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ABOVE PHOTO: Miami River Maintenance Dredging and Environmental Cleanup project in action.

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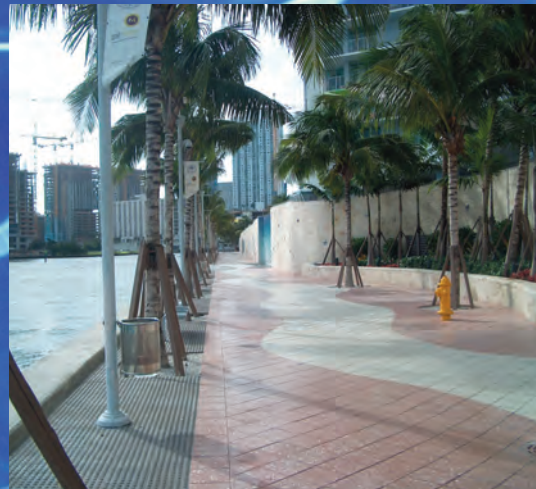
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New publicly-accessible Miami River Greenway on the north bank of the river's mouth.

BELOW: Miami River Greenway along the Lower River south bank with vessel under tow.



Miami River Commission

The Miami River Commission was created in 1998 by the Florida Legislature to be the official coordinating clearinghouse for all public policy and projects related to the Miami River. Under the law, the Miami River Commission has 18 members including elected officials, business, neighborhood, environmental and civic leaders involved and knowledgeable on river issues. The Commission has the responsibility to unite all governmental agencies, businesses and residents to speak with one voice on river issues, to develop coordinated plans, priorities, programs, projects, and budgets that will substantially improve the river. The Miami River Commission has established the following projects as the "top priorities" to substantially improve the Miami River:

DREDGING – The Miami River maintenance dredging project commenced in September 2004. As of March 2008, the project was over 40% complete, removing 260,500 tons of contaminated sediments from the Miami River. Dredging is significantly improving the local economy and natural environment.

MIAMI RIVER GREENWAY – In partnership with the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, the Florida Department of Transportation, Congress, Trust for Public Land and the private development community, the Miami River Greenway is under construction. The publicly accessible greenway will unite the River's multi-cultural neighborhoods to the riverfront, and become a destination landscape for tourists and residents alike.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Miami River and/or Miami River Commission please visit the website at www.miamirivercommission.org or contact the Miami River Commission, 1407 NW 7 St, Suite D, Miami, FL 33125 tel: 305 644 0544 fax: 305 642 1136.

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Miami River Historic Sites

THE HISTORIC MIAMI RIVER 1

The **Miami River** was central to the birth of the City of Miami. Until 1910 the Miami River was the City's main source of drinking water. The word "Miami" is a Tequestan Indian term for "sweet water" which emanated from the river. Miami's first inhabitants (1500 B.C.), hotel, tourist attraction, trading post, etc. were all located on the Miami River.

CLAUGHTON ISLAND 2



BRICKELL KEY, previously known as **CLAUGHTON ISLAND**, is a man-made island. In 1909 Governor Napoleon B. Broward began the State of Florida's Everglades drainage project. A portion of the project was the creation of the Miami Canal. When the Miami Canal opened in 1912, a massive flow of water from the Everglades lasted three weeks, as the water levels there dropped. The sediment blocked entry of large commercial vessels in the lower Miami River, so between 1912-1914 the sediment was dredged and used to fill portions of the river's shore, brickell point, and Claughton Island. Today the beautiful Brickell Key has several residential buildings, retail, office space, and the five star Mandarin Oriental Hotel, surrounded by the publicly-accessible Miami River Greenway.

ROYAL PALM HOTEL 3

In 1896 Henry Flagler, owner of Florida East Coast Railroad and Florida East Coast Hotel Com-

pany, built the Royal Palm Hotel. The luxurious hotel was Miami's first major tourist accommodation.

MIAMI CIRCLE 4

A 2,000 year old stone circle was discovered during a mandatory archeological survey of the site when two residential buildings were planned for construction. The south bank of the Miami River's Mouth was a Tequestan Indian Village circa 750 B.C.

Currently, the Florida Department of State is seeking funding to repair the site's seawall and construct a publicly-accessible riverwalk.

BRICKELL PARK 5

BRICKELL PARK is named after one of Miami's founders, Mary Brickell. In 1871 the Brickell family had a home on this location, and owned the first trading post in Miami. In 2000 an archeological survey discovered the remains of the Tequestan burial ground in Brickell Park.

FLAGLER WORKERS HOUSE 6

Henry Flagler arrived in the late 1800s to build the railroad, the Royal Palm Hotel and other developments. When the hotel was built, he offered ongoing employment by constructing 30 similar houses along what is now SE 1st and 2nd Street, between SE 1st and

2nd Avenues. This frame vernacular style "Royal Palm Cottage", was constructed in 1897 from native pine with a gabled, shingled roof. The one remaining is the only structure of its age, size and type in downtown Miami. It has been moved to Fort Dallas Park on the Miami River where it houses "Bijan's Seafood Restaurant." The City Commission designated the Flagler Workers House a historic site in 1983.

JOSE MARTI PARK 7

The site was an Indian camp, circa 400 A.D., preserved beneath river fill dredged in the early 1900s. Excavations in 1982 recovered pottery shards, shell tools, projectile points, an Indian woman's grave and other artifacts. Dozens of similar camps existed along the river. In 1980 the location was known as "tent city", housing Cuban political refugees who fled Cuba during the Mariel boat lift. The site became **JOSE MARTI PARK** in 1984, named after a Cuban Independence hero and poet.

