

SURVEY NO. \*3904

SURVEY LOG SHEET  
FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE

Plotted? \* Y    N   

Version 1.3: 10/89

TITLE "An Archaeological Inventory of the Rookery Bay C.A.R.L. Project"

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KEY WORDS/PHRASES DESCRIBING SURVEY (max of 30 columns each)

Rookery Bay, 10,000 Islands, Keywadin Island,  
Homesteads,

CORPORATION, GOVERNMENT UNIT, OR PERSON SPONSORING SURVEY

NAME FL BAR/C.A.R.L. Survey

ADDRESS 500 S. Bronough St. Tallahassee, Florida

DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY: NUMBER OF DISTINCT AREAS SURVEYED 1

MONTH/YEAR DATES FOR FIELD WORK: START 12/93 THRU 12/94

TOTAL AREA 12,000 ha (ac) IF CORRIDOR: WIDTH \_\_\_ m/ft LENGTH \_\_\_ km/mi

TYPE OF SURVEY (Use as many as apply):  archaeological

architectural

underwater

OTHER TYPE(S):

METHODS EMPLOYED (Use as many as apply):

pedestrian

shovel test

unknown

archival

extensive excäv.

auger survey

test excäv.

posthole

remote sensing

windshield

coring

local informt

OTHER METHODS:

surf. exposrs

probing

SCOPE/INTENSITY/PROCEDURES

SITES Significance discussed? Y  N  (POTENTIAL) Circle NR-elig/signif site nos:

PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES : COUNT 14 LIST CR53, CR54, CR55, CR298,

CR549, CR577, CR578, CR580, CR581, CR582, CR579, CR717,

CR51 CR728,

NEWLY RECORDED SITES : COUNT 4 LIST CR754, CR767, CR768, CR769

COUNTIES: Collier

USGS MAP(S) Naples South, Belle Meade, Marco Island

TOWNSHIP/RANGE (list all township/range combinations eg, 04S/29E)

50S/25E, 50S/26E, 51S/25E, 51S/26E, 52S/26E

REMARKS (Use reverse if needed):

OUTLINE OR HIGHLIGHT SURVEY AREA ON FDOT COUNTY HWY. MAP.  
ATTACH OR PHOTOCOPY ONTO BACK OF FORM.



612  
Coastal Islands  
USDI  
10/81

This map was compiled from U.S. Geological Survey Quadrangle Maps, aerial photography flown in January, 1973, and November, 1975, General Land Office Plats, road inventory surveys July, 1978 and other map data.

This map was prepared on the transverse Mercator projection, East Zone, Florida system of plane coordinates.

The railroad station symbol as shown on this map does not necessarily denote the presence of a depot or like facility. It may be only a point designated for the receipt or delivery of freight, such as a platform or siding.

Road alignments and estimated populations in Delimited Areas were compiled from aerial photography flown in November, 1975 without field verification.

No attempt has been made to show all drainage canals and ditches.

City populations are from the U.S. Census for 1980.

In 1980, the population of Collier County was 85,791. There are 2,032 square miles in the county.

In congested rural areas local roads are indicated by a single line only. For details refer to insets prepared for this county.

No claim is made for the basic cartographic source material taken from a work or works of the United States Government.

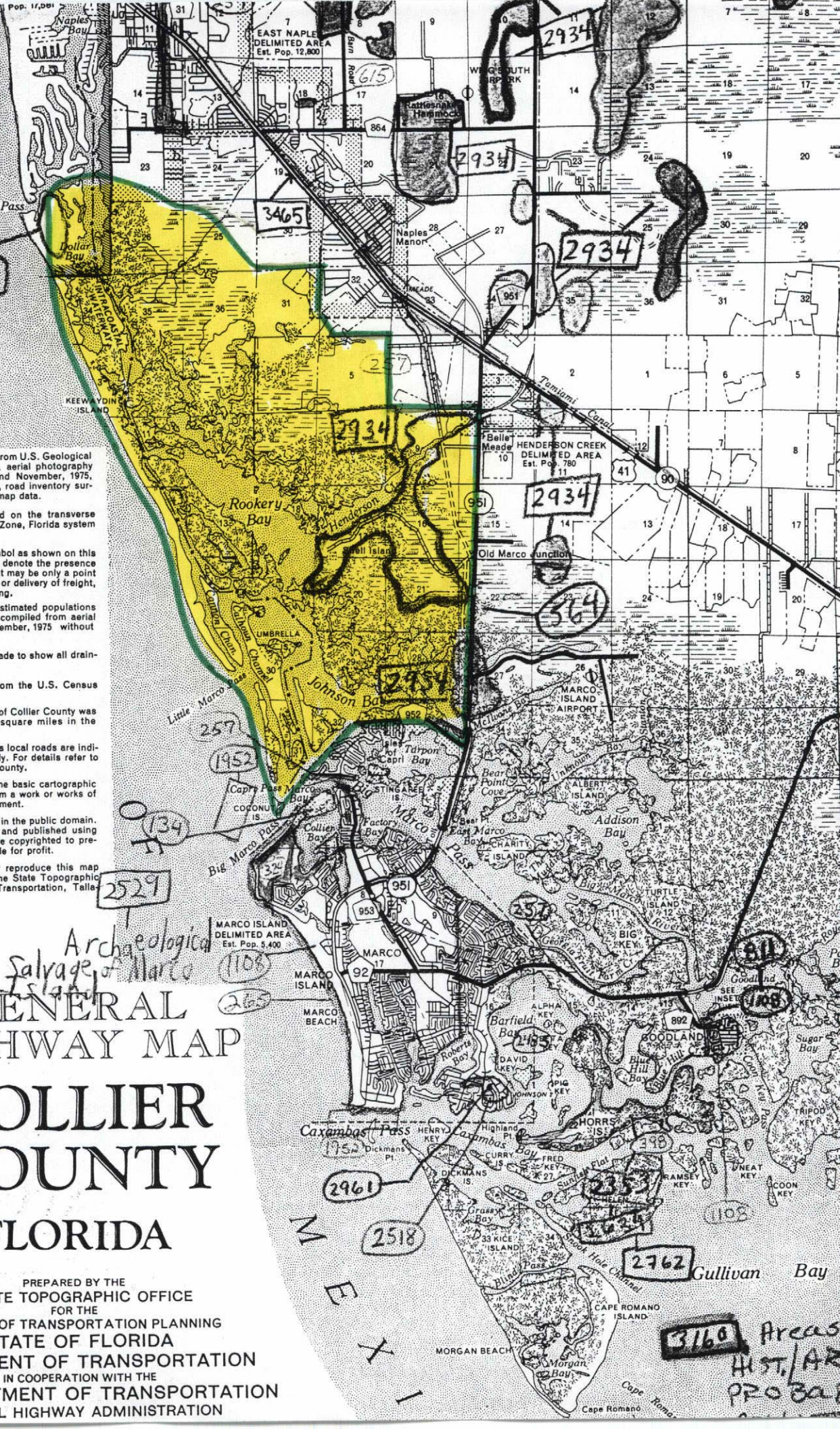
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Archaeological  
Salvage of Marco  
Island

# GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP COLLIER COUNTY FLORIDA

PREPARED BY THE  
STATE TOPOGRAPHIC OFFICE  
FOR THE  
DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION



3160 Areas  
HIST/AR  
PROBA



## FMSF NOTE TO IMAGE VIEWER

Some material contained in the corresponding paper manuscript has not been scanned.

