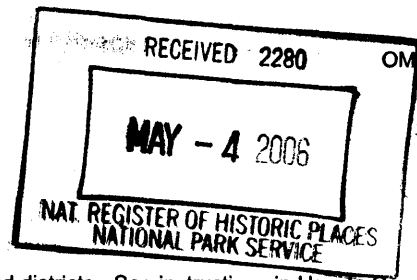


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Sueco de Arizon Shipwreck Site

other names/site number Sueco, Nuestra Senora del Rosario, San Antonia y San Vencente Ferrer/MO00132

2. Location

street & number 1600 yards offshore Conch Key n/a  not for publication

city or town Layton  vicinity

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

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Grisha K. Martin Seibert 6/15/06

Sueco de Arizon 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.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1733 Spanish Plate Fleet

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)

18<sup>th</sup> - 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

# \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1   7	5   1   1   2   7   0	2   7   4   0   2   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 **SUECO DE ARIZÓN SHIPWRECK SITE**  
**Monroe County, Florida**

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**SUMMARY**

*Sueco de Arizón* (8MO00132) 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 to 10 feet of water just offshore Conch 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 two ballast mounds, labeled *Sueco* 1 and *Sueco* 2, approximately 31 meters long by 13 meters wide and 30 meters long by 14 meters wide, respectively, and hull timbers that generally are covered with sand and marine vegetation.

**SETTING**

The site of *Sueco de Arizón* is on hard bottom just offshore Conch Key. Two areas of ballast associated with *Sueco* served as the foundation for an artificial reef and the shipwreck site now is a thriving biological patch reef community which helps to protect the wreck from further deterioration. Water depth is 8 to 10 feet over the wrecksite; water clarity is murky but varies with weather and tidal conditions. The bottom is hardpan with a thin veneer of coarse quartz sand; the reef is composed of hard and soft corals, sponges, and a variety of marine life.

**DESCRIPTION**

The two main areas of ballast that mark *Sueco de Arizón* are dubbed *Sueco* 1 and *Sueco* 2 and were mapped independently. *Sueco* 1 is approximately 31 meters long by 13 meters wide; the long axis of the ballast is oriented northwest to southeast. *Sueco* 2 is approximately 30 meters long by 14 meters wide; the long axis of the ballast is oriented north to south. The two ballast mounds are evidence of the wrecking event. The ship initially grounded and split her hull, leaving a large deposit of ballast. As the wreck deteriorated over time it left a second deposit of ballast. A scatter of ballast stones extends beyond the edges of both compacted mounds; the scrambled appearance of portions of the ballast mounds 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 and the natural reef structure adhering to the ballast stones. Remaining hull timbers likely consist of the keel, frames, keelson, ceiling planking, and exterior planking as well as fasteners. The protective layer of ballast stones, sand, and reef structure conceals the ship's architecture and, possibly, rigging elements which may include deadeyes, chainplates, blocks, etc. Based on past recoveries from other 1733 shipwrecks, ship-related artifacts such as fasteners and ceramic sherds may also be present. Over the intervening years, some shipwreck material has been dispersed by wave and current action away from the primary area of timbers and ballast. This material forms the "wreck scatter" common to sites in a high-energy environment in shallow water near shore; the site boundaries are intended to encompass the area of wreck scatter. While displaced from their original context, scattered artifacts may still be linked to the shipwreck and can provide important information about site formation processes.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2 **SUECO DE ARIZÓN SHIPWRECK SITE  
Monroe County, Florida**

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After grounding, *Sueco de Arizón* remained relatively intact, losing only masts and rudder, until salvaged by the Spanish soon after the disaster. No lives were lost and the major part of her cargo and supplies was saved. 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 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. *Sueco de Arizón* was flooded but relatively intact, allowing recovery of nearly all of her cargo.

In about 1965, Dick Williams, a member of Mel Fisher's Armada Research group, showed Robert Weller where he thought *Sueco* was wrecked based on the Spanish salvage map. A ballast mound was discovered in the area, measuring 60 feet long, 20 feet in width, and three and a half high at the highest point. Weller, Pat Patterson, Ray Manieri and Brad Patton (Royal Fifth Group) recovered silver coins, pottery sherds, eight Pillar dollars dated 1732, and six other pillar dollars. Other material salvaged included olive jar sherds, porcelain and glass fragments, cannon balls, bar shot, fire bricks, and several hundred coins (mostly 4 and 8 reales Mexico-mint cobs dated 1720-1733).

