

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 Chavez Shipwreck Site

other names/site number Nuestra Senora del Carmen, San Antonio de Padua y Las Animas/ MO00102

2. Location

street & number seaward end of Snake Creek off Windley Key n/a not for publication

city or town Islamorada vicinity

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

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Arrikal Martin Guibert 6/15/06

Chavez Shipwreck Site
Name of Property

Monroe Co., FL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

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

Name of related multiple property listings

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

1733 Spanish Plate Fleet

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-related (ship)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Water-related (shipwreck)

Landscape: Underwater (underwater site)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

18th-Century Nao

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation (Hull) wood

walls

roof

other wood

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Archeology: Historic -- Non-aboriginal

Period of Significance

1733

Significant Dates

1733

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

First Spanish Period (1513-1763)

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

#

Chavez Shipwreck Site
Name of Property

Monroe Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	5 4 2 1 2 0	2 7 5 7 8 1 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 Della Scott-Ireton, Archaeologist III & Barbara E. Mattick, DSHPO

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April 2006

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

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name State of Florida

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

SUMMARY

Chaves (8MO00102) is the site of a wooden-hulled sailing ship that was part of the Spanish Plate Fleet destroyed in a hurricane on 15 July 1733. The wrecksite is in 8 feet of water off Upper Matecumbe Key only ½ mile off Windley Key in Monroe County, Florida. The wreck, located within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, lies on submerged lands belonging to the State of Florida. The site includes a scattered of random ballast amidst thick grass beds.

SETTING

The site of *Chaves* is on hard bottom off Upper Matecumbe Key, ½ mile off Windley Key. The scattered ballast mound serves as the foundation for an artificial reef and the shipwreck site now is a thriving biological community which helps to protect the wreck from further deterioration. Water depth is 8 feet over the wrecksite and due to its closeness to shore and immunity to rough sea conditions clarity is good. The bottom is hardpan with a thin veneer of coarse quartz sand and extensive seagrass beds; the reef is composed of hard and soft corals, sponges, and a variety of marine life.

DESCRIPTION

The scattered ballast mound that marks *Chaves* is approximately 34 meters long by 14 meters wide; the long axis of the shipwreck is oriented north to south. A scatter of ballast stones and the scrambled appearance of portions of the ballast is evidence of modern salvage activities. No non-contributing resources are associated with the site.

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

After grounding, *Chaves*' hold remained watertight allowing the Spanish to salvage most of her cargo and supplies. Due to the shallow depth of water where she was grounded, the intact vessel could not be refloated and therefore was burned to the waterline. Over the centuries the remains of her hull not covered with ballast and sand were carried away by waves and storms; shipworms (*Teredo navalis*) that thrive in the warm

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

water ate any exposed wood. The shipwreck seen today, if left undisturbed, has reached a state of equilibrium with the marine environment and has stabilized.

SITE INVESTIGATIONS

The Spanish began salvage activities soon after the fleet disaster. As one of the smaller vessels in the fleet, *Chaves* carried no registered treasure when she ran aground in shallow water. Her hold remained watertight; crew and passengers were saved and most of the cargo and supplies were offloaded and made use of at the salvage camp of *Capitana* on Upper Matecumbe Key. Although the ship's hull was intact and masts and rigging serviceable, the vessel could not be refloated because of the shallow depth of water where she grounded. Instead, after being salvaged and stripped *Chaves* was burned to the waterline.

Reportedly spotted in 1959 or 1960 during an aerial search by the Roberts brothers, owners of a fish house in Islamorada, *Chaves* was the third 1733 wrecksite to be found in modern times, after *Capitana* and *Infante*. Following the Roberts' reports and consulting a Spanish salvage chart found in the British Museum, Craig Hamilton and Robert Wellbury and their wives first dived on the site in 1960. In only 8 feet of water, they found a small ballast mound 15 feet long and five feet wide covered by sand and eel grass. Situated near shore at the end of a shallow creek, the wreck was promptly picked apart. Hamilton, Bobby Kline, Buddy Crane, Martin Meylach, and Keith Johnston were among the first divers to recover some of the sparse artifacts left behind by Spanish salvors. Finds included broken handpainted ceramics with floral designs, some with animal motifs raised in relief, an ivory-handled straight razor, a double sheave pulley block, cuticle scissors, an intact wine bottle, a triangular iron padlock, and a pewter plate. Devoid of treasure, the site became a convenient location for dive charters.

