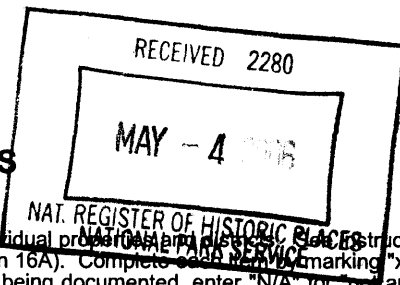


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. Place an "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name El Infante Shipwreck Site

other names/site number Nuestra Senora de Balvaneda/MO00092

2. Location

street & number 4 miles offshore Plantation Key n/a not for publication

city or town Plantation vicinity

state Florida code FL county Monroe code 087 zip code n/a

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara E. Mattick, DSHPO 5-2-06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain) _____

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Quilka K. Martin Gilbert 6/15/06

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

1733 Spanish Plate Fleet

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-related (ship)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-related (shipwreck)
Landscape: Underwater (underwater site)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

18th - Century Galleon

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation (hull) wood
walls _____
roof _____
other wood _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Archeology: Historic -- Non-aboriginal

Period of Significance

1733

Significant Dates

1733

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

First Spanish Period (1513-1763)

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

El Infante Shipwreck Site
Name of Property

Monroe Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	44	461093	2774722
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Della Scott-Ireton, Archaeologist III & Barbara E. Mattick, DSHPO

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April 2006

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name State of Florida

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1 **EL INFANTE SHIPWRECK SITE**
Monroe County, Florida

SUMMARY

Infante (8MO00092) is the site of a wooden-hulled sailing ship that was part of the Spanish Plate Fleet destroyed in a hurricane on 15 July 1733. The wrecksite is in 20 feet of water near Tavernier Key in Monroe County, Florida. The wreck, located within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, lies on submerged lands belonging to the State of Florida. The site includes a ballast mound approximately 48 meters in diameter and hull timbers that generally are covered with sand and marine vegetation.

SETTING

The site of *Infante* is on hard bottom and coral reef off Tavernier Key. The ballast mound served as the foundation for an artificial reef and the shipwreck site now is a thriving biological patch reef community which helps to protect the wreck from further deterioration; section of the keelson, stringers, frames, futtocks and hull planking are exposed. Water depth is 20 feet over the wrecksite and clarity is excellent ranging from 50 to 70 feet. The bottom is hardpan with a thin veneer of coarse quartz sand; the reef is composed of hard and soft corals, sponges, and a variety of marine life.

DESCRIPTION

The ballast mound that marks *Infante* is approximately 48 meters in diameter; the large ballast mound is scattered in a wide circular pattern. A scatter of ballast stones extends beyond the edge of the compacted mound; the scrambled appearance of portions of the ballast is evidence of modern salvage activities. Section of the keelson, stringers, frames, futtocks and hull planking are exposed. No non-contributing resources are associated with the site.

Elements of the ship's hull are buried under the ballast and the natural reef structure adhering to the ballast stones. Remaining hull timbers likely consist of the keel, frames, keelson, ceiling planking, and exterior planking as well as fasteners. The protective layer of ballast stones, sand, and reef structure conceals the ship's architecture and, possibly, rigging elements which may include deadeyes, chainplates, blocks, etc. Based on past recoveries from other 1733 shipwrecks, ship-related artifacts such as fasteners and ceramic sherds may also be present. Over the intervening years, some shipwreck material has been dispersed by wave and current action away from the primary area of timbers and ballast. This material forms the "wreck scatter" common to sites in a high-energy environment in shallow water near shore; the site boundaries are intended to encompass the area of wreck scatter. While displaced from their original context, scattered artifacts may still be linked to the shipwreck and can provide important information about site formation processes.

After grounding, *Infante* remained relatively intact until salvaged by the Spanish soon after the disaster. Her decks were flooded due to constant pounding against the coral and rafts were made of her upperworks and the people taken to shore. Salvage of treasure and other goods began almost immediately and nearly all of the registered silver and much of the general cargo was saved. Over the centuries the remains of her hull not

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2 **EL INFANTE SHIPWRECK SITE
Monroe County, Florida**

covered with ballast and sand were carried away by waves and storms; shipworms (*Teredo navalis*) that thrive in the warm water ate any exposed wood. The shipwreck seen today, if left undisturbed, has reached a state of equilibrium with the marine environment and has stabilized.

