

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100000932

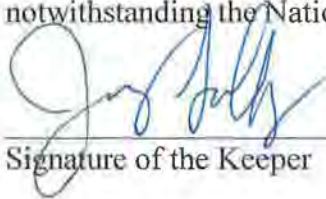
Date Listed: 5/1/2017

Property Name: Coconut Grove Library

County: Miami-Dade

State: FL

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

5-4-2017

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Period of Significance

The Period of Significance is hereby changed to 1963-1967

The current library was constructed in 1963. Although built on the site of the town's original library which dated from 1901, the direct association between significant educational activities and the present building could not have occurred until the building was completed in 1963.

The North Carolina SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 Coconut Grove Library

other names/site number Coconut Grove Branch Library, FMSF# 8DA1953

2. Location

street & number 2875 McFarlane Road not for publication

city or town Miami vicinity

state Florida code FL county Miami-Dade code 025 zip code 33133

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.)

Missa Slade Stone 2/22/17
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, 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) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5-1-2017

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	
1	0	buildings
1		sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings

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

_____ "N/A" _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

_____ 0 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: Library

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENTS: Tropical Modern

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Stone, Wood, Glass

roof Asphalt Shingle
other _____

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)

- Architecture
- Education
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

- 1901-1967
- _____
- _____

Significant Dates

- 1901
- 1963
- _____

Significant Person

- _____
- _____
- _____

Cultural Affiliation

- _____
- _____

Architect/Builder

- Arch.: Russell, T. Triplett
- Bldr.: 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 Less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 7 5 7 6 1 9 6 2 8 4 5 6 4 7
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 Ellen Uguccioni, Ivan Rodriguez, Carl Shiver

organization Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation date January 2017

street & number 500 South 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 City of Miami, c/o Asset Management

street & number 444 SW 2nd Ave., 3rd Floor telephone 305-416-2030

city or town Miami state FL zip code 33130

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

COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Coconut Grove Library, design by T. Triplett Russell, was constructed in 1963 and replaced an earlier library constructed on the same site in 1901. The present library is a two story structure with a one story wing connected by a hyphen. The main portion of the building is a hipped roof, two story block with a wraparound veranda screened by metal Bahama shutters. The wing is a front, clipped gable structure faced with random rubble oolitic limestone. The site is located in historic Coconut Grove, among the oldest of Miami's neighborhoods, next to the historic Woman's Club of Coconut Grove. Located on site is the grave of Eva Munroe, the wife of pioneer Commodore Ralph Munroe, who donated the land for the library. The Coconut Grove Library retains a high level of integrity, preserving its design, materials, workmanship, location, association and feeling. The surrounding setting as changed as a result of urban development, but it retains its historic relationship with the Woman's Club and the neighboring Peacock Park as part of the social, educational, and recreational center of the Grove.

SETTING

Coconut Grove is the oldest modern continuously-inhabited neighborhood of Miami in Miami-Dade County, Florida. The neighborhood is roughly bound by North Prospect Drive to the south, LeJeune Road to the west, South Dixie Highway (U.S. 1) and Rickenbacker Causeway to the north, and Biscayne Bay to the east. It is south of the neighborhoods of Brickell and The Roads and east of Coral Gables. The current name of Coconut Grove was established in 1919, when the city was formally incorporated; previously the community was known as Cocoanut Grove. In 1925, the City of Miami annexed the town. Today Coconut Grove has a population of approximately 20,000 residents.

DESCRIPTION

The library property is found at the intersection of McFarlane Road and South Bayshore Drive (Photo 1). The library is surrounded by modern condominiums to the northwest, the Woman's Club of Coconut Grove (NR listed 1975) to the northeast, and parks to the southeast and southwest. At the western corner of the Coconut Grove Library property, near MacFarlane Road, is grave of Eva Munroe (Photo 3), the wife of pioneer Commodore Ralph Monroe. She died in 1882 and was buried on the site of the library in 1884. An iron fence surrounds the grave.

The Coconut Grove Library building consists of three parts: a western wing, a hyphen, and a two-story main block with the main reading room, children's room, offices, and storage. The front, clipped gable, asphalt shingled, stone-clad western wing reflects the appearance of 1901 building (Photo 4). The wing splits the level between the ground floor and the main reading room in the main block. The interior of the space is open, with bookshelves along the walls (Photo 8-9). High, single light rectangular windows light the space. The roof trusses and beams are exposed. Double doors lead out to the clipped gable entry porch on the south side;

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COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
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DESCRIPTION

however, this is no longer the main entrance to the building, which is instead entered through a later wheelchair ramp addition that leads to the west veranda of the main building. (Photos 5).

A hyphen connects the western wing to the main block and contains the stair lobby and restrooms (Photo 9). The interior stair has a decorative railing of metal tubes and wood rails, and it leads down from the main reading room to the western wing, before turning and then continuing down to the children's room. The hyphen's street façade is clad in random rubble limestone, and features a ribbon window stretching the full length of the façade. The roof is asphalt shingle.

