

562292



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 Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery

other names/site number FMSF DA6942

2. Location

street & number 3001 Northwest 46th Street not for publication

city or town Miami vicinity

state Florida code FL countv Miami-Dade code 025 zip code 33142

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.)

Signature of Certifying official/Title SAPO Date 2/16/2018

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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper (handwritten)

3-29-2018

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	
1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	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)

OTHER/Masonry Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Concrete

roof Asphalt
other _____

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)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

Period of Significance

1937-1968

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

Kelsey Leroy Pharr

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property

Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	5	7	5	6	6	2	2	8	5	5	6	7	0
	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 Max Adriel Imberman, Historic Preservationist; Mallory Fenn, FPAN Public Archaeology Coordinator

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date October 23, 2017

street & number 500 South 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 Jessica F. Williams

street & number 9301 NW 25th Avenue telephone _____

city or town Miami state FL zip code 33147

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**

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is located in Miami-Dade County’s Brownsville neighborhood. Measuring approximately 9 acres, the historic cemetery is one of the oldest African-American cemeteries in Miami, and one of the few to maintain the use of traditional Bahamian above-ground burial vaults. Housing approximately 2,000 burial plots, the cemetery has been in continuous use since at least 1937, when the property was purchased by Kelsey Leroy Pharr to serve as Miami’s northern black cemetery. Markers vary in form, but are primarily cement above-ground burial vaults. The site’s upkeep has been neglected, and it has been the target of vandalism, with severe plant overgrowth enveloping grave markers, and some graves being broken into.

SETTING

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is located in the southwest section of Miami’s Brownsville neighborhood. The cemetery is surrounded by NW 46th Street to the south, NW 30th Avenue to the east, and NW 31st Avenue to the west. To the north is a set of residential and commercial properties along NW 48th Terrace. Located in a traditionally-black neighborhood, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is primarily surrounded by mixed-use zoning, with residences to the east and west, and businesses to the north and south. The land surrounding the cemetery is not fully occupied, with empty lots to the southwest. While the neighborhood has grown in the decades since the cemetery opened in 1937, the land-use patterns have remained consistent. While buildings around the cemetery have been demolished and new ones built, the massing and scale of the buildings has not changed in any significant way. Another historically-black cemetery, Evergreen Memorial Park, is located four blocks to the south of Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Cemetery Layout

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is enclosed by a chain link fence and has a single entrance, located along the eastern section of the cemetery’s southern border. Many sections of the chain link fence are obscured by plant overgrowth from within the cemetery, while the section of fence along the western border of the cemetery is missing entirely. The southeast entrance is characterized by an arch (Photo 1) with coral rock supports. The arch bears the name of the cemetery in black metal lettering, which follows the arc of the arch. Reading “LINCOLN MEMORIAL PARK,” this lettering is primarily placed along a concrete rim at the bottom of the arch.

The cemetery is separated into sections by paths which run through the site. A paved path runs north from the entrance at the cemetery’s southeast edge. This entrance is placed approximately 140 feet to the west of the southeastern corner of the cemetery, which is just under one-quarter of the distance between the southeastern and southwestern corners of the cemetery. The path emerging from the entrance runs north until it approaches a masonry vernacular building constructed in 1967, which serves as the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery

Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 2

cemetery's office as well as hosting the Chapel of Memorials, honoring the historic pioneers of Miami's black community. When the entrance path reaches this building, it curves around it to the west and continues north, while also featuring a forked path which heads west. The paving continues to the west, but not to the north. The majority of the paths in the cemetery are unpaved. At the time when the building was constructed, a circular drive surrounded it, but the eastern half of this drive has been decommissioned to allow for more space for burial plots. The path, which started at the entrance, continues north to the northern terminus of the cemetery and ends. The path which forks west from the entrance road is located approximately in the center of the cemetery's north-south orientation. This east-west path has four intersections, a north and south intersection with a single north-south path that extends from the center of the southern end of the cemetery northward, and two unaligned intersections near the western end of the cemetery. The paths which head south from the central east-west road extend to the southern chain-link fence, but the northern paths end approximately 100 feet south of the northern end of the cemetery. Each pair of projecting paths is connected at their southern and northern terminuses, respectively.

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is densely packed with grave markers (Photo 2), which are primarily concrete above-ground burial vaults of the Bahamian tradition. The markers are placed in tight proximity to each other, and not always at perfect orthogonal angles. In order to access a particular vault, a visitor might have to climb over the surrounding vaults. The spacing of the paths through the cemetery is inconsistent, with grave markers sometimes extending further into the walking paths. Much of the cemetery's foliage is also overgrown, obscuring some grave markers. A number of vaults have sustained damage to their nameplates, in many instances so acutely as to be either indecipherable or absent. Some vaults exhibit evidence of having been broken into. Cemetery caretakers attribute this damage to Santeria practitioners.¹ This damage appears sporadically throughout the cemetery but appears most often where vaults are most easily accessed by the public.

Above-Ground Bahamian-Style Burial Vaults

The majority of graves at Lincoln Memorial Park are above-ground vaults, which is consistent with other historic black Bahamian cemeteries in Miami-Dade County. Most of these graves are factory-made, with steel frames covered in cement. The burial vaults in the cemetery are predominantly unpainted, but sporadically, vaults throughout the cemetery are painted with bright colors such as blue, pink, and lavender (Photo 3). In the southeastern section of the cemetery, where many of the earliest burials occurred, the vaults bordering the entrance path are predominantly painted a bright white.

Headstone Grave Markers

Within Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery, there is a great diversity within the design of headstone grave markers. While the vast majority of markers throughout the cemetery are above-ground burial vaults,

¹ Amanda McCorquodale, "Lincoln Memorial Park Grave Disturbances Could be Linked to Santeria," Huffingtonpost.com, https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/09/lincoln-memorial-park-grave-santeria_n_1265603.html, Accessed November 13, 2017.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 3

headstones make up the second-most common type. Many of the headstones throughout the cemetery are cruciform, some of which have sunk into the ground, or have been overtaken by root growth. The headstone markers range in size, but are mostly relatively small. Some of the headstones in the northeast section of the cemetery have been painted over with white and light-beige paint (Photo 5). One variant in the cemetery’s northeast section exhibits indentations built into each side of an ovule tombstone, presumably intended to hold flowerpots (Photo 6).