Check material affected:

- Blueprints
- Map
- Site Forms
- Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

This material can be viewed at the Florida Master Site File.

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY OF THE ROOKERY BAY C.A.R.L.  
PROJECT**

Brent R. Weisman and Christine Newman  
Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research  
C.A.R.L. Archaeological Survey  
February 1995

The Rookery Bay Conservation and Recreations Lands (C.A.R.L) project consists of some 12,000 acres in coastal Collier County between Gordon Pass and Key Marco. Approximately 4,000 acres of the total project area have been acquired using C.A.R.L. funds and, together with lands under lease from the Collier Conservancy and the Audubon Society, form the core and buffer areas for the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (RBNERR). Additional lands are being acquired for Rookery Bay through the C.A.R.L. program, and the project continues to rank high on the C.A.R.L. acquisition list (#8 out of 42 priority projects ranked for 1995). Total state holdings in the area include more than 30,000 acres, obtained by acquisition, donation or mitigation.

An archaeological reconnaissance by the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research, C.A.R.L. Archaeological Survey, of the Rookery Bay C.A.R.L. project including lands within the RBNERR, has resulted in the identification of 18 archaeological sites within the project boundaries. Nine sites reflect the prehistoric aboriginal occupation of the area, and consist of shell mounds, shell middens, black dirt middens, and burial areas. A long period of occupation is generally suggested both by the large size of several shell sites and the possibility that the burial area may date to the Archaic period (prior to 1,000 BC), but the Glades I late and Glades II archaeological periods seem to be particularly well represented, indicating that the bulk of the prehistoric occupation occurred between about AD 750 and AD 1200.

The late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century pioneering homestead settlement of the Rookery Bay area is represented by nine known sites identified in the survey, most of which are marked by the deteriorated remnants of simple post-and-beam cabins and associated domestic refuse such as bottles, broken ceramic plates, dishes, and cups, and objects of rusted iron. A rusted iron plow found at one homestead site on Henderson Creek indicates the farming focus of at least some of the early settlers, and local informants tell of vegetable crops such as watermelons and potatoes planted in hammocks both along the creek and on the outlying islands. Typically associated with these sites are the badly deteriorated remains of wooden docks, and numerous exotic

plant species, most notably *Sansevieria*, commonly known as mother-in-law tongue.

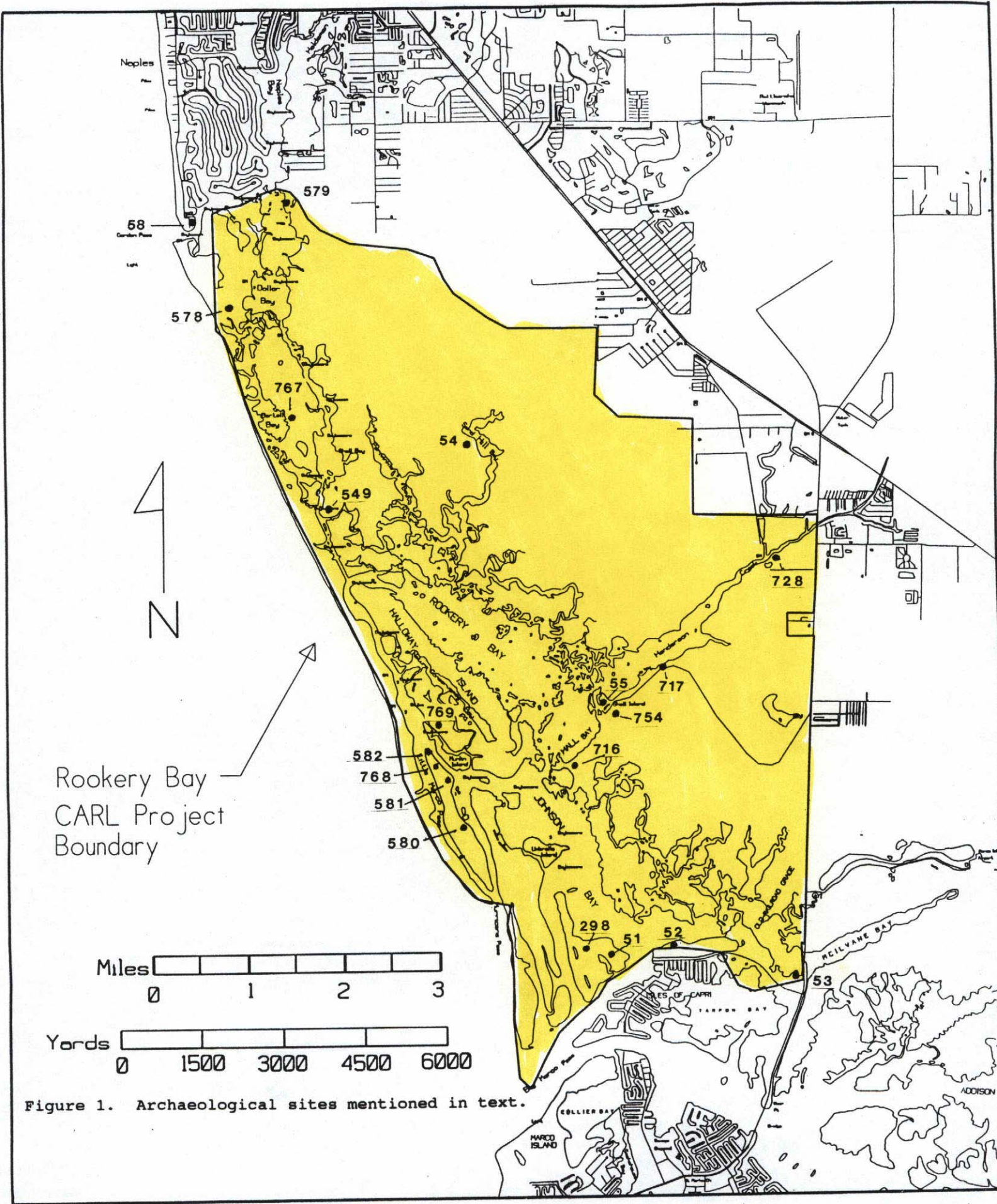
Taken together, the known prehistoric and historical archaeological sites of the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve attest to some 3,000 years of human adaptation to the wetlands and hammock environments of Rookery Bay. Recorded site locations are shown in Figure 1.

#### **Rookery Bay as Part of the Ten Thousand Islands Archaeological District**

Archaeological evidence indicates that the Ten Thousand Islands, which includes the coastal area between Naples (Gordon Pass) and the Shark River, can be considered a subdivision of the Everglades Area within the South Florida Region (Griffin 1988:117-121) and can be distinguished on the basis of ceramics from the adjacent Caloosahatchee Area to the north and (with less contrast) the larger Everglades Area south of the Shark River. It is also important to note that the Ten Thousand Island district takes in most of interior Collier County as well, thereby suggesting some cultural relationship between coastal middens and the interior black dirt middens of the Fakahatchee Strand, Picayune Strand, and the Big Cypress.