The main block of the building is two stories in height with a massive hipped roof clad in shingles, a wrap-around, metal-screened wood veranda, and shaded ground floor (Photo 2, 7, 11-13). The metal veranda screens continue at a steeper angle the pitch of the roof, while the wood veranda reverses the angle, creating a complex exterior profile. Near the peak of the roof, small clipped gables terminate the roof ridge, and contain single-light skylights which provide additional light to the exterior. The ground floor street façade is clad in random rubble limestone, like the hyphen and western wing, and has applied lettering with the name of the library. Much of this façade is obscured by extensive shrubs and palms, and a wood fence. The other exterior ground floor walls are painted concrete. An exterior entrance to the ground floor of the main building can be accessed via a driveway found at the southeast side of the building.

The main reading room of the library opens onto the enclosed second floor veranda (Photo 6) which wraps around the south, east, and north sides of the building. Exposed trusses support the cantilevered roof, which is faced with wood siding on the interior. The perimeter of the veranda features wooden benches for patrons to sit in the shade provided by the metal screen. Access to the building is through the later wheelchair ramp, which leads to the veranda, and a set of double doors that leads to the main reading room (Photo 9). This is a later modification to the library's design, which had the main entrance in the western wing, in order to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The main reading room contains information desk and is open to the stair hall in the hyphen, which connects the space to the rest of the library. The space is illuminated by artificial lights hanging from the ceiling, but the sense of open space is expanded by large glass curtain walls, which allow patrons to see through the veranda to the exterior, and the very high ceiling with exposed roof trusses (Photo 13). The glass curtain walls meet the ceiling half-way up the slope of the roof. The ceiling is also clad in wood siding, like the veranda. Built-in waist-high book shelves line the lower based of the curtain walls. Pairs of operable double hung sash windows are located around the perimeter of the reading room. The lower floor of the modern building contains the children's room (Photos 14-16). The carpeted room is lined with bookshelves. Alternating single light and paired double hung sash windows light the space along the southeast wall. The structure of the library is clearly visible, with concrete columns and a painted waffle-slab ceiling. Fluorescent lights are located in several of the waffles and exposed air conditioning ducts hang from the ceiling.

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COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Coconut Grove Library is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Education, and C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance is 1901 to 1967. The facility has served the Coconut Grove neighborhood as a public library since 1901, when the first library building was constructed on the present site. The library was housed in a small building with funds raised by the Coconut Grove Library Association which operated the institution until 1957, when the City of Miami offered to build a new air-conditioned facility. In 1963, the new library, designed by architect T. Triplett Russell in the tropical modern style, was completed and opened to the public. Prior to the establishment of the library, the property was the gravesite of Eva Munroe, the wife of pioneer Commodore Ralph Monroe. She died in 1882 and was buried on the current site of the library in 1884. The grave and the property were donated by Commodore Monroe for the establishment of a library. It was stipulated in the donation that the grave of Eva Monroe found on the site would be maintained and preserved. The grave is located at the southwestern corner of the Coconut Grove Library, near MacFarlane Road.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT¹

The greater Miami area a little more than one century ago was a vast wilderness with small clusters of settlers living along the shores of Biscayne Bay. One of those communities was Coconut Grove, which since the late nineteenth century has enjoyed a reputation as south Florida's most attractive, dynamic, and independent-minded community. Clearly, its natural setting is unrivaled, for Coconut Grove looks out from behind lush subtropical foliage toward the turquoise waters of Biscayne Bay. The province of Tequesta Indians until recent centuries, Coconut Grove was, by the early nineteenth century, a favorite stop for mariners attracted to its bubbling fresh water springs on its waterfront. After the Cape Florida Lighthouse opened in 1825, light keepers and their assistants became frequent visitors to Coconut Grove. Wreckers or salvagers of disabled ships also visited the area.²

Coconut Grove remains one of the few enclaves that is uniquely its own, and whose incorporation predated the story of the City of Miami. The land we know today as Coconut Grove was first surveyed in 1846. The United States implemented the "Homestead Act" in 1862 which granted 160 acres of land to men willing to live on the land for at least five years. That offer, seemingly one that could not be refused, was not accepted until 1868, when homesteader Edmund (Ned) Beasley was the first to file in the "Grove."³ South Florida was an

¹ The majority of this section comes from the designation report for the Coconut Grove Library, prepared by Ellen Ugucioni, for the City of Miami in 2009. See Ellen Ugucioni, "The Coconut Grove Library" Local Historic Designation Report. Miami: Historic and Environmental Preservation Board, 2009.

² History of Coconut Grove, <http://www.coconutgrove.com/history/>

³ Arva Moore Parks, "The Thomas Stamps House" Local Historic Designation Report. Miami: Planning Department, n.p.

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COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
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inhospitable place, reached only by the sea and fraught with personal hardships. The pioneer's livelihood depended on the salvage of ships which wrecked on the treacherous reefs, subsistence farming, and the production of comptie starch (arrowroot).

One of the Grove's most legendary citizens was Ralph Munroe, a Staten Island, New York resident and sailing enthusiast who first made the trip to South Florida in 1877. Returning to New York, his young wife Eva eventually bore him a daughter. Sadly, Eva contracted tuberculosis shortly after the birth, and her husband desperately seeking a cure, remembered the warmth of South Florida and made the decision to return with his family.⁴

Eva Monroe never recovered, and died in April, 1882. Mr. Monroe returned to his native New York briefly, convincing friends Charles and Isabella Peacock to accompany him. He urged them to buy property and build a hotel as there was no lodging to be found in Miami. Charles purchased 31 acres, from the south border of what is now Peacock Park, north to Grand Avenue and Mary Street. It was here (in what is now Peacock Park) that the "Bay View House" was constructed.⁵

The construction of lodging was essential to "selling" the Grove. Ralph Munroe continued to encourage friends to visit. "Titled noblemen, world-famous scientists, writers and preachers (including Charles Stowe, the son of Harriet Beecher Stowe) made the Grove their winter haven."⁶ Later, with the success of their business, the Peacocks added to their hotel, and the name was changed to the "Peacock Inn."

