

56-1861



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. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "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 NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY

other names/site number Woodlawn Cemetery, FMSF# BD04879

2. Location

street & number 1936 NW 9th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Fort Lauderdale N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county Broward code 011 zip code 33311

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.)

Alissa Lotane, Deputy SHPO 9/26/17
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, 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) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

11-29-2017

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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

N/A

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)

ART

ARCHAEOLOGY

ETHNIC HERITAGE (Black)

Period of Significance

1926-1964

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: N/A

Blder: N/A

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 4.1**UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	5	8	3	2	4	2	2	8	9	0	9	4	5
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
2	1	7	5	8	3	2	4	2	2	8	9	0	8	4	7

3	1	7	5	8	3	0	6	8	2	8	9	0	8	3	7
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
4	1	7	5	8	3	0	7	0	2	8	9	0	9	3	8

 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 Byname/title James P. Pepeorganization Janus Research date 09/19/2016street & number 1107 N. Ward Street telephone 813-636-8200city or town Tampa state Florida zip code 33607**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 City of Fort Lauderdalestreet & number 100 N. Andrews Avenue telephone 954-828-5000city or town Fort Lauderdale state Florida zip code 33301**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.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

North Woodlawn Cemetery is a historical resting place of many pioneering African-American residents (Figure 1). The cemetery is located on the west side of NW 19th Avenue, north of NW 9th Street, south of Sunrise Boulevard, and east of I-95 in Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida. The extant portion of the cemetery is 4.1 acres in size. It is unknown exactly how many burials are in North Woodlawn Cemetery, since there are many unmarked graves both in the cemetery and the potter's field. The current estimate of the number of graves is 2215.¹ The majority of the graves are located within the cemetery, rather than the potter's field.² The cemetery has approximately 571 marked graves.³ The layout of graves throughout the cemetery is irregular. The grave markers vary in their designs, and include primarily in-ground masonry coffin covers or smaller slabs, rise project only a few inches above the surface of the ground. Above ground masonry markers vary both in size and design. In 1996, because of neglect and code violations, the City of Fort Lauderdale seized the property, and burials ceased. Prior to its rededication in 2002 \$250,000 was spent on its revitalization.

SETTING

Fort Lauderdale is the county seat of Broward County, Florida, that has a population of approximately 165,521. It is a principal city of the Miami metropolitan area, which was home to an estimated 6,012,331 people at the 2015 census. Fort Lauderdale is named after a series of forts built by the United States during the Second Seminole War. The forts took their name from Major William Lauderdale (1782–1838). The City of Fort Lauderdale was incorporated as a City in 1917 and obtained its first official cemetery shortly thereafter. The City has four cemeteries within the City limits. These properties play an important part in preserving the history of our City, as well as serving current and future residents. The future site of the North Woodlawn Cemetery was described in the 19th century as pine and palmetto land with cypress ponds in the vicinity. Even during its early years, the location of the cemetery was all palmetto woods/scrub and access was almost impossible.⁴ At the time of its establishment, during the mid-1920s, North Woodlawn Cemetery was located on the outskirts of Fort Lauderdale, to the northwest of the city center. The cemetery was created simultaneously, and located just to the east of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad (currently the CSX) which arrived in Fort Lauderdale in 1927.

¹ Find A Grave. Woodlawn Cemetery, Electronic document, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2208144&CScn=woodlawn&CSentry=4&CSst=11&>, accessed September 1, 2015.

² n.a. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

³ Vicky Spadafora, Woodlawn Cemetery. Manuscript on file, FLHS, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1992.

⁴ Beauregard Cummings, Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road to North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2012.

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NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

North Woodlawn Cemetery occupies a rectangular parcel of land bounded by the west side of NW 19th Avenue, north of NW 9th Street, south of Sunrise Boulevard, and east of I-95 in the city of Fort Lauderdale. The extant portion of the cemetery is 4.1 acres in size. It is unknown exactly how many burials are found in the cemetery, since there are many unmarked graves both in the cemetery and the potter's field that was once present just to the west of the existing boundaries of North Woodlawn. The cemetery has approximately 571 marked graves.⁵ The layout of graves throughout the cemetery is irregular. The grave markers vary in their designs, and include primarily in-ground masonry coffin covers or smaller slabs, which project only a few inches above the ground surface. Above ground masonry markers vary both in size and design. Burials ceased in the cemetery in 1996 when the city took control of the property. The interior of the cemetery has a U-shaped paved sidewalk with entrances found on N.W. 9th Street constructed in the 1970s. A masonry wall defining the scrap yard abutting the cemetery to its north was constructed circa-1978 and there is metal picket wall along NW 9th Street.

The modern iron fence surrounding the cemetery (Photo 2) on the east and south sides was constructed as part of the improvements the city completed prior to its rededication in 2002⁶. In 1996, the city constructed a chain link fence around the property to secure it, as they determined how to proceed with the cemetery. There is currently a chain-link fence constructed by the city in 1996 on the west side of the cemetery approximately two meters from northbound lanes of I-95 (Photos 3-5). This fence and the westernmost graves of the cemetery were within the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) right-of-way (ROW) until the land was transferred to the city in October 2015. Records of the FDOT indicate that a barrier/gravity wall was constructed on the eastern edge of I-95 at its border with the cemetery. This fence and the westernmost graves of the cemetery were within the FDOT ROW until the land was transferred to the city in October 2015. A survey completed by the FDOT prior to the transfer revealed that 21 grave markers were partially or wholly located within the FDOT ROW. Photos 6-7 are representative of the grave markers adjacent to I-95.

There are a high number of unmarked graves within the cemetery. According to research by local residents, more than 70 percent of the graves are unmarked. Various accounts indicate that this is both a result of graves not being marked originally and headstones being removed throughout history. Newspaper articles in both the 1960s and the 1990s indicate that bodies are buried one on top of the other.⁷ James Bradley, Old Dillard Museum Historian, reported that many graves originally had wooden cross grave markers which had a name

⁵ Vicky Spadafora, Woodlawn Cemetery. Manuscript on file, FLHS, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1992.

⁶ Ottey, Michael A. W. "Return to Dignity Historic Cemetery's Rebirth Celebrated." Miami Herald, October 13, 2002. Accessed through the FLHS Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

⁷ Mangan, Pat. "Graves Escape Taxes, but not Litter." Miami Herald, March 31, 1966, Accessed through FLHS Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn); Benedick, Robin. "Many Black Pioneers Rest in Debris." Sun Sentinel, June 25, 1996. Accessed through the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (FLHS) Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

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NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

written on it until the family could afford a permanent marker, and many of the graves did not have monuments (Figure 5).⁸

In April 2015, a cadaver dog survey, radar tomography, and ground penetrating radar surveys were conducted in the portion of the cemetery which was within the FDOT ROW to locate possible unmarked graves. The cadaver dog survey was conducted on April 11, 2015 within the FDOT ROW. The survey identified 19 locations where possible unmarked graves may be located. Eight targets are located inside the fence line and 11 are outside the fence line (Figure 6).

A geophysical investigation with ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey was conducted on April 18, 2015 within the FDOT ROW.⁹ The GPR data showed the presence of known graves and possible unmarked graves. A total of 80 possible graves were identified within the ROW (Figure 7). Sixty-five of the GPR anomalies had strong reflections and are most likely graves; 15 of the anomalies had weaker reflections. Twenty-two of the 80 anomalies coincide with visible grave markers resulting in 58 possible unmarked graves. No possible gravesites were identified west of the fence. Seventy-two percent of the possible graves within the ROW identified during the GPR survey are unmarked corroborating research by local residents that over 70 percent of the graves in the cemetery are unmarked. A radar tomography survey was conducted on April 24, 2015. The results of the survey were inconclusive. Due to the size of the equipment the radar tomography survey was not conducted within the fenced portion of the cemetery.

Today, those grave markers which remain are varied in their designs (Photos 11-15). The majority are in-ground masonry coffin covers or smaller slabs, which project only a few inches above the ground surface (Photos 20-24).¹⁰ Above ground masonry markers vary in size and design (Photos 25-28).

Most, if not all, of the extant funerary furniture is in the form of hand-made concrete markers. These markers are in many forms, including crosses, diamonds and obelisks, and display various artistic treatments. Inscriptions of names, birth and death dates, and other information were made with stamps or drawn by hand while the concrete was still wet. Some of these markers are decorated with hand-drawn scrolls, crosses, and other shapes. A few are decorated with broken chunks of concrete, marbles, or shells. Many of the markers which do remain are in poor condition and their text is no longer legible. A count in 1992 indicated that there were 571 marked graves.¹¹ The marked graves are randomly arranged, with some in clusters, and available

⁸ Bradley, James. Interview by Sandra Hodge, C3TS. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2012a

⁹ GeoView, Inc. Final Report Geophysical Investigation North Woodlawn Cemetery, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Manuscript on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2015.

¹⁰ n.a. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

¹¹ Spadafora, Vicky. Woodlawn Cemetery. Manuscript on file, FLHS, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1992.

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NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

sources indicate that there was historically no pattern to their placement. No records appear to have been kept of the interments. This, combined with the practice of probing the soil for existing coffins to determine a suitable location for a burial, resulted in a seemingly haphazard arrangement of burials and coffins at times buried on top of each other. Marble slabs inscribed with the history of the cemetery, and posts inscribed with the known names of those buried there are located throughout the property.

