

*DO NOT Film*

ORIGINAL - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Sarasota	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUL 10 1979	DATE

1. NAME  
COMMON:  
Little Salt Springs  
AND OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Circa, two miles North of US 41.  
CITY OR TOWN:  
North Port Charlotte Vicinity  
STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Sarasota CODE: 115

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC		
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
OWNER'S NAME:  
General Development Corporation, Inc.  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
111 S. Bayshore Drive Post Office Box 7202  
CITY OR TOWN: Miami North Post STATE: Florida CODE: 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Sarasota County Courthouse  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN: Sarasota STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Florida Archaeological Survey  
DATE OF SURVEY: [ ] Federal [X] 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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COUNTY: Sarasota  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

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## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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

The best description of the present physical situation of Little Salt Springs is given by Clausen (1971), and is as follows.

Little Salt Springs is located in the south central portion of Sarasota County, Florida, at latitude 27° 04' 29" North and longitude 82° 14' 00" West. Geologically the site is a type of solution feature typically known as a "sink" or "spring" penetrating the limestone plain underlying the area. Physically it consists at the surface of a circular pond approximately 76 meters in diameter surrounded by a fringe of dense subtropical vegetation situated in what might be generally described as "south Florida ranch land", open flat Savanna type country with scrub oaks, range grass and palmetto predominating.

In the center of the pond at a depth of approximately 12 meters below the surface is located an oval orifice some 24 to 30 meters in diameter. The walls of the sink below the orifice, or mouth, taper down and out forming a large, inverted funnel shaped cavern. Ringing this cavern are at least two known ledges located at depths of approximately 21 and 27 meters below the present water surface. These ledges vary considerably in width, ranging from 40 to 70 centimeters to 7 to 8 meters. Other ledges may exist between the 27 meter ledge and the bottom of the sink, which below the center of the pond lies at a depth of 65 meters. (Clausen, 1971:1)

The physical characteristics of the water from Little Salt Springs gives some indication why the artifactual preservation is so remarkable. A chemical analysis of the spring water indicates that dissolved solids compose 3,590 parts per million; producing a favorable situation for rapid mineralization (Wells, 10-30-59). In addition, dissolved oxygen in the water is virtually non-existent beyond the first few feet nearest the surface (Clausen, Ms. log: 2-3). The temperature of the spring is extremely constant, varying less than 1.0 degree F. from the surface down to 210 feet (Ibid-notes: 4). These last two factors would tend to retard bacteria, and enhance the environment conducive to preservation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |                                       |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ± 5,000 B.C.

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The first reported investigation of Little Salt Springs was conducted in 1959 by Colonel William Royal of Venice, Florida. His observation of human skeletal material on the various ledges within the sink, prompted a second investigation. Later that same year, Royal, accompanied by a marine biologist, geologist, and archaeologist, again investigated Little Salt Springs. The occurrence of human skeletons within the recesses on the sink was confirmed, and enough skeletal material was recovered to account for at least 50 individuals (Goggin, 1962; Clausen, 1972: 1-2). Although much professional interest was generated by this discovery (Goggin, 1962), no further research was conducted until 1970. At this time, General Development Corporation, the owners of the site, permitted several teams of sport divers to explore the springs. They subsequently reported the existence of skeletal material on the ledges, emphasizing the occurrence of this material on the 27 meter ledge (Clausen, 1971: 2).

In 1971, the Division of Archives, History, and Records Management was contacted by the General Development Corporation, concerning research at Little Salt Springs. A cooperative research program between the General Development Corporation and the Division of Archives, History, and Records Management was formulated, and was initiated in May, 1971. A multi-discipline research design was set up, and included geologists, limnologists, archaeologists, and physical anthropologists. Directing the research was Carl Clausen, State Marine Archaeologist, who conducted preliminary investigation in May and November, 1971. The first phase of the research was designed to collect human skeletal material for C-14 dating, and to familiarize the researchers with the environment of Little Salt Springs. In November, 1971, Phase II of the project was undertaken. This phase included a detailed environmental evaluation, utilizing both the geologist and limnologist, as well as the archaeologist-in-charge. Core samples, fathometer readings, and chemical analysis of the water were taken in preparation for the major archaeological investigation scheduled for Phase III.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		N 27° 04' 29"	W 82° 14' 00"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than ten acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Daniel T. Penton, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History, and Records Mgt. DATE: May, 1972

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: *D. Penton*

Title: State Liaison Officer  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 5/22/79

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

*Mark Coffey*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Date: 7-10-79

ATTEST:  
*Carl A. Dunbar*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/7/79

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Sarasota	
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(Number all entries)

