

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 11 1979  
DATE ENTERED AUG 15 1980

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC *Site*  
Halfway Creek (8Cr176)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Big Cypress National Preserve

CITY, TOWN

Carnestown *vicinity*

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Florida

CODE  
12

COUNTY  
Collier

CODE  
021

NO FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
10

**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 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <i>Preserve</i>

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*  
Southeast Regional Office, NPS

STREET & NUMBER  
1895 Phoenix Boulevard

CITY, TOWN  
Atlanta

— VICINITY OF

STATE  
Georgia

**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  
Preliminary Report of Archeological Survey of Big Cypress National Preserve

DATE  
1978

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center

CITY, TOWN  
Tallahassee,

STATE  
Florida

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION  
 EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE  
 UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE  
 ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### Context

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Halfway Creek site was first recorded during the National Park Service's survey of the Big Cypress National Preserve in 1977. This site was one of seven sites in the preserve considered eligible for nomination on the National Register.

The site is a black dirt midden that encompasses about .5 acre. The site [REDACTED] The elevation of the midden's highest point is approximately 1.3 meters above the surface of the creek. A vertical profile of the site through its highest point would present the form of a rounded mound.

Diagnostic artifacts indicate a prehistoric occupation that ranged from as early as the Glades II Period (circa 800 AD) to as late as the Glades III B Period (circa 1400 AD). Historic artifacts indicate that the site was also used by Seminoles during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all the known boundaries of the site as well as a portion of Halfway Creek that fronts the site. The creekbed at this point contains a large quantity of material data that has been discarded or eroded into the creek. Approximately .5 acre is encompassed within the nominated property.

### Environment

[REDACTED] All of these above areas offer a variety of resources exploited by the Native American population.

A mock Indian village has been constructed on the site by an airboat tour operator prior to the establishment of the preserve. It is likely that the tour operator will be granted a special use permit to continue the operation. Special provisions will be set out in the permit to insure protection of the site from further impact. Construction of the "village" has resulted in little alteration or damage to the resource. Because the "village" is only viewed from the airboat and no visitor access is provided the construction is unsubstantial and no potential damage to the resource is anticipated.

### Archeological Investigations

A surface collection was made on the midden and along the creek bank. A total of 192 pottery sherds were collected as well as unspecified quantity of faunal bone and shell.

### Data Limitations

The Halfway Creek site is in a good state of preservation. The survey team encountered no evidence of excavation pits nor any other indications of modern cultural disturbances. Erosion has been severe along the portion of the site facing the creek. Prop wash from passing boats has been a factor in undercutting the creek bank. This undercutting has exposed and removed a large quantity of material data from the midden. However, this erosion has probably affected less than 5% of the site.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

ADDENDUM TO HALFWAY CREEK SITE (8 CR 176), BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE  
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

#7 - DESCRIPTION

Boundary Justification

The attached map of the site indicates the boundaries of the site both on land and within the creek.

Archeological Investigations

Additionally, two test excavations were placed at Halfway Creek site as indicated on the enclosed site map. These tests were 30 cm square and were dug in 10 cm levels to depths of 90 cm. All material was screened through 1/16 inch mesh. Large quantities of marine shell, faunal bone, ceramics, and carbonized botanical remains were recovered from these tests.

#8 - SIGNIFICANCE

3. C14 dates on material taken from three levels in test 1 all cluster around 615 AD. Material from level 4 of test 2 was dated at 810 AD, while material from level 8 was dated to 480 AD.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 ca. 800 AD - 1400 AD

BUILDER/ARCHITECT ca, 1880 AD - 1920 AD

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Significance

The Halfway Creek site is an excellent example of a prehistoric midden within the mangrove estuarine ecotone. This site is typical of prehistoric occupational foci along the coastal zone of southwest Florida. The site probably contains discrete features, such as ash pits and hearths, as well as data sets reflecting the inhabitant's subsistence and technological patterns. These data sets may be described as follows:

1. Artifactual data is composed of pottery sherds. Ceramics in the Glades Area are the principal artifactual markers for chronology. Other artifacts include bone and shell tools and ornaments. This type of data still remains in undisturbed portions of the site. These would reflect subsistence patterns, technology, and, in some cases, chronology.
2. Subsistence data comprises a major percentage of the site's data universe. Consisting of faunal bone, charred seeds and shells, and human coprolites, this data offers investigators an unusual opportunity to reconstruct subsistence patterns; particularly types of food being exploited, resource selectivity, prehistoric hunting, and fishing methodology, and food preparation. The human fecal material, commonly preserved in large prehistoric middens in the Big Cypress, offers an opportunity to study diet and human parasitic pathology.
3. Large quantities of charcoal, remnants from fire pits and hearths exist throughout the site. To date, four samples have been collected and submitted for C14 dates. Sufficient charcoal exists at all occupational levels to probably determine the complete chronology of settlement.

The historic component of this site presents the possibility of reflecting a wide spectrum of activities that were typical of nineteenth century occupation of southwest Florida. These include the theme of Seminole occupation and a secondary theme of the specialized trade stimulated alligator hunting exploited by the Seminoles after mid-19th century. Many estuarine sites such as this one served as hunting stations for Indian and white man alike during the extensive plume and alligator hunting era. cursory observations of the site surface indicate a large quantity of alligator faunal bone, which suggest that this site may have been an historical hunting station.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ehrenhard, John, and Robert S. Carr, Robert Taylor  
1978 Preliminary Report of Archeological Survey of Big Cypress  
National Preserve

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

B	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Halfway Creek Site is [REDACTED]

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert S. Carr

11/77

ORGANIZATION

NPS, Southeast Archeological Center

DATE

(904) 222-1167

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 2416

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida 32304

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

[Signature]

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

[Signature]

TITLE

Asst. Director, Cultural Resources

DATE

12/10/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/15/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

[Signature]

DATE

8/11/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER