



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 San Francisco Shipwreck Site

other names/site number Nuestra Senora del Rosario, (See Continuation Sheet 8-1)/MO00091

2. Location

street & number seaward end of Channel #2 off Craig Key n/a not for publication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
Berikak Martin Gairbert 6/15/06

San Francisco 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)

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

San Francisco Shipwreck Site
Name of Property

Monroe Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	5 2 4 5 4 0	2 7 4 4 8 4 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 Florida 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.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

SUMMARY

San Francisco (8MO00091) 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 9 feet of water off Long 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 ballast mound approximately 44 meters long by 20 meters wide and hull timbers that generally are covered with sand and marine vegetation.

SETTING

The site of *San Francisco* is on hard bottom of Long Key. The ballast mound 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; part of keelson, frames, and timbers are exposed. Water depth is 9 feet over the wrecksite and 6 feet to the top of the ballast pile. Water clarity can be murky or clear depending on 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 ballast mound that marks *San Francisco* is approximately 44 meters long by 20 meters wide; the long axis of the shipwreck is oriented northwest to southeast. Today the wreck of *San Francisco* is located in shallow water and the undisturbed nature of the ballast mound and its attending tropical ecosystem are apparent. 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.

San Francisco documents indicate that only her people were saved. Salvage divers recovered most of the registered silver, but other general cargo such as indigo and cochineal were lost. 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.

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Monroe County, Florida

SITE INVESTIGATIONS

The Spanish began salvage activities soon after the fleet disaster. *San Francisco's* registered silver was salvaged by divers; however, her general cargo was lost.

In the early 1960s, salvor Tim Watkins and his crew discovered a mound of ballast near the seaward end of Channel 5 between Long Key and Craig Key. Because the ballast corresponded to the position marked for *San Francisco* on the Spanish chart of 1733 shipwrecks, the salvage community began calling the Channel 5 ballast *San Francisco*. Although the wreck of the fleet's *almiranta*, *El Gallo Indiano*, was known from historical documents to be nearby, a second ballast mound had not been discovered at that time. In early 1965, Robert Weller and his Royal Fifth crew found a second ballast mound in only nine feet of water just off Craig Key but, occupied with salvaging *El Sueco de Arizón*, they did not pursue investigation of the newly discovered site. Dubbed the Craig Key Wreck, Weller and his associates began to work the site in July of 1965 but found no indications that it was one of the "missing" 1733s. A subsequent dive by Weller, Mel Fisher, and state archaeologist Carl Clausen determined that the Craig Key Wreck was, in fact, one of the 1733 wrecks. Upon further examination of the Spanish charts, Weller determined that the large ballast mound called *San Francisco* was actually *Almiranta*, and the Craig Key Wreck was *San Francisco*. Although the state of Florida proposed excavating the site, a project never was organized. No salvage contracts were let for *San Francisco* and the wreck was left relatively undisturbed for several years, with the exception of some coins recovered by Richard MacAllister, Jack Haskins, and John Berrier, and, in 1990, two cannonballs removed by Weller.

In 1977, state archaeologists visited the site of what they believed to be *San Francisco*, based on information available at the time. Clarification of charts and the salvage history of the wrecks now indicate that the wreck identified as *San Francisco* in the 1977 survey was actually the *almiranta*, *El Gallo Indiano*. The true site of *San Francisco* was not surveyed at that time.

In 1988 a second survey of *San Francisco* 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 *San Francisco*, 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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Section number 8 Page 1 **SAN FRANCISCO SHIPWRECK SITE**
Monroe County, Florida

SUMMARY

San Francisco 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. *San Francisco* 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, *San Francisco* 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: *San Francisco*

Nuestra Señora del Rosario San Francisco Javier y San Antonio de Padua, also called *San Francisco de Asis* or simply *San Francisco*, was English built and 264 $\frac{2}{3}$ tons. Her owner was Don Cristóbal de Urquijo, who also owned another ship in the 1733 fleet, *San Ignacio*. Both ships were wrecked and Urquijo, sailing onboard *San Ignacio*, was drowned. Sailing at the rear of the fleet, *San Francisco* wrecked near *Almiranta* off *Cayo de Vibora* (Long Key). Although grounded in shallow water, documents indicate that only her people were saved. Salvage divers recovered most of the registered silver, but other general cargo such as indigo and cochineal was lost.

The Spanish left the wreck to the sea to become home to generations of marine life.

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

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Monroe County, Florida**

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Section number 10 Page 1 **SAN FRANCISCO SHIPWRECK SITE**
Monroe County, Florida

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site boundary of *San Francisco* is defined as a circle of 1,000 yards radius around the geographical coordinates Latitude 24° 49.185' N, Longitude 80° 45.425' 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 *San Francisco* 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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**SAN FRANCISCO SHIPWRECK SITE
Monroe County, Florida**

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 1.a) *San Francisco*
 - b) Monroe County, Florida
 - c) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
 - d) August 2004
 - e) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
 - f) Ballast pile overview
 - g) 1 of 2
-
- 2.a) *San Francisco*
 - b) Monroe County, Florida
 - c) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
 - d) August 2004
 - e) Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research
 - f) Keelson looking NNW
 - g) 2 of 2



San Francisco

Long Key Quad

Almiranta

Jewish Home

BM 129
Picnic Area

WATERWAY

Light

Light

Re

CHERRY

San Francisco
2004

4 Jan 1