JUL 10 1979

7. DESCRIPTION

Both geological and archaeological evidence indicates that the water level of Little Salt Springs was substantially lower in the past, than at present. The occurrence of both human and animal skeletal material on the 21 and 27 meter ledges suggests this type of situation, as well as the presence of stalactites and stalagmites on these ledges. This type of geological formation could not have formed unless the water level was lower than the ledges.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida
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JUL 10 1979

8. SIGNIFICANCE

-2-

Phase III was initiated in December, 1971, and concluded in January, 1972. This phase dealt with the intensive archaeological testing of the site, and included underwater excavation of several stratified areas. These tests produced quite a large sample of human skeletal material, as well as some artifacts and organic remains such as leaves, nuthulls, coprolites, and charred wood.

The accumulated data from the three phases of research conducted at Little Salt Springs is presently being assimilated by Clausen. Publication of this data is anticipated in the near future, and should offer a rare insight into the physical environment and human population of Florida during the Late Archaic (2000 - 4000 B.C.)

The Little Salt Springs site possesses a number of physical characteristics which have enhanced the preservation of information relating to early man in Florida. The constant water temperature, the virtual absence of dissolved oxygen, and the high percentage of dissolved minerals in the waters of Little Salt Springs have all played a role in preserving the physical and artifactual remains of the Late Archaic occupants of the site. Data recovered from the Little Salt Springs site provides good documentation of the environment and cultural activities of some of Floridas early inhabitants. Many normally perishable materials have been found in the Springs, and these help embellish the artifactual assemblage known for this phase of the Archaic tradition. In addition, the superb preservation of the human skeletal material greatly aids our understanding of the base human population of this part of Florida.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Sarasota	
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	JUL 10 1979

(Number all entries)

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anonymous. "General Development Sponsors Archaeological Research Program." New Vistas, VIII, No. 3. Miami. 1972. (Manuscript proofed by Clausen).

Clausen, Carl. Field Notes and Field Log of the Little Salt Springs Research, 1971-72. Ms. on file at the Department of State, Division of Archives, History, and Records Management. Tallahassee, Florida

\_\_\_\_\_. Justification for Cooperative Scientific Investigation of Little Salt Spring. Mimeographed Ms. on file at the Department of State, Division of Archives, History, and Records Management. Tallahassee, Florida. 1971.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Little Salt Springs Yields Clues to the Past". Archives and History News, III, No. 2. Tallahassee, Florida. 1972.

Goggin, John M. "Recent Developments in Underwater Archaeology." Southeastern Archaeological Conference Newsletter, VIII. Cambridge, Massachusetts. 1962.

Wells, Sidney W. Memo to Carl S. Burbridge relating to the physical and chemical properties of the water from Little Salt Springs. Copy on file at the Department of State, Division of Archives, History, and Records Management. 10-30-59. Tallahassee, Florida.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	JUL 10 1979

LITTLE SALT SPRINGS

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

A parcel of land lying in Section 20, Township 39 South, Range 21 East, Sarasota County, Florida, said parcel of land being more specifically described as follows:

From the Northwest corner of said Section 20, bear S.89°16'51"E, a distance of 1440.96 feet to the point of intersection of a curve concave to the Southwest having a radial bearing through said point of N.18°20'01"E, and a radius of 950.00 feet;  
THENCE, Southeasterly parallel with and 50.00 feet from McCarthy Blvd. according to the record plat: of the Thirty Six Addition to Port Charlotte Subdivision as recorded in plat book 16, page 3, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida, along the arc of said curve, through a central angle of 2°08'33", a distance of 35.53 feet to the Point of Beginning;

THENCE, S.20°28'35"W, a distance of 394.74 feet;

THENCE, S.43°44'40"E, a distance of 240.00 feet;

THENCE, S.46°15'20"W, a distance of 525.00 feet;

THENCE, S.43°44'40"E, a distance of 750.00 feet;

THENCE, N.46°15'20"E, a distance of 975.00 feet;

THENCE, N.43°44'40"W, a distance of 748.51 feet to the point of curvature of a curve to the left having a radius of 950.00 feet;

THENCE, Northwesterly along the arc of said curve through the central angle of 25°46'45", a distance of 427.44 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 20.94 acres, more or less.

Bearings as mentioned herein are based on the aforementioned record plat.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

Florida	
Sarasota	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 10 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Little Salt Springs

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Circa, two miles North of US 41.

CITY OR TOWN:

North Port Charlotte Vicinity

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY:

Sarasota

CODE

115

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: General Development Corp.