Standard Government Veteran Markers

In the northeasternmost section of the cemetery, along its northern border, is placed a collection of markers for veterans (Photo 7), most of which appear to be standardized headstones and markers made of granite and marble. Many of these markers are overgrown by plant life.

Burial Crypts

The oldest high-profile crypts and graves are located along the main entry path to the cemetery, in its southeastern section. For instance, the crypt of South Florida’s first black millionaire, Dana Dorsey, (Photo 8) is located along this road. The crypt is constructed of marble with bronze floral motifs on its doors and flanked by two squat, round urns. A bench with statues of small children on it faces the crypt, which has Tuscan-style columns built into it and a gabled roof. Another crypt is built nearby, marked with the name “Phillips,” made of unpainted concrete with pilasters and a flat roof.

ALTERATIONS

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery has not experienced any dramatic alterations since the end of its period of significance. While new burials have occurred at the cemetery, with new vaults and markers being added to commemorate the deceased, since 1968 very few changes have occurred. The most recent change was the construction of a masonry vernacular office building on the east side of the cemetery along the site’s central horizontal axis in 1967. The cemetery’s entrance arch, located to the southeast, is a replacement, with the original having been destroyed at some point prior to 1991. The original was made of coral rock, matching the original coral rock support pillars, which still remain. The cemetery has experienced overgrowth and vandalism which damage its integrity, but not to an extent that would render it ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

INTEGRITY

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery retains sufficient integrity for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. While the site is a bit degraded and has suffered a lack of maintenance, this has not diminished its integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, or association to any appreciable degree. The damage to some of the markers, as well as to loss of the original entrance arch, constitute a loss of some of the site’s integrity of materials and workmanship, but not to a degree that would entail insufficient integrity. With this cemetery, as is the case with most cemeteries, the whole is greater than the sum of its

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery

Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 7 Page 4

parts, and the cemetery has retained its characteristic features and layout for the 80 years of its use.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black, for its association with the history of racial segregation in South Florida in the early part of the twentieth century, enterprise among Greater Miami’s black community, and as a site displaying a plethora of burial traditions, most notably above-ground vaults, a typical practice in the Bahamas. The cemetery is also significant at the local level under Criterion B for its connection with Kelsey Leroy Pharr, a historic pioneer of Miami’s black community who created the cemetery to serve the needs of a segregated city. It is also eligible under Criteria Consideration D because it derives its primary significance from its historic association with Miami’s black community. The period of significance ranges from 1937 to 1968. Miami’s first black embalmer, Kelsey Leroy Pharr, purchased the lot in 1937 to turn it into a cemetery for Miami’s black community. The cemetery has been in continuous use since then, and is the burial site for many of Miami’s early black pioneers, community leaders and innovators who paved the groundwork for later generations.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery was established in 1937 to serve Miami-Dade County’s black community in an era and a community characterized by segregation and inequality. Black Americans, including immigrants from the Bahamas, had been crucial to the development and growth of the city of Miami since its earliest days, and Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery demonstrates the mix of cultural and societal influences within Miami’s black community that are present in the cemetery.

Black Life in Early Miami

In the late nineteenth century, the area that would later be known as Miami was notable for its status as a remote tropical wilderness. The region which would one day be known for its hotels and sunny beaches was originally a sparsely-populated, humid, swampy area. While South Florida had a fair share of visitors due to the perceived health benefits of tropical climate on individuals suffering from chronic medical conditions, the infrastructure for visitors was not well-developed. A fundamentally attractive setting did not yet have the built development required to suit the needs of an emerging and discerning tourist class.

Miami’s first successful and long-running tourism destination was built in the area now known as Coconut Grove. In the 1870s and 1880s, a young New York shipbuilder named Ralph Middleton Munroe grew entranced by the untamed wilderness of South Florida. Looking to escape the Gilded Age trappings of the Northeast to reclaim what he considered to be the core primal trappings of the human experience, founded Coconut Grove to build a tropical paradise along South Florida’s Biscayne Bay.² He partnered in 1882 with an English couple named Charles and Isabella Peacock to open the Bay View House hotel, funded by Munroe but operated by the Peacocks. The hotel eventually changed its name to

² Benjamin Reilly, *Tropical Surge: A History of Ambition and Disaster on the Florida Shore*, (Sarasota: Pineapple Press, Inc., 2005), 66.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 2

the Peacock Inn, and it was the area’s first tourist destination.³

The Peacock Inn was the center of the Coconut Grove community, drawing in tourists as well as serving as a launching point for South Florida settlers as they claimed and developed their own land.⁴ Munroe and the Peacocks knew that their businesses were dependent upon a steady stream of visitors, as well as long-term landowners and workers, so they sought to develop a place where people would both want to visit and to remain. The Peacock Inn was an all-purpose meeting place, hosting everything from dinner parties to political meetings to church services. Such an institution required many workers to stay functional. The Peacocks hired black Bahamians to work as laborers at their hotel. The first Bahamian they hired was a woman named Mariah Brown, who initially lived at the hotel, but eventually had a new home built nearby (a building which is still standing in Coconut Grove, at 3298 Charles Avenue). The Peacocks continued to hire Bahamians through the 1890s, and this group of workers formed the basis for west Coconut Grove’s black community, which is still intact today.⁵

While the predominantly white settlers congregated along the coastline, black Bahamian workers who at first came to work in institutions like the Peacock Inn built their own community to the west. They named it Kebo, after the highest peak of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. While American culture was highly segregated in this period, the black and white settlers interacted quite frequently and usually positively. Kebo residents, for instance, performed baptisms in Biscayne Bay near Ralph Munroe’s property.⁶ The Bahamians provided the bulk of the labor force which enabled and facilitated the transition of South Florida from a tropical wilderness to arable farmland. Bahamians, finding the environmental conditions in South Florida very similar to those of their home islands, provided advice and expertise on proper crop choices and planting techniques to an initially-dubious white landowning planter class. South Florida, much like the Bahamas, was built over an underground sheet of coral rock, which intimidated the planters, but Bahamian expertise in farming and construction under those conditions proved extraordinarily beneficial to the development of South Florida.⁷ Coconut Grove proved to be the entry point for Bahamians to South Florida, but they did not simply stay in that community.