In 1977, the State of Florida's Underwater Archaeological Research Section conducted a survey of the wrecks of the 1733 fleet, including *Sueco*. At that time the ballast area consisted of two low mounds bisected by troughs through the disturbed stones, results of treasure hunters moving ballast to recover artifacts and coins. A scattered trail of ballast extended nearly to the shore of Conch Key. No artifacts or ship structure was noted. The site was not excavated during this survey, but 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 *Sueco* 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 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 *Sueco*, were surveyed using an azimuth and measuring tape to record the ballast mounds using distance and bearing. Ballast, timbers, areas of disturbance, and large

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 7 Page 3

**SUECO DE ARIZÓN SHIPWRECK SITE  
Monroe County, Florida**

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biological features such as coral heads were recorded on individual site plans for each shipwreck. The sites also were recorded with video and photography.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1 **SUECO DE ARIZÓN SHIPWRECK SITE**  
**Monroe County, Florida**

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**SUMMARY**

*Sueco de Arizón* 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. *Sueco* is one of very few positively identified examples of the *nao* ship type that was heavily used for commerce in the 18<sup>th</sup> 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, *Sueco* 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 18<sup>th</sup>-century merchant vessels, the *nao* ship type in particular, the Spanish *flota* system, and trans-Atlantic maritime culture.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: *Sueco de Arizón***

The merchant vessel *Nuestra Señora del Rosario Santo Domingo, San Antonio y San Vincente Ferrer* was more commonly called *Sueco de Arizón* (the Swede of Arizón) for her captain Juan José de Arizón and owner Jacinto Arizón. No official records describing the ship have been found but her nickname indicates she may have been built in Sweden. *Sueco* probably was small since she was carried by the storm into only 9 feet of water. The ship was loaded in Vera Cruz with 24,000 *pesos* in silver coins, Chinese porcelain, leather hides, cochineal, indigo, and tobacco. Sailing in the rear of the *flota* near *Almiranta*, the little ship was hit hard by the storm and driven into shallow water just 1,500 yards off Conch Key. Her hull remained intact, although she lost masts and rudder. No lives were lost and the major part of her cargo and supplies was saved.



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Section number 9 Page 1 **SUECO DE ARIZÓN SHIPWRECK SITE  
Monroe County, Florida**

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Section number 9 Page 2 **SUECO DE ARIZÓN SHIPWRECK SITE  
Monroe County, Florida**

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Section number 10 Page 1 **SUECO DE ARIZÓN SHIPWRECK SITE  
Monroe County, Florida**

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**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The site boundary of the *Sueco de Arizón* is defined as a circle of 1,000 yards radius around the geographical coordinates Latitude 24° 46.625' N, Longitude 80° 53.372' W and Latitude 24° 46.728' N, 80° 53.480' W, lying offshore and below the mean low water mark of the Atlantic Ocean and encompassing the ballast mounds and associated hull structure and artifacts.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The *Sueco de Arizón* 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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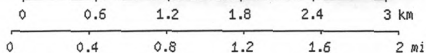
**SUECO DE ARIZÓN SHIPWRECK SITE  
Monroe County, Florida**

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

- 1.a) *Sueco de Arizón*
  - b) Monroe County, Florida
  - c) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
  - d) August 2004
  - e) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
  - f) Ballast
  - g) 1 of 3
  
- 2.a) *Sueco de Arizón*
  - b) Monroe County, Florida
  - c) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
  - d) August 2004
  - e) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
  - f) Ballast and coral
  - g) 2 of 3
  
- 3.a) *Sueco de Arizón*
  - b) Monroe County, Florida
  - c) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
  - d) August 2004
  - e) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
  - f) Ballast looking NNE
  - g) 3 of 3

# Suico de Arizon



Map center is 24° 46.63'N, 80° 53.37'W (WGS84/NAD83)  
**Grassy Key** quadrangle  
 Projection is UTM Zone 17 NAD83 Datum



Suecos de Arizona 2  
about  
1 am 1



Ar 1am  
Sueco de Arizon 1  
2004