The basic ceramic sequence, like that of the Everglades Area, is known as the Glades sequence. The Glades sequence is divided into periods known as Glades I, II, and III, each with further subdivisions (Griffin 1988:120-125, 127-129) (Figure 2). Decorated pottery types, most notably Gordon's Pass Incised, appear in the Glades I Late period (perhaps by AD 500), while the types Opa Locka Incised, Miami Incised, and Key Largo Incised mark the beginning of Glades IIa (about AD 750). Glades III opens with the introduction of Surfside Incised at about AD 1200. The final Glades III occupation is indicated by the presence of Glades Tooled pottery and historic Spanish or European ceramics, which indicate occupation after the period of European contact ca. AD 1513. No such occupation is presently known for Rookery Bay, despite a recent misstatement by McGoun (1993:109) in which Chinese porcelain sherds originally reported by John Goggin (1950:230) from the Rookery Mound in Everglades National Park were mistakenly attributed to Rookery Bay in Collier County.

The ceramic basis for dividing the Everglades Area (including the Ten Thousand Island District) from the Caloosahatchee Area is clear. The incised types found in the former area are lacking in the latter, where plain pottery (sand-tempered plain and Belle Glade Plain) predominates throughout the sequence. Distinguishing the Ten Thousand Island District as a subdivision of the larger Everglades Area (which includes the area from the Shark



Rookery Bay  
CARL Project  
Boundary

Figure 1. Archaeological sites mentioned in text.



River through the Florida Keys and north to the vicinity of Palm Beach) on ceramic grounds rests on the observation that Gordon's Pass Incised and Sanibel Incised are infrequently present in South Florida outside of the Ten Thousand Islands (Carr and Beriault 1984:3). Conversely, it is possible (although not yet demonstrated with confidence) that Key Largo Incised, present in some abundance in the Everglades Area and elsewhere within the Ten Thousand Islands District, is rarely present in Rookery Bay. The type has not been found at Gordon Pass and is very rare at Goodland Point, at the northern and southern borders of Rookery Bay, respectively, where the most extensive, controlled, archaeological collecting has taken place.

Indeed, the ceramic sequences of these two sites may serve by interpolation to derive a reasonable expectation of the specific sequence present in Rookery Bay, particularly as stratigraphic excavations or controlled collecting have yet to take place in the area. John Goggin's salvage activities at the large Gordon Pass shell midden in 1936 resulted in the recognition that the type Gordon's Pass Incised (defined by Goggin from this site) represented a distinct time period (but indefinite in terms of calendar years) that followed a period represented by Glades Gritty plain pottery (Goggin 1939, 1940:28-29, 1949:85; Griffin 1988:120-123). The initial period of plain pottery Goggin called Glades I; the subsequent period marked by Gordon's Pass Incised then followed as Glades II. Glades III, defined and refined by Goggin on the basis of collections from Goodland Point and elsewhere in South Florida, saw an overall decrease in types and frequencies of incised ceramics, but the types Surfside Incised (found by Goggin at Goodland but not at Gordon Pass) and Biscayne Check Stamped (now known as St. Johns Check Stamped) make their first appearance.

Recent evaluations and reappraisals of the ceramic situation by Griffin (1988:138) and others suggest that the advent of incised pottery said by Goggin to mark Glades II may actually mark a period known as Glades I late. In these revisions, however, Surfside Incised retains its place as a marker for the beginning of Glades III. Thus, in the most general terms, we can propose an idealized sequence for Rookery Bay in which lower levels are marked exclusively by plain pottery, intermediate levels by Gordon's Pass Incised and the minority types Sanibel Incised and Matecumbe Incised, and a final level marked by Surfside Incised and St. Johns Check Stamped. The degree to which the Rookery sequence varies from the predicted ideal of course is of great interest and should be the expected result of further research.

One might also reasonably wonder what correlation, if any, might exist between the archaeological areas and their associated ceramic sequences and tribal or ethnic divisions.

		1948b GOGGIN	1952b	1974 GRIFFIN	1987		
1700		III c	III c	III c	III c		1600
1500		III b	III b	III b	III b		
1300		III a	III a	III a	III a		1400
					II c		1200
1100		II b	II c	II c	II b		1000
900		II a		II b			
		I		II a	II a		800
700		PRE-GLADES	II b late	I late	I late		600
500			II b early				
300			II a		I early		400
100							200
AD/BC			I late		PRE-GLADES		AD/BC
100			I early				200

Figure 2. Archaeological Periods and Time Scale for South Florida. (From *The Florida Anthropologist* September 1989, pg. 190, article by John W. Griffin; used with permission of the FAS).



Can the Calusa and Tequesta polities, known from historical documents to have existed in South Florida at the time of first European contact, be defined or recognized on the basis of prehistoric ceramic distributions? At one point, Goggin answered unequivocally "yes;" the Calusa area was characterized by Glades Gritty plain ceramics, while the Tequesta area (confined to the east coast no further inland than central Dade County) had both Glades Gritty and Biscayne (St. Johns) Check Stamped pottery (Goggin 1940:29-30). This of course meant that the historic Calusa, the politically dominant tribe in South Florida and a key player in the attempted Spanish conquest and colonization of South Florida, was rather narrowly defined in ceramic terms to include only an area from Charlotte Harbor to Estero Bay where plain pottery is present in the majority throughout the sequence. Goggin also used the term Calusa to refer to one of his three divisions of the Glades area, specifically the area from the Caloosahatchee River to Cape Sable, and later revised this by placing all of the Everglades and the lower Ten Thousand Islands into the adjacent Tequesta division (Goggin 1940:25, Goggin n.d.; Griffin 1988:113). Unfortunately this implied that the Calusa archaeological subdivision of the Glades area equaled the political boundaries of the Calusa heartland, which is not the case. Simply put, the prehistoric aboriginal pottery of the Glades series which characterizes the Ten Thousand Island district (including Rookery Bay) is not Calusa, at least as the Calusa can be defined archaeologically in their heartland around Charlotte Harbor and Estero Bay. The ceramic trajectory in the two areas is quite different, and to the degree that fundamental differences in ceramic traditions reflect differences in archaeological cultures it must be concluded that prehistorically the two areas were somewhat culturally distinct. This also means that the Calusa political expansion of the late prehistoric and early historic periods has material correlates other than those easily measured by the changes in frequency and distribution of pottery. The famous ceremonial tablets of wood, stone, and metal might be one such correlate (particularly the metal tablets) although they be more indicative of a religious cult than of political conquest. In any event, the Calusa influence in Rookery Bay may be difficult to easily detect archaeologically (in ceramic terms) except as it might relate to the disappearance of Gordon's Pass Incised and the decline in frequency of incised pottery in the Glades III period.

#### **Summary of Prehistory in the Rookery Bay Area**

The previous discussion focused on the ceramic sequences for Rookery Bay and the Ten Thousand Islands from the Glades I through Glades III periods, roughly the span of time from the first through seventeenth centuries A.D. However, to judge from the finds of fiber-tempered pottery just to the south

on Marco Island (Widmer 1988; Griffin 1988:131), pottery-producing peoples may have occupied Rookery Bay in the late Archaic period (ca. 4,000-2,500 BP [before present], about 2,050 BC-1,000 BC). Year-round occupation on Horr's Island, south of Marco, has been well demonstrated to date to at least 2,800 BC, during the late preceramic Archaic period, at a time when the local population not only subsisted through the seasonal exploitation of scallops, quahogs, and fish but also built a 20-foot-tall cone-shaped mound from layers of sand and shell (Russo 1991).

