

PH0002101

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Florida
COUNTY:	Dade
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 13 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Merrick Manor

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Coral Gables

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
907 Coral Way

CITY OR TOWN:
Coral Gables

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Twelfth District

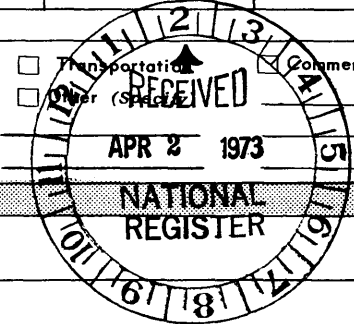
STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Dade CODE: 025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Merrick Manor Foundation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
837 Ponce de Leon Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:
Coral Gables

STATE: Florida CODE: 12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Dade County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
73 West Flagler Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Miami

STATE: Florida CODE: 12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Florida Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Summer, 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Division of Archives, History, & Records Management

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:
Tallahassee

STATE: Florida CODE: 12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

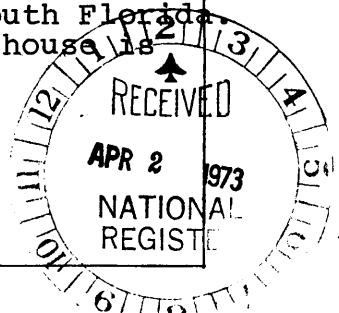
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Solomon Merrick home, "Coral Gables," is situated on a two and one-half acre tract in the South Florida city which bears the same name. The home, known today as "Merrick Manor," was constructed at the turn of the century and completed in 1906. The house is built of rough limestone blocks, with walls 18 inches thick. The house is basically rectangular, one and one-half stories high, and has a multi-gabled roof covered with coral-colored Ludowici tiles. A gabled portico intersects the main roof at the center front and a gabled roof exists atop the carport, which is placed at a 45 degree angle to the main portion of the house. Twenty-two Doric columns support the carport and porch which extends around the house on the east, west, and south sides. The carport exists at the northwest corner. One portion of the porch has been screened in for use as a breakfast room. Gable ends of the portico and carport are ornamented with floral motifs. The gable of the main roof contains a Palladian window which overlooks the main street, Coral Way. All other windows in the house are double-hung wood sash.

The house has a central hall plan with stairs at the side of the hall and two rooms on either side. Rooms at the rear of the house extend across its entire width. Off the central hall, is an archway leading into the living room, which contains a limestone fireplace, and beyond, into the dining room. From the dining room, three arches lead to an enclosed sun porch containing Cuban tile floor and a plaster fireplace with limestone block insets. Off the dining room is a small office. Completing the lower floor are a kitchen and enclosed back porch, four bedrooms and one bath. Floor plan at the second level is similar to that of the first floor. One large bedroom extends across the entire front of the house. Two additional bedrooms, each with adjoining bath complete the second floor room arrangement. All bedrooms at the second level contain window seats which open for storage. Attic space has been utilized almost entirely for storage closets which are easily reached by steps leading from each bedroom.

Interior walls of the house are plastered, and floors are constructed of Dade County heart pine. The main facade has Classical moldings on all doorways, windows and stairs. At the top of the stairway is a small, rectangular stained glass window.

The design of the house reflects an attention to detailed craftsmanship found in 19th century houses of New England, and at the same time a compatibility to the climate of South Florida. The use of native building materials throughout this house is one of the notable features.



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7. Description (continued)

The present grounds are much reduced from the original plantation which consisted of 160 acres. Evidence of the former elegance of the surroundings is noted in the existence of a coral rock wall on the west side of the house, a dry fountain and pool, and concrete benches interspersed among large trees and shrubs. Landscaping in recent times has been neglected, but a semblance of a formal garden existing at an earlier time is still noted.

The sole dependency on the grounds is a two-story garage located northwest of the main house. This structure once served as living quarters for the plantation workers.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1900-1906**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" 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

Merrick Manor is the childhood home of the founder of the City of Coral Gables, George E. Merrick. The Merrick family came to South Florida in 1896, purchased a 160 acre tract for \$1100, and built the first native coral rock house in the area known today as Coral Gables. The original Merrick dwelling was replaced by the present structure which was begun in the early 1900's and completed in 1906. The name "Coral Gables" was given to the residence and later to the city founded by Reverend Solomon Merrick's son, George.

Both the Reverend and Mrs. Merrick played significant roles in the settlement and development of the area. Mrs. Merrick promoted the Coconut Grove Mission Church, the forerunner of Coconut Grove Congregational Church, of which Reverend Merrick was minister. This church, built in 1897, stands today as one of the area's landmark buildings, and is known as Plymouth Congregational Church. Mrs. Merrick was also a leader in the early years of the Coconut Grove Housekeeper's Club, another pioneer building which still exists. She established the first school "back from the Bay" in 1889, which was called Guavonia School.

Reverend Merrick and his son, George, were successful farmers and shippers of fruit and vegetables grown on the Coral Gables Plantation. They shipped the first carload of citrus fruit out of Dade County, and eventually became the largest shipper of grapefruit in the Southeast. These endeavors led to financial security, and early in the 1900's, the Merrick's built the mansion called "Coral Gables."

"Coral Gables" set a trend for architectural style and construction techniques in Florida's southeast coast building industry. Local building materials such as coral rock and Dade County pine were employed. Emphasis on a building design suitable to the balmy climate of the locale was a primary factor in the architectural style to come to the area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

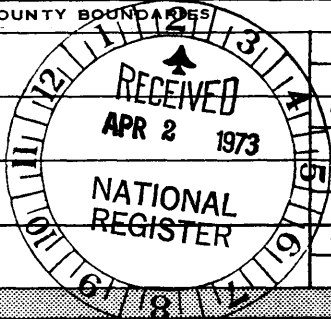
SEE ATTACHED SHEET

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	° ' "	° ' "		N25° 44' 56"	W80° 16' 26"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 1/2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialist**

ORGANIZATION: **Dept. of State, Div. of Archives, History & R.M.** DATE: **3/12/73**

STREET AND NUMBER: **The Capitol**

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: ROBERT WILLIAMS
Robert Williams
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: 3/29/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert W. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: APR 13 1973

ATTEST:
John Madford
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: April 9, 1973

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8. Significance (continued)

Because of its association with George Merrick, founder and developer of the City of Coral Gables; the first use of native building materials on residential structures; the trend-setting architectural design and construction methods; and the fact that it is an existing landmark to the settlement and development of Coral Gables, this site is one of the few early remaining properties of historical and architectural significance in Dade County, Florida.



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