It's not surprising that the peninsula of Florida would attract sailors and men of the sea. The Biscayne Bay Yacht Club was established in 1887 by Ralph Monroe and Kirk Monroe. Kirk Monroe, a popular reporter and novelist from the Northeast, was an avid sailor. After marrying Mary Barr in 1883, the couple took a cruise to Florida. Ultimately, in 1896, Kirk and Mary Barr Monroe made Coconut Grove their home, and made such lasting contributions that their names are revered in South Florida history.

Miami-Dade Library System

The first libraries in Miami were established by private groups or schools, consisting of donated books housed in temporary locations. Many of these early libraries were established by women's social groups, which opened their collections to the public, initially in exchange for a small subscription fee, or later at no charge.⁷ The earliest public library in Miami-Dade County dates to 1895, when the Lemon city library was opened by

⁴ Arva Moore Parks, The New Miami: The Magic City (Miami: Community Media) 2008,57.

⁵ Ibid, 57, 63

⁶ Ibid, 68

⁷ Ron Blazek, "Library in a Pioneer Community: Lemon City, Florida," Tequesta 42 (1982): 45-46.

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COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
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SIGNIFICANCE

Cornelia Keyes and the Lemon City Improvement Association.⁸ The Coconut Grove Library was established the following year by the Pine Needles Club, a young woman's club founded by Mary Barr Munroe, which supplemented the earlier Housekeepers Club.⁹ In 1900, the Miami Woman's Club was established, both as a social organization as a literary club with the express purpose of establishing a library.¹⁰ All of these early libraries lacked permanent quarters, and were housed in temporary spaces, including member's homes or spare rooms located above commercial spaces.

The first permanent libraries constructed in Miami Dade County were the Coconut Grove Library (1901) and the Lemon City Library (1902). The City of Miami Library, managed by the Woman's Club, lacked a permanent home until the Club constructed a clubhouse in 1912 on land donated by Henry Flagler, owner of the Florida East Coast Railroad.¹¹ The donation was contingent on the club providing a free of charge public reading room. The Miami Woman's Club clubhouse served as the city's main library until 1925, when the club and the renamed Flagler Memorial Library moved to a new, larger clubhouse on Bayshore Drive (NR listed 1974).¹²

The city library system remained fragmented until 1942, when the City of Miami Public Library system was established to consolidate the expanding number of libraries and library services, such as bookmobiles, within the city.¹³ This included the Lemon City Library, but not the Coconut Grove Library, despite Miami's annexation of both communities in 1925.¹⁴ The Coconut Grove Library would remain independent under the Coconut Grove Library Association until 1957. In 1971, the city and county consolidated their library systems into one unit, creating the present organization.¹⁵

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE¹⁶

The property is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Education. The property is the site of the first permanent library in the Miami area, predating the construction of the 1902 Lemon City Library by a year. The Coconut Grove Library was the result of local women pooling resources and talent to establish a reading library.

⁸ Blazek, 48.

⁹ Arva Moore Parks, The Forgotten Frontier: Florida Through the Lens of Ralph Middleton Munroe (Miami: Centennial Press, 2004), 130.

¹⁰ Mary K. Evans, "Miami Women's Club" National Register of Historic Places (Washington DC: National Park Service, 1974)

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Miami-Dade Public Library System, "History," (accessed January 24, 2017), www.mdpls.org/about/about-us.asp.

¹⁴ "Lemon City Branch Library"

¹⁵ Miami-Dade Public Library System, "History."

¹⁶ The majority of this section comes from the designation report for the Coconut Grove Library, prepared by Ellen Ugucioni, for the City of Miami in 2009. See Ellen Ugucioni, "The Coconut Grove Library" Local Historic Designation Report. Miami: Historic and Environmental Preservation Board, 2009.

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Figure 1: The Pine Needles Club
(Ralph Middleton Munroe, in Arva Moore Parks, The
Forgotten Frontier: Florida Through the Lens of Ralph
Middleton Munroe, Miami: Centennial Press, 2004), p.
130)



Figure 2: The 1901 Coconut Grove Library
(from Arva Moore Parks and Bo Bennett, Images of
America: Coconut Grove (Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia
Pub., 2010), p. 26.)

In 1891, Flora McFarlane had established the “Housekeepers Club” for the women in the community. Their headquarters building (constructed in 1921), is directly adjacent to the Coconut Grove Library. In 1895 Mary Barr Munroe organized the “Pine Needles Club” for the younger girls. The Pine Needles established the first library with temporary quarters in a donated room in Charles Peacock and Son’s store.¹⁷

Originally organized in June, 1895, the “Coconut Grove Exchange Library” was an offshoot of the Pine Needles Club. Mary Barr Munroe, an active and prominent Coconut Grove pioneer, had organized the club as a young woman’s group with literary emphasis. The library benefitted from a donation of books by Louise Carnegie, wife of Andrew Carnegie, who attended a library meeting in 1895.¹⁸ That same year, using the donated books, Munroe and the members of the library club opened a circulating library on the second floor of the former Peacock Store (across the street from the present library site).