Although Late Archaic period occupation has not been confirmed for Rookery Bay, it has been suggested that the single human burial unearthed from the Sand Hill Bay site (8CR54) in 1893 dates to an Archaic period because no pottery was found with the burial or in the associated burial area, something not likely to have occurred if pottery had been available for use as grave goods. Although this reasoning is questionable, it is reasonable to expect some use of the Rookery Bay area during the preceramic Late Archaic, as at Horr's Island, and during the ceramic portion of the late Archaic beginning about 2,000 BC as was the case at Key Marco.

The prehistoric habitation of Rookery Bay prior to the Late Archaic, during the Early (ca. 9,000-7,000 BP, or 7,050 BC-5,050 BC) and Middle Archaic periods, is much more speculative. Although sites of Early and Middle Archaic age are known in South Florida, and some sparse occupation is evident even in late Paleoindian times (about 10,000 to 13,000 years ago), the generally drier conditions of the time seem to have favored occupation around deep springs and solution holes. Along with the dry climate, the water table was considerably lower than now and the formation of the mangroves and coastal estuaries had not yet occurred. Thus, the actual configuration of the landscape in Rookery Bay and its potential for human habitation is somewhat in doubt before about 5,000 years ago, toward the end of the Middle Archaic.

At the other end of the time chart is the period of historic European contact, or the period from about 1513 onward through the eighteenth century, by which time all or most of the native Florida Indians had met their demise. The Calusa chiefdom and its relationship with the conquering Spaniards and with neighboring tribes draws most attention here; but what, if any, the archaeology of Rookery Bay can offer in this regard is still undetermined. A former burial location on a low sand ridge on private property just east of the RBNERR boundary contained sixteenth or early seventeenth-century trade artifacts in association with aboriginal burials, indicating some occupation of Rookery Bay during the early period of Spanish contact. Associated village or domestic remains relating to this time period have not been

recognized, and no known documentary sources specifically indicate such locations in the Rookery Bay area during the early historic period.

### **Previous Archaeology in the Rookery Bay Area**

Despite the proximity of Rookery Bay to the famous "Court of the Pile Dwellers" in the Key Marco muck, little serious attention was paid to its archaeological remains. Ironically, the first archaeology of record in Rookery Bay was intertwined with the discovery of the Key Marco site, as both involved one C.B. Durnford, who was led to the Sand Hill Bay site in Rookery Bay and then on to the Marco finds in 1895 while tarpon fishing in the area. His report of the wood implements and preserved fish netting from Marco stimulated further interest in the site and was directly responsible for Cushing's later involvement there. His description of the curious Sand Hill site contained in the same publication (Durnford 1895) is lesser known and remains the only published account of investigations at this enigmatic site. According to Durnford, a single skeleton had been unearthed two years previous by local fishing guides, buried about four feet below a one-foot-thick hard cap of marl (or "cement dome" in Durnford words).

Durnford cut a second trench across the summit of the hill, essentially confirming the guides' description, and further observed that the base of the cement dome rested on a ring of oyster shells, approximately 60 feet in circumference (Durnford 1895:1039). No additional burials or artifacts were found by Durnford, nor had artifacts been found in the guides' excavations. In summary, the site on Sand Hill consisted of a single human burial entombed four-feet deep in fine sand below a mantle or cap of hardened marl which rested on a ring of oyster shell buried about six inches below the surface. Dating of the humans remains is problematic due to lack of artifacts or known comparable sites; several human bone fragments found on the surface during our 1994 survey could relate to the 1893 excavation and are now curated in the Bureau of Archaeological Research collections in the event further analysis is possible.

The Durnford episode did little to advance archaeological knowledge about the region and his findings largely were negative, nonetheless a certain association between the site and the possibility of buried treasure developed. Durnford related that the guides in fact had been digging in the hope of finding treasure. Over the years this folklore became entrenched to the point that an authorized treasure hunt took place on Sand Hill in the early 1980s, with the Audubon Society and several state agencies cooperating. The object of the search was Spanish gold and other treasure trove salvaged from shipwrecks and allegedly stashed away in the location by Carlos, chief of the Calusa. Metal detecting



and soil cores, some 23 feet deep, failed to disclose either salvaged Spanish treasure or any indication of aboriginal occupation of the area, and the hunt was chalked up as a failure.

Why the once-monumental shell mound at Shell Island (8CR55) failed to attract archaeologists over the years is not known, especially given the size and complexity of the site and its relative accessibility. The noted Smithsonian physical anthropologist Ales Hrdlicka visited the mound in 1918 but gave it only very brief comment in his 1922 publication. John Goggin, whose important work at Gordon Pass in 1936 and Goodland Point in 1949 has already been mentioned, knew the area well but apparently never visited Shell Island, relying on Hrdlicka's description for inclusion in his unpublished synthesis of Glades archaeology. Clarence B. Moore, indefatigable as always in his efforts to collect archaeological specimens, obtained shell artifacts from the Goodland Point and the now-destroyed shell mound on McIlvane Key (8CR53) (1907:465-66) but mentions only in passing a "shell settlement with the usual ridges and mounds of moderate size" on the eastern side of Little Marco Island (Moore 1900:369). On a subsequent visit Moore (1907:468) mentions two unusual shell implements from Little Marco and Crawford Place but, like the site alleged to be on the east side of Little Marco, no known location corresponds to Moore's general description.

With one exception, the archaeology of Rookery Bay in recent years has been limited to weekend site reconnaissances, mostly by members of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS), although the area of Shell Island was given cursory attention during the Phase I archaeological survey of Collier County conducted by the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy (AHC) (Dickel 1991). During this latter work, the Shell Island mound complex was examined, and owing to confusion in the Florida Site File records for the site, was assigned two new site numbers, each designating what appeared to be fairly intact portions of the heavily disturbed site area. We retain the two new numbers in our subsequent discussion of Shell Island (see below) but subsume them under what we believe to be the original number assigned to the site, 8CR55.

The only systematic investigation of a Rookery Bay site occurred in 1988 when the AHC was contracted to survey North Keywadin Island (the bulk of which is now under state ownership) prior to proposed development of the area. Subsurface testing took place at 8CR578, a black dirt midden with elevated "house mounds", linear shell features, and associated ditches. An occupation range of AD 1000-1400 was suggested on the basis of pottery found (Carr and Allerton 1988:18). Preservation of archaeological materials and site integrity were judged to be excellent, and further research

at the site was recommended. Fauna identified in 1988 included garfish, drum, catfish, and various invertebrates, and subsistence was tied to the former estuary to the west of the site.

Although the activities of SWFAS and the more detailed study of North Keywadin by the AHC provided an outline of archaeological site distribution and some indication of the types of remains present, the chronological placement and cultural affiliation of the Rookery Bay sites still was poorly understood, and many research questions concerning past relationships between human cultures and the dynamic coastal environment of Rookery Bay remained unaddressed. Further, the potential of the historical sites to increase our knowledge of early homestead and pioneer settlement activity had not been evaluated. Clearly, there is much to be done.

#### **Archaeological Sites in the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.**

Summary descriptions of known archaeological sites on the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve are provided below.

##### *Prehistoric Sites*

#### **CR54 - SandHill Bay Mound**

**Type of Site:** Burial mound or burial area in dune.

**Culture Periods Represented:** Prehistoric, no diagnostic artifacts found associated with site.

**Artifacts (summary):** A human burial was recovered from the site in 1893. No artifacts have been recorded from the site. One possible sherd was found on an adjacent dune.

**Probable Site Function:** Burial mound or burial area.

**Condition:** Disturbance, in the form of excavation and perhaps vandalism, can be found at the site, but most of the site and adjacent property appear to be undamaged.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Further testing would be required to determine National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources should impact be anticipated.

#### CR55 ~~CR55~~ - Shell Island see also CR784

**Type of Site:** Shell midden and mound. Shell complex. (CR714 and CR715 are included within CR55.)

**Culture Periods Represented:** Artifacts that date to Glades I late, Glades IIA and Glades IIIA periods have been recorded. It is likely that additional culture periods are represented at the site.

**Artifacts (summary):** A Gordon's Pass Incised sherd, Surfside Incised sherd, sand-tempered plain sherds, worked

shell, unworked shell, and faunal remains have been noted at the site.

**Probable Site Function:** Prehistoric village.

**Condition:** The site has been seriously disturbed, but intact portions remain.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** It is likely that the site is eligible for National Register listing, although additional testing would need to be done prior to recommendation.

**Management Recommendations:** Disturbance to the site is to be avoided. The Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources should be contacted prior to any impact.

The following two sites are properly part of ~~CR54~~<sup>CR55</sup> and should not be counted as additional sites. LRS 8/97

**CR714 - Shell Island 1**

**Type of Site:** Shell midden and mound. (Northern portion of CR55.)

**Culture Periods Represented:** Prehistoric.

**Artifacts (summary):** Sand tempered plain ceramics, unworked and possibly worked shell, faunal material.

**Probable Site Function:** Prehistoric village.

**Condition:** The site has been significantly disturbed, but portions of the site remain intact.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Testing needs to be done prior to determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

**CR715 - Shell Island 2**

**Type of Site:** Shell midden and mound. (Southern portion of CR55).

**Culture Periods Represented:** Glades I late, Glades IIA and Glades IIIA.

**Artifacts (summary):** Surfside Incised, Gordon Pass Incised, worked and unworked shell, and faunal material.

**Probable Site Function:** Prehistoric village.

**Condition:** The site has been significantly disturbed, but it is likely that intact portions of the site remain.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Testing needs to be done prior to determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

**CR298 - Garden Patch**

**Type of Site:** Shell midden, shell scatter, historic homestead(?).



**Culture Periods Represented:** Prehistoric and historic artifacts have been found at the site. Further designation is not possibly without additional investigation.

**Artifacts (summary):** Two worked collumella and one whelk shell with an extraction hole have been noted at the site. A sand-tempered plain sherd and hand-wrought hoe head have also been found.

**Probable Site Function:** Prehistorically, the site may have been a campsite. It is also possible that an historic homestead was located here.

**Condition:** Good.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Further testing at the site would be required to determine eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources should impact be anticipated.

#### **CR549 - Shell Bay Mounds**

**Type of Site:** Shell midden and mounds. Shell complex.

**Culture Periods Represented:** Glades I late and Glades IIA although other periods may be present.

**Artifacts (summary):** Several Gordon's Pass Incised sherds and unidentified incised sherds have been found at the site. Numerous sand-tempered plain sherds and shell tools have been found. Some have been accessioned into the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research collections, Tallahassee.

**Probable Site Function:** Prehistoric village, ceremonial center (?).

**Condition:** Good. A small portion of the site apparently has been mined for shell, but the majority of the site appears to be intact.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** It is likely that the site is eligible for National Register listing, although additional testing would need to be done prior to recommendation.

**Management Recommendations:** Disturbance to the site is to be avoided. The Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources should be contacted prior to any impact.

#### **CR578 - John's Pass Hammock**

**Type of Site:** Black dirt midden.

**Culture Periods Represented:** Glades IIIA although other periods may be represented.

**Artifacts (summary):** St. Johns Check Stamped and Surfside Incised pottery found at the provide the Glades IIIA designation. Sand tempered plain sherds, Glades Plain sherds, shell tools and faunal material have also been recovered.

**Probable Site Function:** The site represents a prehistoric habitation area, possibly with house mounds present.

**Condition:** Good. The site is in very good condition.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** It is likely that the site is eligible for nomination, but further testing needs to be done prior to making a recommendation of significance.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. The Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources should be contacted prior to any impact.

**CR579 - Hand Hammock**

**Type of Site:** Shell midden, historic homestead.

**Culture Periods Represented:** Prehistoric, 19th and 20th century.

**Artifacts (summary):** Sand-tempered plain sherd, historic bottle glass.

**Probable Site Function:** Prehistoric campsite and historic homestead or fishing camp.

**Condition:** Good.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Further testing would be required prior to making a recommendation of significance.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. The Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources should be contacted prior to any impact.

**CR580 - Dale's Digging**

**Type of Site:** Shell midden.

**Culture Periods Represented:** Glades II.

**Artifacts (summary):** Sand-tempered plain and unidentified rim-ticked sherds.

**Probable Site Function:** Prehistoric campsite.

**Condition:** Good (not visited by CARL).

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Testing needs to be done prior to determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

**CR581 - Palm Grove**

**Type of Site:** Shell midden, artifact scatter.

**Culture Periods Represented:** Prehistoric.

**Artifacts (summary):** Sand tempered plain sherds.

**Probable Site Function:** Prehistoric campsite.

**Condition:** Good (not visited by CARL).

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Testing needs to be done prior to determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

**CR582 - North Point**

**Type of Site:** Shell midden.

**Culture Periods Represented:** Prehistoric.

**Artifacts (summary):** Sand-tempered plain sherds.  
**Probable Site Function:** Prehistoric campsite.  
**Condition:** Good (not visited by CARL).  
**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**  
**(Significance):** Testing needs to be done prior to determination of National Register eligibility.  
**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

### *Historical Sites*

#### **CR51 - Johnson Place**

**Type of Site:** Historic homestead.  
**Culture Periods Represented:** 19th and 20th century.  
**Artifacts (summary):** Historic artifacts such as glass, ceramics, and iron and metal fragments are scattered on the surface. Several inscriptions have been carved on a tree.  
**Probable Site Function:** Early homestead.  
**Condition:** No standing structures can be found at the site, but it is likely that archaeological deposits are intact.  
**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**  
**(Significance):** Further testing would be required to determine National Register eligibility.  
**Management Recommendations:** Disturbance should be avoided. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources should impact be anticipated.

#### **CR52 - J.E. Williams Place**

**Type of Site:** Reported historic homestead.  
**Culture Periods Represented:** Possibly 20th century.  
**Artifacts (summary):** Unknown.  
**Probable Site Function:** Early homestead.  
**Condition:** Condition of site is unknown. Site information is based on a 1951 site form in the Florida site files.  
**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**  
**(Significance):** Not enough information is known to determine eligibility.  
**Management Recommendations:** Until site is located, impact to general area should be avoided. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources should impact be anticipated.