MIAMI RIVER INN 8

The **MIAMI RIVER INN** was constructed in 1906. The current owner, Sallye Jude, restored the historic Inn in the late 1980's. The active Miami

River Inn is on the National Register of Historic Places and was designated a historic site by the City Commission in 1987.

J.W. WARNER PLACE 9

J.W. WARNER built this home between 1906-1912, which was designed to withstand hurricanes. The first florist in Miami, "Miami Floral", was on the first floor of the historic home. The Warner house was restored in the late 1970's. The Warner Place is on the Dept. of Interior's National Register of Historic Places and the City Commission designated it a historic site in 1983.

WAGNER HOMESTEAD 10

This pre-1858 structure is the county's oldest standing house. It was built by Wm. Wagner, an 1855 pioneer, whose homestead included a coontie mill and Miami's small wooden church, which burned down in 1892.

The Dade County pine house is a hand-hewn, peg fastened and wood-shingled example of mid-19th century shelters. Development in the 1920s prompted its donation to the Dade Heritage Trust, a private preservation group who undertook relocation and restoration. The City Commission designated the **WAGNER HOMESTEAD** a historic site in 1984.

FORT DALLAS / WILLIAM ENGLISH SLAVE QUARTERS 11

FORT DALLAS was built in 1844 as slave quarters in the Wm. English plantation located on the north bank of the Miami River's mouth. It is built from oolitic limestone quarried at that site. After English left for the 1849 California gold rush, the Army reopened "Fort Dallas" on the site in preparation for the 3rd Seminole War.

Subsequent uses of the building were a trading post, the County courthouse, post office and a tea room. A plan to destroy the building in 1925 rallied the community. By agreement with the city, it was disassembled and re-built in Lummus Park.

SPRING GARDEN 14

SPRING GARDEN was formed as a subdivision in 1919. It is home to an eclectic collection of artists and professionals. Its early residents included Miami Herald editor Frank Stoneman as well as his daughter Marjorie Stoneman Douglas, Miami baker John Seybold, and several doctors, lawyers and businessmen. Spring Garden was designated a historic neighborhood by the City Commission in 1997.

SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE 12

This 1922 building was designed and built by architects Kiehnel and Elliot, an important Miami firm. The Art Deco, Egyptian inspired temple is noteworthy for combining classical detail with Art Deco abstraction in elements such as two-headed eagles and a zigurat roof. The original and present owner is the Miami Scottish Rite Temple Association. The City of Miami recently included

HINDU TEMPLE 15

In 1919 "The Jungle Trail" motion picture was filmed in Spring Garden. When the **HINDU TEMPLE** movie set was removed after the filming complet-

this property within the designated Lummus Park Historic District.

POINT PARK 13



Alligator Joe's, an original tourist attraction, occupied this location between 1895-1915. Today, **SPRING GARDEN POINT PARK** is the newest park on the Miami River Greenway. The Trust for Public Land, utilizing State and County funding, recently purchased the site, which will be well-landscaped with an adjacent environmental classroom in the historic Seybold house, built in 1915.

ed, John Seybold, the owner of the Spring Garden subdivision, hired August Geiger (famous Miami architect who designed the City Hospital) to develop a palatial residence in the style of the Hindu Temple set. The residence is on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

COPPINGER'S INDIAN VILLAGE .. 16



Florida's first commercial Indian village was Coppinger's Tropical Gardens, Alligator Farm and Seminole Indian Village. It opened in 1917 on land bought in 1911 by Henry Coppinger, Sr., a noted horticulturalist who came to Miami to plant the grounds of Flagler's Royal Palm Hotel. With his son, he developed the gardens as a botanical showcase. Indians camping on the grounds were allowed to stay. More chickens were added and the area opened to tourists to provide income, food and medical attention for the Indians. Henry, Jr. learned to wrestle alligators and taught this skill to the Seminoles.

MUSA ISLE 17

Otis Richardson established a fruit grove here in 1896. Later, the area's first mail order fruit business operated as **MUSA ISLE** after the botanical name for banana. It was the last stop of a 50¢ "jungle cruise" on a paddlewheel boat running 4.5 miles from the mouth to the

rapids where the river began. A 1907 wooden tower enabled tourists to view the Everglades.

A Seminole village was added in 1919. A trading post, craft-work, alligator wrestling, tropical plants and a zoo were featured. Musa Isle operated until 1964 as one of the successful operations that helped preserve Miccosukee and Seminole cultures.

MIAMI RIVER RAPIDS 18

The north fork of the Miami River began with river rapids just south of the park. Everglades water spilled down a 6 foot natural ridge. The rapids ceased in 1912 with opening of the Miami Canal drainage project. The man-made canal begins at NW 24th Avenue near the end of the river's north fork, which continues a short distance to the west.

In the 1840s, George Washington Ferguson and Thomas Jefferson Ferguson operated a coontie starch mill over a stream with remnants just east of the park. The water driven mill employed 25 people and one year earned \$24,000 selling "Ferguson's Florida Arrow Root" throughout the U.S. The mill was abandoned in the Third Seminole War. In 1990 The City Commission designated the **MIAMI RIVER RAPIDS** Archaeological Zone a historic site.

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