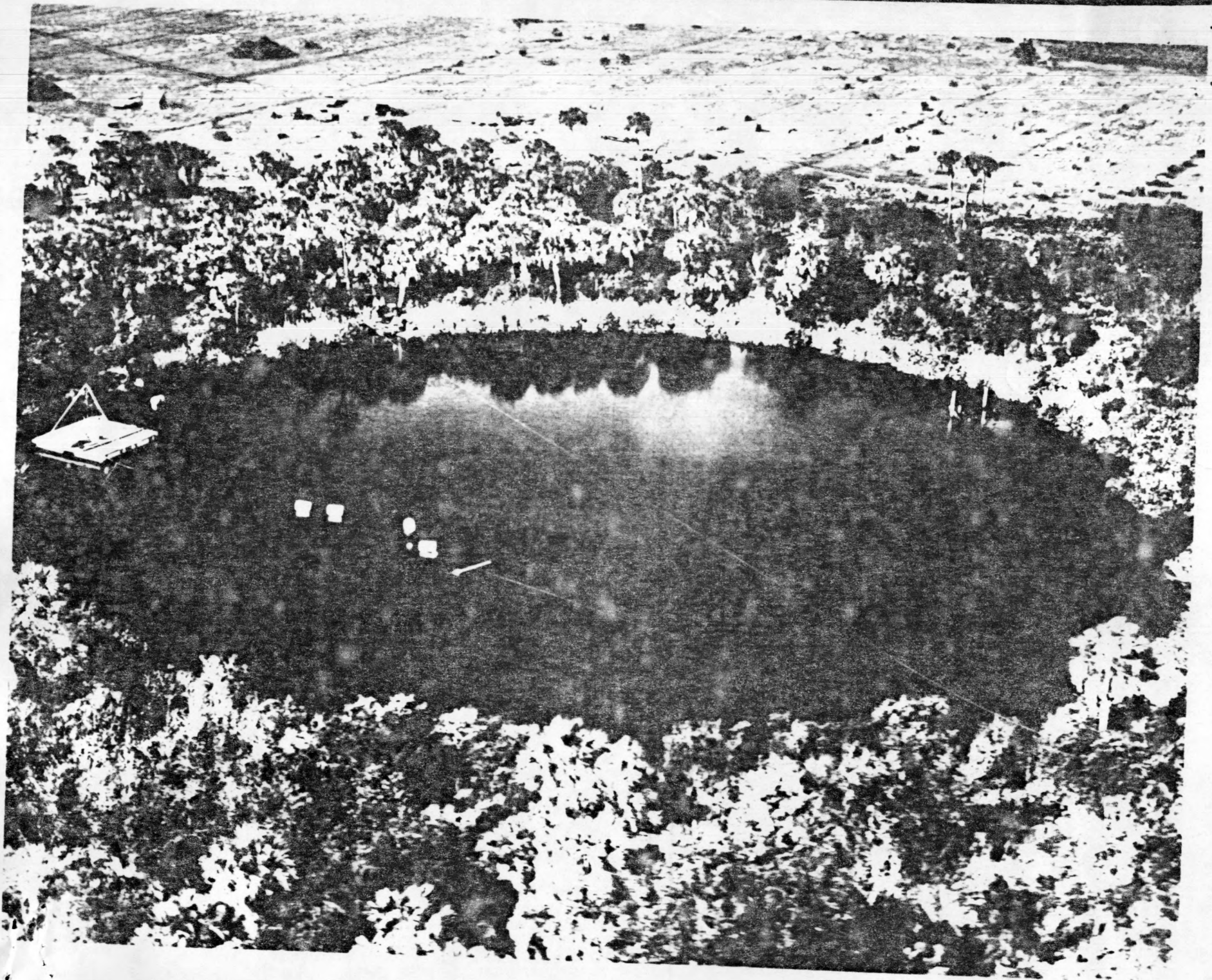
DATE OF PHOTO: 12/18/71

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Aerial view of Little Salt Springs, looking west.  
Photo shows the Springs, surrounding hammock, and outlying  
"prairie."



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Sarasota	
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	JUL 10 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Little Salt Springs			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Circa, two miles North of US 41.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
North Port Charlotte Vicinity			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Florida	12	Sarasota	115
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
USGS Murdock Quad. (Topographic) (7.5')			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1956			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

82° 14' 00" W.

27° 04' 29" N.

Little Salt Spring

(MYAKKA RIVER)

SARASOTA 33 MI.  
VENICE 14 MI.

Flowing Well

Flowing Well

Flowing Well

SARASOTA CO  
CHARLOTTE CO

Little Salt Springs - Sarasota Co.

18

17

16

19

20

21

30

29

28

31

32

33

30'

19.

18.

BM 12

BM 12

