

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received OCT 2 1984  
date entered NOV 6 1984

**1. Name**

historic  Coral Gables Police and Fire Station

and/or common City of Coral Gables Public Safety Building

**2. Location**

street & number 2325 Salzedo Street N/A not for publication

city, town Coral Gables N/A vicinity of

state Florida code 012 county Dade code 025

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Coral Gables

street & number 405 Biltmore Way

city, town Coral Gables N/A vicinity of state Florida

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dade County Courthouse

street & number 73 West Flagler Street

city, town Miami state Florida

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Dade County Historic Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 111 S.W. 5th Avenue, Suite 101

city, town Miami state Florida

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The former Coral Gables Police and Fire Station is a two-story masonry structure designed in the Mediterranean Revival style with decorative Depression Moderne elements. The building is L-shaped in plan and is of oolitic or coral rock construction assembled from material brought from Windley Key in the Florida Keys. The building displays the typical decorative elements associated with the Mediterranean Revival style, including a low clay barrel tile roof, semi-circular arched windows, engaged columns with masonry lintels and a 3-story tower at its northwest corner. Alterations made to the building include the removal of all original casement windows and subsequent replacement with aluminum awning type windows and the removal of the original wooden roll-up firetruck bay doors on the west elevation of the building. A courtroom addition made to the east elevation of the building respects the materials and scale of its parent structure. The building is well-maintained and possesses a good deal of original architectural fabric.

The most distinctive feature of the building is its program of Depression Moderne sculpture. The artwork was executed by a young sculptress professionally known as Jon Keller. The sculpture on the west facade of the building depicts two firemen flanked by the heads of a typical family which they protect. The artwork is executed in Depression Moderne style - somber, direct and realistic, with a strong educational message. Beneath the busts of the fireman, at the base flanking the opening to the former bay doors, are stylized representations of their empty boots. On the south facade a group of five pelicans appear above the arched entry for the Police Department.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1939 **Builder/Architect** W.P.A./Phineas E. Paist

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former Coral Gables Police and Fire Department, presently known as the Coral Gables Public Safety Building, satisfies the criteria of exceptional significance for nomination to the National Register as an outstanding example of Mediterranean Revival style oolitic rock architecture. The building was built by the Works Progress Administration in 1938-39 and includes a number of distinctive examples of Depression Moderne sculpture. Phineas Paist of the firm Paist and Steward was the architect of the building. Paist is significant as the first registered architect in Miami and as the principal architect for the planned community of Coral Gables. The structure is one of two W.P.A. municipal buildings in Coral Gables and survives in a relatively unaltered state.

Incorporated in 1925, the City of Coral Gables is one of the most outstanding planned communities in the country. The city was envisioned and promoted by George Merrick, the son of a Congregational minister from Massachusetts. Merrick engaged the services of William Jennings Bryan to tout the virtues of his model community, Denman Fink, his uncle, as artistic consultant and designer and Phineas Paist as architect. With its high quality of design and effective promotion, Coral Gables became one of the biggest real estate ventures of the Florida land boom of the 1920s.

Completed in 1939, the Old Coral Gables Police and Fire Station replaced a smaller interim facility located on the southwest corner of Salzedo and Alcazar. As a W.P.A. project, the City of Coral Gables provided the land and the Federal government the labor and 71.7% of the construction cost. The building is one of two municipal structures built by the W.P.A. in Coral Gables, the other being the Public Service Building, also constructed in 1939. The Police and Fire Station, however, is of greater architectural distinction through its use of native keystone (oolitic or coral rock) in contrast to the concrete block construction of the Public Service Building.

The architect of the building, Phineas Paist, was responsible for some of the most distinguished buildings in Coral Gables, including the Douglas Entrance, City Hall, Christian Science Church and the Granada Plaza Fountains. For the exterior sculpture of the building, the W.P.A. commissioned Jon Keller (professional name, Theresa Keller maiden name). Keller is also responsible for works of Stephen Foster at the North Florida Memorial, a bust of Dr. Gorrie (inventor of refrigeration) and two 13-foot statues at the Doral Beach Hotel on Miami Beach.

In 1975, the Police and Fire Departments vacated the building, although it has remained in the ownership of the City of Coral Gables. Recently, the Junior League of Miami, Inc., negotiated a 20 year lease with the city to use the lower west wing for its headquarters. The majority of the building is presently occupied by city offices.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Hialeah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 42-48, Block 34 of Section K. This area includes all significant properties.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Junior League of Miami/Michael F. Zimny, Historic Sites Specialist.

organization Florida Division of Archives date September 19, 1984

street & number The Capitol telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *George W. Percy*

title George W. Percy, State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/21/84

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

*Cheryl L. Perry*

date 11/6/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet One

Item number 9

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