Until the tail end of the nineteenth century, South Florida was incredibly distinct and separate from the rest of the country. It was hard to reach and communication was slow. Market forces eventually forcibly transformed South Florida into a more cosmopolitan area. Industrialist Henry Flagler, who had made his fortune as a founder of Standard Oil, became invested in Florida hotels and railroads. He had visited Florida with a sick wife who later died, and found himself quite taken with the potential of the state as a tourist destination. He built a massive hotel in St. Augustine and afterward slowly worked his way down

³ Susannah Worth, “The Peacock Inn: South Florida’s First Hotel,” *The Florida Historical Quarterly*, (Florida Historical Society, Vol. 91, No. 2), Fall 2012, 155-157.

⁴ Susannah Worth, “The Peacock Inn: South Florida’s First Hotel,” *The Florida Historical Quarterly*, (Florida Historical Society, Vol. 91, No. 2), Fall 2012, 160.

⁵ Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 34-35.

⁶ Arva Moore Parks and Bo Bennett, *Coconut Grove*, (Charleston, Arcadia Publishing, 2010), 31.

⁷ Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 36-37.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 3

the coast, purchasing and constructing railroad lines and hotels from St. Augustine to West Palm Beach, which was intended to be the end of the line.

Flagler dedicated himself to developing communities around his railroad stops and hotels on the Florida East Coast Railway. A settler named Julia Tuttle, who had purchased 640 acres on the northern banks of the Miami River, desperately wanted Flagler to expand his railroad to Miami to bring in more people. Miami, due to its mosquitos and humidity, was not an extremely popular travel destination in the 1890s. Flagler was reticent to bring his railroad so far south, and Tuttle had very little luck in convincing him. However, a statewide freeze in 1895 changed his tune. The freeze went as far south as Palm Beach, destroying crops. Legend holds that Tuttle sent Flagler some flowers from outside her home, wrapped in damp cotton, in order to demonstrate that Miami was immune to the vicissitudes of cold weather. Whether or not this story is true, Flagler that year decided to expand his railroad to Miami.⁸ In 1896, when Flagler visited Tuttle in Miami to finalize the plans, she took him to Coconut Grove to show the potential for a community in South Florida and had lunch with him at the Peacock Inn. Flagler was impressed, and signed the agreement in the hotel’s dining area.⁹ The railroads would bring the modern age to South Florida, for good and bad.

Henry Flagler’s standard operating procedure for railroad expansion was to build a hotel near the railroad as the seed for a new community. The combination of builders, hotel workers, and tourists would provide the economic incentive for a new strong city to spring up. He had previously followed this model in Palm Beach. Flagler, after agreeing to expand the railroad and bring a hotel to South Florida, sent his labor superintendent John Sewell to begin the hard work of altering the environment to suit a new city. Sewell brought along twelve black workers to being the tough, arduous work of clearing the growth from the waterfront property where the hotel would be built.¹⁰ Over time, as the news spread of the railroad’s expansion and of the growth of a new community at the southeastern corner of the United States, the area’s population began to rapidly grow. Flagler’s company brought in more and more black workers to make the area surrounding the new Royal Palm Hotel habitable and hospitable. By June of 1896, the area that would become Miami was populated enough to pursue incorporation as a city. Flagler supported this prospect, and had the supervisors in his employ encourage their black workers to attend the meeting where the vote on incorporation was held. Of the 367 votes in favor of Miami’s incorporation on July 28, 1896, 162 (44%) were black.¹¹

Flagler’s representatives used their predominantly-black workers to bolster elections during the city’s early years, in order to help ensure that the best results would be achieved for their interests. In 1899, Dade County, which at that time extended northward to today’s Palm Beach County and also included the area now known as Collier County, to the west of today’s county boundaries, had its county seat far to the north of Miami, in Juno Beach. The 1899 election, a countywide vote, proposed moving the county seat south to Miami. The final vote tally was 690 to 498, with the majority being in favor of

⁸ James C. Clark, *200 Quick Looks at Florida History*, (Sarasota, Pineapple Press, Inc., 2000), 161-162.

⁹ Arva Moore Parks and Bo Bennett, *Coconut Grove*, (Charleston, Arcadia Publishing, 2010), 15.

¹⁰ Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 54-56.

¹¹ Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 57-58.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
----- Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
----- County and State
N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 4

moving the county seat. Miami voters cast 398 of the votes in favor of the move. Much like the vote over incorporation, Miami’s black community was a significant part of the success of the measure. The *Miami Metropolis* newspaper, which in later decades would be a vociferous source of anti-black sentiment, expressed gratitude to the black Miamians who voted to move the county seat: “Everything went off smooth from morning to night and all worked in harmony for the greater good, and for once the color line was obliterated and every one of the black and tan vote counted. White men were riding through the streets with the colored fellows, and there was a full determination that the colored fellow should vote just as he wished, which fortunately was for Miami.”¹² By the turn of the century, black Miamians were a significant part of the city’s community culturally, economically, and politically, even though they did not live in equal conditions.

By 1900, four years after the city of Miami’s incorporation, the population of the city had grown to 1,681. Of that number, 966 of Miami’s residents (57%) were black. Of Miami’s black population, around 212 (22%) were born in the Bahamas. The census numbers only counted permanent residents, however, and the numbers of Bahamians are probably larger than 212 because of the many seasonal agricultural workers who yearly came to Miami to work the fields.¹³ Miami’s black population expanded dramatically in the city’s first decades, but were confined to a few areas within the city, most notably the section known as “Colored Town” (now Overtown) in the city’s northwest. Colored Town was handicapped by poor infrastructure and a cramped population. Miami’s black community was fenced into a limited area, despite consisting of around half of the city’s population in the early years of the century. The streets of Colored Town were unpaved, unlike the nearby white section of the city, and the predominantly-wood construction of the section were prone to fire. In addition, poor sanitation management led to constant epidemics of smallpox, yellow fever, and influenza.¹⁴ Miami’s policy in the early 20th century was to constrain the city’s black community as much as possible. Attempts by Miami’s blacks to move were met with staunch opposition by the city’s government. In opposition to attempts by black Miamians to move out of Colored Town, Miami’s city commission attempted to pass Ordinance 199, which would have established a firm color line north of Colored Town. This measure was tabled, but an unofficial unenforced color line did exist. By 1920, even though Miami’s black community was 32 percent of the city’s population, they lived in only 10 percent of the city’s space.¹⁵ Black Miamians were penned in, left with unequal resources in a rapidly-growing city.