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NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

North Woodlawn Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register for significance on the local level under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black, under Criterion C for its exceptional and unique African-American folk art, and under Criterion D for its ability to provide scientific information regarding local burial patterns. The period of significance spans from 1926 to 1964. The cemetery was established during the 1920s as the city government restricted the African-American community to the northwest quadrant of Fort Lauderdale. It was the result of institutionalized racial segregation in Broward County from 1926 to 1964, and was one of only two cemeteries African-Americans could be buried in until 1962. As such, many important African-American leaders in the early settlement of Fort Lauderdale are buried in North Woodlawn Cemetery. It is the only extant historic African-American cemetery in Fort Lauderdale, and is considered a rare remaining historic resource associated with the African-American community's early history. The cemetery meets National Register Criteria Consideration D, as it is significant primarily for its distinctive design features and association with historic events

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Fort Lauderdale was incorporated in 1911 and became the county seat of Broward County in 1915. The city boundaries in 1911 were defined as North 4th Street, South 9th Street, East 6th Avenue, and West 9th Avenue. The New River and the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway were the center axis of the town. The city's economy was initially centered on agriculture, but during the 1920s tourism flourished. The rise of tourism expanded the Fort Lauderdale economy and population. There was rapid development with new residential developments near the Intracoastal Waterway, and growth of the downtown area. The population of Fort Lauderdale rose from 52 in 1900 and 143 in 1910, to approximately 16,000 in 1925 (Historic Property Associates 1985). Much of Fort Lauderdale was damaged in the September 1926 hurricane and the population declined to under 9,000.¹²

The African-American residents of Fort Lauderdale first arrived as laborers for the construction of the FEC Railroad, and many stayed in the area as farmers. The laborers came from Central Florida, Georgia, and the Bahamas. In the early years of Fort Lauderdale, the community's small population prevented a separation of the races. However, as the downtown area began to develop, African-Americans began concentrating in the northwest section of town. In 1927, the city adopted the Schermerhorn grid system which divided the city into four quadrants with Broward Boulevard and Andrews Avenue as the axis.¹³ The city also used the adoption of

¹² Historic Property Associates. Architectural and Historical Survey of Fort Lauderdale: Original Town Limits. Manuscript on file, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee, 1985.

¹³ Spadafora, Vicky. Woodlawn Cemetery. Manuscript on file, FLHS, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1992.

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NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

the Schermerhorn plan to officially sanction the separation of the African-American community, and restrict African-American homes and businesses to the northwest quadrant west of the FEC Railway. African-Americans were forced to sell property and businesses located to the east of the railroad.

Prior to the establishment of North Woodlawn Cemetery, African-Americans were buried in a field near NW 6th Street/Sistrunk Boulevard and NW 19th Avenue.¹⁴ Today, there is a Fort Lauderdale government building and park space, as well as commercial and residential development at this location. Another source notes that prior to North Woodlawn Cemetery, African-Americans were forced to bury their deceased in the woods (Rasin 1992).¹⁵

North Woodlawn Cemetery was officially established in the mid-1920s when James H. Dillard donated land for the cemetery. The re-plat of North Woodlawn Cemetery from 1940 (Figure 2) depicts the cemetery as measuring 660 feet east-west by 330 feet north-south, a measurement that includes the adjacent roadways (Broward County Plat Book 19, Page 1). No maps or photographs are available depicting the cemetery boundaries prior to the 1940 document. A 1983 article in the Fort Lauderdale News notes that the original blueprint of the cemetery was lost after one of the owners, Reverend J.W. Watson, died in the 1960s.¹⁶ However, it is unclear from the article if this refers to the cemetery layout or locations of burials. James Bradley, Old Dillard Museum Historian, and multiple attendees of the October 17, 2012 Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road to North of Oakland Park Boulevard (Community Outreach Meeting), noted that the cemetery originally extended almost to the Seaboard Air Line Railroad tracks at its west end.¹⁷ This is also noted on the informational plaques within the cemetery. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map updated through 1950, and Hopkins Map updated through the 1970s indicate boundaries which correspond to those in the 1940 re-plat (Figures 3-4).

The first aerial photographs available, from 1947, show that the cemetery was still at the edge of the city. Gridded streets were laid out to the east and south, but the area to the north was still undeveloped. Some streets were laid out to the west of the railroad, but development was minimal. The area immediately east and south of

¹⁴ Spadafora, Vicky. Woodlawn Cemetery. Manuscript on file, FLHS, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1992; Benedick, Robin. Many Black Pioneers Rest in Debris. *Sun Sentinel*, June 25, 1996. Accessed through the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (FLHS) Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

¹⁵ Rasin, Karen. Personal communication with Emily Sheckels Ahouse of Janus Research, October 9, 2012. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

¹⁶ Linda Jones, Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

¹⁷ Bradley, James. Interview by Sandra Hodge, C3TS. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2012a; Bradley, James. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road to North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2012b

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the cemetery began to develop during the 1950s. It consists primarily of late 1950s and early 1960s residential development. The houses are of simple, Masonry Vernacular designs commonly developed throughout Florida during the period. In addition to the residential development, a circa-1956 Masonry Vernacular commercial/industrial building is located immediately south of the cemetery. Business and industries also began emerging adjacent to the west of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad during the late 1950s.

Through the early 1970s, the parcels adjacent to the east of the railroad, between the railroad and the extant cemetery, remained undeveloped. The properties to the east of the railroad and west of the extant cemetery were purchased in the late 1960s by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the construction of I-95, which was constructed in 1972 and 1973. The land immediately north of the cemetery remained vacant at this time. Broward County Property Appraiser's records indicate that a structure was constructed on this property in 1978, and available aerial photographs show the presence of the current metal scrap yard in 1979. The cemetery is currently bordered by commercial/industrial land uses to the northeast and south, residential development at the southeast, and I-95 at the west.

The re-plat of the cemetery shows that by 1940 it was bordered on the east by NW 19th Avenue, NW 9th Street to the south, NW 9th Place to the north, and NW 20th Terrace to the west. Four interior roads divided the cemetery into four blocks, which were divided into a total of 308 lots, plus a potter's field at the west. The historic aerial from 1947 depicts only two of the interior roads, the ones that separated blocks 1 from 2 and blocks 2 from 3. The four blocks of the main cemetery were cleared except for a few scattered trees. The potter's field had few trees but appears to be covered in brush or overgrown vegetation. By 1949, all of the interior roads were present. In 1957, the land to the west and north of the potter's field had been cleared and the potter's field is clearly delineated on the aerial photograph. The potter's field continued to be overgrown until sometime between 1957 and 1968 when it is illustrated on the historic aerial as a grassy field with a few scattered trees. In 1973, the area of the potter's field was being prepared for the construction of I-95.

Accounts vary as to the exact date of establishment of North Woodlawn Cemetery. James Bradley, Old Dillard Museum Historian, noted that the Christian Pallbearer's Society established the cemetery around 1923, after the first African-American funeral home (Benton Funeral Home) was opened by George W. Benton. Other accounts note that in 1926 James H. Dillard, a local educator, donated the property for the cemetery. Vicky Spadafora's documentation of Woodlawn Cemetery notes that the Christian Pallbearer's Society, Dr. Dillard, and George Benton were all instrumental in the founding of the cemetery.¹⁸ All accounts indicate that it was in use by the late 1920s. The majority of the documentary sources available note a 1926 establishment, and thus that is the approximate date utilized in this documentation.

¹⁸ Spadafora, Vicky. Woodlawn Cemetery. Manuscript on file, FLHS, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1992.

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SIGNIFICANCE

George W. Benton, founder of the Benton Funeral Home, was responsible for the burials at North Woodlawn Cemetery.¹⁹ Benton also owned a drug store on NW 5th Avenue where Seminoles bought supplies. However, James Bradley, Old Dillard Museum Historian, noted that there is no record to indicate that Native Americans are buried there, and Benton only conducted funerals for African-Americans.²⁰ While some accounts indicate that migrant workers and a few white paupers were buried in the cemetery,²¹ the consensus of the attendees of the Community Outreach Meeting in 2012 was that only African-Americans were buried at the cemetery.²² However, during recent oral interviews, several residents mentioned that Woodlawn welcomed all people of color, regardless of ethnicity or race.²³ Additionally, Woodlawn served as a final resting place for residents in the greater Fort Lauderdale area, including nearby communities such as Davie.

Funerals at Woodlawn were described as “turnouts,” that occupied a good part of a day and were attended by most of the local African-American community.²⁴ Funerals were always held on Sundays, and often began with a wake or memorial service at the home of the deceased or a relative. The deceased was then transported to North Woodlawn in a funeral procession or parade, often accompanied by music. The ceremonies that took place at Woodlawn were also described as musical affairs. Several residents described how funerals at Woodlawn were often more “colorful” than somber. Residents attributed this, in part, to the Bahamian roots of many of the early African-American residents of Fort Lauderdale.²⁵

However, local residents also recall more somber memories related to North Woodlawn cemetery during the period of segregation. Some residents remember that while walking past Woodlawn on their way to school, they witnessed on several occasions the bodies of dead or dying men of color lying within or just next to the cemetery grounds. They assumed that these black men had fallen victim to violence at the hands of white residents the previous night and had been dumped at the cemetery for burial.²⁶ Various owners are known throughout the cemetery’s history, and a complete ownership history is not available. Throughout its history, portions of the cemetery were owned and maintained by the Christian Pallbearer’s Society Nos. 1 and 2. Christian Pallbearer’s Societies were established in African-American communities in order to ensure burial

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Bradley, James. Interview by Sandra Hodge, C3TS. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2012a

²¹ Feehan, Jane. Florida History: Woodlawn, Fort Lauderdale’s African-American Cemetery. Electronic document, <http://janesbits.blogspot.com/2011/04/florida-history-woodlawn-fort.html>, accessed April 3, 2012; Benedick, Robin. Many Black Pioneers Rest in Debris. *Sun Sentinel*, June 25, 1996. Accessed through the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (FLHS) Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

²² n.a. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

²³ Johnny Alexander, Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Beauregard Cummings, Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2012.