In 1977, the State of Florida's Underwater Archaeological Research Section conducted a survey of the wrecks of the 1733 fleet, including *Chaves*. At that time three test pits excavated disclosed a relatively large amount of hull structure covered by a thin layer of ballast stone and sand. Timbers encountered were articulated from the keel upwards to the turn of the bilge; many were coated with a white caulking, and some were covered with original bark. Visible ballast was recorded and mapped to create a site plan. This was accomplished by using a protractor mounted on a rod that was inserted into the middle of the ballast mound; measurements were taken every 10 degrees for 360°. A report was prepared of survey efforts, including a description and site map of each wreck site (Smith and Dunbar 1977).

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

In 2004, the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research resurveyed the wrecks of the 1733 fleet as part of a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Management

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Program. The purpose of the grant was to obtain archaeological and historical information about the 1733 fleet disaster in order to create a maritime heritage attraction for historical, recreational, and educational tourism. All of the sites of the 1733 shipwrecks, including *Chaves*, were surveyed using an azimuth and measuring tape to record the ballast mounds using distance and bearing. Ballast, timbers, areas of disturbance, and large biological features such as coral heads were recorded on individual site plans for each shipwreck. The sites also were recorded with video and photography.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 8 Page 1 **CHAVES SHIPWRECK SITE
Monroe County, Florida**

SUMMARY

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: *Chaves*

The 220 3/8-ton, Genoese-built freighter, *Nuestra Señora del Carmen, San Antonio de Padua y las Animas*, also was referred to by the name of her owner, Don Antonio de Chaves. As one of the smaller vessels in the fleet, *Chaves* carried no registered treasure when she ran aground in shallow water near *el Cayo de Matecumbe el Viejo*, now known as Upper Matecumbe Key. Her hold remained watertight; crew and passengers were saved and most of the cargo and supplies were offloaded and made use of at the salvage camp of *Capitana* on Upper Matecumbe Key. Although the ship's hull was intact and masts and rigging serviceable, the vessel could not be refloated because of the shallow depth of water where she grounded. Instead, after being salvaged and stripped *Chaves* was burned to the waterline.

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

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Section number 9 Page 2 **CHAVES SHIPWRECK SITE**
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Section number 10 Page 1 **CHAVES SHIPWRECK SITE**
Monroe County, Florida

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site boundary of the *Chaves* is defined as a circle of 1,000 yards radius around the geographical coordinates Latitude 24° 56.179' N, Longitude 80° 34.985' W, lying offshore and below the mean low water mark of the Atlantic Ocean and encompassing the ballast mound and associated hull structure and artifacts.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

