

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY **APR 21 1986**
RECEIVED **OCT 24 1985**
DATE ENTERED **MAY 28 1986**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
8CR303 (BICY-126)

AND/OR COMMON
The Plaza Site

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Big Cypress National Preserve

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
12

CITY, TOWN
Ochopee

VICINITY OF

STATE
Florida

CODE
12

COUNTY
Collier

CODE
021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

75 Spring St., SW

CITY, TOWN
Atlanta,

VICINITY OF

STATE
GA

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerk, Collier County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Naples

STATE
Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE The Big Cypress National Preserve: Archeological Survey Season 3. by
John E. Ehrenhard and Robert C. Taylor (1980 Acc. #315 Vol. 7)

DATE

1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE
Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Context:

The Plaza Site was recorded during the third field season of a five-year inventory and assessment of cultural resources within the Big Cypress National Preserve. In compliance with Executive Order 11593, the National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center conducted field investigations employing four methods in detecting and locating sites within the survey area: aerial photographic interpretation, information from informants, field investigations by the survey team, and the acquisition of site information from published maps. Over the five-year investigatory period, nearly 400 sites were targeted, located, and subjected to limited testing. Generally, a surface collection and minimal sub-surface testing, usually in the form of shovel tests, were conducted at each prospective site. Four site types were identified: black earth middens, sand mounds, rock mounds, and transient camps. Cultural remains present on the sites varied from sparse to dense. In some cases only mixed faunal debris was recovered; in others a myriad of shell remains, ceramic material, and bone was evident on the surface. The Plaza Site was targeted using aerial photographic interpretation and was confirmed during subsequent ground-truthing operations. Color infrared imagery (Mark Hurd 1973, 1:80,000), the single most useful targeting tool utilized throughout the Big Cypress survey, enabled investigators to define locational signatures for aiding in the detection of prehistoric middens and Seminole campsites. Generally, these sites were situated on the higher, dry hammock islands. The Plaza Site was

[REDACTED] a large sand burial, both are affiliated with Glades period cultures.

The Plaza site, mapped during the 1979 field season, [REDACTED] Four distinct black earth midden mounds are [REDACTED] an associated area of level topography that is also composed of midden strata. Estimated to be approximately 2800 m² in area and 0.3 m to 0.9 m in depth, midden strata are composed of black humic sand and appear to be of homogeneous deposition. The site varies from 0.5 m to 1.0 m in elevation above the adjacent swamp forest floor. Radiocarbon dates derived from subsurface tests indicate a Glades I to Glades IIa or Glades IIb range of occupation. Ceramic materials recovered from the site include Fort Drum Ticket and Glades Plain which are consistent with the Glades I-II affiliation.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries include all of the known components of the site. A total of .6 acres is included in the nominated property.

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Environment:

The Big Cypress National Preserve, located to the west of the Everglades, is a flat swampy area covering nearly 3120 square kilometers, 90 percent of which may be seasonally inundated. It differs from the Everglades in its relatively higher land elevations, thinner soils of marl or sand, and its forest vegetation. The elevation of the swamp varies from approximately 4-12 m above sea level in the north to sea level at the coastal mangrove forest. The land surface is flat except for numerous low-mounded limestone outcrops and small circular and elongated depressions. Soil depth is generally shallow, less than 0.5 m, although muck and peat accumulate to depths of 1.0 m or more in the depressions in the bedrock. Cypress trees abound, although the typical cypress forest is characterized by smaller, stunted cypress trees, the larger cypress trees being associated with bedrock depressions. Pine and hammock forests are found on land of higher elevation. Hammock forests include palms, shrubs, ferns, and epiphytes with the local hardwoods and appear silhouetted against the horizon as "tree islands." Slow, southerly, overland flow provides natural drainage for the swamp.

Archeological Investigations

Three test units were excavated at this site (Map 2). The units were of standard size (30 cm square) and were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels. The midden matrix was screened through 1/16-inch hardware cloth. All three test units yielded large amounts of midden debris including bone, marine shell, wood charcoal, preserved fecal material (coprolites), bone tools, and ceramics. Test unit 1 consisted of six arbitrary levels (60 cm); test unit 2 contained nine levels (90 cm); and test unit 3 yielded three levels (30 cm) of midden strata. Radio-carbon dates derived from wood charcoal recovered in the test units indicate a Glades I to Glades IIa or Glades IIb (ca. AD 500-1000) range of occupation for the site.

Intrusions and Data Limitations

At the time of the original investigation, vandalism was non-existent, but a minor amount of damage from armadillo feeding and burrowing activity was noted. On return trips it was found that armadillo damage had increased greatly. Although this type of site disturbance was not a factor to be considered in site preservation until recent years, it now represents the single most significant threat to cultural resources within the Preserve.