SITE INVESTIGATIONS

The Spanish began salvage activities soon after the fleet disaster. *Infante* was flooded but relatively intact, allowing recovery of nearly all of her registered cargo.

Art McKee was the first modern salvor to investigate the *Infante* wreck site as the area was included in his state lease, but he focused most of his attention on *Capitana*. In 1959, Tim Watkins and his crew "the Bastard Seven" (Jim Hettel, Tim Watkins, Jim Green, Olin Frick, Paul Nixon, Jim Doyle, and Art Sapp) began salvage activities on *Infante*. They recovered in a single day silver wedges, hundreds of silver coins, gold rings, flintlock musket, rapiers, cannonballs, and other artifacts. A subsequent photo in the Miami Herald "Undersea Swag Sparks Court Battle Threat" detailed a disagreement between McKee and the Watkins crew regarding salvage rights to the wreck. The feud carried over onto *Capitana* and gunplay brought national attention. State officials determined the *Infante* wreck site was outside state waters, resulting in chaos as salvors raced to stake their claims. Several salvage groups worked the shipwreck, discovering a scatter pattern that extended several hundred yards shoreward from the wreck site. World Wide Treasure Research worked the site in 1960. During the 1960s Russell Swanson, Dick Hall, Martin Meylach, Don Thomas, and others raised silver cobs, a sail needle, and other artifacts. In 1955 and again in 1963 Craig Hamilton, Warren Conway, and other divers recovered six 9 lb cannon, shot, barshot, grape canisters, iron grenades, flintlock musket and pistol, gold and silver rings, jeweled cufflinks, Chinese porcelain, ivory fans, and a silver helmet. The Royal Fifth group of Ray Manieri, Brad Pattern, Robert Weller, and Pat Patterson worked the ballast on weekends in 1965. Art Hartman, George Trabor, Harold Still, and Roy Volker recovered five 1732 "pillar dollars," a silver shoe buckle, a silver knife handle, a bronze religious medallion, 12 uniform buttons, straight pins, copper *maravedis*, and 2 and 4 *real* cob coins. D.L. Chaney, Tim Watkins, and Bobby Kline also worked wreck, recovering primarily coins. Kline also had a sort of business charging tourists \$100 per day to go on a "treasure hunting" charter to *Infante*; they could keep whatever they found but Klein got "first pick" of anything recovered. Salvage of *Infante* finally was halted by passage of the federal Abandoned Shipwreck Act in 1988.

Little archaeological research has been conducted at *Infante*. In 1988 a survey of *Infante* was conducted by the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Archaeological Research with participation from Florida State University and Indiana University during an underwater archaeology field school. The purpose of the survey was to locate a candidate for Florida's second Underwater Archaeological Preserve from among the known sites of the 1733 fleet. Eleven wrecks of the 1733 fleet were surveyed and a system was developed to rank sites for various criteria, including accessibility, archaeological integrity, biological features, and research and park potential.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3 **EL INFANTE SHIPWRECK SITE
Monroe County, Florida**

Duncan Matthewson used the site as the subject of another field school in 1991, laying a plaque on the wreck which now is missing. Research was performed by Robert Westrick who obtained a permit from NOAA to study *Infante* and worked at the site during the period of June 21 – 24, 2003.