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National Park Service**

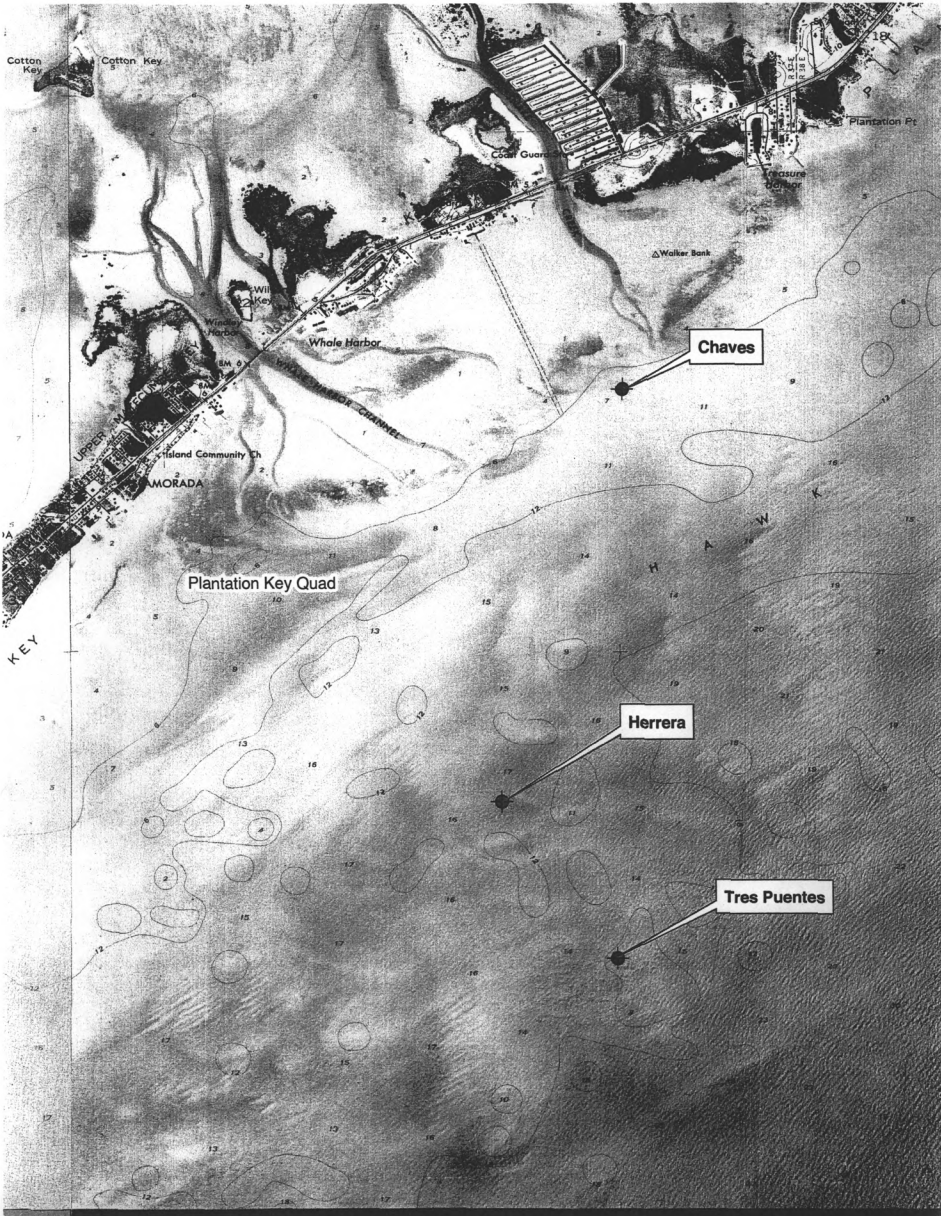
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number photo Page 1 **CHAVES SHIPWRECK SITE**
Monroe County, Florida

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1.a) *Chaves*
 - b) Monroe County, Florida
 - c) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
 - d) August 2004
 - e) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
 - f) Ballast pile looking South
 - g) 1 of 2