In November of 1900, Kirk and Mary Munroe, along with other members in the community, incorporated the Coconut Grove Library Association.¹⁹ The association would be responsible for constructing a dedicated library building and managing the circulating collection, which would be available to dues-paying members that payed an annual fee of \$1.²⁰ In 1901, Commodore (of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club) Ralph Munroe donated the land on which a new library was built. The new building was a rustic, one story building, built of wood and native Miami

¹⁷ Parks, *The New Miami*, 68.

¹⁸ Blazek, 45.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 45.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 45-46.

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COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
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oolite. The roof, with its clipped gables on both the main roof and the roof sheltering the entrance, are reminiscent of England's Cotswold Cottages.

Kirk Munroe was a noted writer, and his early involvement in the Library Association solidified the library's position as a center of social and educational life in Coconut Grove. The library hosted writing contests, social gatherings, and readings of books.²¹ There was even an attempt to expand the library's services by providing delivery of books to members located in Miami to the north, but this failed due to a lack of subscribers willing to pay a higher \$1.50 annual fee for the service.²²

Coconut Grove prospered, as did the region, and was incorporated as its own city from 1919 until 1925, when it was annexed (along with Lemon City) to the City of Miami. The original library building served its purpose well for many years, and served as part of the civic heart of Coconut Grove. The original 1901 building continued to house the library, which was operated by Coconut Grove Library Association until 1957, when the City of Miami offered to build a new air-conditioned facility. Reluctant to lose the original library, which was intimately tied to Grove history, the Trustees eventually accepted the city's offer.

²¹ Blazek, 46.

²² Ibid., 46.

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COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

A New Facility with Respect for Its Progenitor

In 1963, the firm of T. Triplett Russell and Associates was selected by the City of Miami to design the 6,400 square foot building. Mr. Russell was the principal architect, whose daunting task was to remember the long history of the former building on the site, while providing residents with a state-of-the-art facility with all of its modern conveniences.



Figure 3: Rendering of the Coconut Grove Library, possibly by the firm of T. Triplett Russell and Associates. The rendering is displayed at the library. (Miami-Dade Public Library System)

The 1963 library is a tour de force of modern method combined with a vernacular twist. Russell designed his building so that the westernmost wing pays homage to the 1901 structure. In this major point of entry Russell built a structure with a remarkable resemblance to the original library. He used the random coursed oolitic limestone for the building material; he repeated the clipped gables of the original library entrance shelter and main roof, and used wooden rafters and posts for the entrance “porch.” In a division between this tribute and his own design, Russell extended a wall from the westernmost bay with a side facing gable and then connected with the prominent and larger scale of the new building. The result is that it appears that the one-story piece,

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emulating the old library, is actually separate from the adjacent structure. By making the “simulation” of the old library the point of entry, Mr. Russell has deemphasized the importance of the new structure.

For the tropical modern two-story section, Triplett repeated the clipped gables of the entrance shelter and main roof, and used wooden rafters and posts for the entrance “porch.” The roof and veranda echo the traditional architecture of the Grove, which is still present at the preserved house of Commodore Monroe, which is now a state park called “The Barnacle.” Modern elements include the use of glass curtain walls to divide the space while preserving transparency, the use of metal slats for provide shade for the veranda (which interestingly do not appear in the original rendering), and the modern, reinforced concrete construction of the building, which is hidden by the exterior cladding of limestone. Modern technological conveniences such as fluorescent lighting and air conditioning were also incorporated into the design.



The Barnacle, home of Ralph M. Munroe, and an example of traditional architecture in Coconut Grove.

(Home of Ralph M. Munroe known as "The Barnacle" - Coconut Grove, Florida. 197-?. Black & white photoprint, 8 x 10 in. State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/40285>>, accessed 24 January 2017.

T. Triplett Russell, FAIA is a common name in South Florida and elsewhere. While Mr. Russell died in 2000, his firm The Russell Partnership is still a leading architectural firm in the area. Mr. Russell was formerly associated with these firms: Plevitsky and Russell (1936-1941) and Weed, Russell, Johnson Associates Architects and Engineers (1946-1957).

Additional Historic Context

Gravesite of Eva Amelia Hewitt Munroe

The grave is located at the southwestern corner of the Coconut Grove Library, near MacFarlane Road. The grave has been located on the same site since c.1884.

The grave is located just outside of the library's property, surrounded by a metal fence, a replacement of the original iron fence. The grave is marked by a simple rectangular granite stone with the inscription, "In Memory of Eva Amelia, Wife of Ralph M. Munroe of Staten Island and daughter of Thomas Hewitt, of New York City. Born Feb. 7, 1856, Died April 2, 1882."

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 8

COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

The grave is the oldest marked grave in the county and belongs to the wife of one of the Grove's first citizens, Ralph Munroe, who made his first trip to what is now Coconut Grove in 1877. During his initial visit he was immediately impressed with the scenic beauty; he returned four years later, bringing his new wife, Eva Hewitt, her sister Adeline, her brother Thomas and a nurse, Mrs. O'Dea. His return was spurred by his wife's diagnosis with tuberculosis, for which doctors suggested a warmer climate to promote her health. However, her health did not improve and a year later she died. In 1884, Munroe moved his wife's grave from its original location to its current site on his newly acquired property which he marked with a perimeter fence.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

History of Coconut Grove, <http://www.coconutgrove.com/history/>

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Parks, Arva Moore: The Forgotten Frontier: Florida Through the Lens of Ralph Middleton Munroe. Miami: Centennial Press, 2004.

