



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 Rookery Mound

other names/site number (EVER-186/8MO118)

2. Location

street & number Everglades National Park (EVER) not for publication

city or town Everglades City vicinity

state Florida code 012 county Monroe code 087 zip code 33929

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

Ronald Rouse 9/27/96
Signature of certifying official Date

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.)

Suzanne P. Walker 8/28/96
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Barbara A. Little

11/5/96

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)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

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

Archeological Resources of Everglades National Park

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
 in the National Register**

_____ 0 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ camp
SUBSISTENCE/ processing
AGRICULTURE/ horticultural facility
PROCESSING/ processing site

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor recreation
LANDSCAPE/ park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)

_____ N/A _____

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ N/A _____
 walls _____

 roof _____
 other _____

Narrative Description
 Please See Continuation Sheet.

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.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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

Please See Continuation Sheet.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHEOLOGY\ Prehistoric
ARCHEOLOGY\ Historic - Aboriginal
ARCHEOLOGY\ Historic - Non- Aboriginal

Period of Significance

A.D. 750-1700
A.D. 1500-1840
A.D. 1870-1946

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Glades IIa-IIIc
Spanish- 16th Century
Seminole- Modern Period

Architect/Builder

N/A

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Please See Continuation Sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

National Park Service, Southeast
Archeological Center, Tallahassee, Fl

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Rookery Mound, Everglades National Park
Monroe County, Florida
Archeological Resources of Everglades National Park

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.12

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 [REDACTED]
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

Please See Continuation Sheet.

Boundary Justification

Please See Continuation Sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margo Schwadron/Archeological Technician

organization National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center date April 1996

street & number 2035 E. Paul Dirac Dr., Johnson Building, Box 7 telephone (904) 580-3011

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32310

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Everglades National Park

street & number 40001 State Road 9336 telephone (305) 242-7710

city or town Homestead state Florida zip code 33034-67331

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Rookery Mound, Everglades National Park, Monroe County, Florida
Archeological Resources of the Everglades National Park

SUMMARY

The Rookery Mound site is a low black earth midden archeological site, as described in Section F2 in the Multiple Property Listing cover form.

The Rookery Mound site contains a largely undisturbed stratigraphic record of the Glades Tradition dating from the periods IIa to IIIc of the Glades Tradition (ca. AD. 750 to 1700). The Rookery Mound site suggests evidence of some form of aboriginal interaction with the seventeenth century Spanish explorers. Both majolica and Chinese Porcelain have been recovered from surface contexts of the Rookery Mound site. The site was also used by Seminole peoples during the modern period of Seminole history. This occupation is indicated by recent historic artifacts, and the presence of exotic plants that may have been Seminole cultigens.

The site has an abundance of well preserved archeological remains in their original context. The material culture remains include ceramic fragments, bone and shell ornaments and tools, preserved fecal material (coprolites), wood charcoal and carbonized plant remains, and substantial quantities of faunal bone and shell that reflect subsistence patterns. These artifacts can provide significant data on techno-environmental factors and their associated chronological sequences.

The exact location of Rookery Mound should be restricted because the site is likely to be damaged, looted or destroyed if its location and/or character is published.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Rookery Mound site is During the rainy season, this area is dominated by the freshwater flow from the Everglades. In times of extreme dryness this branch can become tidally influenced and hence become more brackish. The local vegetation includes mainly mangroves, a cluster of ficus and other tropical hardwood species, and exotic types such as orange and lime trees, and sugar cane that were introduced by the Seminole occupants of this site.

PERIODS OF SITE OCCUPATION

The periods when Rookery Mound was occupied were identified by the ceramics and artifact types which have been used as temporal markers. Cultural remains recovered from controlled stratigraphic excavations include 697 potsherds and 5 other artifacts. The pottery sherds were predominantly of the Surfside complex, indicating a Glades IIIa (A.D. 1200 - 1400) occupation. The second major phases of the sites's occupation, Glades IIb (A.D. 1400 - 1513) is indicated by Glades Tooled pottery. The occurrence of two sherds of Key Largo Incised pottery suggests a brief earlier Glades IIa (A.D. 750 - 900) occupation of the site.