Miami’s black community faced legal limitations in the types of economic opportunity they were allowed to pursue. Black Miamians were not allowed to operate businesses that served white people, even though the opposite was permitted. Because of these constrictions, Miami’s black community had to mostly be self-sufficient, with certain individuals becoming immensely successful. Dana A. Dorsey, a carpenter who traveled south to Miami in the late nineteenth century to work on Flagler’s railroad, became a real estate tycoon serving the housing needs of black Miamians. He was a prolific builder in the Colored Town area. During the Florida land boom, Dorsey became a millionaire, building houses,

¹² Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 58-59.
¹³ Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 61.
¹⁴ Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 61.
¹⁵ Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 77.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery

Name of Property

Miami-Dade County, FL

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 5

apartments, and hotels.¹⁶ Doctor William B. Sawyer was among Dade County's first black physicians. He founded Christian Hospital, the first hospital for Miami's black community.¹⁷ Kelsey Leroy Pharr came to Miami from South Carolina in 1914, and worked as a bellman in Henry Flagler's Royal Palm Hotel. After saving his money and earning an embalmer's license, he opened a funeral home for black Miamians, being the only black embalmer south of St. Augustine.¹⁸ Because of the segregation from white Miami society, the city's black community had to fend for itself, and enterprising businesspeople and entrepreneurs filled most of the gaps.

Origins of the Brownsville Subdivision

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is located within the Brownsville neighborhood. The Brownsville subdivision is an unincorporated community within Miami-Dade County. Located northwest of Downtown Miami, Brownsville has its origins as farmland located outside the city borders settled by a black farmer named W. L. Brown in the early 1910s. First platted in 1916, the Brownsville subdivision is bordered by Northwest 54th Street to the north, 32nd Avenue to the west, 41st Street to the south, and 27th Avenue to the east.¹⁹ Consisting of 2.3 square miles of land, Brownsville originally was sparsely populated with a mix of black and white farmers, with much of the land undeveloped.²⁰ Brownsville was relatively undeveloped by the 1940s, with fewer than 100 families living in the subdivision in 1941. As that decade progressed, more black families began to move into the area, inspiring waves of white flight from the community, within the heavily-segregated Dade County. Brownsville's black residents established the Brownsville Improvement Association, which promoted organization, infrastructural development, and home ownership.²¹ Despite this, the Brownsville community continued to have conflict with white neighbors fearful of black expansion, culminating in physical violence at the borders of the community. Brownsville was targeted for urban renewal by the Miami Housing Authority during the 1960s.²²

Bahamian Burial Practices

The Bahamian tradition of above-ground vault burials was informed by the island chain's characteristic limestone geology. The islands of the Bahamas are made of limestone raised in a shallow portion of the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Florida. With the islands' geology making farming difficult, the Bahamas

¹⁶ Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 79-81.

¹⁷ Roderick Waters, "Dr. William B. Sawyer of Colored Town," *Tequesta: The Journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida*, (Miami, Historical Association of Southern Florida, Number LVII), 1997, 70.

¹⁸ Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 87.

¹⁹ Theo Karantsalis, "The Brownsville Neighborhood in Central Miami-Dade has a Rich History Stretching Back to World War I," Housingissues.org, <http://www.housingissues.org/history-brownsville.html>, Accessed October 17, 2017.

²⁰ Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Board, *Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery Designation Report*, July 17, 1991, 4.

²¹ Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997), 168-169.

²² Theo Karantsalis, "The Brownsville Neighborhood in Central Miami-Dade has a Rich History Stretching Back to World War I," Housingissues.org, <http://www.housingissues.org/history-brownsville.html>, Accessed October 17, 2017.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 6

are incapable of housing a large population.²³ The proximity of Miami as an outlet for labor kept the Bahamian population from increasing very much in the early decades of the 20th century. While in 1900 the Bahamas had a population of approximately 52,000, by 1930 the population had only grown by 7,500.²⁴ Digging a grave by hand in limestone is nigh impossible, so Bahamians tended to construct above-ground burial vaults out of limestone, which served multiple purposes. The vaults, being built above the ground, did not necessitate digging into the limestone base of the Bahamas. In addition, limestone’s corrosive nature made reuse of burial sites an easy and common practice. Because of the limited real estate on the islands, reusing burial vaults was a natural decision to make, one that was perhaps typical of the time period in the Western Hemisphere.²⁵ In communities within the British colonies that would later become the United States, families were often all buried in the same plot, with new bodies being added as new deaths occurred. Because Bahamian burials were not done with the intent of creating a permanent site for honoring any specific deceased person, the graves were often devoid of the individual signification characteristic within modern American burial practices.²⁶

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Ethnic Heritage/Black. It is also significant at the local level under Criterion B for its connection to Kelsey Leroy Pharr, a person whose significance derives from his contributions to Miami’s black history. The cemetery is also eligible under Criteria Consideration D because its primary significance comes from its connection to the early development of black Miami. The period of significance ranges from 1937 to 1968. As one of Greater Miami’s first cemeteries serving the African-American community in an era where segregation was prolific and intense, located in an area that has always been heavily populated by black Miamians, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is the resting place of many of Miami’s earliest black pioneers. Founded and originally operated by Kelsey Pharr, Miami’s first black embalmer and a civic leader, the cemetery demonstrates the segregated nature of Miami’s early civic and cultural institutions, as well as the way that Miami’s black community worked to overcome the systematic disadvantages that were forced upon them by an unjust system.

