

**MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 7(II)

TO: Hon. Chairperson and Members
Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 14, 1995

SUBJECT: Historic Arch Creek Road
Appeal

FROM: 
Armande Vidal, P.E.
County Manager

Recommendation

It is recommended, based upon the record presented to the Metro-Dade Historic Preservation Board, that the County Commission should uphold the decision of the Historic Preservation Board and deny the appeal to remove the designation of Historic Arch Creek Road.

Background

The Historic Arch Creek Road is historically significant because it encompasses a portion of the Military Trail which was constructed by Abner Doubleday in 1857 during the Third Seminole War. It also encompasses a segment of the Old County Road constructed in 1892 and Old Dixie Highway constructed in 1915.

In June 1994, the Dade County Historic Preservation Division staff was contacted by one of Congresswoman Carrie Meek's aides, requesting that Dade County provide some protection and recognition of the Arch Creek Road. A similar request was made by representatives of the Arch Creek Trust. On October 19, 1994, a public hearing was held by the Metro-Dade Historic Preservation Board for designation of the Historic Arch creek Road and the designation was passed unanimously. On January 18, 1995, the initiation for designation was reheld because of a deficiency in the public notification process.

Staff recommended the designation of the road recognizing the court order with the understanding that the County was not interested in modifying the court ordered plans, but wanted the following certain special conditions as part of the designation.

1. Historical recognition of the site with signage.
2. Some elements of the road be interpreted and preserved through different kinds or colors of concrete or stone on the road marking the historic roadway.
3. Archaeological monitoring of the site during proposed subsurface work.

4. Any work would require the owners to apply for a regular Certificate of Appropriateness which staff would review. They would not have to come before the Historical preservation Board for approval.

The city of North Miami Beach, the property owners and their attorneys had no objections to these conditions. The Historic Preservation Board voted unanimously to designate the site, but without these special conditions, and held that any Certificate of Appropriateness would be subject to Board review.

In considering this appeal, the Commission Board should consider the following issues in their decision:

1. The road is historically significant encompassing a segment of the Military trail that connected Ft. lauderdale to Ft. Dallas at the mouth of the Miami River.
2. Much of the road maintains a character and scale that was visible in the 1920's when the road was the Old Dixie Highway.