The Rookery Mound site also represents a site where evidence of some form of aboriginal interaction with the seventeenth century Spanish explorers occurs. The two majolica sherds from the site are unclassified blue on white and unclassified white. The porcelain fragment has been classified as Ch'ing blue and white ware, probably K'ang Hsi period (1662-1722) (Griffin 1988).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

Rookery Mound, Everglades National Park, Monroe County, Florida
Archeological Resources of the Everglades National Park

The Seminole occupation at Rookery Mound appears to date from the Modern period of Seminole history (ca. 1880 A.D. to present). This is indicated by the presence of material culture items such as clear glass jars, firearm hardware, and wire-wound glass beads. The presence of citrus trees and a stand of sugar cane also attest to the occupation of this site by Seminole peoples.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Rookery Mound is a low black earth midden. The site name, Rookery Mound, implies that this is a constructed feature. It would be more accurate to refer to this site as Rookery 'Midden', since it is clearly an unplanned accumulation of occupation debris that has become incorporated into the site environment. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In 1949 John Goggin visited the site and put in a five foot square test pit and determined the dark earth midden to be about 17 inches thick, with the bottom three inches of the midden zone consisting of marl and small oyster shells containing an appreciable amount of refuse. The midden overlay a grey marl layer 4 inches thick, which in turn rested on a dark granular soil with fine crushed shell. Limestone bedrock was beneath the water level at 33 inches below the surface.

APPEARANCE OF THE SITE DURING THE PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION

The appearance of Rookery Mound during the prehistoric occupation has changed through time. Evidence of vegetation, such as ficus and other tropical hardwood species, and exotic plants species such as orange and lime trees, and sugar cane were introduced by the Seminole occupants of this site. The years of prehistoric and historic use may have enhanced the site environment by speeding the rate of organic accumulation and thus raising the site elevation relative to the surrounding swampy terrain.

PAST AND PRESENT IMPACTS

The Rookery Mound site contains a largely undisturbed stratigraphic record of the Glades Tradition dating from early Glades II times to the proto-historic period. The excavation of a single test pit by Goggin in 1950 is the only known disturbance to have occurred on this site. The field survey conducted by the Southeast Archeological center did not observe any evidence of vandalism, and the excavation of a single posthole demonstrated the site's stratigraphic integrity. The use and occupation of the site by Seminole Indians may have affected only certain areas of the site due to farming of the midden area. The disturbance was minimal and would have affected only the upper 10 to 20 cm of the midden strata by mixing midden debris.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Rookery Mound, Everglades National Park, Monroe County, Florida
Archeological Resources of the Everglades National Park

The Rookery Mound site was first recorded by John M. Goggin using information supplied by Charles Brookfield (Goggin 1950:229). Goggin conducted a test excavation at the site in January or February of 1949. The following is his account:

Rookery Mound

"This is a low black dirt midden [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has undoubtedly been an important waterway for travel to the glades to the coast. Not far away in the Everglades proper are similar sites of the same age (Goggin MS).

[REDACTED] At the present time the site shows evidence of not too distant Seminole occupation, the heavy surface growth of sugar cane and a few citrus trees being reliable markers of their former presence.

Rookery Mound has only been recently known. It was first called to attention by Charles M. Brookfield who made a surface collection here in 1947. No previous investigator has noted it, unless this is the site said by John K. Small (1924:82) [REDACTED]

A test pit was made on the west, or far slope of the midden, slightly north of the middle of the site. It was 5 feet square and excavated in 6 inch levels. At an approximate depth of 17 inches cultural material disappeared in the grey marl. At a depth of 33 inches limestone was reached (below water level). The pit profile revealed, from top to bottom: 14 inches of black dirt and midden material, 3 inches of marl and small oyster shells, 4 inches of gray marl, and 9 inches of dark granular soil with fine crushed shell (freshwater species?).

Refuse was scattered through the black soil matrix, the only appreciable concentration being in the oyster shell zone at the bottom of the deposit. Shells were not abundant in the remainder of the material but they did form a small percentage of the total refuse. Marine forms present include Busycon, Ostrea sp., Venus sp., Arca ponderosa, Pinna sp., and Macrocallista nimbosa; the fresh water varieties were Ampullaria depressa, Palnorbis sp., and an unclassified mussel. Land forms were represented by Euglandina sp.

Animal bones were especially abundant, turtle being the most common. In addition manatee(?), deer and small mammal bones were found together with numerous fish remains, including the shark, drum fish (?), and unclassified forms. Alligator bones, bird bones, and crab claws made up the rest of the assemblage.