Criterion A

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery was first established in 1924, platted by white realtor F. B. Miller. In 1937, black Miami undertaker Kelsey Leroy Pharr purchased the approximately-9 acres of land from Miller, turning the cemetery into one intended to serve Miami’s black community. Pharr’s cemetery became an extension of his undertaking business, offering a place where Miami’s black community

²³ “Historic Funeral Traditions: Bahamian Burials I,” Deathcare.com <http://www.deathcare.com/2009/historic-funeral-traditions-bahamian-burials-i.html>, Accessed October 17, 2017.

²⁴ “Bahamas – Historical Demographical Data of the Whole Country,” Populstat.info, <http://www.populstat.info/Americas/bahamasc.htm>, Accessed October 17, 2017.

²⁵ “Historic Funeral Traditions: Bahamian Burials I,” Deathcare.com <http://www.deathcare.com/2009/historic-funeral-traditions-bahamian-burials-i.html>, Accessed October 17, 2017.

²⁶ “Historic Funeral Traditions: Bahamian Burials II,” Deathcare.com <http://www.deathcare.com/2009/historic-funeral-traditions-bahamian-burials-ii.html>, Accessed October 17, 2017.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 7

could be buried without the threat of being scammed or mistreated for racial reasons. Within the first few years of the cemetery’s opening, Pharr was hired by Dade County to remove black bodies from the City of Miami’s cemetery and the Lemon City Colored Cemetery. Lemon City had been a frontier establishment to the north of Miami, and had a heavy Bahamian population. Pharr reinterred the bodies he was hired to remove to Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery.²⁷ Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery was chosen to host the moved bodies because it was new and had empty space, and because Pharr was a noted and respected businessman who had many civic connections. Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery’s above-ground burial vaults were appropriate for the Bahamian bodies moved from Lemon City. Today, the remnants of the Lemon City Colored Cemetery are buried under a vacant private lot, with no grave markers remaining. A memorial was built in 2011 in response to attempts to turn the lot into a parking lot.²⁸

Over the following decades, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery would serve Miami’s black community, even as Kelsey Pharr passed away in 1964. The cemetery was further distinguished by its continued use of above-ground burial vaults, even as most other cemeteries in the area, even those used by black Miamians, abandoned that practice. Another historically black cemetery, Evergreen Memorial Park, is located four blocks to the south of Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery.²⁹ The use of above-ground vaults for burials distinguishes Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery from other sites in the area, and demonstrates a deep connection to the area’s historic connection to black Bahamian tradition and practice.

In 1976, an advertisement for a United States Bicentennial event held at the cemetery billed Lincoln Memorial Park as “the South’s Most Beautiful Negro-Owned Cemetery.”³⁰ The cemetery is still in use today, but has fallen into some disrepair. Nonetheless, it maintains its historic connection to Miami’s black community, with many of the area’s African-American pioneers being buried there.

Notable Burials

In addition to the aforementioned Kelsey Leroy Pharr (1891-1964), who is buried at Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery, the cemetery he opened and operated, many other pioneers of Miami’s black community are interred in the cemetery:

- **Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry** (1923-1979) was a groundbreaking figure within Miami’s black community. Daughter of Dr. William Sawyer, who is also buried in Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery, Cherry was the first black female law student to attend the University of Miami, the

²⁷ Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Board, *Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery Designation Report*, July 17, 1991, 4.

²⁸ Jim W. Harper, “A Grave Concern,” Biscaynetimes.com, http://www.biscaynetimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&id=1551:a-grave-concern-&Itemid=226, Accessed November 13, 2017.

²⁹ “Lincoln Memorial Park,” Miamidade.gov, <http://www.miamidade.gov/filmiami/gallery/cemetery4.asp>, Accessed November 8, 2017.

³⁰ Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Board, *Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery Designation Report*, July 17, 1991, 12.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery

Name of Property

Miami-Dade County, FL

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 8

first black woman to practice law in Dade County, and the first black woman to serve as a Florida state legislator. Elected to four terms representing Florida's 96th District, Cherry died in a car accident in Tallahassee in 1979.³¹

- **Reverend John Edwin Culmer** (1891-1963) was born in the Bahamas, but moved to Miami's Coconut Grove area in 1911. Eight years later, he received a bachelor's degree in Divinity from Bishop Payne Divinity School in Petersburg, Virginia. In 1929, he returned to Miami, where he served at St. Agnes Episcopal Church in the city's Colored Town neighborhood (now called Overtown). Culmer was involved in improving the housing and sanitation available to black Miamians. He published an expose in the *Miami Herald* on the subpar conditions the black community was facing in their housing, which eventually led to the creation of the Liberty Square housing project on the western outskirts of the city in 1937, the first housing project aimed at African-Americans built in the Southern United States.³²
- **Dana Albert Dorsey** (1868-1940) was Florida's first black millionaire. The first person in his family not to be born into slavery, Dorsey arrived in Miami as part of the effort to bring Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railroad to the city. Noticing that the many black workers brought to the city were having trouble finding suitable accommodations for housing, Dorsey purchased land in the city's Colored Town area on which he built a house to be rented out. With his profits, he purchased more land to be rented out. He accumulated a fortune as a real estate developer, and had an active hand in producing the civic and social built infrastructure of black Miami.³³ Dorsey has an elaborate mausoleum within Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery.
- **Henry Ethelbert Sigismund Reeves** (1882-1970) was born in the Bahamas, moving to Miami in 1919, with the goal of acquiring equipment to start his own newspaper in the Bahamas. He ended up staying in Miami, a city that had already developed a quite-large black Bahamian community, and founded the *Miami Times* newspaper in 1923. The *Miami Times* was aimed at a black audience, providing access to news in a segregated society.³⁴
- **Dr. William Benjamin Sawyer** (1886-1950) was among Miami's first black doctors. When Sawyer first opened his practice in the first decades of the 20th century, his patients ranged from Palm Beach to Homestead. Discouraged by the impact of segregation upon black medical care, Sawyer founded Christian Hospital, which would serve Miami's African-American population.³⁵

³¹ "Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry, Esq.," Gscbwla.org, <http://gscbwla.org/Gwendolyn-Sawyer>, Accessed November 8, 2017.