²⁶ Johnny Alexander, Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

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services to the families that subscribed. Families paid weekly dues into a collective fund and the society would provide funeral and burial services to members of those families. In Fort Lauderdale, the Christian Pallbearers Society charged \$.10-\$.50 per week to maintain the cemetery if patrons wanted to be buried there.²⁷ The Pallbearers Society would clean up the cemetery once or twice a year.²⁸

The 1940 re-plat lists the Woodlawn Cemetery Association as the owner of the North Woodlawn Cemetery. Legal documents from the 1990s and 2000s list both the North Woodlawn Cemetery Association and the Christian Pallbearer's Society No.1. The relationship between the Woodlawn Cemetery Association and the Christian Pallbearer's Society No.1 is uncertain. North Woodlawn Cemetery Association was a non-profit corporation that merged with New Bethel Baptist Church, Inc. in 1968. The cemetery also appears to have had various additional private owners throughout its history. A 1966 newspaper article notes "Johnson and Weaver" as owners, in addition to the Woodlawn Cemetery Association and Christian Pallbearer's Society No. 1.²⁹ A 1983 newspaper article notes the deceased Reverend J.W. Watson as one of the owners.³⁰

All accounts indicate that few records were kept of the burials occurring at North Woodlawn Cemetery. Although the 1940 re-plat of North Woodlawn Cemetery has it divided into lots, there is no evidence that individual lots were ever sold. Although the cemetery was privately owned, the burial practices could be interpreted as collective on a community scale. While there may have been some attention made to families which were clustered together if possible, the primary factor for the location of burial appears to have been the perceived absence of a burial at that location. Records of where burials were located and who was buried were not kept. Due to the lack of records, coffins were often buried on top of each other.

The western portion of the cemetery served as a potter's field. While one source notes that this portion of the cemetery was reserved for infants,³¹ the consensus at the 2012 Community Outreach Meeting was that this is incorrect.³² Community Outreach Meeting attendees noted that the potter's field was typically used for

²⁷ James Bradley, Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road to North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2012b; Pugh, Tony. Civic Pride Rescues Historic Cemetery. Miami Herald, February 2, 1992. Accessed through the FLHS Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

²⁸ n.a. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

²⁹ Pat Mangan, "Graves Escape Taxes, but not Litter." Miami Herald, March 31, 1966, Accessed through FLHS Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

³⁰ Linda Jones, Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

³¹ Jane Feehan, "Florida History: Woodlawn, Fort Lauderdale's African-American Cemetery." Electronic document, <http://janesbits.blogspot.com/2011/04/florida-history-woodlawn-fort.html>, accessed April 3, 2012

³² n.a. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

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unknown folks buried by the city, including hobos and people who had been murdered.³³ Beau Cummings noted that the potter's field came later into the late 1930s rather than at the cemetery's original opening, noting that everyone was a pauper back then.³⁴ Cummings recalled that there was an arrangement between the city and the funeral director to bury unknown folks apart from those who had actual plots.³⁵ He, along with James Bradley, noted that there were never many graves within the potter's field (Bradley 2012b, Cummings 2012)³⁶. Mary Black Rizor, who worked for the Benton Funeral Home, does not recall burials in the potter's field (Rizor 2012). Although there are varying accounts to its use and establishment, the Community Outreach Meeting attendees agreed that the potter's field was historically a part of North Woodlawn Cemetery and should continue to be considered a part of the cemetery (n.a. 2012).³⁷

North Woodlawn Cemetery consists of both unmarked and marked graves. Many of the unmarked graves originally had wooden markers, but some burials were never marked. The memorials of some were also trees or bushes. Unmarked graves are located both within the currently platted cemetery boundaries and the potter's field. James Bradley personally confirmed the presence of unmarked graves within the cemetery, noting that he has two children buried there in unmarked graves from 1954 and 1955.³⁸

By the late 1950s, North Woodlawn Cemetery was run down, and the trust fund for its maintenance had little money as so many indigents were buried in the cemetery (Mangan 1966). In 1958, African-American leaders went to the city to request a municipally operated cemetery, and in 1962 Sunset Memorial Gardens was opened (Mangan 1966). A 1966 newspaper article describes North Woodlawn Cemetery as having graves overgrown, litter, headstones sinking, wooden cross markers rotting, settling and cracking of the boxes enclosing the caskets, and cites complaints about a bad odor (Mangan 1966). At this time, Uley Edwards, the president of Christian Pallbearers Society No. 1, noted that he was never told that records should be kept of grave locations, and he has none (even though they were required by state law) (Mangan 1966).

After African-Americans were allowed to be buried in other city cemeteries, with the end to segregation laws in 1964, the cemetery continued to be used by families who had other members interred there. The cemetery was

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Cummings, Beauregard. Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2015

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ James Bradley, Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road to North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012); Beauregard Cummings, Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2015

³⁷ n.a. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida

³⁸ James Bradley, Interview by Sandra Hodge, C3TS. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2012a

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also an inexpensive option for those who could not afford plots in other cemeteries and was used for burials of indigents.

In 1967, the FDOT purchased the potter's field for ROW for the construction of I-95. The road was constructed between 1972 and 1973. At the Community Outreach Meeting, the consensus among the attendees (as confirmed by available historic and current mapping) was that graves within the potter's field were covered by the construction of I-95.³⁹ James Bradley noted that at the time there was much controversy and complaint about the construction of I-95 over the potter's field, but the road construction proceeded and nothing was reported in the news.⁴⁰ Beau Cummings noted that ten unmarked graves were in the area of the construction of I-95, and he recalled that graves were found during its construction and removed.⁴¹ However, neither Cummings nor other attendees of the Community Outreach Meeting who had similar recollections had firsthand knowledge of this, or had seen burials being removed.⁴²

During a meeting with representatives of the FDOT and Janus Research on October 30, 2012, Charlie Manganaro stated that he was present during the construction of I-95, and noted that the portion of the highway was mostly filled with materials dredged from a nearby waterway. Desir Jacques presented the original construction plans which mostly corroborated Charlie Manganaro's recollection, but showed limited excavations under the southbound lanes. The consensus reached at the meeting was that the northbound lanes (the area of the potter's field) were filled with no excavations needed, and minor excavations occurred along the southbound lanes. Charlie Manganaro does not recall any remains being encountered during construction, and graves within the potter's field should be undisturbed underneath the road fill. At some point after the construction of I-95 a barrier/gravity wall was constructed on the east side of I-95 within the potter's field just west of the cemetery boundaries. It is visible along the northeastern two-thirds of I-95 within the potter's field on available aerial photographs from 1979 through 1990. Following this time, the wall appears to have been buried.

As late as the early 1980s, a burial was noted to have cost \$150 for adults and \$10 and up for children.⁴³ During this period the cemetery was described as the last stop for people with low or no income. A 1983 newspaper

³⁹ n.a. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

⁴⁰ Bradley, James. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road to North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2012b.

⁴¹ Cummings, Beauregard. Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2015

⁴² n.a. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

⁴³ Linda Jones, Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

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article states, “if they had any money, they wouldn’t come here.”⁴⁴ In 1991, the Woodlawn Revitalization Committee was formed by Mary Foster. Led by Ms. Foster and Mickey Hinton, President of the Durr’s Homeowner’s Association, Members of the committee cleaned up the cemetery which was overgrown with weeds and littered with trash.⁴⁵ Although the committee was told that the property owner would maintain the cemetery, it continued to be neglected by its legal owners. By the mid-1990s the cemetery was in poor condition again. Some graves were so damaged that you could open the caskets and look in.⁴⁶ One newspaper article in 1996 describes it as, “an eyesore hidden beside a highway exit ramp and a scrap yard.”⁴⁷ Illicit behavior and illegal dumping were occurring within the cemetery property.⁴⁸

Burials were still being undertaken in the early 1990s. Graves cost \$500, and were dug with a shovel by James Hoggins.⁴⁹ Burial sites were randomly chosen. Hoggins would stick a metal rod into the earth and if it did not strike another casket that was the chosen site for the burial.⁵⁰

In 1996, because of neglect and code violations, the City of Fort Lauderdale seized the property. Burials ceased as the city determined how to proceed. The condition of the cemetery was poor, many gravesites had gaping holes or were sinking into the ground, and some vaults were unsealed.⁵¹ A chain link fence was added to the cemetery, and while the city decided what to do with it access was restricted and anyone that wanted to visit the cemetery had to contact a park ranger for access (Bushouse 1996, Woolfe 1996). In 1999, the easternmost two rows of Block 1 (28 lots of the operational cemetery which included graves) were sold to Wilton Ventures, Inc. for back taxes. The City obtained ownership of the extant portion of the cemetery, including the two rows of Block 1 previously sold in 1999, in 2002.

The interior roads in the cemetery were dirt trails until the construction of the modern sidewalks circa 2002. The use and importance of the interior roads varied over the years as evidenced by their differing prominence in historic aerials. Eventually, by the 1970s the two roads that eventually became paved sidewalks were the

⁴⁴ Jones, Linda. Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

⁴⁵ Walter “Mickey” Hinton, Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida; Joan Hinton, Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 10, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

⁴⁶ Robin Benedick, “Many Black Pioneers Rest in Debris.” *Sun Sentinel*, June 25, 1996. Accessed through the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (FLHS) Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

⁴⁷ Robin Benedick, “Many Black Pioneers Rest in Debris.” *Sun Sentinel*, June 25, 1996. Accessed through the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (FLHS) Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

⁴⁸ Ottey, Michael A. W. Return to Dignity Historic Cemetery’s Rebirth Celebrated. *Miami Herald*, October 13, 2002. Accessed through the FLHS Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

⁴⁹ Robin Benedick, “Many Black Pioneers Rest in Debris.” *Sun Sentinel*, June 25, 1996. Accessed through the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (FLHS) Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

⁵⁰ Robin Benedick.