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Object Collection:

The objects recovered from the Plaza Site represent an archeological research collection. The collection includes ceramics, shell and bone artifacts, human fecal remains (coprolites), faunal material, site maps, color infrared imagery, and wood charcoal.

Previous Research

Archeologically speaking, very little professional research has been conducted within the Big Cypress Preserve. A number of sites were recorded by John Goggin during the late 1930's through the late 1950's, but the vast majority of these were based on informant information rather than personal investigation. Prior to the survey directed by the National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center in 1977, the most significant site inventory work was relegated to National Park Service rangers who recorded sites during the course of their normal field-work. Specifically, the Plaza Site had not been subjected to professional archeological investigation until the 1979 NPS/SEAC field survey.

Regional and Local Context

The entire area of South Florida was designated the Glades Culture Area by Mathew Stirling (1936). The culture area was subsequently subdivided by Goggin (1947) into 3 subareas of which two were designated by the names of tribal groups that were present in South Florida at the time of European contact (see Figure 1). Goggin's subarea divisions underwent change as new data emerged. More recent attempts to subdivide the South Florida area have resulted in the abandonment of the names used by Goggin in favor of terms that more precisely reflected the areas natural and cultural differences without assigning a misleading temporal qualifier. Figures 2 and 3 show the most current versions of the subarea divisions. The Milanich and Fairbanks (1983: 22) version renames the Glades Culture Area as the South Florida Culture Area with 3 subdivisions. The Carr and Beriault (1983) version retains the South Florida Culture Area designation, but further subdivides the area into 5 subareas. The Plaza Site is located within Goggin's Calusa subarea, Milanich and Fairbank's Caloosahatchee subarea, and Carr and Beriault's Ten Thousand Island subarea.

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Paleo-Indian Period (12,000 BC - 6500 BC)

The earliest evidence of human habitation in south Florida occurs at the north-western boundary of the South Florida Culture Area. The Paleo-Indian Period is represented at two sites, Little Salt Springs (Clausen et. al. 1979) and Warm Mineral Springs (Cockrell and Murphy 1978). Both of these sites consist of large limestone sink-holes that were apparently dry during much of the Paleo-Indian Period due to lower sea levels. The evidence of occupation occurs on the now submerged ledges of these karst features. A model for the locations of Paleo sites has been proposed by Cockrell and Murphy (1978) and the existence of submerged sites off Florida's coastline that reflect the lower sea-level during this period is indicated. As yet, no evidence of Paleo Period sites are known for the area of the Big Cypress Swamp.

Archaic Period (6500 BC - 500 BC)

The earliest evidence of prehistoric occupation near the vicinity of the Big Cypress Swamp occurs at the Bay West Site, a cypress pond mortuary [REDACTED] (Berjault et. al. 1981). This [REDACTED] The radiocarbon dates derived from associated organic materials at the Bay West Site indicate a temporal range of 5500 BP to 7000 BP (op. cit.). The discovery of this site strongly suggests that similar sites may occur within the Big Cypress Swamp proper, although none were found during the Southeast Archeological Center survey. Archaic Period sites also occur along the southwest Florida coast. Horrs Island, a pre-ceramic shell midden site, dates from between 5000 to 4000 BP (McMichael 1982).

The Late Archaic is also known for this area of the southwest Florida coast at Marco Island (Cockrell 1970). This period is distinguished by the development of fiber-tempered pottery (Orange Series), the precursor of a ceramic tradition that provides chronological markers for the subsequent three millennium.

Widmer (1983: 354) has proposed that the lack of Archaic or what he refers to as Pre-Glades components within the interior Big Cypress Swamp is due to the area's dryness at this time (5500 - 4500 BP), too dry for anything but sporadic utilization because human habitation was restricted to a region which included both the coastal estuaries and their immediately-adjacent terrestrial zones.

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The Glades Tradition (500 B.C. - A.D. 1700)

Widmer proposes the following scenario for the environmental and cultural conditions that led to the development of the Glades Tradition within the Big Cypress Swamp (Widmer 1983: 361):

By 2700 BP (750 B.C.), the sea level rises and slows to a position which is optimal for the formation of highly-productive coastal environments. Also, at this time, the interior, terrestrial environments are found in their contemporary spatial distributions. It is suggested that the productivity of the coastal environment subsequent to this date is considerably greater than in the previous Pre-Glades Period from 5500 to 2700 BP. This is a result of increased area of coastal ecosystems, increased productivity in these ecosystems as a result of increased sedimentation and water flow from the interior, and increased productivity of the freshwater aquatic swamp zone which now flanks the coastal zone. This latter swamp is known as the Big Cypress Swamp. None of the conditions suggested above prevailed in south Florida prior to 2700 BP. Thus, a remarkable hydric environment, forming a continuum of fresh to salt water from east to west is now seen in the south Florida region. These environmental conditions are of such dramatic change that we see a complete transformation in the cultural adaptation in south Florida subsequent to this date. This adaptation is known as the Glades Tradition (Goggin 1947).