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Blazek, Ron. "Library in a Pioeer Community: Lemon City, Florida." Tequesta 42 (1982): 39-55.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Monroe's Plat Subdivision Lot 4, and Lots 7-9, Block 1, as recorded in Plat Book A, Page 51 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida

Tax Parcel: 01-4121-039-0010 Township 54S, Range 41E, Section 21

Boundary Justification

The above boundary description encompasses all of the resources on the property constructed in 1957.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 1

COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Coconut Grove Library
2. 2875 McFarlane Drive, Miami (Miami-Dade County), Florida
3. Ruben A. Acosta
4. November 5, 2016
5. Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State
6. Main façade, partially obscured by trees. View NE.
7. Photo 1 of 16

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the following photographs, unless otherwise noted.

6. $\frac{3}{4}$ view showing roof, veranda, and ground floor. View N.
7. Photo 2 of 16

6. Eva Munroe Gravesite. View NW.
7. Photo 3 of 16

6. Front façade, west wing of library showing oolitic limestone cladding. View NE.
7. Photo 4 of 16

6. Concrete handicap ramp and veranda entrance. View E.
7. Photo 5 of 16

6. View along veranda showing benches and metal screen. View SW.
7. Photo 6 of 16

6. Detail, S corner showing stone cladding and Coconut Grove Branch Library sign. View N.
7. Photo 7 of 16

3. Krystle Smith
4. November 22, 2016
5. Miami-Dade Public Library System
6. Interior, west wing reading room. View SW.
7. Photo 8 of 16

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 2

COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

3. Krystle Smith
4. November 22, 2016
5. Miami-Dade Public Library System
6. Interior, west wing reading room ceiling showing exposed trusses. View NE.
7. Photo 9 of 16

3. Krystle Smith
4. November 22, 2016
5. Miami-Dade Public Library System
6. Interior detail, stairway linking the main room, west wing, and children's room levels. View SE.
7. Photo 10 of 16

3. Krystle Smith
4. November 22, 2016
5. Miami-Dade Public Library System
6. Interior, main room, S corner. View S.
7. Photo 11 of 16

3. Krystle Smith
4. November 22, 2016
5. Miami-Dade Public Library System
6. Interior, main room. View E.
7. Photo 12 of 16

3. Krystle Smith
4. November 22, 2016
5. Miami-Dade Public Library System
6. Interior, main room ceiling. View E.
7. Photo 13 of 16

3. Krystle Smith
4. November 22, 2016
5. Miami-Dade Public Library System
6. Interior, children's room, ground floor, S corner. View S.
7. Photo 14 of 16

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 3

COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
MIAMI, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

3. Krystle Smith
4. November 22, 2016
5. Miami-Dade Public Library System
6. Interior, children's room, N corner. View N.
7. Photo 15 of 16

3. Krystle Smith
4. November 22, 2016
5. Miami-Dade Public Library System
6. Interior detail, ground floor ceiling showing waffle slab construction.
7. Photo 16 of 16

Coconut Grove Library

2785 McFarlane Rd.
Miami, Miami-Dade Co.
Florida


Lat./Long. Coordinates:
25.726781 -80.240347

UTM:
17R 576200 2845646

USGS Quad: Elfers

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed NR Boundary

Date: 11/16/2016

N



1:10,000

0 425 850 1,700
Feet

0 105 210 420
Meters

Basemap Source: 2013 National
Geographic Society, i-cubed



Coconut Grove Library


2785 McFarlane Rd.
Miami, Miami-Dade Co.
Florida

Lat./Long. Coordinates:
25.726781 -80.240347

UTM:
17R 576200 2845646

Datum: WGS84

Legend

 Proposed NR Boundary

Date: 11/16/2016

N



1:1,500

0 62.5 125 250
Feet

0 15 30 60
Meters

Basemap Source: Source: Esri,
DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar
Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,
USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping,
Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo,
and the GIS User Community