⁵¹ Ibid.

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primary paths through the cemetery. Prior to its rededication in 2002, \$250,000 was spent to clean up and revitalize North Woodlawn Cemetery. The funding was a grant from Carriage Services (Bennett 2002). Carriage Services is a national funeral and cemetery operations company. Improvements included filling in the collapsing graves, constructing an iron fence around the cemetery on the east and south sides, converting dirt paths to paved sidewalks, landscaping, installing signs, identification signs, seating areas, and irrigation. Posts with the names of the interred for which there were no markers were also installed (Photo 31). When it was rededicated in 2002, it was described as, “manicured, park-like, peaceful.”⁵² The cemetery is currently maintained by the city.

Significant Burials

Among the more significant burials in the cemetery is that of Private Robert Bethel (1901-1918), a resident of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort Screven in Georgia⁵³ on September 20, 1917. He died of poison gas in France June 7, 1918. For years the location of his burial was unknown, but it was finally located by Roberto Fernandez, a local high school teacher and Bethel was buried at it present with full military honors at the North Woodlawn Cemetery in Fort Lauderdale.⁵⁴ In 1947, a local group of African American veterans formed an chartered an American Legion Post, which they named the Robert Bethel American Legion Post 220. Back in those days they were known as the “Colored Post.” Bethel was born in Cocoa, Florida, on Aug. 27, 1901. Sometime between 1901 and 1917, he moved to Fort Lauderdale; unfortunately, none of Bethel’s next of kin have been located.⁵⁵

A lack of record keeping, poor maintenance, and the construction of I-95 make it impossible to create a definitive list of all who are buried in North Woodlawn Cemetery. However, since North Woodlawn Cemetery was one of only two cemeteries that accepted African-Americans for most of the early 20th century, many pioneers in the early settlement of Fort Lauderdale and community leaders were buried there. There may have once been a book that contained a list of the names of all burials within the cemetery, but it is no longer in existence.⁵⁶ Raleigh Moore owned and operated the first African-American newspaper in the 1930s, the Fort Lauderdale Colored Bulletin. Moore died in 1966 and is buried in a marked grave. Sylvia Aldridge started an employment agency, Sylvia’s Employment Agency, for domestic help and later started Sylvia’s Victory Cabs to drive clients to work. She was also a benefactor and trustee of Bethune Cookman College, one of the first

⁵² Ottey, Michael A. W. “Return to Dignity Historic Cemetery’s Rebirth Celebrated.” Miami Herald, October 13, 2002. Accessed through the FLHS Newspaper Clipping Collection (Parks and Cemeteries: Woodlawn).

⁵³ Location: Tybee Island, Chatham County, Georgia, closed in 1947.

⁵⁴ The Crisis, New York: Arno Press, v. 15-16, November 1917-October 1918, p. 187.

⁵⁵ Curtis Hodge, Jr. “Local Legion Post Honors Namesake,” Westside Gazette, June 2, 2016.

⁵⁶ Bradley, James. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road to North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, 2012b.

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African-American colleges in Florida. She was originally buried in the cemetery, although her remains were later removed and buried elsewhere.⁵⁷

Savannah Wilkerson Hurst operated a restaurant and owned many rental properties along 4th and 5th Streets. Her grave is also unmarked and the location unknown. Nathaniel Wilkerson Jr. was the first black politician to run for Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner. He was buried in North Woodlawn Cemetery but the location of the grave is unknown. Other pioneers of the African-American community who were buried in the cemetery but the location of their graves is unknown include Lucretia Jordan Jackson, who played a significant part in founding and organizing the first African-American church in Fort Lauderdale, First Baptist Piney Grove Church, in 1904 and owned and operated the Jordan Gospel Music Store, Stranahan Grocery Store, and West End Employment Bureau and her husband who owned the Lewis Hotel; Charlie King who was the first African-American man to vote in Fort Lauderdale; William Buddy Adams who organized the first Apostolic Faith Church in 1937. Allie McCord who sued to have city commissioners elected by district instead of city-wide; and Thomas Scott Cobb who opened the first mattress company in Broward County.⁵⁸ It is also reported to be the resting place of lynching victim Rubin Stacy (d. July 19, 1935).⁵⁹ as well as Samuel Hammond Jr. who was killed during the Orangeburg Massacre of 1968 at South Carolina State University.⁶⁰ In addition, numerous African-American World War I and II veterans are known to be buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.⁶¹ However, although many well-known business, civil, and religious leaders are buried at Woodlawn, local residents have also stressed that the cemetery served the entire African-American community. As such, Woodlawn is the final resting place for many individuals and families that are not as well known, but who were nonetheless important to the development and history of Fort Lauderdale.⁶²

In order to better understand the context and significance of North Woodlawn Cemetery to local residents, residents were invited to share their thoughts about the importance of the cemetery in oral interviews. These interviews were conducted over two days in August of 2015 at Broward County's African-American Research Library. Attendees included:

- Mickey and Joan Hinton
- Henry Lumpkin

⁵⁷ Roberto Fernandez III, personal communication with Jim Pepe.

⁵⁸ Vicky Spadafora, Woodlawn Cemetery. Manuscript on file, FLHS, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1992.

⁵⁹ Feehan, Jane. "A Cemetery's Revival." Sun-Sentinel, October 20, 2002.

⁶⁰ Jose R. Torruellas, Samuel Hammond Jr. Manuscript on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida, n.d.

⁶¹ Nicolas, Josier, Michael Ojeda, Geoffrey Jean Joseph, Dwayne Young, Roberto Fernandez, III, Kevon Wright, and Evan Randall. "Woodlawn Veterans." Westside Gazette. Electronic document, <http://thewestsidegazette.com/woodlawn-veterans/>, accessed September 19, 2016.

⁶² Elijah, Edna. Oral history interview with Janus Research, August 11, 2015. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

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- Cassie Mae Evans-Isaac
- Beauregard Cummings
- Johnny Alexander
- Barbara Williams
- Gerald Armbrister
- George Burrows
- Edna Elijah

The overwhelming consensus of those interviewed was that North Woodlawn Cemetery, along with the Old Dillard School, are the most important historic sites to Fort Lauderdale's African-American community. Much of the importance that North Woodlawn holds is due to the fact that it was created, founded, maintained, and used solely by members of the local black community. Although local people of color were greatly restricted in what they could do in the majority of Fort Lauderdale, at North Woodlawn they were in control. As such, the land was bought by local black leaders, and burials and funerals were organized by local African-American funeral directors and church leaders. Burial at North Woodlawn was a service that was provided to all people of color who were not seen as "white" during the period of segregation.

The residents also stressed that North Woodlawn Cemetery is of extreme importance to them because it is a symbol of their ancestors and of the struggles they endured during the period of segregation. They view Woodlawn as a place for hope and solace because it holds the remains of their parents, grandparent, teachers, and other leaders who built Fort Lauderdale and reminded them as children that segregation would end someday. Many current African-American residents have ancestors who are buried at Woodlawn. Because of this, local residents continue to visit Woodlawn to pay their respects to those who came and inspired them. At Woodlawn, they can feel a connection to the history of Fort Lauderdale's black community that they cannot experience at any other place.

Statement of Significance – Criterion A

North Woodlawn Cemetery maintains its historic integrity in that it continues to convey its use as a historic cemetery. While the potter's field was paved over during the construction of I-95, available sources indicate that it is undisturbed underneath the road fill. The main portion of the cemetery remains intact according to the boundaries on the 1940 re-plat. Non-historic modifications within the cemetery including the construction of the fence and installation of informational/interpretive markers do not diminish its historic integrity. Rather, they serve to protect the resource and convey its significance and history to visitors. This includes side by side historic aerial photographs illustrating the cemetery's condition throughout history. The prevalence of unmarked graves, within the boundaries of the cemetery as currently platted, should not be seen as a lack of historic integrity of the site but as a reflection of a community history where many members were too poor to

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purchase permanent markers or permanent markers weren't considered important. Within the potter's field markers were not utilized as the burials were typically of unknown deceased with no local family.⁶³ Of the marked graves, many are in poor condition and are illegible.

The period of significance for the cemetery extends from c. 1926 through 1964. This begins at the time of the cemetery's initial creation, and extends through 1964, which marked the end of the period of segregation in Fort Lauderdale. The North Woodlawn Cemetery is eligible under Criterion A for significance at the local level in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black. The North Woodlawn Cemetery is significant as it relates to the segregation and history of Fort Lauderdale's African-American community. It was created as the result of institutionalized racial segregation in Broward County from 1927 to 1964, and was one of only two cemeteries African-Americans could be buried in until 1962. As such, many important African-American leaders in the early settlement of Fort Lauderdale are buried in North Woodlawn Cemetery. The second cemetery was closed in the 1950s and the graves were moved to other cemeteries. North Woodlawn Cemetery represents an important early attempt of the African-American community to provide burials and honor their deceased during the period of racial segregation. Racial segregation was the norm during this period, and few of the period's historic facilities constructed exclusively for African-Americans remain in Fort Lauderdale. The North Woodlawn Cemetery is a rare remaining resource related to the Fort Lauderdale African-American community's early history, and provides a physical connection to the period of racial segregation.