#### **CR716 - Hall Bay Cabin**

**Type of Site:** Cistern, historic homestead(?), cabin(?), fishing camp(?).  
**Culture Periods Represented:** 19th and 20 century.  
**Artifacts (summary):** Cistern, white glazed ceramics, crockery, and glass.  
**Probable Site Function:** Historic homestead, cabin or fishing camp.  
**Condition:** No standing structures; artifacts are scattered on the surface.



**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Historic documentation and testing need to be done prior to determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

**CR717 - Henderson Creek Cabin**

**Type of Site:** Historic homestead.

**Culture Periods Represented:** 19th and 20th century.

**Artifacts (summary):** Glass, whiteware, galvanized roofing material, window screen, crockery, cement pad (found in 1991, not found in 1994).

**Probable Site Function:** Homestead (Bolger Place).

**Condition:** No standing structures. Artifacts scattered on surface.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Historic documentation and testing need to be done prior to determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

**CR728 - Kirkland Homestead**

**Type of Site:** Historic homestead (Kirkland family).

**Culture Periods Represented:** 19th and 20th century.

**Artifacts (summary):** Cistern, whiteware, window and bottle glass, bottle fragments, brick, cut timbers, and farming machinery.

**Probable Site Function:** Homestead. The farming machinery and extensive ditching at the site suggest agricultural activities occurred here.

**Condition:** The only standing structure is the cistern, but it is likely that archaeological deposits are intact.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Historic documentation and testing need to be done prior to determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

**CR754 - Kirkland Cemetery**

**Type of Site:** Historic cemetery adjacent to, possibly on, prehistoric site (CR55).

**Culture Periods Represented:** Marker death dates range from 1901 to 1982.

**Artifacts (summary):** Burial markers.

**Probable Site Function:** Cemetery.

**Condition:** Fair.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Historic documentation and testing need to be done prior to determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

CR767

~~CR567~~ - Bartell Place

**Type of Site:** Historic Homestead and possible historic burial in vicinity.

**Culture Periods Represented:** 20th century.

**Artifacts (summary):** Historic material such as bottle and window glass, brick, transfer-printed stoneware, metal fragments, charred wood, and an iron stove top were noted on the surface.

**Probable Site Function:** Homestead. Informant reports possible historic burial in area.

**Condition:** No standing structures. One or more structures appear to have been burned, pushed into a pile, and covered with sand. Some archaeological deposits may be intact.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Historic documentation and research needs to be done prior to a determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

CR768 - Old Shack

**Type of Site:** Building remains. Historic homestead.

**Culture Periods Represented:** Late 19th and 20th century.

**Artifacts (summary):** One standing structure and the remnants of at least one other structure. Artifacts include bottle and window glass, stoneware, and modern trash.

**Probable Site Function:** Possible homestead.

**Condition:** The standing structure shows evidence of recent modification (i.e. electricity, tin roof over shake shingles, aluminum windows). Wooden posts and in-place hand-hewn beams are all that is left of the second structure. Archaeological deposits are likely intact.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Further documentation and research should be conducted prior to a determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

CR769 - Munlin Creek

**Type of Site:** Historic homestead.

**Culture Periods Represented:** 20th century.

**Artifacts (summary):** Wooden posts and notched beams from a structure can be found at the site. Tin roofing, screening, and stoneware are scattered on the surface.

**Probable Site Function:** Homestead, hunt camp.

**Condition:** Building has been burned, but archaeological deposits may be intact.

**Eligible for Nomination to the National Register?**

**(Significance):** Further documentation and research should be conducted prior to a determination of National Register eligibility.

**Management Recommendations:** Avoid disturbance. Contact the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources if impact is anticipated.

### **Prehistoric Settlement Patterns in Rookery Bay**

Archaeological and historical sites in Rookery Bay tend to be located in limited upland areas marked by fine sands in locations of former dunes and beach ridges. This pattern probably holds for much of Florida's southwest coast, and is locally seen on Marco Island and Horrs Island. These upland sand isolates are for the most part surrounded or adjacent to mangrove mucks of the Durbin and Wulfert type. The dating of specific dune ridges or old beach formations has not been worked out in detail for the Rookery area but for the most part it can be said that suitable upland areas would have been available for the earliest prehistoric settlement of the area. It also seems likely (but unconfirmed) that much of the barrier beach from Keywadin Island south through Little Marco has accreted in relatively recent times and may postdate the terminal aboriginal presence in the Bay.

Specific locations of the larger sites seem to be related to areas of quiet water on small bays where creeks or passes facilitated both access to the Gulf and passage through the estuary. This is seen at the destroyed McIlvane Key site, at Shell Point, and at Gordon Pass. Other sites such as the Shell Bay mounds (CR549) and Johns Pass Hammock (CR578) may have been located adjacent to creeks or passes, although recent changes resulting from dredging of the Intracoastal Water Way may have altered the direction of the previous current flow.

In terms of settlement types, as discussed by Widmer (1988) and Griffin (1988:259-61), Shell Island probably was a small nucleated village, Shell Bay a small village or hamlet, with the rest of the sites, including Johns Pass, considered as small fishing hamlets or collecting stations. These designations must be considered tentative at this time, as reliable surface measurements (on the basis of which the types are designated) have not been ascertained for all sites. However, the overall picture is of a relatively large nucleated settlement at Shell Island with at least one smaller subsidiary village or hamlet at Shell Bay and smaller resource procurement sites located throughout the estuary. Shell Island must be considered the key settlement

in the area, as it far surpasses in size the sites at Shell Bay and Gordon Pass (the latter estimated to be about 1.5 ha or less than 4 acres in size based on Goggin's description). Unfortunately a size estimate for McIlvane Key is not possible. Looking at the broader picture, we can surmise that the key site in the vicinity was Goodland Point (CR45) on the eastern tip of Marco, with an estimated surface area of 30 ha or about 74 acres. This is much larger than Shell Island, covering in its present form an estimated 5.25 ha or about 13 acres.

In light of the previous discussion an open question remains as to whether or not Rookery Bay was a discrete settlement area, that is, comprised a distinct territory in the social or cultural sense. Given the large size of the Goodland site relative to known cultural deposits in Rookery Bay, it seems certainly feasible that the Rookery sites were acutally part of a larger settlement system that included Goodland as its hub. Whether or not Goodland was geographically central in the hub is not known, but if so, the southern portion of its territory may have extended to Faka Union Bay or Fakahatchee Bay, beyond which sites would have been organized around the Chokoloskee hub. In any event, with reference to Rookery Bay, a site hierarchy is present, but Goodland, the largest site in the vicinity, is located about 7 miles south of the Reserve boundaries. If the Rookery sites can be grouped with Goodland into the same settlement system, then all site types from large nucleated villages to small collecting stations are archaeologically represented in the section of coast from Goodland north through Marco to Gordon Pass.

The settlement pattern also may have extended inland to include the black dirt middens of the Fakahatchee Strand and the Big Cypress, perhaps occupied by small groups on a seasonal basis to exploit abundantly available aquatic species. Our present knowledge of the material culture in coastal versus interior areas suggests basic similarities, and the presence of marine species such as sea turtle and snook in the interior middens indicates that by some means interior human populations and coastal species were introduced to one another. The mechanism driving coastal populations inland, if one existed, has not been conclusively identified, although the wet season-dry season cycle is one obvious possibility.

The largest burial mounds in the area were found on Horrs Island south of Marco. The famous Blue Hill mound at the east end of the island was 35 feet in diameter, 7 feet tall, and contained Surfside Incised, plain pottery, and European glass beads as burial objects (Stirling 1931). Nearby at Goodland Point (CR46) an undetermined number of secondary burials were unearthed from a series of low mounds or ridges (Moore 1900:372; Goggin n.d.:245). Other than the curious

situation described previously at Sand Hill, no burial mounds or other locations of intentional burial are known within the boundary of RBNERR. The sand burial mound (CR227 or CR57) on the low sand ridge just east of the reserve boundary and its importance regarding contact-period populations in the area has been previously discussed. No burial mounds or discrete burial components are known to be associated with the Shell Island, Shell Bay, or Johns Pass sites, leaving open the possibility that such features will be discovered in future work in those areas.

Recent archaeological surveys of Collier County done for planning purposes consider the marine zone in which Rookery Bay occurs to be a high probability location for archaeological sites (Dickel 1992; ACI 1992). A comparison of archaeological site densities between Rookery Bay and surveyed inland tracts suggests densities perhaps not significantly different: In Rookery Bay we can expect one site per 1,675 acres, in the Save Our Everglades-Fakahatchee Strand projects (including the Fakahatchee and Picayune strands) about one site per 1,738 acres, and in the Big Cypress one site per 1500 acres. However, in terms of site volume or site area, the coastal middens undoubtedly account for most of the archaeological deposits in Collier County, as was the case in Everglades National Park (Griffin 1988:178-79).

#### **Historical Overview of Rookery Bay**

The exact timing and circumstances of the aboriginal demise in Rookery Bay are not known, as the existing documents and the archaeological record are insufficiently precise other than to indicate some occupation in the area following the time of European contact in the sixteenth century. How far into the historic period the aboriginal presence lasted is a question to be answered, perhaps, by further archaeology. The Seminole Indians, known to have been active in the general vicinity from the 1850s through recent years, particularly in the Fakahatchee and Big Cypress areas, are not in evidence in Rookery Bay either from documentary sources or archaeology.

Likewise, the settlement of the area by the early white pioneers is not well documented. Oral histories preserved in newspaper interviews and notes in the Copeland papers, in the collections of the Collier County Museum and Archives, provide the most accessible sources of information about this period. By the 1890s several families are known to have settled plots along Henderson Creek or in the vicinity, including Victor McIlvane and his wife who settled on a shell mound which later bore their name. The Copeland notes tell us that Henderson Creek was mapped as the Malco Hatchee or Malco River in 1856 and 1857 and may have received its present name after a government surveyor named Henderson



recorded the area in the 1870s. By the 1880s the name Rookery Bay appears, and we know from the Durnford account of 1895 that the large rookery was even then a notable landmark.

Following the death of Mrs. McIlvane and the abandonment of the mound homestead by Mr. McIlvane, the shell mound was inhabited by the Carrolls, who had moved to Henderson Creek from the Bartow-Fort Meade area in 1896. In 1898, their son Ernie Carroll was born on McIlvane Island, although one source placed his birth as late as 1907 (Martin 1980). Over his lifetime Ernie Carroll amassed a great deal of information about the Rookery Bay area, some of which, fortunately, he passed on to his son J.E. "Ernie" Carroll.

It is from Mr. J.E. Carroll that we learn something of the existence of what was called "The Little Marco settlement" by the first decade of the twentieth century. C.B. Moore also referred specifically to the Little Marco settlement during his excursions among the Ten Thousand Islands in 1907 but mentions only a Little Marco Island in his 1900 account, thereby adding independent evidence for the founding dates of the settlement between 1900-1907. The Little Marco settlement was not a nucleated village but rather a dispersed but associated group of homesteads from Cannon Island on the south through Henderson Creek and Rookery Bay proper on the north. By 1907 the Little Marco settlement consisted of a house on the east side of Little Marco Island near its northern tip (site CR768), a house on nearby Munlin Island (site CR769), three houses on Hall Bay (CR716,) a schoolhouse at Shell Island, and the nearby Jones Place (historic components associated with CR55 at Shell Island). A map and description of the Cannon Island area and the Little Marco settlement written by J.E. Carroll is provided here as Appendix B. Mr. Carroll also related that the settlements of Johnson Island (CR51) and the Sam Williams point area (CR52) on the southeast margin of Johnson Bay (now bordered on the south by the Isles of Capri development) were considered part of the Marco Island sphere of influence and not part of the Little Marco settlement. Several homesteads to the north of the Little Marco area also were not considered part of its sphere, including the Bartell Place (CR767) on the east side of Bartell Bay where the remains of the hermit Bartell are said to be buried in an unmarked grave.

In 1891, A.R. Kirkland and family also settled in the Henderson Creek-Shell Island area (Martin 1980) and had at least one homestead (CR728) located well up Henderson Creek near present-day Belle Meade. The Kirkland cemetery at Shell Island (CR754) contains the grave of George Washington Kirkland, born July 10, 1882 and deceased February 18, 1901, presumed to be of the original Kirkland family. Other Kirklands in the cemetery include Harrison B. (b. July

10,1882, d. Feb. 18, 1901), Chester Arthur (b. Jan. 18, 1889, d. Nov. 20, 1982), Daniel (b. 1884, d. 1964), and Vera Mae (b. 1897, d. 1965).

Subsistence for the Rookery Bay pioneers seems to have relied on a mixed economy of fishing and farming, with the latter consisting of small plots of watermelons, potatoes, citrus, and other fruits and vegetables. Papayas, mangos, and avocados were planted by later settlers. The intent was to grow market crops for export, which was done both by water and overland transport primarily to Naples and Fort Myers. The interest in farming, however limited in actual importance, is seen throughout the Ten Thousand Islands in the pioneer era, and sets this area apart from the barrier island pioneers of the Charlotte Harbor vicinity where commercial fishing was the dominant legal economic activity. Inasmuch as the Charlotte Harbor settlers were largely of Spanish or Cuban ancestry and the Rookery Bay pioneers largely Anglo-American lacking a maritime tradition, the economic differences between the two coastal areas probably reflect cultural differences of some time depth with origins beyond the southwest Florida coast. This is not to say that fishing did not achieve some importance in Rookery Bay, at least in the lives of certain individuals. John Archie "Barefoot" Williams, after whom Barefoot Williams Road is named, achieved some degree of local notoriety for his fish camp and oyster market located on Henderson Creek. Others in the area took up netting mullet.

Schooling for the children of the Rookery Bay pioneers took place "wherever there were most kids, that's where school was," in the words of Ernie Carroll (as reported by Jackie Callero, *Naples Star*, July 22, 1971). Forrest Walker, a prominent Naples developer and community leader, completed seventh grade at a school on Henderson Creek, possibly the same location Ernie Carroll recalled rowing to in a home-built boat. J.E. Carroll, Ernie's son, places an "old school" on property north of Henderson Creek just west of route 951 near the radio tower, although his surface searches of the area produced no physical remains of the structure. Another school once may have been located at the Williams Place (CR52).