LEGEND



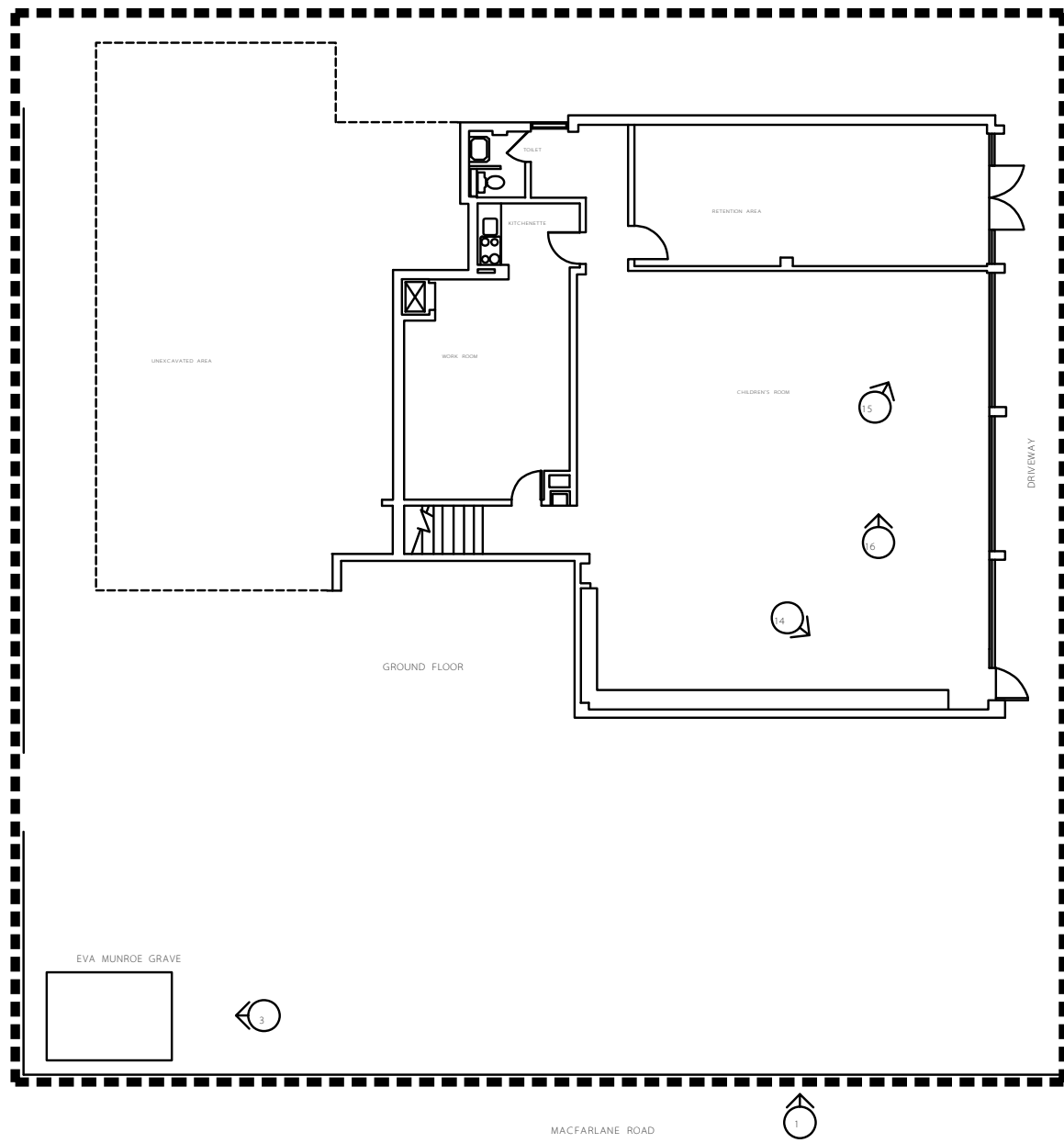
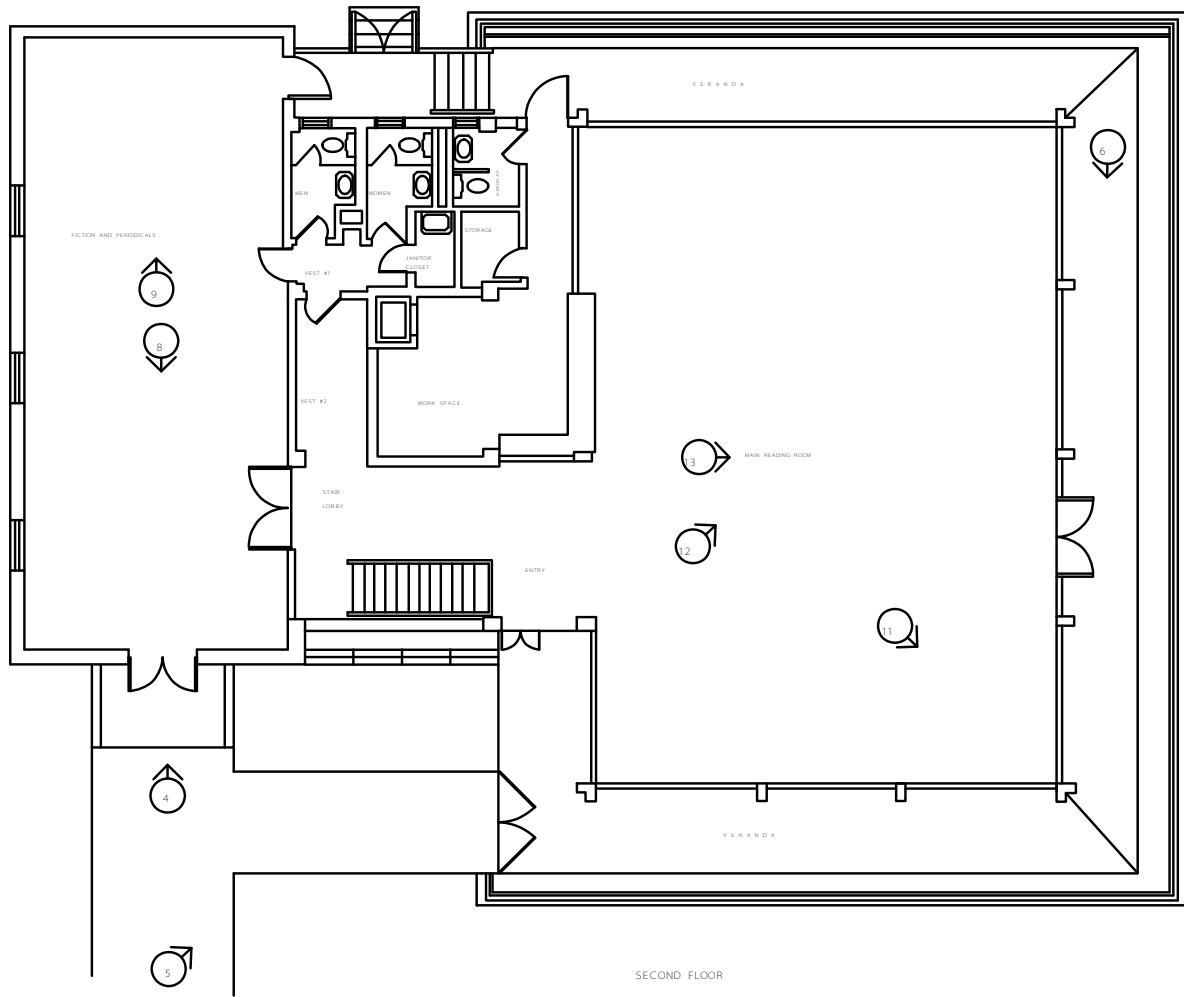
HISTORIC BOUNDARY 

