



City of North Miami Beach, Florida

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

file: 208.69

March 18, 2002

Historic Marker Program
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Division of Historic Resources
R. A. Gray Building, 4th floor
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

RE: Application for Standard Florida Historical Marker

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached please find an application for a Standard Florida Historical Marker for Historic Arch Creek Road Military Trail.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 305-948-2966 (fax: 305-957-3517).

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Vageline
Community Development Director

TJV/tjv

C: Gary Brown, City Manager
Keven Klopp, Assistant City Manager
Ms. Carol Helene, Arch Creek Trust
Hiep Huynh, City Engineer

Comdev/arch creek cover letter l.doc

HISTORY

HISTORIC CONTEXT

A portion of the historic Arch Creek Road encompasses the Military Trail which was constructed from Fort Pierce to Fort Dallas during the Third Seminole War (1855-1858) for the purpose of transporting supplies and improving communications. Captain Abner Doubleday and Captain John Brannan of the U.S. Army constructed the portion of the road from Fort Dallas to Fort Lauderdale in January and February of 1857. In Dade County, one of the last visible remains of the Military Trail can be found in Arch Creek Park.

Captain Abner Doubleday in command of company E of the United States First Artillery was sent to Fort Dallas on October 25, 1856 to engage the Seminoles in battle. Soon after arriving at his new station, Doubleday and Captain Brannan of Company B, First Artillery were directed to build a road from Arch Creek, located five miles north of Ft. Dallas, north to the New River at Ft. Lauderdale. Scouting parties could not operate effectively without a usable road. On January 17, 1857, Captain Doubleday made a report concerning the military trail: The following is an excerpt from *Memoirs of a Reconnaissance*,

he proceeded with a detachment of his company to the natural bridge at Arch Creek to ascertain the practatibility of constructing a wagon road from that point to Old Point Lauderdale. Reports the road practicable the whole distance to New River, and that a heavily loaded five-mule team has passed over the route and returned. After leaving Arch Creek, which is spanned by a natural bridge, there remain but two streams to be crossed-the Rio Ratones and a small branch which runs into it. Both have been bridged in a substantial manner and the road carefully constructed between the starting point and the Ratones.

The route surveyed and built under the direction of Brannan and Doubleday followed the high ground of the coastal ridge which was the only route where a road could be cut. Captain Brannan made a report which described the terrain,

The worst ridge I have ever seen. It was filled with large rocks and palmetto roots of immense size all of which had to be removed to make the road passable for teams. The work was very difficult and although the men worked with great spirit and energy we on one day made but 400 yards with 32 men employed with crowbars, picks, axes, etc.

EXHIBIT A

The Seminole War resulted in the establishment of many forts which became the forerunners of numerous cities. The military roads which connected the forts have been the basis of many of the state's present highways. The route used by Doubleday and Brannan for the Military Trail was close to the route used by the Florida East Coast Railroad when it laid its tracks to Miami and was the general route of the first county road built in 1892. The old county road connected Lantana to Lemon City but was more of a "rutted trail through sand and sometimes swamps." In 1915 the State legislature created a State Road Department and enlarged it in 1917 so that federal funds for road building could be received. The construction of Dixie Highway began in 1913 as a federally funded project and was the Southeast's only major paved highway along the Florida East Coast extending as far south as Ft. Pierce where it became a sand unpaved road all the way to Miami. In May 1915 a decision was made to make Miami the terminus for Dixie Highway.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The portion of the Arch Creek Historic Road that runs through the Arch Creek Park was built by Captains Abner Doubleday and William Brannan in 1857 during the Third Seminole War. The portion of the road that runs parallel to Biscayne Boulevard at the rear of commercial properties between N.E. 135 St. and N.E. 136 St. is historically significant because it is the last remnant of the first county road constructed in 1892 and it is one of the last remnants of Old Dixie Highway.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The historic Arch Creek Road presently transverses through Arch Creek Park beginning at N.E. 135th Street then crossing the original location of the natural bridge and turning sharply to the north adjacent to the eastern edge of the Florida East Coast Railroad right-of-way, then continues north through the park and north of the park until it merges with Biscayne Boulevard. The road is about 20 feet wide and is asphalted and in fair condition, having been poorly maintained during the last 20 years, except for sections within the park. The road is picturesque having many large oak trees along its periphery near the creek. The road hugs the natural contours closely, crossing a low slough north of the park. In the segment north of the park, the road is used as a back alley and delivery road for several businesses located within strip shopping centers east of the historic road.