In 2004, the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research resurveyed the wrecks of the 1733 fleet as part of a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Management Program. The purpose of the grant was to obtain archaeological and historical information about the 1733 fleet disaster in order to create a maritime heritage attraction for historical, recreational, and educational tourism. All of the sites of the 1733 shipwrecks, including *Infante*, were surveyed using an azimuth and measuring tape to record the ballast mounds using distance and bearing. Ballast, timbers, areas of disturbance, and large biological features such as coral heads were recorded on individual site plans for each shipwreck. The sites also were recorded with video and photography.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 **EL INFANTE SHIPWRECK SITE**
Monroe County, Florida

SUMMARY

Infante is significant at the national level under **Criterion D** in the area of **Archaeology: Historic-Non-Aboriginal** as one of the shipwrecks of the 1733 Spanish Plate Fleet disaster. *Infante* is one of very few positively identified examples of the classic galleon ship type that was heavily used both for commerce and for warfare in the 18th century and that transported treasure and goods between Spain and the Americas in the *Carrera de Indias*. As a part of Florida's and the nation's history, *Infante* represents an element of the early maritime commerce that skirted, and occasionally wrecked upon, the shores of today's state and that was the impetus for the Spanish colonization and occupation of what is today the state of Florida. The shipwreck has stabilized in the marine environment and can, through future archaeological investigation, provide additional information about 18th-century merchant vessels, the galleon ship type in particular, the Spanish *flota* system, and trans-Atlantic maritime culture.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: *Infante*

The armed galleon *Nuestra Senora de Balvaneda*, called *El Infante* (the Prince), was built in Genoa, Italy, in 1724 and was purchased by King Philip V of Spain. With an estimated capacity of 400 tons, *Infante* was one of the largest ships in the 1733 fleet and carried up to 60 cannons. Reinforced with sacrificial planking to forestall voracious ship worms that attacked all wooden ships in the tropics, she sometimes is referred to as the *refuerzo* in documents. Don Domingo de Lanz was her captain for the voyage. At Vera Cruz *Infante* loaded brazilwood, cochineal, Guadelajara Ware, Chinese porcelain, leather hides, indigo, vanilla, and citrus, as well as 186 boxes of silver coins (3000 *pesos* to the box = 558,000 *pesos*) for the King. Sailing toward the front of the fleet when the hurricane struck, storm winds pushed the galleon on her beam-ends, requiring her sailors to cut away the masts and, eventually, the bowsprit. The big ship grounded on the outer reef and pounded on the coral until she flooded to her decks. The next day her people could see *Capitana* grounded nearby, and four additional ships wrecked in the vicinity. Rafts were made of her upperworks and the people taken to shore. Salvage of treasure and other goods began almost immediately and nearly all of the registered silver and much of the general cargo was saved.

Once the cargo was recovered, the Spanish left the wreck to the sea to become home to generations of marine life.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1 **EL INFANTE SHIPWRECK SITE**
Monroe County, Florida

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2 **EL INFANTE SHIPWRECK SITE**
Monroe County, Florida

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1 **EL INFANTE SHIPWRECK SITE**
Monroe County, Florida

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site boundary of *Infante* is defined as a circle of 1,000 yards radius around the geographical coordinates Latitude 24° 56.556' N, Longitude 80° 28.531' W, lying offshore and below the mean low water mark of the Atlantic Ocean and encompassing the ballast mound and associated hull structure and artifacts.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The *Infante* site boundary is based on boundaries determined for another 1733 plate fleet wreck, *San Pedro*, that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. The purpose of the 1,000 yards radius around the site is to encompass the scatter of material culture relating to the shipwreck that has dispersed with wave and current action away from the primary area of timbers and ballast.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