The non-ceramic artifacts do not appear to have any significant distribution. From the first six inches, came one crude limestone plummet-form pendant, a Macrocallista nimbosa knife, and a Busycon sp. pick type A. In the second level a bone pin fragment and another Macrocallista nimbosa knife were found. Nothing but potsherds was found in the third level.

We can interpret the history of the site insofar as it is possible to do so from such a small test pit, as follows. It was first, very briefly occupied during Glades II times. There was a second occupation in Periods IIIa, which may have continued more or less steadily in to Glades IIIb times, as denoted by the quantity of Glades Tooled pottery. The

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 4

Rookery Mound, Everglades National Park, Monroe County, Florida
Archeological Resources of the Everglades National Park

presence of a single majolica sherd suggests that the Glades IIIb occupation continued into historic times. This supposition is reinforced by surface material collected by Charles M. Brookfield, which included another majolica sherd and two fragments of Chinese Porcelain dating from about the seventeenth century (Goggin 1950:229-230)."

The Rookery Mound site was visited by the National Park Service's Southeast Archeological Center personnel during the second field season of the cultural resource inventory of the Everglades National Park. These investigations have been undertaken by the National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center in compliance with Executive Order 11593, and the National Historic Preservation Act as amended in 1980.

The National Park Service survey project visited the Rookery Mound site on March 10, 1983. The site is clearly visible on the infra-red imagery due to the contrast between the site local vegetation, a cluster of ficus and other tropical hardwood species, and exotic types such as orange and lime trees, and sugar cane that were introduced by the Seminole occupants of this site. The site size derived from this visit differs from Goggin's in that the National Park Service survey project found a more dispersed midden area. The site name, Rookery Mound, implies that this is a constructed feature. It would be more accurate to refer to this site as Rookery 'Midden', since it is clearly an unplanned accumulation of occupation debris that has become incorporated into the site environment. The years of prehistoric and historic use may have enhanced the site environment by speeding the rate of organic accumulation and thus raising the site elevation relative to the surrounding swampy terrain.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

Rookery Mound, Everglades National Park, Monroe County, Florida
Archeological Resources of the Everglades National Park

SUMMARY

The Rookery Mound site is a low black earth midden archeological site, as described in Section F2 in the Multiple Property Listing cover form. Rookery mound was occupied from the Glades IIa times (A.D. 750 - 900) to the Glades IIIb period (A.D. 1400 - 1513). There is also evidence of some form of aboriginal interaction with the seventeenth century Spanish explorers, and a Modern period Seminole occupation, as described in Section E of the Multiple Property Listing cover form. Rookery Mound is significant under Criterion D because it has yielded and has the potential to yield information important in prehistory and history. The site is an excellent example of an undisturbed Glades Tradition site, which has yielded well preserved artifacts, faunal material, carbonized plant remains, shell and diagnostic pottery. Due to the site's integrity, length of occupation and cultural material contained, it has state significance because it has demonstrated potential to contribute valuable information about cultural history, subsistence, settlement patterns and culture ecology of the Glades tradition, Spanish contact and activity, and modern Seminole occupation.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Rookery Mound site contains a largely undisturbed stratigraphic record of the Glades Tradition dating from early Glades II times to the proto-historic period. It has the potential to provide data that directly relates to pivotal period of European contact and may provide information on this transitional period that saw the demise of the Glades Tradition. The site has an abundance of well preserved archeological remains in their original context. The material culture remains include ceramic fragments, bone and shell ornaments and tools, preserved fecal material (coprolites), wood charcoal and carbonized plant remains, and substantial quantities of faunal bone and shell that reflect subsistence patterns. These artifacts can provide significant data on techno-environmental factors and their associated chronological sequences. Rookery Mound is located on a major access route into the Everglades and may contain data relating to the interaction between coastal and inland peoples as well as interaction between tribal elements that existed around the coastal fringe of the south Florida peninsula.

The Rookery Mound site is significant because it represents a site where evidence of some form of aboriginal interaction with the seventeenth century Spanish explorers occurred. Other sites in the region also contain evidence of this interaction, but usually in the form of Spanish Olive Jar ceramics, a type that cannot be chronologically placed with the same confidence level as Spanish made coarse earthen tin enamel wares (majolica) and Chinese Porcelain. Both majolica and Chinese Porcelain have been recovered from surface contexts of the Rookery Mound site.