HISTORIC ARCH CREEK ROAD
MILITARY ROAD

The Arch Creek State Archaeological Site was listed on the National Historic Register of Historic Places in 1985. It contains a portion of the Military Trail, a wagon road, built during the Third Seminole War, 1855 - 1859 by the U.S. Army.

In 1856 Captains Abner Doubleday and John Brannan and their troops constructed part of the Military Trail between Ft. Dallas on the Miami River and Ft. Lauderdale. It later became a portion of the first County Road in 1892, passing over the Natural Bridge and Arch Creek. In 1915 it was renamed Dixie Highway.

The road was designated a local historic site on January 18, 1995.

Marker sponsored by the City of North Miami Beach and the Arch Creek Trust, MAY 1, 2002.

NOTE: STANDARD FLORIDA HISTORIC MARKER. ARCH CREEK TRUST TO CHOOSE SIGN PATTERN.

CAST ALUMINUM SIGN, 30" HIGH X 42" WIDE

TO BE ORDERED FROM THE FLORIDA HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM.

SIGN DETAIL NO. 3

Bridge No. 870004

Dade County

Assessment

The Arch Creek Bridge in North Miami was built in 1928 and altered in 1934. A 43-foot long concrete girder structure with a concrete parapet that bears the typical recessed panel design, it reflects standard methods of the time. On one side a wing on the parapet extends back along the embankment, but this feature may have been removed from the other side, perhaps in the changes of the 1930s that involved widening the structure.

The bridge does not rank as historically significant.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

FOOTNOTES

1. Federal Writers Project, *A Guide to Miami and Dade County*, 46-48.
2. David Ramsey, "Abner Doubleday and the Third Seminole War," *Florida Historical Quarterly*, 318.
3. National Archives Records, *Memoirs of a Reconnaissance*, Microfilm 1090, Vol. II, 43.; *Miami Herald*, 5 June 1955.
4. *Memoirs*, 43.; Thelma Peters, *Biscayne Country*, 33-34.
5. State Road Department of Florida, *Highways of Florida*, unpaginated.; Peters, *Biscayne*, 167.; Thelma Peters, *Lemon City*, 206-07.; *Miami Herald*, 23 May 1915.

HISTORIC DIXIE HIGHWAY

ARCH CREEK HIGHLANDS
PLAT BOOK 15 PAGE 3

NORTH MIAMI BEACH DADE COUNTY FLORIDA

GRAPHIC SCALE



(IN FEET)
1 inch = 80 ft

LEGEND

- SQ. = SQUARE
- FT. = FEET
- U.S. = UNITED STATES
- S.R. = STATE ROAD
- P.O.C. = POINT OF COMMENCEMENT
- P.O.B. = POINT OF BEGINNING
- R/W = RIGHT OF WAY