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



Cotton Key

Cotton Key

Plantation Pt

Clear Guano

Wreck

Walker Bank

Will Key

Wreck Harbor

Whale Harbor

Chaves

Island Community Ch

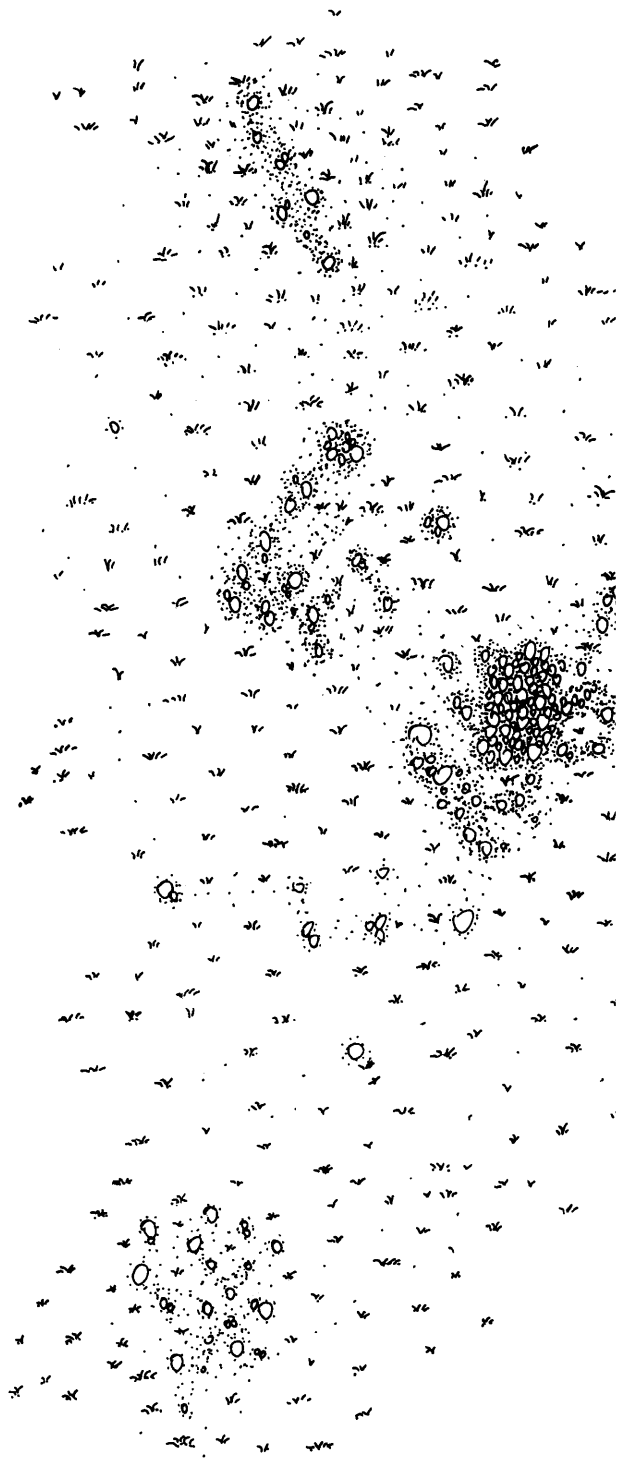
MORADA

Plantation Key Quad

KEY

Herrera

Tres Puentes



Chavez
2004

A
2 | 2m

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Chaves Shipwreck Site

MULTIPLE NAME: 1733 Spanish Plate Fleet Shipwrecks MPS

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Monroe

DATE RECEIVED: 5/15/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/28/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000493

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5/15/07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beal

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

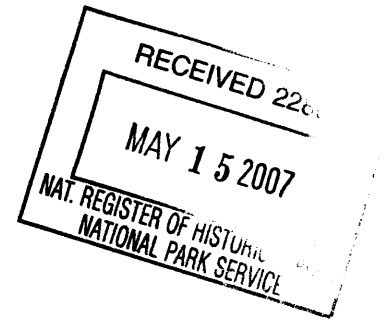
DATE 5/15/07

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES



May 10, 2007

Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

It has been brought to our attention that the **Chavez Shipwreck Site** in Monroe County, Florida, should be spelled Chaves Shipwreck Site. I noted when I looked at the nomination that the name was spelled correctly in the body of the nomination; the error is only on the form. I appreciate your help in correcting the National Register listing.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Mattick

Barbara E. Mattick
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Historical Museums
(850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

Southeast Regional Office
(954) 467-4990 • FAX: 467-4991

Northeast Regional Office
(904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044

Central Florida Regional Office
(813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340