Goggin defined the Glades Tradition as follows:

It is based on the exploitation of the food resources of the tropical coastal waters, with secondary dependence of game and some use of wild plant foods. Agriculture was apparently never practiced, but pottery was extensively used (Goggin 1949a: 28).

The relation of the Glades Tradition to the environment is very close. All food was derived from wild products systematically gathered in their season. Seafood was perhaps the most important food source, and apparently many varieties were eaten. The use of many minor forms suggests a systematic testing of the local species to determine the shellfish suited for food. Other marine foods included such diverse forms as whales and echinoderms, sharks and crabs, and rays and crawfish. Even sailfish and marlin were obtained in the Gulf Stream (Goggin 1949a: 29).

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It was Goggin (1939; 1940b; 1947; 1950a) who defined three periods for the Glades Tradition based on decorated ceramic types. The types have proven to be effective time markers for the area and have since been correlated with radiocarbon determinations (Griffin 1976; Ehrenhard et. al. 1978-80). Table I shows the relative chronological positions for the pottery types in relation to the Glades periods and subperiods.

At the time of European contact (ca. 1500), there was a thriving population in the south Florida area, with at least four separate tribes: the Calusa in southwest Florida, and the Tequesta, Jega, and Ais along the east coast. Estimates of the aboriginal population at the time of contact indicate that about 20,000 Indians were living in the area of south Florida (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980). By A.D. 1763, when the English gained control of Florida, that population had been reduced to several hundred. These tribal remnants were reported to have migrated to Cuba with the Spanish (Romans 1775).

The Plaza Site (BICY-126/8CR303) has yielded data that indicates its inception at about A.D. 500 or Glades I Late period. The site was used consistently, possibly on a seasonal basis until about A.D. 1000 or Glades IIb period. This period of time, some 500 years, spans the time period in which the area of the Big Cypress Swamp experienced its primary occupation.

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TABLE I
CHRONOLOGY OF THE GLADES TRADITION IN
RELATION TO DIAGNOSTIC CERAMIC TYPES

Glades IIIc A.D. 1513-1700

Same as period IIIb; appearance of European artifacts.

Glades IIIb A.D. 1400-1415

Almost no decorated ceramics; Glades Tooled rims.

Glades IIIa A.D. 1200-1400

Appearance of Surfside Incised (parallel incised lines below rim); some lip grooving.

Glades IIc A.D. 1000-1200

Almost no decorated ceramics; some grooved lips; Plantation Pinched (single line of finger-pinched indentations below rim).

Glades IIb A.D. 900-1000

Key Largo Incised still majority decorated type; some incision on rims and some lip-grooving; Matecumbe Incised appears (cross-hatched incisions below rim).

Glades IIa A.D. 750-900

Appearance of Key Largo Incised (loops or arches incised below rim); Sanibel Incised (ticking to form running lines of inverted V's below rim); Opa Locka Incised (half-circles or arches incised in vertical rows with open sides down below rim); Miami Incised (diagonal parallel incised lines below rim).

Glades I (late) A.D. 500-750

Appearance of decorated pottery (less than 10% of ceramics at sites); Cane Patch Incised (incised looping line with stab-and-drag type punctuations, below rim); Fort Drum Incised (vertical or diagonal ticking on lip or rim); Fort Drum Punctuated (punctuations around vessel below rim).

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TABLE I con't

Glades I 500 B.C. - A.D. 500

First appearance of sand-tempered pottery (Glades Plain or undecorated Glades Gritty Ware -- both types subsumed under plain, sand tempered, not separated as to type); no decoration.