³² "Culmer, Reverend John Edwin. AT&T Miami-Dade County African-American History Calendar, 1995," Theblackarchives.org, <http://www.theblackarchives.org/archon/?p=digitallibrary/digitalcontent&id=67>, Accessed November 8, 2017.

³³ "Dana Dorsey: Miami's First Black Real Estate Developer," Miamicondoinvestments.com, <http://www.miamicondoinvestments.com/fisher-island/dana-dorsey-miamis-first-black-real-estate-developer>, Accessed November 8, 2017.

³⁴ "History of Henry E. S. Reeves," Dadeschools.net, <http://henryreeves.dadeschools.net/pdf%20admin/Henry%20Reeves%20Revised.pdf>, Accessed November 8, 2017.

³⁵ Roderick Waters, "Dr. William B. Sawyer of Colored Town," *Tequesta: The Journal of the Historical Association of*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 9

Criterion B: Kelsey Leroy Pharr

Kelsey Leroy Pharr first arrived in Miami in 1914, looking to make money in a city that at that time was fewer than twenty years old, in the midst of rapid growth and expansion. He was born at the tail end of the nineteenth century in Chester, South Carolina. Three of his grandparents had been slaves. After earning a Bachelor’s degree from Livingston College in North Carolina, Pharr intended to pursue a medical career in order to serve North Carolina’s black community. To raise funds for continuing his education, Pharr traveled to the booming city of Miami.³⁶ Characterized by its hotels and warm climate, Pharr started his time in Miami working as a bellman at the Royal Palm Hotel, but quickly moved on. When Miami’s black undertaker died, Pharr saw an opportunity to move into his position. Because Miami’s businesses were so segregated, the enterprising Pharr observed a chance to capture the market of a necessary institution. He traveled to New York City and took a course in embalming, becoming certified after six weeks of training. He partnered with three of his fellow black workers at the Royal Palm Hotel to support the new undertaker business, receiving loans from leading Miami citizens such as white businessman Roddy Burdine, whose family operated the Burdines department store.³⁷ With these multiple income sources acquired, Pharr was able to open a funeral business, one which would be at the center of Miami’s black community.

Kelsey Pharr, having received an education and capital to start a funeral home, became Dade County’s first black embalmer and funeral director. Pharr Funeral Home was located at 1025 Northwest 2nd Street, in the heart of what was then known as Miami’s “Colored Town” area.³⁸ He joined the city’s Colored Board of Trade and took an active role in establishing institutions to serve the black community of Miami. Pharr believed that “the progressive negroes who are citizens of Miami . . . must be considered as a potent factor in the upbuilding of the city and Dade County.”³⁹ Therefore, he took it as his personal mission to do as much as he could to make up for the systematic structural disadvantages created by Miami’s Jim Crow system. For instance, Pharr was the first person to create an ambulance service for Miami’s black population centers, since the city did not provide them.⁴⁰ Pharr envisioned a self-supporting black community within Miami.⁴¹

As an undertaker, Pharr noticed that the period following the death of a loved one left people very vulnerable to scammers, and he felt that Miami’s black community was preyed upon by unscrupulous

Southern Florida, (Miami, Historical Association of Southern Florida, Number LVII), 1997, 71.

³⁶ Bertha R. Comstock, “Kelsey L. Pharr, Negro Undertaker,” *Federal Writer’s Project*, January 11, 1939 (Library of Congress), 2-3.

³⁷ Bertha R. Comstock, “Kelsey L. Pharr, Negro Undertaker,” *Federal Writer’s Project*, January 11, 1939 (Library of Congress), 3-4.

³⁸ “Pharr, Kelsey Leroy. AT&T Miami-Dade County African-American History Calendar,” Theblackarchives.org, <http://www.theblackarchives.org/archon/?p=digitallibrary/digitalcontent&id=80>, Accessed October 24, 2017.

³⁹ Romona Lowe, “Meet Kelsey Pharr, Distinguished Miami Leader,” *The Miami Times*, November 13, 1945, 10.

⁴⁰ Romona Lowe, “Meet Kelsey Pharr, Distinguished Miami Leader,” *The Miami Times*, November 13, 1945, 10.

⁴¹ N. D. B. Connolly, *A World More Concrete: Real Estate and the Remaking of Jim Crow South Florida*, (University of Chicago Press, 2016), 56-57.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
----- Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
----- County and State
N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 8 Page 10

schemers. By the 1930s, a Funeral Insurance Plan had been established in Dade County to help black residents of the county ensure that they would be able to afford funerals for themselves or their loved ones. Pharr felt that this program was designed to get people to pay in, then find minor reasons to not cover funeral expenses. For instance, deaths had to occur in Dade County for funeral costs to be covered. If someone happened to be out of the county when they died, all the money put into the plan was wasted. Pharr alleged in 1939 that the Funeral Insurance Plan was being administered without the proper licensing. On top of all this, Pharr believed that the customers of the plan were being overcharged. To combat what Pharr considered a scam aimed at Miami’s black community, he established a funeral benefit society of his own, a mutual aid organization designed to aid in the payment of black funeral expenses.⁴² Of course, as an undertaker, Pharr naturally benefited from this type of organization. Nonetheless, his commitment to improving the lives of Miami’s black community was one of his main projects in life.

Kelsey Pharr established Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery not only to benefit his own undertaker business, but also to provide a service to Miami’s black community, to ensure that they had a place to bury their loved ones with little fear of being scammed or abused. The city had already demonstrated a willingness to move or desecrate African-American burial grounds, and Pharr, as part of his long project to benefit black Miamians, established the cemetery as the ultimate expression of his goals. While the cemetery was not the site most connected to his productive life during his lifetime, it is the best remaining. His funeral home, located at 1025 Northwest Second Avenue in Miami’s Overtown neighborhood, has since been demolished. Therefore, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is the site that is the best remaining expression of the black undertaker who dedicated his life to improving his community.

⁴² Bertha R. Comstock, “Kelsey L. Pharr, Negro Undertaker,” *Federal Writer’s Project*, January 11, 1939 (Library of Congress), 5.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery

Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL

County and State
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

“Bahamas – Historical Demographical Data of the Whole Country,” Populstat.info,
<http://www.populstat.info/Americas/bahamasc.htm>, Accessed October 17, 2017.