Statement of Significance – Criterion C

The North Woodlawn Cemetery is eligible under Criterion C for the significance of its African-American funerary folk art. Woodlawn's concrete markers and other early cemetery architecture are the only examples of African-American public art and architecture dating to Fort Lauderdale's period of segregation. As such, this funerary furniture represents a distinctive local response to the conditions of segregation. The markers are constructed of basic materials that reflect the economic conditions of the local community during segregation. They were created by unknown local artisans and/or craftsmen for use and display in the only public place afforded to them during this time. The markers represent local expressions of art, beliefs, and commemoration that were unique to the local community for which they were created. North Woodlawn Cemetery's funerary folk art continues to provide a physical connection to the period of racial segregation. But, more importantly, this artwork continues to provide the local African-American community with physical reminders of the struggles and triumphs of their ancestors during this period of history.

⁶³ n.a. Discussion at the Community Outreach Meeting for the SR-9/I-95 PD&E Study from Stirling Road North of Oakland Park Boulevard (October 17, 2012). Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

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Statement of Significance – Criterion D

The North Woodlawn Cemetery is eligible under Criterion D for its ability to provide historic information regarding burial patterns at informally organized historic cemeteries. The exact locations of many gravesites within Woodlawn are not discernible, either because original grave markers are no longer extant, or because the graves were never marked at all. However, recent Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) studies at Woodlawn have shown that unmarked gravesites can be easily detected through such remote sensing techniques. Importantly, unmarked graves identified along the western edge of the cemetery during the GPR survey were organized in distinct rows with individual graves oriented in an east/west pattern, just as with the Woodlawn's marked graves. Additional remote sensing surveys of the rest of the cemetery, combined with a study of death dates on extant markers, and interviews with local informants, could likely provide for a history of the spatial development of the cemetery over time. Additionally, a study of the dates, materials, motifs, and spatial patterning of funerary architecture at Woodlawn could provide insights into how economic opportunities, beliefs, and local expression changed over time within Fort Lauderdale's African-American community.

Statement of Significance – Criteria Consideration D

National Register Criteria Consideration D states that a cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register if it derives its primary significance from the graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events. North Woodlawn Cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D for its distinctive design features and association with historic events. North Woodlawn Cemetery represents a rare remaining resource associated with Fort Lauderdale's African-American community during the period of segregation. Many of the funerary monuments within the cemetery are unique representations of early to mid-twentieth century African-American folk art, some with possible Bahamian themes. North Woodlawn Cemetery appears to be one of the few remaining resources associated with Fort Lauderdale's African-American community during the period of segregation. While it has not been comprehensively studied, previous survey work conducted by Janus Research within Fort Lauderdale has revealed that many of the buildings associated with the African-American community have been demolished or are significantly altered diminishing their historic integrity. The City's two public housing complexes constructed exclusively for African-Americans during the period of segregation, Dixie Courts and Sunnyland Homes, have been demolished.

The Florida Division of Historical Resources (DHR) was queried for other examples of local resources associated with African-American history or culture. The only other extant local resource identified is the National Register-listed Old Dillard School. Local historians and historic preservation professionals were also contacted regarding the significance of the cemetery and its rarity for its association with the African-American community during the period of segregation. Merrilyn Rathbun, Research Director at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, stated that she feels North Woodlawn Cemetery is a rare resource within the context of Fort

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Lauderdale's African-American architectural history. She noted that many of the historic resources associated with the African-American community were demolished during 1970s urban renewal projects. She stated that the Old Dillard School and some historically African-American churches remain, but there are few residences and commercial buildings associated with Fort Lauderdale's African-American community (Rathbun 2012). Dave Baber, former Broward County Historic Preservation Coordinator, was not familiar with the cemetery but noted that based on a description of the type of resource it would be considered a rare resource within the context of the community's African-American history.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ Baber, Dave. Telephone conversation with Emily Sheckels Ahouse of Janus Research, October 8, 2012. Notes on file, Janus Research, Tampa, Florida.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
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National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 3

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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United States Department of the Interior
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary extends 567 feet west from NW 19th Avenue and 315 feet north from NW 9th Street. They correspond with the boundaries shown on the re-plat of North Woodlawn Cemetery Subdivision 19-1 in Section 4, Township 50 South, Range 42 East, Lots 1-84 Block 1, Lots 1-70 Block 2, Lots 1-56 Block 3, Lots 1-98 Block 4, and "Commence at the intersection of the south line of Block 1 of said plat and the east existing limited access/right of way line of State Road 9 (I-95), also being the west end of NW 9 Street as it is currently laid out and in use; thence run South 88°26'06" West, 22.29 feet along the existing limited access/right of way line to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continue South 88°26'06" West, 12.00 feet along relocated limited access/right of way line; thence North 01°19'02 West, 168.31 feet along said relocated limited access/right of way line; thence North 03°14'16" East, 147.62 feet along relocated limited access/right of way line to the existing limited access/right of way line as it is currently laid out and in use; thence South 01°22'03" East, 315.41 feet along the existing limited access/right of way line to the POINT OF BEGINNING."

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the extant portion of North Woodlawn Cemetery which includes Block 1, Block 2, Block 3, and Block 4 as shown on the original re-plat of the North Woodlawn Cemetery in 1940, Plat Book 19, Page 1 and the eastern 12 feet of the area referred to as the Potter's Field. While the original boundary of the cemetery included the potter's field, the majority of the potter's field has been covered with fill and paved roadway and lacks historic integrity. The eastern 12 feet of the Potter's Field has marked gravesites and has been utilized as part of the cemetery since the construction of I-95 in the 1970s. The National Register boundary includes all the area associated with North Woodlawn Cemetery where known burials are located and has been delineated with a fence by the local African-American community.

United States Department of the Interior
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Add. Doc. Page 1

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
FIGURES



Figure 1: Cemetery Boundary Map. (Janus Research, 2017).

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. Doc. Page 2

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
FIGURES

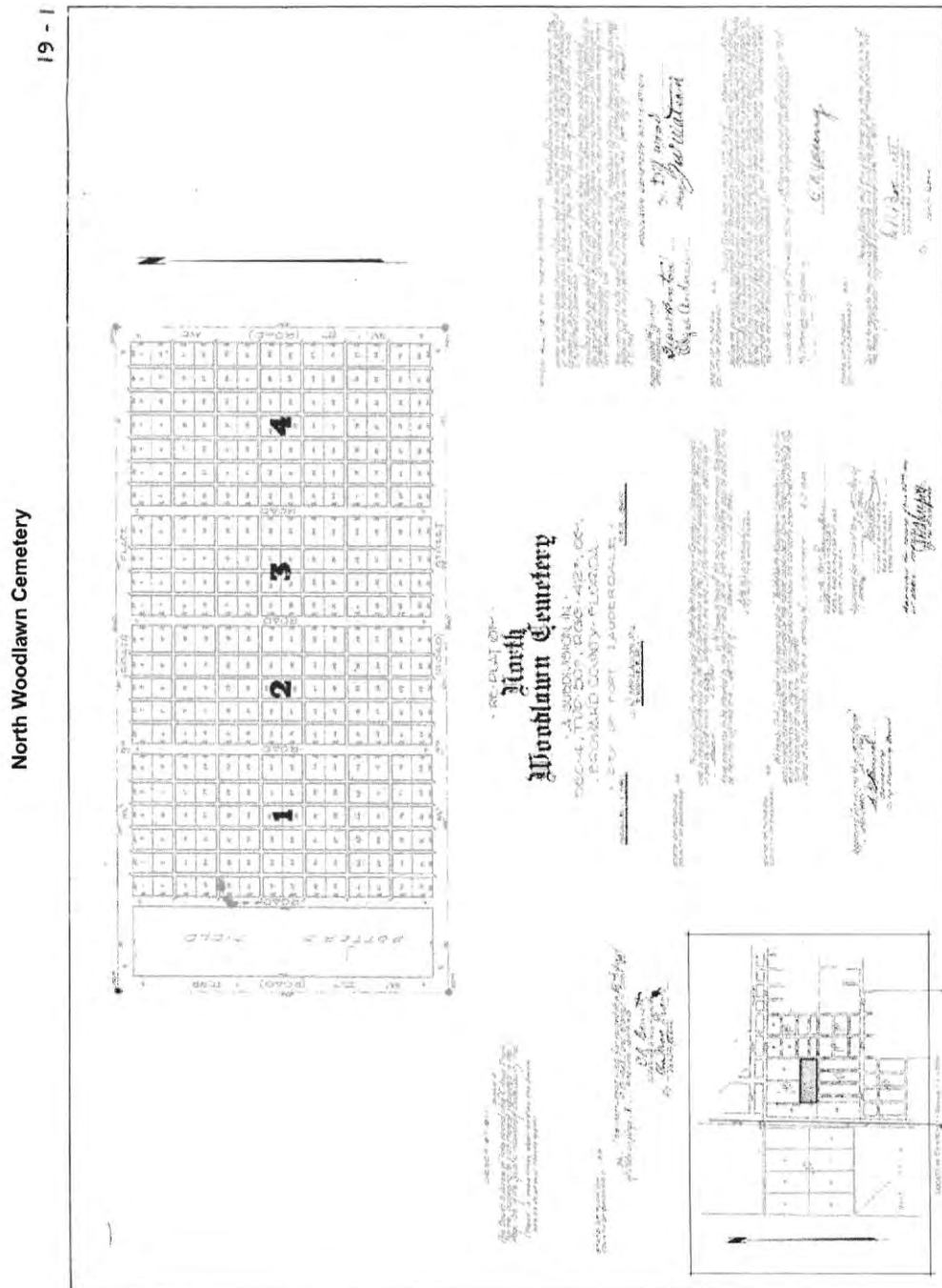


Figure 2: 1940s Replat, North Woodlawn Cemetery. (City of Fort Lauderdale).