PHOTO NUMBERS 



COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
2875 MCFARLANE ROAD
MIAMI (MIAMI-DADE COUNTY), FLORIDA



MEGAN CROSS SCHMITT, AICP
PRESERVATION OFFICER, CITY OF MIAMI
DATE: 12-16-2010 PROJECT: 2007-1120R
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0" DRAWING NO: 2007-1120R
PROJECT: COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
3 - SHEET ADDRESS: mcschmitt@cityofmiami.com

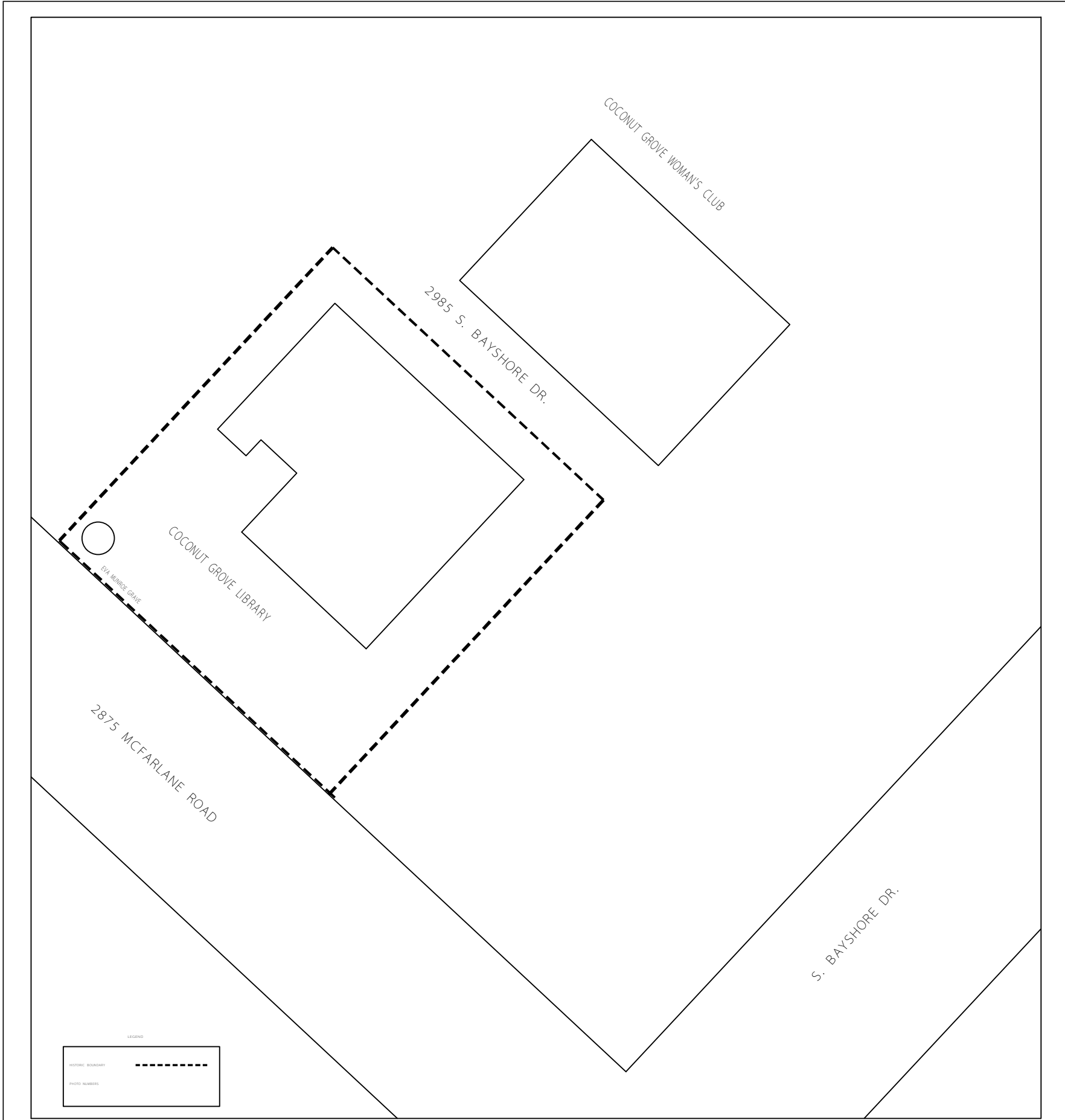
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DATE: 12-16-2010
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"
PROJECT: COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
SHEET NUMBER: 1 OF 3
DRAWN BY: MCS