Clark, James C., *200 Quick Looks at Florida History*, (Sarasota, Pineapple Press, Inc., 2000).

Comstock, Bertha R., “Kelsey L. Pharr, Negro Undertaker,” *Federal Writer’s Project*, January 11, 1939
(Library of Congress).

Connolly, N. D. B., *A World More Concrete: Real Estate and the Remaking of Jim Crow South Florida*,
(University of Chicago Press, 2016), 56-57.

“Culmer, Reverend John Edwin. AT&T Miami-Dade County African-American History Calendar,
1995,” Theblackarchives.org,
<http://www.theblackarchives.org/archon/?p=digitallibrary/digitalcontent&id=67>, Accessed
November 8, 2017.

“Dana Dorsey: Miami’s First Black Real Estate Developer,” Miamicondoinvestments.com,
<http://www.miamicondoinvestments.com/fisher-island/dana-dorsey-miamis-first-black-real-estate-developer>, Accessed November 8, 2017.

Dunn, Marvin, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century*, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 1997).

“Gwendolyn Sawyer Cherry, Esq.,” Gscbwla.org, <http://gscbwla.org/Gwendolyn-Sawyer>, Accessed
November 8, 2017.

Jim W. Harper, “A Grave Concern,” Biscaynetimes.com,
http://www.biscaynetimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&id=1551:a-grave-concern-&Itemid=226, Accessed November 13, 2017.

“Historic Funeral Traditions: Bahamian Burials I,” Deathcare.com
<http://www.deathcare.com/2009/historic-funeral-traditions-bahamian-burials-i.html>, Accessed
October 17, 2017.

“Historic Funeral Traditions: Bahamian Burials II,” Deathcare.com
<http://www.deathcare.com/2009/historic-funeral-traditions-bahamian-burials-ii.html>, Accessed
October 17, 2017.

“History of Henry E. S. Reeves,” Dadeschools.net,
<http://henryreeves.dadeschools.net/pdf%20admin/Henry%20Reeves%20Revised.pdf>, Accessed
November 8, 2017.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 2

Karantsalis, Theo, "The Brownsville Neighborhood in Central Miami-Dade has a Rich History Stretching Back to World War I," Housingissues.org, <http://www.housingissues.org/history-brownsville.html>, Accessed October 17, 2017.

"Lincoln Memorial Park," Miami-dade.gov, <http://www.miamidade.gov/filmiami/gallery/cemetery4.asp>, Accessed November 8, 2017.

Lowe, Romona, "Meet Kelsey Pharr, Distinguished Miami Leader," *The Miami Times*, November 13, 1945, 10.

McCorquodale, Amanda, "Lincoln Memorial Park Grave Disturbances Could be Linked to Santeria," Huffingtonpost.com, https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/09/lincoln-memorial-park-grave-santeria_n_1265603.html, Accessed November 13, 2017.

Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Board, *Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery Designation Report*, July 17, 1991.

Parks, Arva Moore, and Bo Bennett, *Coconut Grove*, (Charleston, Arcadia Publishing, 2010).

"Pharr, Kelsey Leroy. AT&T Miami-Dade County African-American History Calendar, 1995" Theblackarchives.org, <http://www.theblackarchives.org/archon/?p=digitallibrary/digitalcontent&id=80>, Accessed October 24, 2017.

Reilly, Benjamin, *Tropical Surge: A History of Ambition and Disaster on the Florida Shore*, (Sarasota: Pineapple Press, Inc., 2005).

Waters, Roderick, "Dr. William B. Sawyer of Colored Town," *Tequesta: The Journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida*, (Miami, Historical Association of Southern Florida, Number LVII), 1997, 67-80.

Worth, Susannah, "The Peacock Inn: South Florida's First Hotel," *The Florida Historical Quarterly*, (Florida Historical Society, Vol. 91, No. 2), Fall 2012, 151-180.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
Name of Property
Miami-Dade County, FL
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

21 53 41 5 AC PB 9-128
LINCOLN MEMORIAL PARK SEC A
LOTS 1 THRU 538 & TRACT A
& NW 48 ST LYG N & ADJ & 12.50FT
OF NW 30 PL LYG E & ADJ & 10FT OF
NW 46 ST LYG S & ADJ CLOSED PER
R-1420-94

LINCOLN MEMORIAL PARK SEC B
ALL LOTS 2 TO 680 EMBRACED IN
ABOVE PLAT PB 40-20
& NW 48 ST LYG N & ADJ & 12.50FT
OF NW 30 PL LYG W & ADJ CLOSED
PER R-1420-95

Comprising the entire lot bounded by NW 30th Avenue to the east, NW 46th Street to the south, NW 31st Avenue to the west, and Folio 30-3121-009-1320 to the north.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above property description contains all of the historic resources associated with Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery

Name of Property

Miami-Dade County, FL

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 1

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND SUBJECTS

Photograph Subject: Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery

Photograph Address: 975 W 41st Street, Miami Beach (Miami-Dade County), Florida

Photographer: Mallory Fenn

Date Taken: August 10, 2017

- 1:** Coral Rock Entrance Arch, Facing North
- 2:** Above-Ground Burial Vaults, Facing Northwest
- 3:** Above-Ground Burial Vaults, Facing East
- 4:** Southeast Section, Facing Northeast
- 5:** Standard Painted Headstone Markers, Facing Northwest
- 6:** Flowerpot Headstone, Facing East
- 7:** Northeastern Section, Facing West
- 8:** Dorsey Crypt, Facing Northeast

Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery


3001 Northwest 46th Street
Miami, Miami-Dade Co.
Florida

Lat./Long. Coordinates:
25.817317 -80.245142

UTM:
17R 575662 2855670

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed NR Boundary

Date: 11/13/2017

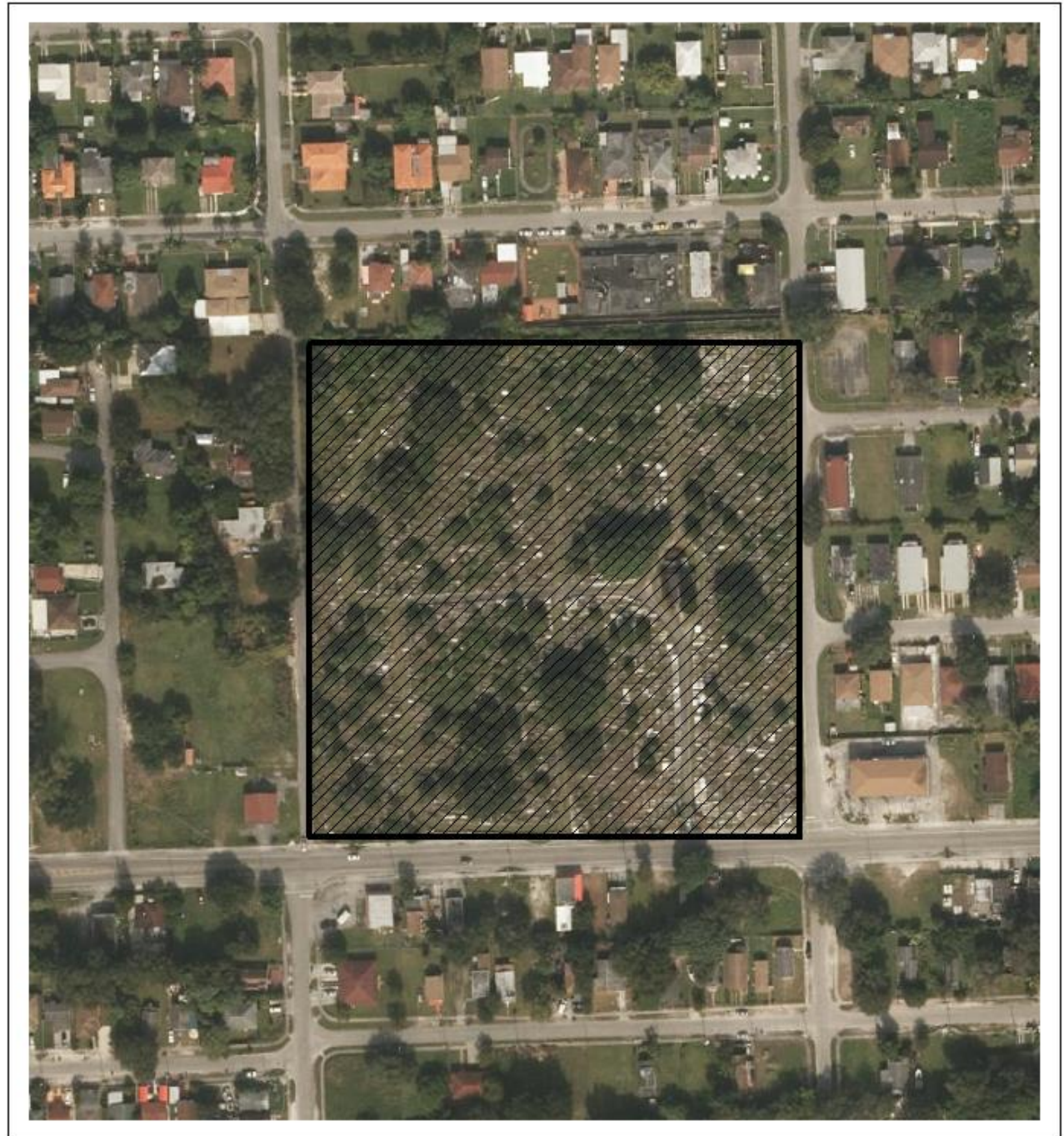
N

1:2,500

0 105 210 420 Feet

0 25 50 100 Meters

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



Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery


3001 Northwest 46th Street
Miami, Miami-Dade Co.
Florida

Lat./Long. Coordinates:
25.817318 -80.245142

UTM:
17R 575662 2855670

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed NR Boundary

Date: 11/13/2017

N



1:10,000

0 425 850 1,700 Feet

0 105 210 420 Meters

Basemap Source: 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed











PHILLIPS









D. A. DORSEY

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: 2/20/2018 Date of Pending List: 3/14/2018 Date of 16th Day: 3/29/2018 Date of 45th Day: 4/6/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 3/29/2018 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.



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**
STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER
111 N. W. FIRST STREET
MAILBOX 114, (12TH FLOOR)
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128
305-375-4958

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-03

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE NOMINATION OF LINCOLN MEMORIAL PARK
TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is one of the oldest Black cemeteries in Miami-Dade County and has been in use since at least 1937; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery was originally platted in 1924 specifically for use as a cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery was established by Kelsey Leroy Pharr to serve the needs of Miami-Dade County's Black community; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery houses approximately 2,000 burial plots and serves as the final resting place for many of Miami's early Black pioneers, community leaders, and innovators; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is historically significant for its association with the history of racial segregation in South Florida, and for its association with enterprise among Miami's Black community; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is significant for its display of a range of cultural burial traditions, notably its above-ground Bahamian style vaults; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 1991, the Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation Board designated the cemetery as a County Historic Site.



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**
STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER
111 N. W. FIRST STREET
MAILBOX 114, (12TH FLOOR)
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128
305-375-4958

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-03

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE NOMINATION OF LINCOLN MEMORIAL PARK
TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is one of the oldest Black cemeteries in Miami-Dade County and has been in use since at least 1937; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery was originally platted in 1924 specifically for use as a cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery was established by Kelsey Leroy Pharr to serve the needs of Miami-Dade County's Black community; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery houses approximately 2,000 burial plots and serves as the final resting place for many of Miami's early Black pioneers, community leaders, and innovators; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is historically significant for its association with the history of racial segregation in South Florida, and for its association with enterprise among Miami's Black community; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery is significant for its display of a range of cultural burial traditions, notably its above-ground Bahamian style vaults; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 1991, the Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation Board designated the cemetery as a County Historic Site.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

February 16, 2018

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 **Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery (FMSF#: 8DA06942), in Dade 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