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. Doc. Page 3

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
FIGURES

North Woodlawn Cemetery

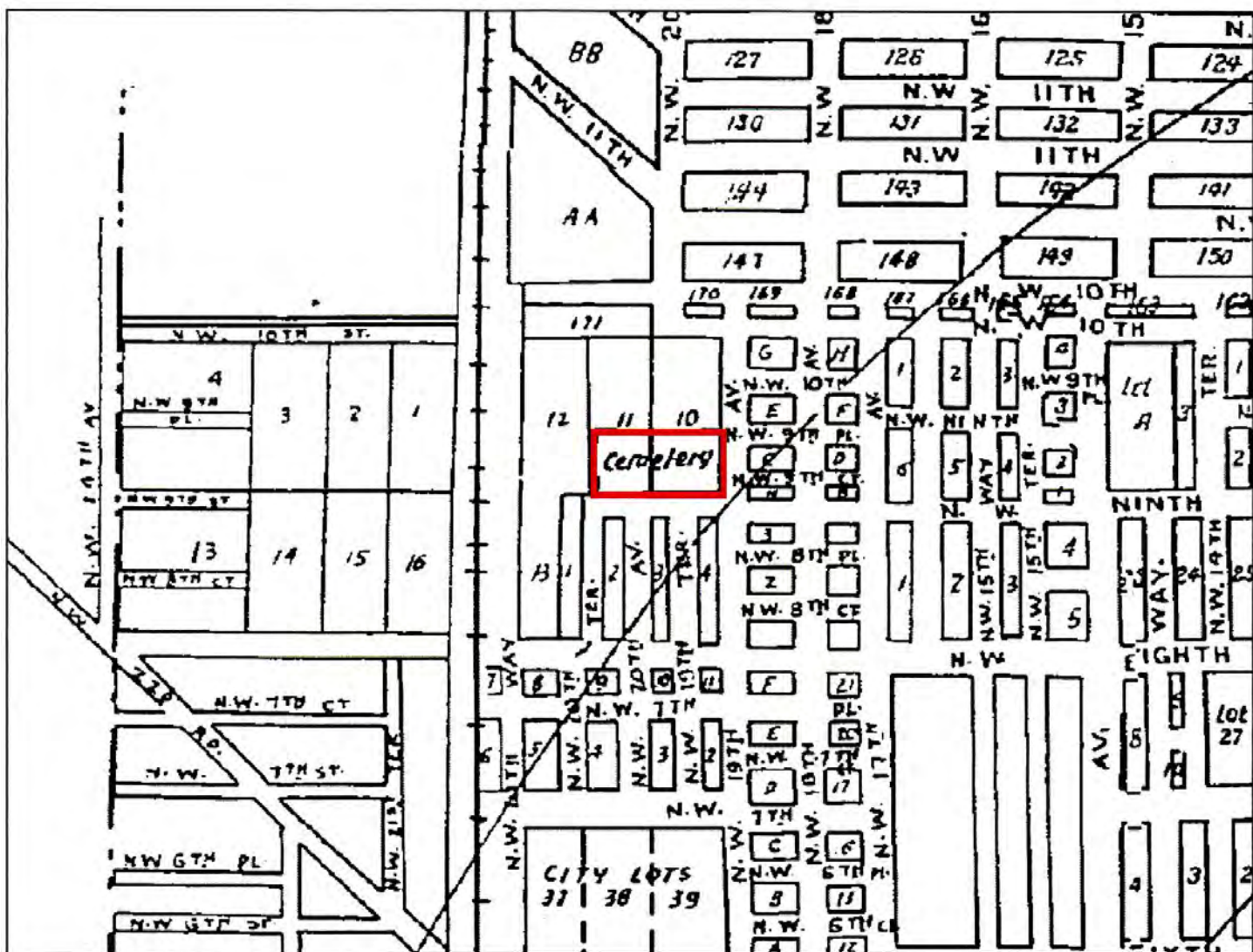


Figure 3: 1950 Sanborn map showing location of North Woodlawn Cemetery. (Index Map, Sheet 1, *Insurance Maps of Fort Lauderdale*. 1950 Revision. New York, Sanborn Map Co., 1950.)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. Doc. Page 4

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
FIGURES

North Woodlawn Cemetery

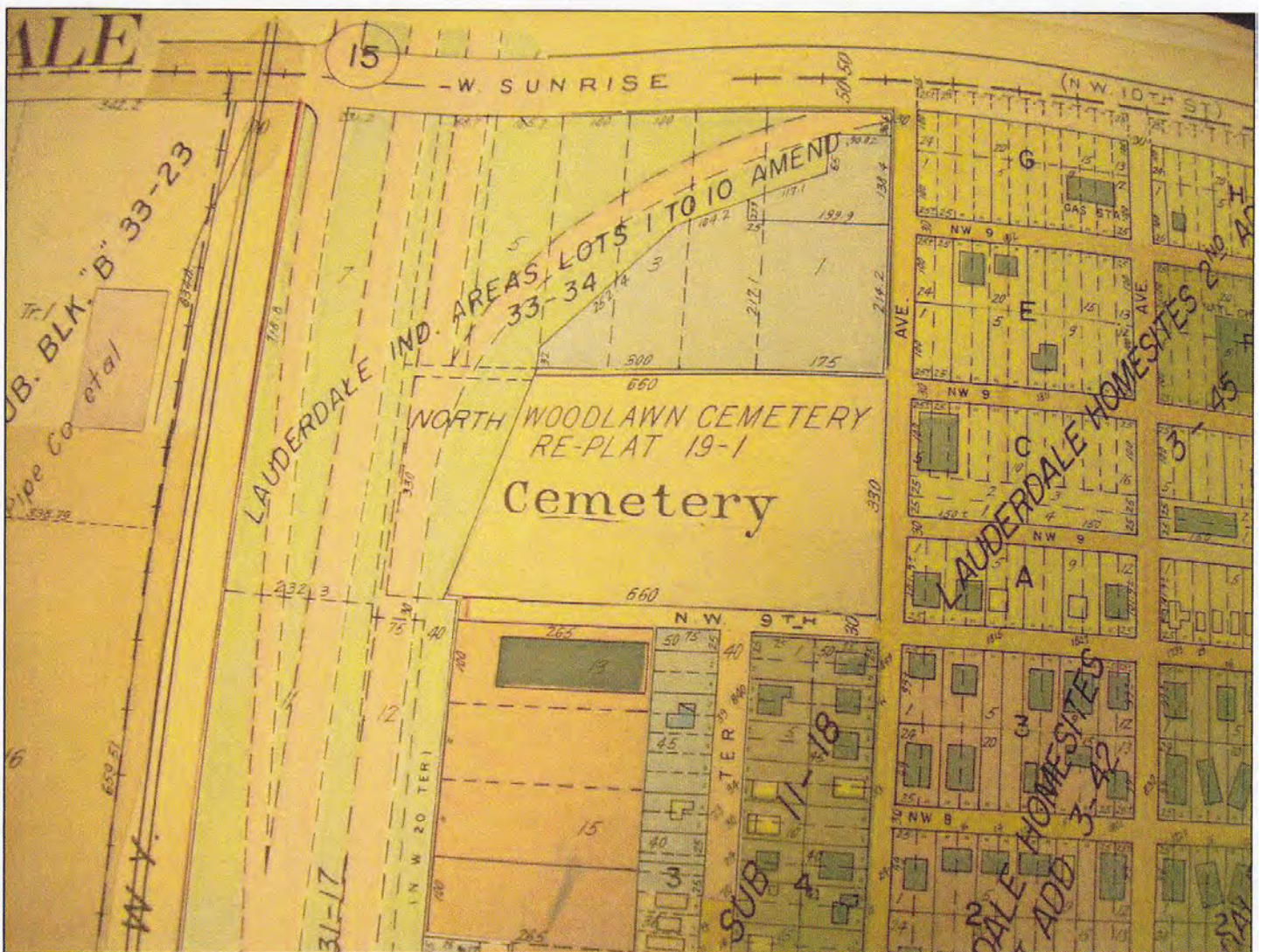


Figure 4: Hopkins Real Estate Map of Fort Lauderdale, 1970 (City of Fort Lauderdale).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Add. Doc. Page 5

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
FIGURES

North Woodlawn Cemetery



Figure 5: Image of wooden markers at North Woodlawn Cemetery, published in the *Miami Herald*, 1991.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Add. Doc. Page 6

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
FIGURES

North Woodlawn Cemetery



Figure 6: Results of cadaver dog survey along FDOT ROW. (Janus Research)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Add. Doc. Page 7