*Adapted from Milanich and Fairbanks (1980: 234 Table 4). Based on Goggin (1947, 1949) and on unpublished data from the Bear Lake site (EVER-058, 8M033) provided by John W. Griffin.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Glades Tradition (Glades I - Late Glades IIb ca. AD 500-1000) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Plaza Site is considered to be a major prehistoric village site [REDACTED]. Cultural deposits at the site contain well-preserved data sets capable of reflecting Native American subsistence and settlement patterning within the Big Cypress Preserve during the earlier Glades period. These data sets include:

- 1) material culture which includes ceramic fragments, bone and shell ornaments and tools, wood charcoal, and preserved human fecal material (coprolites). Ceramics represent the principal chronology marker for the Big Cypress area. Preservation of artifactual material is particularly good at the Plaza Site. These artifacts represent potentially discernible subsistence patterns, technoenvironmental factors, and chronological sequence.
- 2) subsistence data which includes bone and shell. This material provides the potential for reconstructing subsistence patterns; particularly identification of the food types that had been exploited, overall resource selectivity, hunting and fishing methodologies, and food preparation techniques.
- 3) potential for recovering material culture indicative of an extensive wood-working technology. Although contextual evidence on a large scale basis has been lacking, previous research projects (Sears 1982; Gilliland 1975) have indicated that Glades culture technology may have been largely focused on highly sophisticated wood-working capabilities. The nature of sites within the Big Cypress Preserve, and the fact that most are adjacent to potentially productive "wet" areas, enhances the possibility that organic materials, seldom preserved in the Florida climate, may still exist in an archeological context in a relatively high state of preservation. The abundance, variety, and sophistication of such remains can provide researchers with significant data as regards socio-religious implications, prehistoric aesthetics, technological diachronics, and the availability and exploitation of an abundant food supply that would permit ample time for specialized pursuits and a highly structured society.

This site contains significant amounts of stratified midden deposit and is a prime site for research into the nature of Glades I and Glades II occupation in the Big Cypress interior. Comparison of data recovered from this site with information recovered from other sites in the Preserve (i.e., Turner River Site, 8CR8; and the Platt Island Site, 8CR182) can provide insight into subsistence patterning.

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during the prehistoric era, particularly the role played by environmental variables in site selection and utilization.

Although the site has been altered by armadillo feeding and burrowing, it is still believed that existing cultural remains are capable of providing significant information relative to local and regional problem domains. Realizing that integrity and physical quality are critical in assessing relative significance, the Plaza site has been accorded a "Good" rating under the scale employed within this document (Section 7, Description; subheading Condition). For these purposes, "Good" is interpreted as indicating that the site is slightly disturbed, but the cultural remains are more than sufficient to provide significant information. Programming documents tentatively scheduling mitigation procedures for next season anticipate recovery of such data prior to further appreciable deterioration of this site.

The archeological survey focus, at this time, is site inventory and preliminary significance assessment. The uniqueness of the South Florida ecotone as represented by the Big Cypress Preserve/Everglades complex has no similar referents anywhere in North America. This factor, by itself, bestows an a priori significance to archeological sites in the region, when they display a high level of physical integrity even if the full range of their data base is unknown. The potential research value regarding cultural adaptation and resource exploitation within this unique eco-system will continue to be enhanced as research and data analysis progress. The general problem domains as outlined here will not only be expanded, but will also be intensified through the concurrent development and refinement of more specific processual and anthropological research goals.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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 1980 The Big Cypress National Preserve: Archeological Survey Season 3.
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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .6

UTM REFERENCES

A 
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

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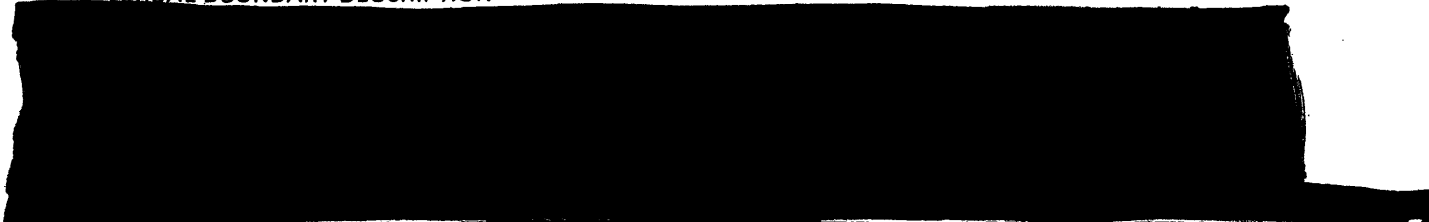
B

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION



LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES map).

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard E. Johnson, Archeological Technician

ORGANIZATION

Southeast Archeological Center

DATE

4/84

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 2416

TELEPHONE

904/222-1167

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida 32316

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

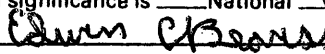
NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE 

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE



TITLE

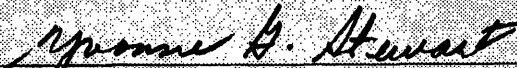
Chief Historian & Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/19/86

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DATE

5/28/86

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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