporation, they enlisted the aid of the firm of Ferendino, Grafton, and Pancoast, Engineers, Architects, and Planners, who purchased controlling interest in the corporation and scheduled the building for restoration and as headquarters for their firm.

The building presently houses a variety of commercial offices including: a travel agency, a dress designer shop, a graphic arts firm, a doctor's office, several attorneys' offices, and a galerie of building products as a center for arts and crafts.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1921-1925

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

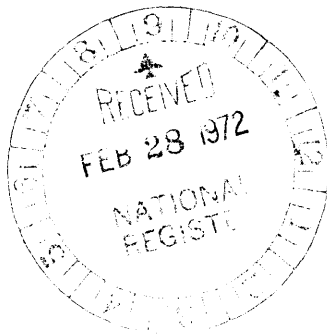
La Puerta del Sol (The Gate of the Sun) reflects the Mediterranean influence on the architecture of South Florida so prevalent during the 1920's. The structure is a significant example of the elegance and affluence so characteristic of life on Florida's southeast coast during this era. Over one million dollars was expended on the building by the pioneer developer of the City of Coral Gables, George Merrick, who envisioned the magnificent gateway into the city.

The Entrance was planned on a style of grandeur and elegance in every respect, as evidenced by the imposing archway, with its stone overhead carving, its graceful stairways, and prominent clock tower.

Although short of completion when financial disasters struck, the Entrance nevertheless remained an impressive reminder of the affluent 1920's, and was eventually preserved and restored through the efforts of private citizens and professional groups.

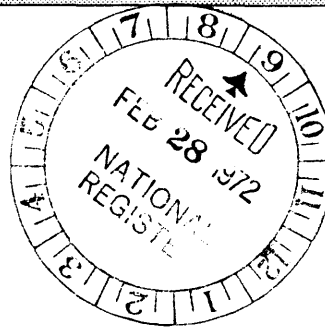
Today, the building is utilized to its fullest capacity—housing a myriad of commercial and industrial enterprises, as well as providing a center for cultural and artistic activities in the community.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Attached Sheet)



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		25° 45' 49"	80° 15' 21"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **approximately 4½ acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Archives, History & Records Mgt.** DATE: **9/7/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State - The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Robert William*
Title: State Liaison Officer
Date: 2/8/72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/22/72

ATTEST:
William Bennett
Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

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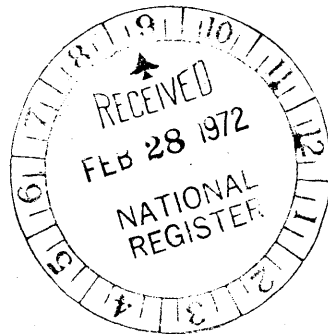
(Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY Dade	
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(Number all entries)

9. Bibliography

- City of Coral Gables. Comprehensive Map of Coral Gables, January, 1924. Coral Gables Development Department, Coral Gables, Florida.
- Coral Gables City Directory and Street Guide, January 15, 1926. The George E. Merrick Collection, Historic Museum of South Florida and the Caribbean, Miami, Florida.
- Coral Gables, Miami Riviera. Coral Gables Corporation, 1925. University of Miami Library, Coral Gables, Florida.
- "Dedication, Coral Gables Library in Cathedral Room Douglas Entrance, Sponsored by Coral Gables Woman's Club," Miami Riviera, Coral Gables, November 8, 1927. Second Annual Progress Week Edition, Coral Gables Community Development Department, Coral Gables, Florida.
- Deen, James. "Douglas Village," The Florida Architect, American Institute of Architects, May, 1966.
- Douglas Village corporation. Douglas Village. A Prospectus Prepared by the Douglas Village Corporation. Coral Gables, Florida, n.d.
- Ferendino, Grafton and Pancoast. "Douglas Entrance: Architectural Keynote to Coral Gables." Draft of Report, Coral Gables, Florida, n.d.
- "La Puerta del Sol," National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Preservation, XXII, No. 4 (October-December, 1970), 37-39.
- The Douglas Entrance (undated, assumed date, 1926). The George E. Merrick Collection, Historic Museum of South Florida and the Caribbean, Miami, Florida