The site is also significant in terms of the role it has played in the history of south Florida archeology. It was one of the first sites in the area where a proto-historic level was isolated. Rookery Mound was one of three sites in the area investigated by the late Dr. John M. Goggin. This work resulted in the publication of one of the few widely distributed papers concerning the Archeology of the Everglades National Park (Goggin 1950:228-246).

The Rookery Mound site has the potential to yield significant data on the content of Seminole sites that date from what Fairbanks terms the Modern Crystallization Phase of Seminole history (Fairbanks 1978 :188-89; Milanich and Fairbanks 1980: 259). Fairbanks (1978: 189) states:

No systematic archeological study of this phase of Seminole history has been done, although there has been rather frequent looting of Seminole graves. Of course, little archeology of contemporary groups has been developed anywhere, but if it becomes possible, processual-oriented archeology could be rewarding. Studies directed at a better

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 **Page** 5

Rookery Mound, Everglades National Park, Monroe County, Florida
Archeological Resources of the Everglades National Park

understanding of the development of modern Seminole culture as it is revealed in material objects would be intensely valuable for knowledge of culture change and to help solve the many problems of the people today.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 6

Rookery Mound, Everglades National Park, Monroe County, Florida
Archeological Resources of the Everglades National Park

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cushing, Frank H.

- 1897 A Preliminary Report on the Exploration of Ancient Key Dweller's Remains on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society 35(153):329-448.

Ehrenhard, John E., Gregory Komara, and Robert C. Taylor

- 1982 Everglades National Park, Cultural Resource Inventory Interim Report Season 1. Manuscript on file, Southeast Archeological Center, Tallahassee, Florida.

Fairbanks, Charles H.

- 1978 The Ethnoarcheology of the Florida Seminole. In: Tacachale: Essays on the Indians of Florida and Southwest Georgia During the Historic Period. Edited by Jerald Milanich and Samuel Proctor, University Presses of Florida, Gainesville.

Goggin, John M.

- 1939 A Ceramic Sequence in South Florida. New Mexico Anthropologist 3:36-40.
- 1940 The Distribution of Pottery Wares in the Glades Archeological Area of South Florida. New Mexico Anthropologist
- 1947 A Preliminary Definition of Archeological Areas and Periods in Florida. American Antiquity 13(114-127).
- 1949 Cultural Traditions in Florida Prehistory. In: The Florida Indian and His Neighbors, edited by John W. Griffin, pp.13-14. Winter Park, Florida: Rollins College Inter-American Center.
- 1950 Stratigraphic Tests in the Everglades National Park. American Antiquity 15(228-246).

Goggin, John M. and William T. Sturtevant

- 1964 The Calusa: A Stratified Non-Agricultural Society, (with notes on sibling marriage). In: Explorations in Cultural Anthropology: Essays in Honor of George Murdock, W.H. Goodenough, editor. McGraw Hill, New York.

Griffin, John W.

- 1965 Summary Report: Archeological Survey of the Everglades National Park, January, 1964. Manuscript on file at the Southeast Archeological Center, Accession #150, Vol 2, Tallahassee Florida.
- 1988 The Archeology of Everglades National Park: A Synthesis. National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, Tallahassee. Contract CX 5000-5-0049.

Milanich, Jerald T. and Charles H. Fairbanks

- 1980 Florida Archeology. New York: Academic Press, Inc.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 **Page** 7

Rookery Mound, Everglades National Park, Monroe County, Florida
Archeological Resources of the Everglades National Park

Swindell, David Eugene III

- 1974 Analysis of the Cabbage Rattlesnake Site. Report Submitted to the National Park Service, P.O.# px589040015.
Hale Smith, Principal Investigator. Manuscript on file, Southeast Archeological Center, Tallahassee, Florida.

Taylor, Robert C.

- 1984 Everglades National Park Archeological Inventory and Assessment Season 2: Interim Report. Manuscript on file
at the Southeast Archeological Center, Accession #590, Vol. 7, Tallahassee, Florida.
- 1985 Everglades National Park Archeological Inventory and Assessment Season 3: Interim Report. Manuscript on file
at the Southeast Archeological Center, Accession #590, Vol. 19, Tallahassee, Florida.

Widmer, Randolph John

- 1983 The Evolution of the Calusa, a Non-Agricultural Chiefdom on the Southwest Coast of Florida. Ph. D.
dissertation, Pennsylvania State University.