

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Name: Historic Arch Creek Road
2. Date of Construction: 1857, 1892, 1915

3. Legal Description:

A portion of the right-of-way of Dixie Highway as shown on the Plat of ARCH CREEK HIGHLANDS as recorded in Plat Book 15 at Page 3 of the Public Records of Dade County, Florida, lying Westerly of and adjacent to Block 5 of said plat, being a 23.00 foot wide strip of land more particularly described as follows:

Commence at the intersection of the South line of Lot 1 of said Block 5 with the Westerly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway No. 1 (State Road No. 5) as shown on Florida Department of Transportation Right-of-Way Map 87030-2571, Page 9 of 13; thence N 18 degrees 21 minutes 22 seconds E along said West right-of-way line a distance of 5.62 feet; thence N 71 degrees 38 minutes 38 seconds W along a line perpendicular to said West right-of-way line a distance of 43.20 feet more or less to a point on the West line of said Lot 1, said point being the POINT OF BEGINNING of the herein described 23.00 foot wide strip of land, said point is the point of curvature of a circular curve, concave to the Southeast; thence Westerly and Southerly along the arc of said circular curve, having as its elements a radius of 22.34 feet and a central angle of 75 degrees 57 minutes 38 seconds for an arc distance of 29.62 feet to a point of reverse curvature, said point lying on line 23.00 feet Easterly of and parallel with the Westerly right-of-way line of Dixie Highway; thence Southerly and Westerly along said line 23.00 feet Easterly of and parallel with the Westerly line of said Dixie Highway, to its intersection with the Northwesterly extension of the Southerly line of Lot 25 of said Block 5; thence N 46 degrees 40 minutes 45 seconds W along the Northwesterly extension of said Southerly line of Lot 25, for a distance of 23.00 feet, said line being radial with said Westerly right-of-way line of Dixie Highway, to its intersection with said Westerly right-of-way line of Dixie Highway; thence Northerly along said Westerly right-of-way line of said Dixie Highway to a point of reverse curvature, said point being radial to the previously described point of reverse curvature, the bearing to the radius from this point being S 57 degrees 36 minutes 16 seconds E; thence Northerly and Easterly along the arc of a circular curve, concave to the Southeast, having as its elements a radius of 45.34 feet and a central angle of 75 degrees 57 minutes 38 seconds for an arc distance of 60.11 feet to a point of tangency; then S 71 degrees 38 minutes 38 seconds E for a distance of 5.62 feet to a point on the Easterly right-of-way line of said Dixie Highway, being a point on a circular curve, concave to the Southeast and whose radius point bears S 55 degrees 24 minutes 18 seconds E; thence Southwesterly along said Easterly right-of-way line of Dixie Highway along a curve leading to the left having as its elements a radius of 100.00 feet and a central angle of 02 degrees 58 minutes 39 seconds for an arc distance of 5.20 feet to a point of reverse curvature; thence Southwesterly along a circular curve leading to the right along said Easterly right-of-way line of Dixie Highway, having as its elements a radius of 2954.93 feet and a central angle of 00 degrees 21 minutes 30 seconds for an arc distance of 18.48 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

and

A portion of Lot 1 of Block 5 of the Plat of ARCH CREEK HIGHLANDS as recorded in Plat Book 15 at Page 3 of the Public Records of Dade County, Florida, being more particularly described as follows:

A 23.00 foot wide strip of land within said Lot 1, bounded as follows:

bounded on the South by the following described line; commence at the Southeast corner of said Lot 1 as shown on Florida Department of Transportation Right-of-Way Map section number 87030-2571 page 9 of 13; thence N 18 degrees 21 minutes 22 seconds E along the West Right-of-Way line of State road 5 as shown on said Right-of-Way map for a distance of 5.62 feet to the Point of Beginning of the Southerly boundary line of said 23.00 foot wide strip of land; thence N 71 degrees 38 minutes 38 seconds W, perpendicular to said West Right-of-Way line of said State road 5 as shown on said Right-of-Way map for a distance of 43.20 feet more or less to the Westerly line of said Lot 1, bounded on the West by the Westerly line of said Lot 1, said West boundary also being the East Right-of-Way line of Dixie Highway as shown on said Plat; bounded on the North by a line 23.00 feet North of and parallel with said SOUTH boundary; bounded on the EAST by said WEST Right-of-Way line of said State Road 5 as shown on said Right-of-Way map.