DATE: 12-16-2010
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"
PROJECT: COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
SHEET NUMBER: 1 OF 3
DRAWN BY: MCS

PHOTO NUMBERS
HISTORIC BOUNDARY

FLOOR PLANS



LEGEND

HISTORIC BOUNDARY	-----
PHOTO NUMBERS	

COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
 2875 MCFARLANE ROAD
 MIAMI (MIAM-DADE COUNTY), FLORIDA



MEGAN CROSS SCHMITT, AICP
 PRESERVATION OFFICER, CITY OF MIAMI
 1700 S.W. 10TH AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR
 MIAMI, FLORIDA 33135
 PHONE: (305) 434-1414
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: mcross@ci.miami.fl.us

DATE	10/15/2014
PROJECT	COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
CLIENT	CITY OF MIAMI
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DRAWN BY	MEGAN SCHMITT
CHECKED BY	MEGAN SCHMITT
APPROVED BY	MEGAN SCHMITT

DATE	10/15/2014
PROJECT	COCONUT GROVE LIBRARY
CLIENT	CITY OF MIAMI
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DRAWN BY	MEGAN SCHMITT
CHECKED BY	MEGAN SCHMITT
APPROVED BY	MEGAN SCHMITT

SITE PLAN





NO
ADMITTANCE
AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL
ONLY

SYSTEM
SYSTEM





HOURS

Monday - Saturday
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Public Access and Delivery
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

NO TRESPASSING

LIBRARY



BOOK
DROP





MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
COCONUT GROVE BRANCH









BIOGRAPHY
YOUNG ADULT
CAREERS & TESTING
REFERENCE

GED Test



25 FRIENDS BOOK SALE
EXPRESS HOLD
FIND YOUR "OH WOW!" TITLE FAST!
"Great Reads @ a Great Price!"
Browse, Buy or Borrow!
\$25 Friends Book Sale
Saturday, June 10, 10am-4pm
Library





EXIT

EAT INTO READING

Storytime
at the Library



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 3/17/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 5/1/2017 Date of Weekly List: 5/11/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 5/1/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

City of Miami, Florida

TOMÁS P. REGALADO
MAYOR



3500 PAN AMERICAN DRIVE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33133
(305) 250-5300
FAX (305) 854-4001

December 29, 2016

Mr. Ruben A. Acosta
Survey & registration Supervisor
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Coconut Grove Library, 2875 McFarlane Road, Miami, Florida

Dear Mr. Acosta:

I am pleased to send this letter in support of listing the Coconut Grove Library on the National Register of Historic Places. The property was locally designated by Miami's Historic and Environmental Preservation Board in 2009.

The Coconut Grove Library was constructed in 1963 to the design of T. Triplett Russell, a prominent South Florida architect. The subtropical modern style he chose for the building pays homage to the local building traditions of the original pioneers who settled Coconut Grove. Today, the Coconut Grove Library stands as a testament to the tenacity and individuality of these early citizens who operated their first library even prior to the City of Miami's incorporation in 1896. Listing the building on the National Register of Historic Places will only help to further recognize its significance.

Please, let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information at this time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tomás Regalado".

Tomas Regalado
Mayor

Cc: Daniel J. Alfonso, City Manager
Nzeribe Ihekwa, Assistant City Manager
Francisco J. Garcia, Director of Planning and Zoning Department
Megan Cross Schmitt, Preservation Officer

City of Miami



December 21, 2016

DANIEL J. ALFONSO
City Manager

Ruben A. Acosta
Survey & Registration Supervisor
Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Coconut Grove Library, 2875 McFarlane Road, Miami, FL

Dear Mr. Acosta:

I am pleased to send this letter in support of listing the Coconut Grove Library on the National Register of Historic Places. The property was locally designated by Miami's Historic and Environmental Preservation Board on July 7, 2009 by Resolution HEPB-2009-41 (see attached).

The Coconut Grove Library was constructed in 1963 to the design of T. Triplett Russell, a prominent South Florida architect. The subtropical modern style he chose for the building pays homage to the local building traditions of the original pioneers who settled Coconut Grove. Today, the Coconut Grove Library stands as a testament to the tenacity and individuality of these early citizens who operated their first library even prior to the City of Miami's incorporation in 1896. Listing the building on the National Register of Historic Places will only help to further recognize its significance.

The Coconut Grove Library was determined to be eligible for designation as a historic site under criteria (5), (6) and (7) as numbered in Sec. 23-4 (a), of Chapter 23 of the City Code:

- (5) Embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or method of construction.
- (6) Are an outstanding work of a prominent designer or builder.
- (7) Contains elements of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship of outstanding quality...[or which represent a significant innovation or adaptation to the South Florida environment].

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information at this time.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Megan Cross Schmitt
Preservation Officer



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE



RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

March 8, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Coconut Grove Library (FMSF#: 8DA01953), in Miami-Dade County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

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

Sincerely,

Ruben A. Acosta
Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation

RAA/raa

Enclosures