

PH0022551

H2

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 14 1972	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and Reserve

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Reserve Area III

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Overseas Highway (U.S. 1)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Key Largo vic.

STATE: Florida      CODE: 12      COUNTY: Monroe      CODE: 087

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Division of Recreation and Parks  
Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER: Larson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee      STATE: Florida      CODE: 12

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Trustees of the Internal Fund

STREET AND NUMBER: Elliott Building

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee      STATE: Florida      CODE: 12

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Florida Archaeological Survey

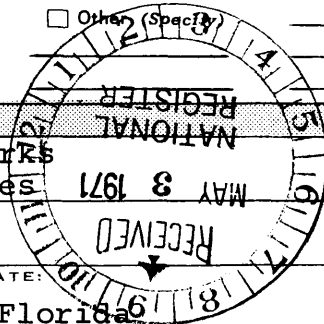
DATE OF SURVEY: May 1, 1968       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Archives, History and Records Management

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee      STATE: Florida      CODE: 12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and the contiguous Reserve Area III encompass approximately 120 square miles of submerged land consisting of turtle grass flats, intersperse patches of sand, coral outgrowth and along its eastern edge, segments of a living barrier reef.

The park was named for John D. Pennekamp, a Miami newspaper editor, long active in conservation of natural properties in Florida and a key figure in the establishment of the park. The park's establishment made history by being the first under-seas park in the continental United States. The seabottom and marine life are in a constant state of evolution with new areas building up as older ones are eroded or covered with sand. Located along the reef and on the flats under the turtle grass and sand, lie an unknown number of underwater archaeological sites. A number of shipwrecks of archaeological importance are known to exist. Professionally, it is estimated that at least 20 times the number now known lie undisturbed. The sea claims these shipwrecks as they are deposited and while radically altering their appearance, the remains provide the archaeologist with significant data. Exposed wood is eaten by toredo worms and bacteria. Metals corrode and become encased with coral. And finally, often the whole site is covered with sand. The attached site map shows the approximate location of known wrecks.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The underwater shipwreck sites in Pennekamp Park and the contiguous Reserve Area III constitute one of the most important reserves of the dwindling archaeological resources in the United States and in the hemisphere. Future research will provide a wide temporal range of shipwrecks of a variety of nationalities. The importance to the archaeologist and historian of such a continuous chain of soundly dated sites through which any number of aspects of culture/history can be traced is most significant. In view of this fact, in January of 1968, the State Cabinet, sitting as the Florida Board of Archives and History, set aside this area as one of four "Reserve Areas." Substantially expanding the submerged land under the protection of the state, Reserve Area III encompassed the present John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and the area from the ten fathom line shoreward to the mean high water line of Key Largo. This action excluded any salvage efforts within the park's or reserve's boundaries unless conducted under the auspices of the Division of Archives, History and Records Management in the pursuit of legitimate research aims.

The periphery of Key Largo on the ocean side has vast shallow areas extending seaward as far as 4,000 feet. These flatlands are covered by one to two feet of water. During earlier periods, when the sea level was lower, this area was exposed and could have been part of the aboriginal habitations found on the Keys. When properly surveyed, this offshore area could provide the location of what was once aboriginal land sites.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Brookfield, Charles M. "Cannon on Florida Reefs Solve Mystery of Sunken Ship," National Geographic LXXX (Dec., 1941), 807-824.  
 Clausen, Carl J. "Report: Examination of Cannons, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, May 1, 1968." Manuscript on file Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee.  
 Florida Archaeological Survey. Underwater Site-25, Manuscript on file Division of Archives, History and Records Mgt., Tallahassee.  
 Florida Board of Archives and History. Minutes of meeting January 16, 1968, Tallahassee.  
 Observations of State Marine Archaeologist Carl Clausen and Salvage

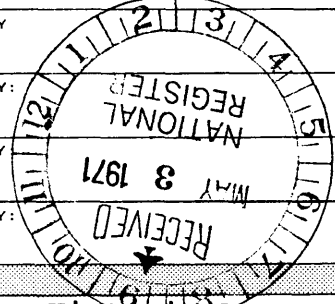
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Exploration Supervisor Allen Saltus, summers 1967 & 1968.**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	25 ° 21 ' 48"	80 ° 14 ' 12 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	25 ° 16 ' 06"	80 ° 08 ' 36 "				
SE	25 ° 04 ' 00"	80 ° 27 ' 54 "				
SW	25 ° 00 ' 00"	80 ° 22 ' 12 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **126 square miles**

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

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



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: (Reviewed by Randy Nimnicht, Historic Preservationist)  
Allen Saltus, Salvage Exploration Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History and Records Mgt. DATE: 4/14/71

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name: *Robert Williams*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: April 29, 1971

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

*Robert M. Utley*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/14/72

ATTEST:  
*J. S. Bradford*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: February 18, 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Monroe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 14 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and Reserve

AND/OR HISTORIC: Reserve Area III

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Overseas Highway (u.S. 1)

CITY OR TOWN:

Key Largo

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY:

Monroe

CODE

087

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

Division of Archives, History and Records Management

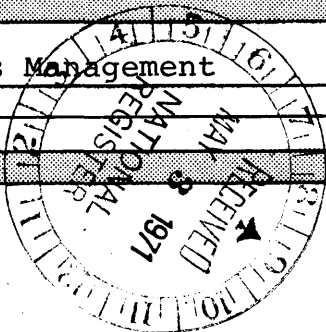
SCALE: (approx.) 1:80,000

DATE: 1971

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



5 3/4 MI. (APPROX.)

(FL W) WHISTLE 2 P.O.B.

SEVERAL SITES REPORTED

TURTLE REEF

C 25

TURTLE ROCKS

CARYSFORT REEF

C 27

WRECKAGE

WRECKAGE

BASIN HILL SHOALS

WRECKAGE REPORTED OF BASIN HILL

FL G 31 BH

CORAL REEF RESERVE AREA

WRECKAGE

WRECKAGE

THE ELBOW

WRECKAGE REPORTED

LARGO

GARDEN COVE

KEY LARGO DRY ROCKS

33

Site # 25

60' DEPTH OR 10 FATHOMS

ACCESS

LARGO SOUND

Headquarters Site

TARPON BASIN

WRECKAGE OF BENWOOD

FL. W 35 MOSQUITO BANK

MI