4. Owners:

Metro-Dade County
Department of Parks and Recreation
50 S.W. 32 Road
Miami, FL 33129

City of North Miami Beach
City Hall
17011 N.E. 19th Ave.
North Miami Beach, FL

Virginia Fuir
13702 Biscayne Blvd.
N. Miami Beach, FL

Bernard and Joyce Rosenbloom
13890 Biscayne Blvd.
N. Miami Beach, FL

Alan Rosenthal, Esquire
1031 N. Miami Beach Blvd.
N. Miami Beach, FL 33162

Larry Weiser
13750 Biscayne Blvd.
N. Miami Beach, FL

Toby Brigham, Esquire
Brigham, Moore, Gaylord,
Wilson, Ulmer, Schuster & Sachs, PA
203 SW 13th Street
Miami, FL 33130

Michael Chase, Esquire
2627 NE 203 St., Suite 205
N. Miami Beach, FL 33180
13720-13744 Biscayne Blvd.
N. Miami Beach, FL

Estate of Jeremiah Ben-Zvi,
Joan Ruth May, and Fidai Corporation
13720-13744 Biscayne Blvd.
N. Miami Beach, FL

As interested parties, these individuals will be sent all correspondence concerning the property.

5. Area of Significance: History
6. Municipality: North Miami Beach
7. Designation Number: 9511
8. Date of Designation: September 20, 1005

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.

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.

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.

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.

IMPACTS: Impact of the designation on proposed public improvements, renewal projects or private development.

Designation would have the effect of bringing any plans for proposed alterations to the property before the Preservation Board for review. Designation will not affect current zoning.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the designation of the Historic Arch Creek Road as a local historic site.

SPECIAL STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS:

Any special standards will follow the general guidelines as recommended for historic structures as detailed in the "Rules and Regulations for Review of Historic Site Designation and Issuance of Certificates of Appropriateness."

DRAFT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE PROPERTY:

WHEREAS, the Historic Arch Creek Road encompasses a portion of the Military Trail which was constructed in 1857 during the Third Seminole War by Captain Abner Doubleday and Captain John Brannan; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Arch Creek Road also encompasses a portion of the old County Road constructed in 1892 and the Old Dixie Highway constructed in 1915, and

WHEREAS, the Historic Arch Creek Road is located at:

A portion of the right-of-way of Dixie Highway as shown on the Plat of ARCH CREEK HIGHLANDS as recorded in Plat Book 15 at Page 3 of the Public Records of Dade County, Florida, lying Westerly of and adjacent to Block 5 of said plat, being a 23.00 foot wide strip of land more particularly described as follows:

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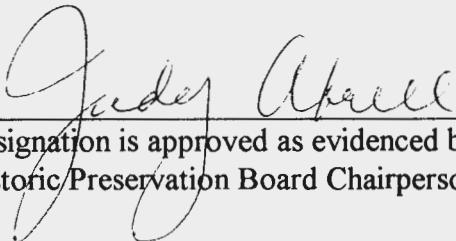
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dade County Historic Preservation Board on September 20, 1995 has approved the reconfiguration of the original designation of the Historic Arch Creek road from 40 feet wide to 23 feet wide as described above with the conditions that the city of North Miami Beach will maintain the road, that all documents are to be held in escrow by the City of North Miami Beach until the construction is completed, that the Agreement be signed within 30 days and recorded within one year, and that ant work done in the area requires a Certificate of Appropriatenss from each owner. The Historic Preservation Board has designated the Historic Arch Creek Road as a local historic site pursuant to the Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Ordinance (81-13) and that the Historic Arch Creek Road is subject to all rights, privileges, and requirements of that ordinance.



Designation is approved as evidenced by the signature of the
Historic Preservation Board Chairperson.

Date

9/20/95

01/17/95

11:30

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1925 Map of Dade County, Dixie Highway Blocked area shows general location of designated area