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
FIGURES

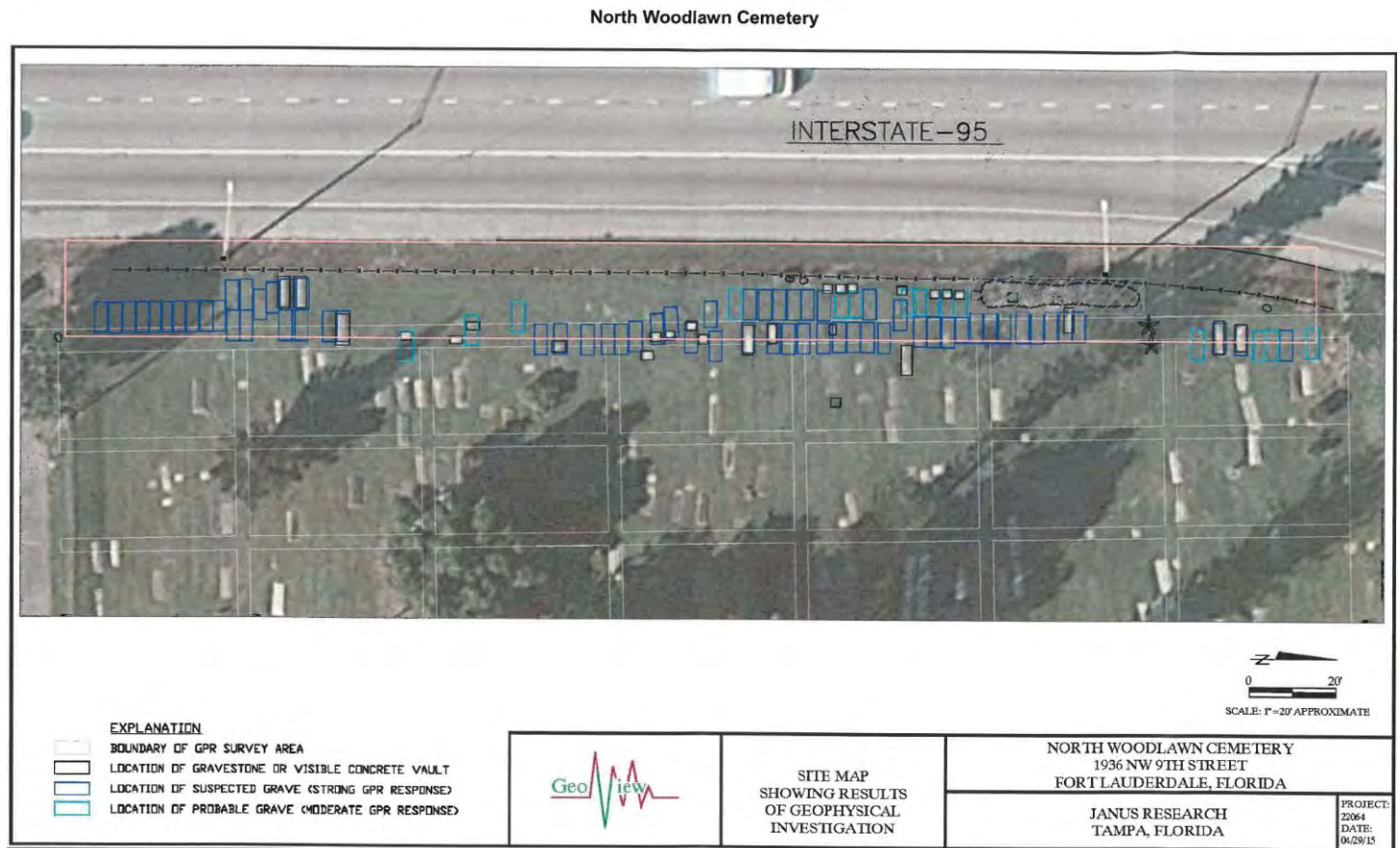


Figure 7: Ground penetrating radar survey showing possible gravesites along FDOT ROW. (Janus Research)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. North Woodlawn Cemetery
2. 1936 N.W. 9th Street, Fort Lauderdale (Broward County), Florida
3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Sidewalk, Looking North
7. Photo 1 of 27

Numbers 1, 2 and 5 are the same for all the following photos except where indicated.

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Non-historic Fence on the East and West of North Woodlawn Cemetery, facing Northwest
7. Photo 2 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. West Edge of North Woodlawn Cemetery, facing North
7. Photo 3 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Graves adjacent to I-95, facing North
7. Photo 4 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Portion of North Woodlawn Cemetery at I-95, facing Northwest
7. Photo 5 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Portion of North Woodlawn Cemetery at I-95, facing Northwest
7. Photo 6 of 27

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National Park Service**

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Location of Grave Markers within Former FDOT ROW, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 7 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Various Types and Arrangements of Grave Markers, facing Northeast
7. Photo 8 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Various Types and Arrangements of Grave Markers, facing West
7. Photo 9 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Various Types and Arrangements of Grave Markers, facing Northwest
7. Photo 10 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Various Types of Grave Markers, facing East
7. Photo 11 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Representative Photo of In-Ground Grave Markers, facing East
7. Photo 12 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Representative Photo of In-Ground Grave Markers, facing West
7. Photo 13 of 27

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Representative Photo of In-Ground Grave Markers, facing East
7. Photo 14 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Representative Photo of In-Ground Grave Markers, facing West
7. Photo 15 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Representative Photo of In-Ground Grave Markers, facing West
7. Photo 16 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Representative Photo of In-Ground Grave Markers, facing West
7. Photo 17 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Headstone of Edith Bellamy Cornish, Non-Historic Headstone
7. Photo 18 of 27

3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
4. October 3, 2012
6. Headstone of Albert Watson, Non-Historic Headstone
7. Photo 19 of 27

3. Shaun West
4. September 18, 2012
6. Plaque Noting the Establishment of Woodlawn Cemetery
7. Photo 20 of 27

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 4

NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
FORT LAUDERDALE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 3. Shaun West
- 4. September 18, 2012
- 6. Marble Slabs with Names of Persons Buried in Cemetery, Facing East
- 7. Photo 21 of 27

- 3. Shaun West
- 4. September 18, 2012
- 6. Photo of Headstone of Matthew Wilson, May 17, 1885-October 11, 1962., facing East
- 7. Photo 22 of 27

- 3. Unknown
- 3. Unknown
- 4. Unknown
- 5. Janus Research, Tampa, Florida
- 6. Hand-made Concrete Marker
- 7. Photo 23 of 27

- 3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
- 4. October 3, 2012
- 6. Above ground masonry marker
- 7. Photo 24 of 27

- 3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
- 4. October 3, 2012
- 6. Above ground masonry marker
- 7. Photo 25 of 27

- 3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
- 4. October 3, 2012
- 6. Above ground masonry marker, Non-Historic Marker
- 7. Photo 26 of 27

- 3. Emily Sheckels Ahouse
- 4. October 3, 2012
- 6. Above ground masonry marker, Non-Historic Marker
- 7. Photo 27 of 27

North Woodlawn Cemetery

1936 NW 9th St.,
Fort Lauderdale, Broward County
Florida

USGS Map:
Fort Lauderdale North

UTM:

1. 17R 583242 2890945
2. 17R 583242 2890847
3. 17R 583068 2890837
4. 17R 583070 2890938

Datum: WGS 1984

Date: 9/21/2017

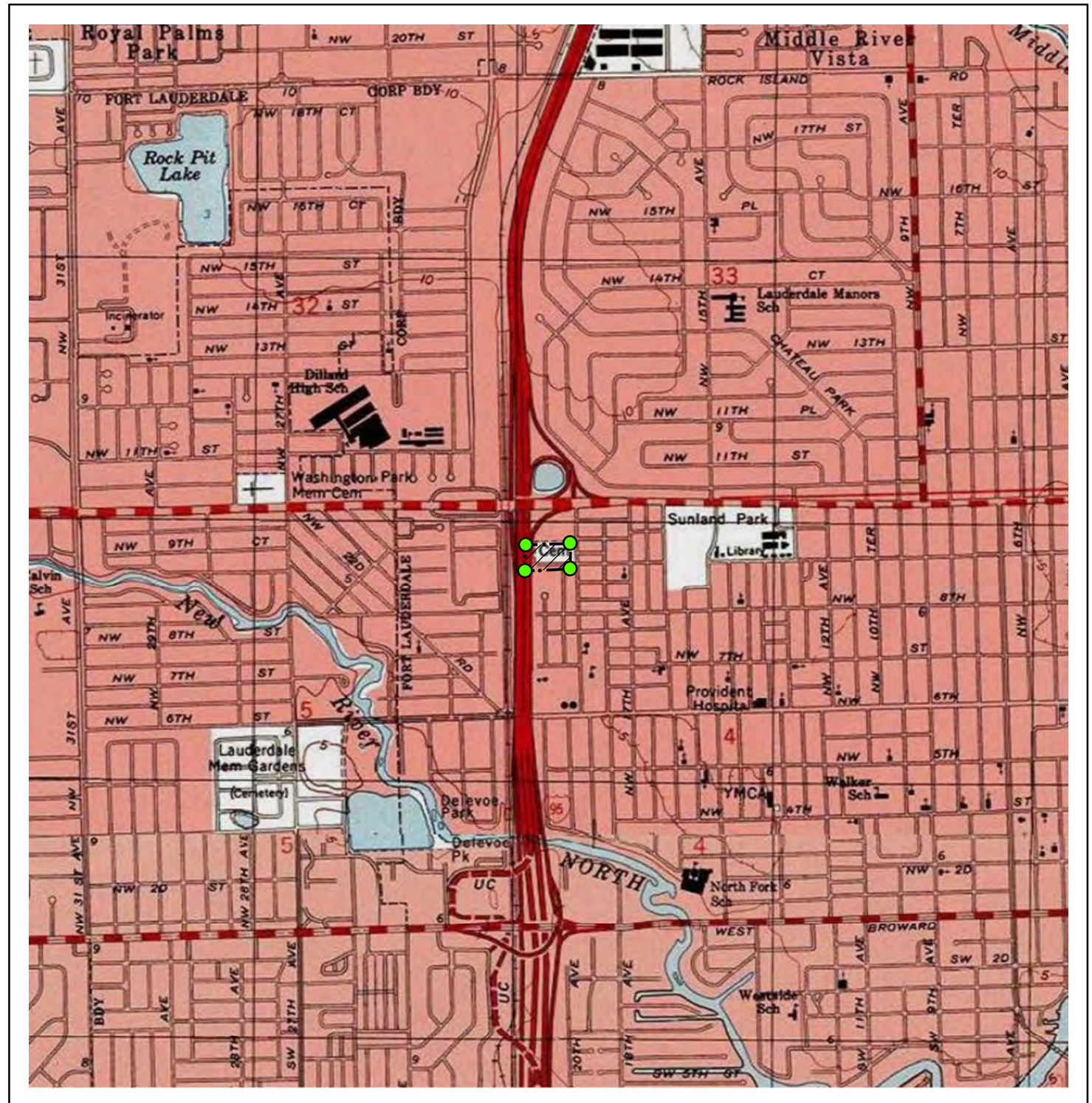
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0 1,000 2,000 4,000
Feet