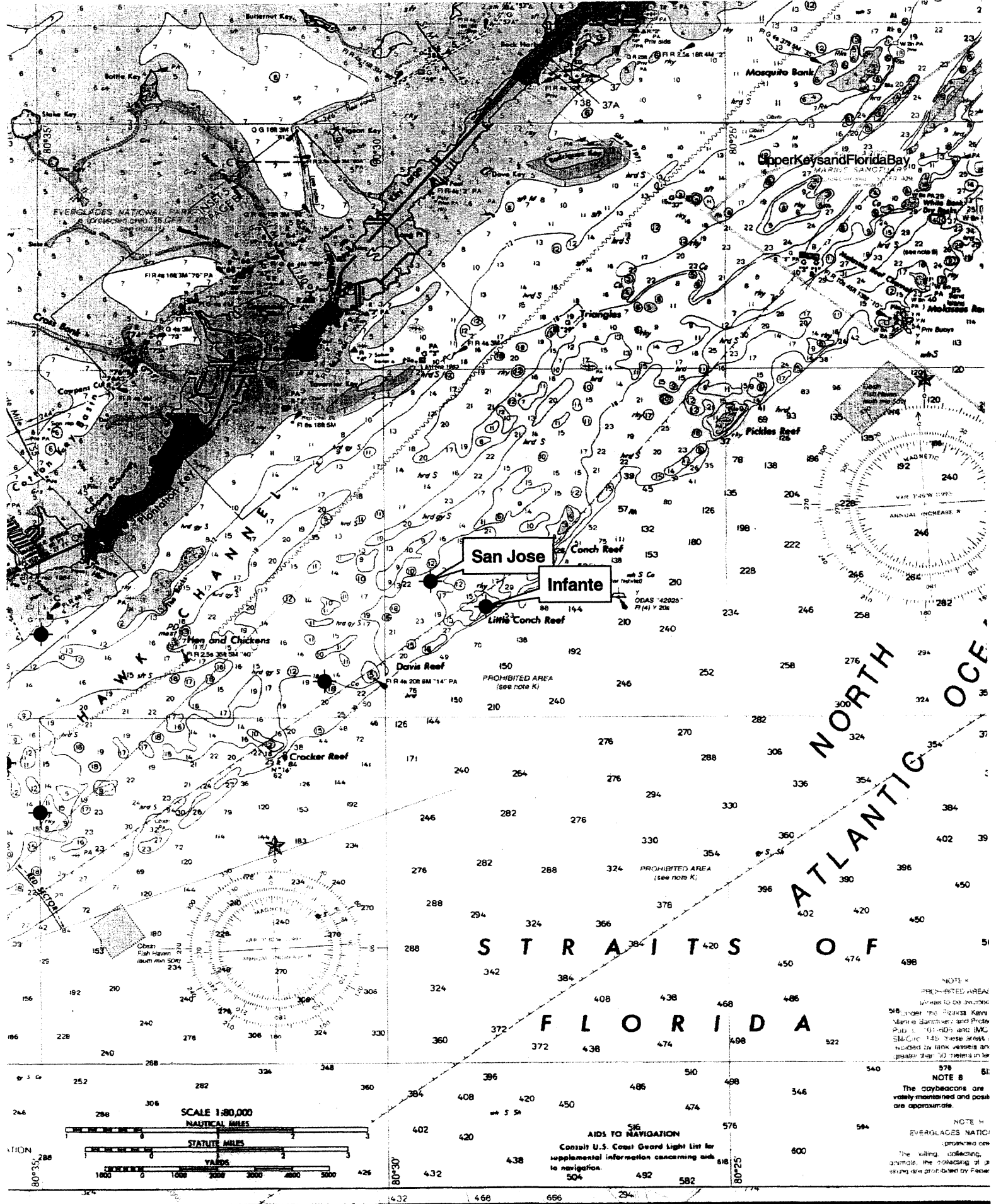
Section number _____ photo _____ Page 1

**EL INFANTE SHIPWRECK SITE
Monroe County, Florida**

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1.a) *Infante*
- b) Monroe County, Florida
- c) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
- d) August 2004
- e) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
- f) Frames
- g) 1 of 2

- 2.a) *Infante*
- b) Monroe County, Florida
- c) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
- d) August 2004
- e) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
- f) Frames looking North
- g) 2 of 2