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

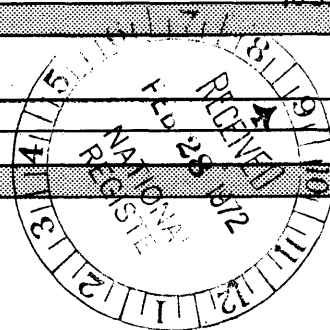
PROPERTY MAP FORM

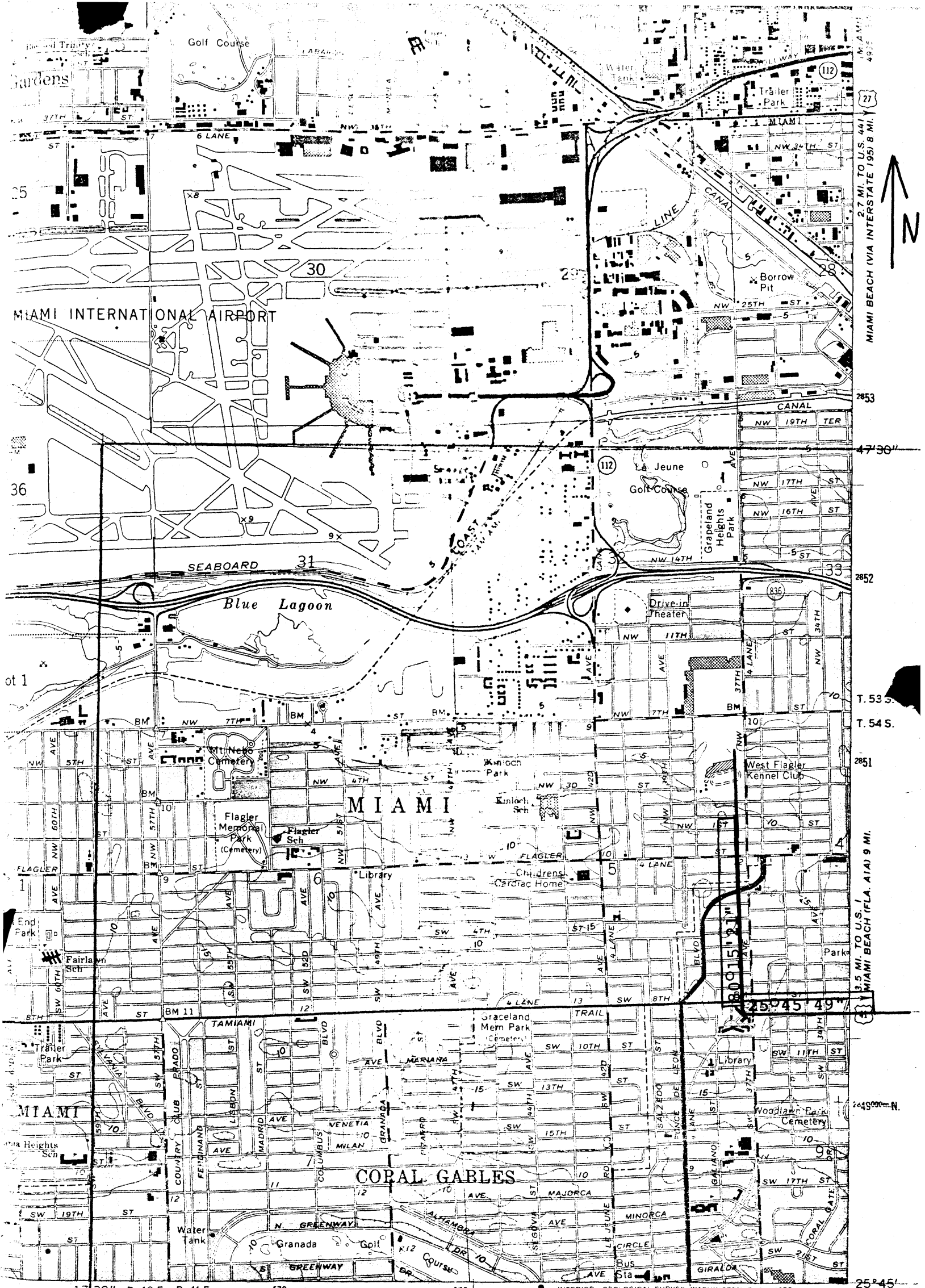
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Dade	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	22 SEP 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Douglas Entrance (Douglas Village)			
AND/OR HISTORIC: La Puerta del Sol (The Gate of the Sun)			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Intersection of Douglas Road and S.W. 8th. St. (Tamiami Trail)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Coral Gables			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Florida	12	Dade	031
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
Hialeah Quad			
SCALE: 7½ Minute Series			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





2.7 MI. TO U.S. 441
MIAMI BEACH (VIA INTERSTATE 195) 8 MI.

3.5 MI. TO U.S. 1
MIAMI BEACH (FLA. A1A) 9 MI.



17°30' R. 40° E. R. 41° E. 972

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C.—1976
3.6 MI. TO U.S. 1
575,000 m. E. 80° 15'
USC&GS T-8432

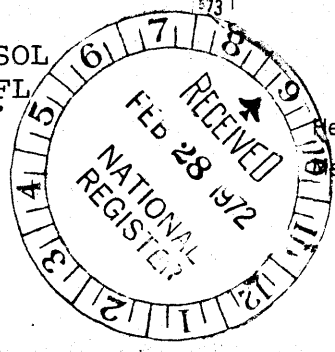
LA PUERTA DEL SOL
CORAL GABLES, FL.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty ————
- Light-duty - - - - -
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- U. S. Route (rectangle symbol)
- State Route (circle symbol)



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



HIALEAH, FLA.
N2545—W815

(KEY B15)
1955 11