0 250 500 1,000
Meters

Source: Copyright:© 2013 National
Geographic Society, i-cubed



North Woodlawn Cemetery

1936 NW 9th St.,
Fort Lauderdale, Broward County
Florida

UTM:

1. 17R 583242 2890945
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3. 17R 583068 2890837
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Datum: WGS 1984

Date: 9/21/2017

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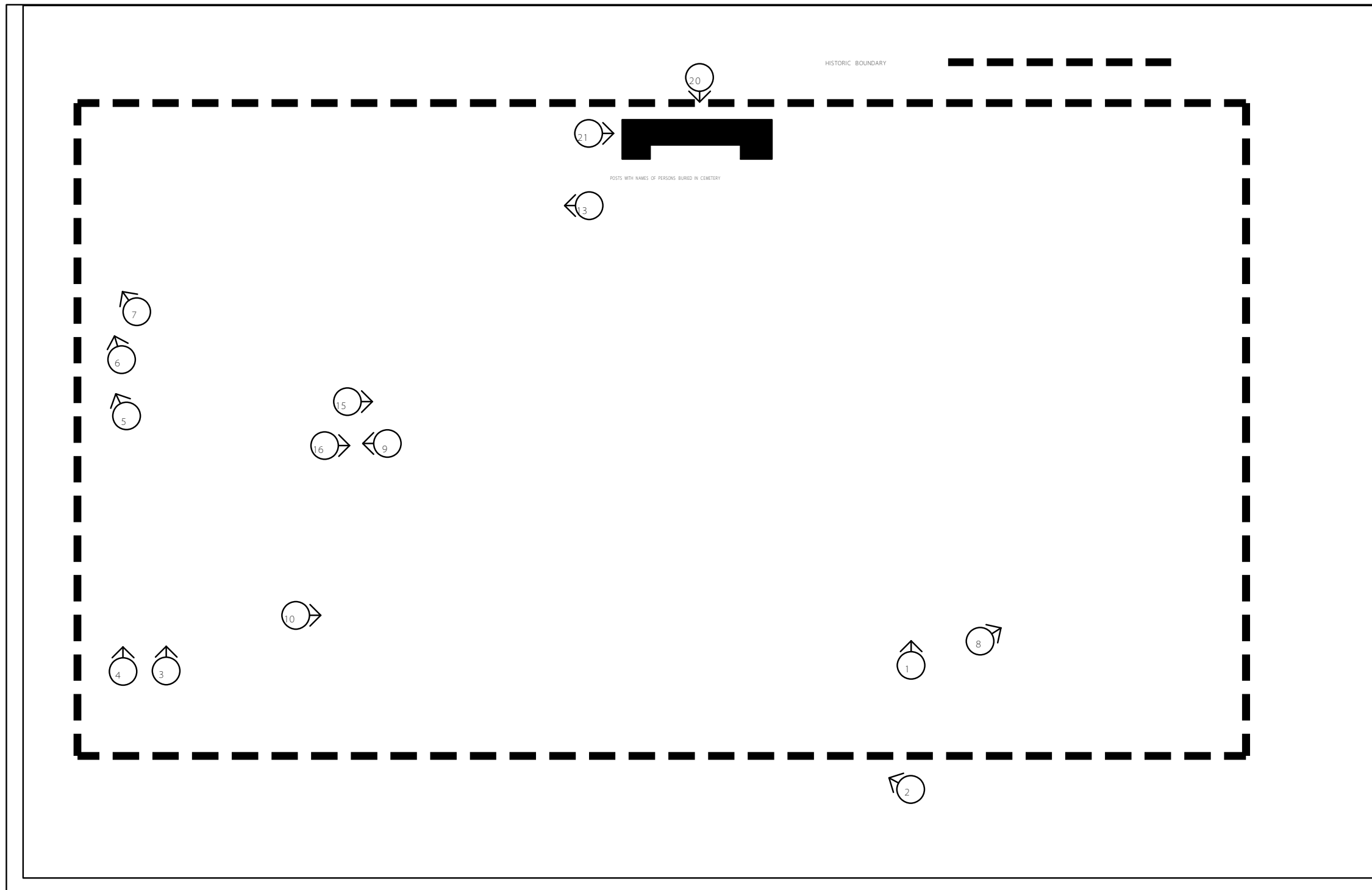
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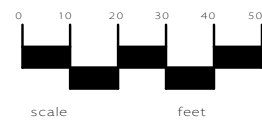
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Source: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe,
GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics,
CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS,
AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN,
IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User
Community





NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY
 1936 N.W. 9TH STREET
 FORT LAUDERDALE (BROWARD COUNTY), FLORIDA



Owner
 CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
 100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301
 Telephone: (954) 828-5000

DRAWN BY: Carl Shiver
 DRAWING DATE: MARCH 2010

THE PLAN OF THE NORTH WOODLAWN CEMETERY WAS LOCATED USING AIR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PROPERTY PROVIDED INTO AN AUTOCAD FRAME SHOWING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CEMETERY AND THE GRASSY INTERSTICES AND TREES. THE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND ALL CONTAINED IN A FOLDER ACCOMPANYING THE AIR INFORMATION PROVIDED, BUT NOT SHOWN ON THE CAD MAP.

PLAN RECEIVED BY: CARL SHIVER
 BROWARD BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 B-100 CORAL BLVD. SUITE 200
 FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33304-3200
 PHONE NUMBER (954) 241-6200
 TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-800-727-6789
 FAX NUMBER (954) 241-6437

THIS PROJECT PREPARED BY: _____ SHEET NO. 1 OF 1

JAMES P. PERE
 JANUS RESEARCH
 1107 WARD STREET, TAMPA, FLORIDA 33607
 Phone: (813) 636-8200 Email: jim_perere@janus-research.com





DEAD
END





GREEN SIGN WITH ARROW AND TEXT

GREEN SIGN WITH ARROW AND TEXT



100% Pure, Natural, Sweet
100% Pure, Natural, Sweet
100% Pure, Natural, Sweet





CROSS
W. H. MILLER

JAMES H.
MAYNOR

HENRY W. BELTON
BORN FEB 15 1906
DIED FEB 15 1978













E

I





1955
[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

LIEVENIA TAYLOR
BORN MAY 20 1910
DIED APRIL 17 1981

BELOVED WIFE MOTHER
DAUGHTER AND SISTER

EDITH BELLAMY
CORNISH

MAY 25. 1945 — APRIL 20. 1988



ALBERT WATSON

BELOVED HUSBAND

OCT. 1, 1919 — OCT. 20, 1981

WOODLAWN CEMETERY WAS ESTABLISHED
IN THE EARLY 1900'S AS A COMMUNITY
CEMETERY. IT WAS THE ONLY CEMETERY
WITHIN THE CITY WHERE AFRICAN - AMERICAN
CITIZENS COULD BE BURIED. IN ADDITION,
IT WAS ALSO USED AS A BURIAL SITE FOR
LOCAL INDIGENTS AND OUT - OF - TOWN
MIGRANT WORKERS, WHOSE FAMILIES COULD
NOT AFFORD TO PAY TO HAVE THEIR BODIES
RETURNED TO THEIR HOMETOWNS.





MATTHEW WILSON

MAY 17, 1885

OCT. 11, 1962





WILSON
1880





NANNIE M. CARTER

OCT 5 1914

JULY 15 1978



REST IN PEACE



Avery Smith
1910 - 1982

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/16/2017 Date of Pending List: 11/14/2017 Date of 16th Day: 11/29/2017 Date of 45th Day: 11/30/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 11/29/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



July 20, 2017

Ruben Acosta
Survey and Registration Supervisor
Bureau of Historic Preservation
R.A. Gray Building, Room 417
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Mr. Acosta,

We received your letter of notification regarding the nomination of the North Woodlawn Cemetery for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

In support of the North Woodlawn Cemetery, a Motion was made by the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) on August 1, 2016, to approve the National Register nomination. Following the motion made by the HPB, the City of Fort Lauderdale City Commission adopted a resolution expressing support for the proposed nomination under resolution number 17-23, on February 7, 2017. In addition to the above stated motion and resolution, the City of Fort Lauderdale is pleased to provide their continued support of this nomination.

Thank you for your support of the preservation of the North Woodlawn Cemetery and we look forward to hearing positive results following the review by the Florida National Register Review Board on August 10, 2017.

Sincerely,

Trisha Logan, Planner III, Historic Preservation Board Liaison
City of Fort Lauderdale
Department of Sustainable Development, Urban Design and Planning Division
700 NW 19th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311
P: 954-828-7101
E: tlogan@fortlauderdale.gov

C: Lynn Kelley, Senior Environmental Specialist, FDOT District 4
Planning & Environmental Management
Jim Pepe, Archaeologist, Janus Research



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State



October 12, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **North Woodlawn Cemetery (FMSF#: 8IBD04879), in Broward County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben A. Acosta".

Ruben A. Acosta
Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/raa

Enclosures