San Jose
Infante

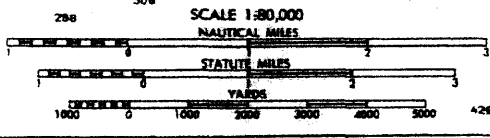
S T R A I T S O F
F L O R I D A

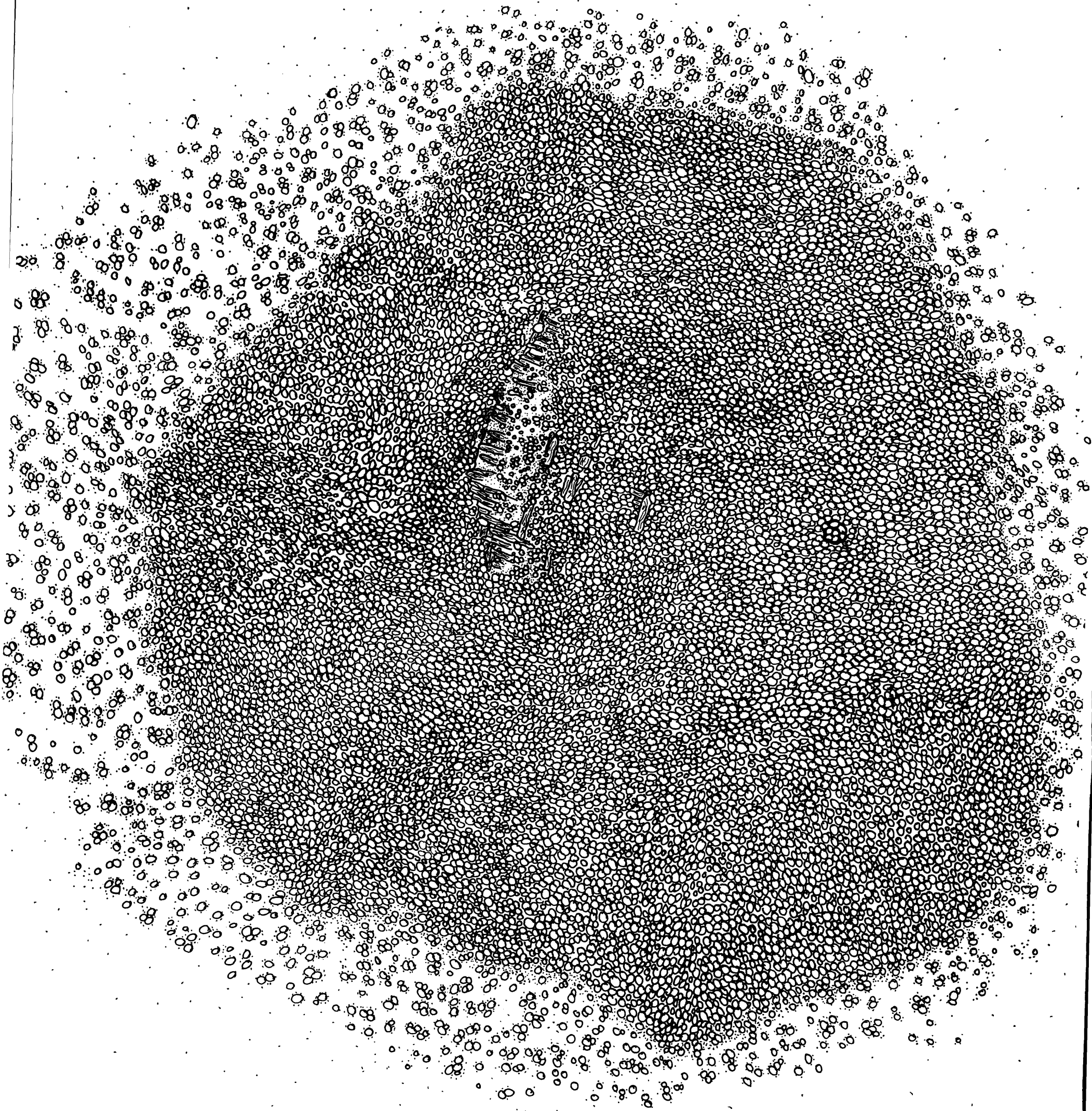
NOTE K
PROHIBITED AREA
Under the Florida Keys
Marine Sanctuary and Preserve
Act of 1980 (91 Stat. 145) these areas
closed to tank vessels are
peaks 70' or more in height.

NOTE B
The daybeacons are
vessels maintained and positions
are approximate.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION
Consult U.S. Coast Guard Light List for
supplemental information concerning aids
to navigation.

NOTE M
EVERGLADES NATIONAL
Park
The killing, collecting,
and the collecting of plants
and animals are prohibited by Federal





Infante
1004
200
← N →