LINE TABLE

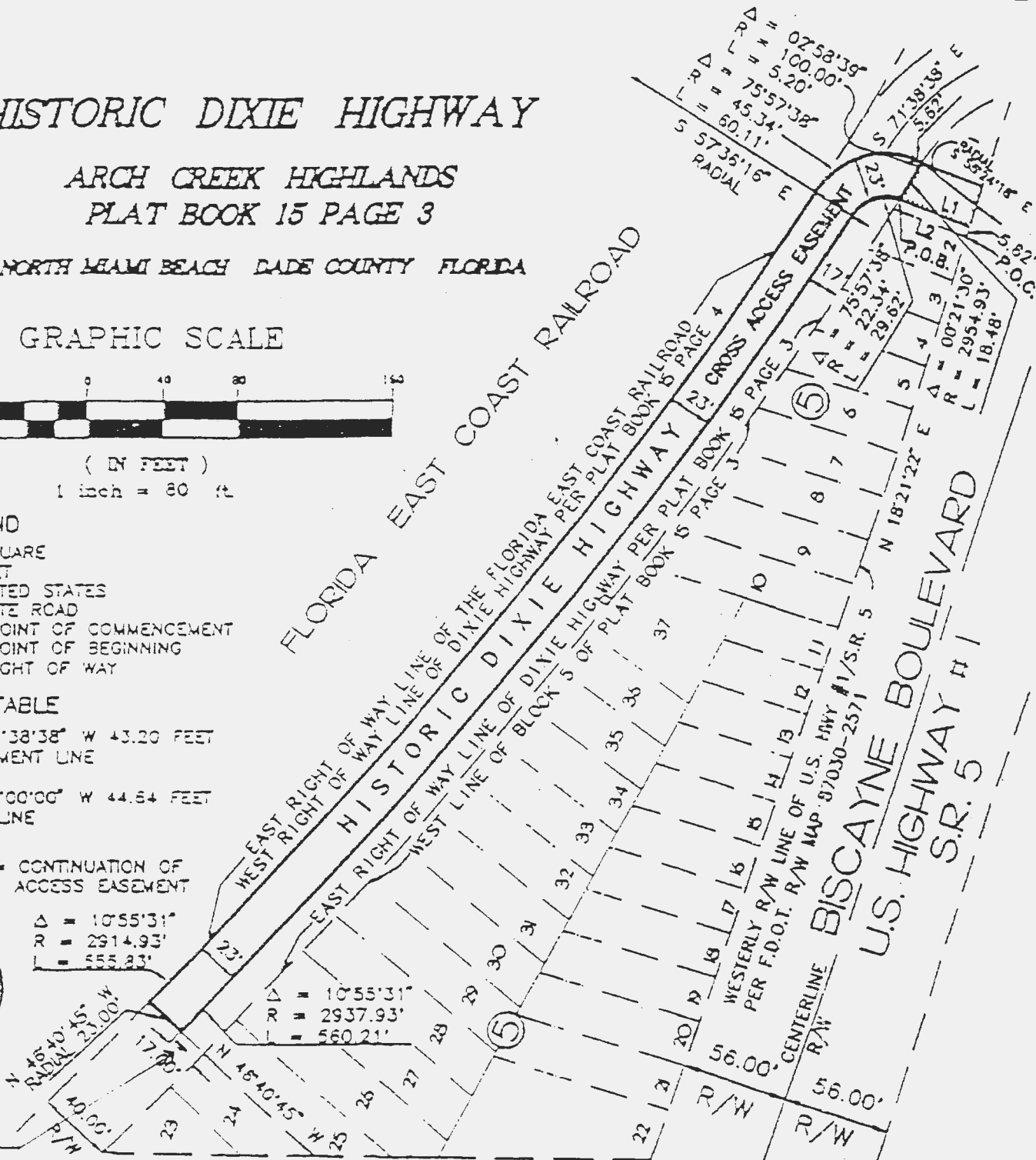
- L1 = N 71°38'38" W 43.20 FEET
EASEMENT LINE
- L2 = N 72°00'00" W 44.54 FEET
LOT LINE

= CONTINUATION OF ACCESS EASEMENT

Δ = 10°55'31"
R = 2914.93'
L = 555.83'



Location of
Historical
Marker



SKETCH OF DESCRIPTION

FORTIN, LEAVY, SKILES, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS & LAND SURVEYORS

180 Northwest 168th Street / North Miami Beach, Florida, 33162
Dade 659-4693 / Broward 462-7180 / Fax 651-7152

Date 8/23/95

Scale 1" = 80'

Job No 951135

Draw. No 195A-099

Sheet 3 of 3

Drawn By ADC

Ord. No 951135-1

Ref. Draw. 2950-120