Archaeologically the pioneer settlements are evidenced by the remains of dock pilings (often barely perceptible), cleared areas or areas invaded by exotic plant species (especially *Sansevieria* or mother-in-law tongue) on old dune ridges, round wooden posts or hewn logs marking the foundations of former structures, depressions and occasionally cisterns (as at CR728), and scattered surface debris including glass bottles, crockery, ironstone and whiteware ceramics, iron cans and other rusted objects, rusted sheets of tin and remnants of galvanized roofing material, and other household objects. Carvings in a tree

on Johnson Island (see site form for CR51) may mark individual property boundaries. A basic construction pattern seems to have been notched wooden joists supported by buried circular posts made from palm logs. Later structures may have used board and batten construction, such as the eastern building at CR768. In many cases there seems to have been later, even modern, reuse of the pioneer locations for hunting and fishing camps. One point for further archaeological research would be to try to determine more precisely the construction techniques and appearance of the first pioneer houses, as a point of comparison with the palmetto-thatched shacks of the Charlotte Harbor fisherfolk.

### **Important Research Questions**

Future archaeological research can be framed around important questions concerning both the prehistoric and historic period occupations of Rookery Bay. As was just indicated, historical archaeology can be productively directed toward better defining the characteristics of early pioneer settlement in the area which began toward the end of the nineteenth century. Changing settlement patterns and the variable economic importance of farming versus fishing can be addressed through the study of material culture. A detailed study of artifacts present at any one individual site (preferably one that can be confidently dated) may yield insights into family-level participation in the larger consumer society. Comparisons can be made with other pioneer communities of the southwest coast, particularly those of the Charlotte Harbor area, and thus greater understandings may be reached concerning the full spectrum of early modern cultural adaptations to coastal environments.

In the realm of prehistoric archaeology, a number of questions are worthy of further investigation. Good stratigraphic testing with controlled collection of ceramics and samples for radiocarbon dating would go a long way towards resolving basic questions of chronology. Such testing would also result in a better picture of the cultural placement of Rookery Bay within the Ten Thousand Islands archaeological area. Significant research may also be directed toward understanding the dynamic relationship between human cultures and the coastal environment through time.

The potential applications of environmental archaeology to the study of Rookery Bay prehistory are many. The effects of changing sea levels on settlement patterns and subsistence strategies has been studied with positive results in the Charlotte Harbor area (Walker 1992; Walker et al. 1994) and the Everglades (Griffin 1988) and certainly merits attention in Rookery Bay, particularly as regards the

formation of passes to the Gulf and the closing of such passes by active beach deposition. Likewise, the biological productivity of the mangrove ecosystem as a catalyst for cultural evolution has been evaluated for the Calusa heartland area of Charlotte Harbor (Widmer 1988) and a similar model can be proposed and tested for Rookery Bay. Standing profiles of dredge cuts in the deposits at Shell Island (CR55 [particularly of the portion Dickel labelled CR714]) and the Shell Bay mounds (CR549) might be cleaned, sampled, and mapped as an excellent first step in a program of environmental archaeological research. Mapping and stratigraphic testing at a third site, CR578, would also be a valuable component of this first-phase research because the black dirt midden at this site might show a somewhat different picture of development than the larger shell mound complexes at Shell Bay and Shell Island.

#### **Management Concerns**

Management concerns can be discussed in the following three categories: (1) measures to protect and preserve the resource, (2) activities that will enhance or advance future archaeological research in RBNERR, and (3) public interpretation of prehistoric and historic period settlement in the Reserve.

Active vandalism and unauthorized excavation of designated archaeological sites do not appear to be problems at present within Reserve boundaries, thus, fortunately (and unlike most of the state lands in southwest Florida), there are no crises requiring immediate law enforcement attention or measures like increased patrols, surveillance, posting with warning signs, or fencing. In general, when compared to other state lands in southwest Florida, especially in the Charlotte Harbor and Estero Bay areas, the existing level of endangerment to archaeological sites in Rookery Bay is considered to be low.

However, this is not to say that serious negative impacts have not occurred to the resource in the past and that future management activities can proceed without regard for their effect on resource integrity. The previous disturbances due to shell mining at Shell Island and Shell Bay have been discussed. In particular, what is left of the large Shell Island site is in a high-use area of the Reserve and may potentially be impacted by future management activities. Although much of the site area is at present within the boundaries of property owned and managed by The Conservancy, it is possible that intact site components are present on adjacent state-owned lands. The Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation (Laura Kammerer, 904-487-2333) should be consulted prior to any ground-disturbing activities in the vicinity of the Shell Island archaeological site.

Public interpretation of the prehistoric and historical resources in the RBNERR is encouraged. Interpretive signs at the boat launch could outline the prehistory of the area, describe the types of archaeological sites present, illustrate representative artifacts, and discuss the relationship between human cultures and the natural environment in Rookery Bay. This information could also be presented in an accompanying brochure, which would also contain reference to the Florida statutes prohibiting the removal of artifacts and disturbance to archaeological sites on state lands.

A second aspect of the public interpretation could involve the development of the "Rookery Bay Pioneer Trail," a self-guided boat tour of historical sites in the Reserve. The overall intent here is for the visitor to get a feel for the setting in which the early pioneer settlement took place. The selection of specific sites for the tour would be done in conjunction with management staff to ensure that environmental impacts associated with this tourist activity would be negligible or minimal. A brochure would contain a map showing the location of designated tour sites and a summary of historic settlement in the area. Community education funds potentially may be applied for to support both of the interpretive activities described above by contacting Fred Gaske, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation, 904-487-2333.

#### **Summary of Significance**

Three prehistoric archaeological sites are considered potentially eligible for nomination to the *National Register of Historic Places* based on information currently available. These are CR578 (Johns Pass Hammock), CR549 (the Shell Bay complex), and CR55 (Shell Island, which includes CR714 and CR715). Additional stratigraphic testing, profile mapping, and mapping of site contours and boundaries at all sites will have to be accomplished to support a formal nomination proposal.

The significance of the historical sites is more difficult to evaluate. Factors contributing to this difficulty include the short-term occupation which typifies the sites, relatively high degree of existing disturbance in most cases, and the questionable or undemonstrated potential of the remains to substantially increase our knowledge of the pioneer settlement of the Little Marco and Henderson Creek areas. On the other hand, one might wonder if better-preserved archaeological remains of the pioneer period exist elsewhere in southwest Florida coast. This question cannot be answered definitively at this time, but it must be acknowledged, from a broader perspective, that a number of areas in the Ten Thousand Islands have their own stories to



tell. Here, Chokoloskee and the vicinity of Fakahatchee Bay come readily to mind. Nevertheless, three historic sites in Rookery Bay can be considered to be locally significant. These sites are CR51 (Johnson Place), CR728 (formerly known as the Junk Pile site, renamed the Kirkland site), and CR768 (Old Shack site). Possible wells are present at CR51 and CR768, and a cistern is present at CR728. All three sites have architectural elements remaining with some degree of integrity and may contain evidence of functionally distinct occupation or use areas. All contain artifacts in sufficient quantity and variety to yield new interpretations of pioneer life in Rookery Bay.

Serious consideration should be given to the future project of developing a district nomination for the Rookery Bay Archaeological and Historical District, to include the six sites discussed above.

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#### **Locations of Other Source Materials**

Interview Conducted with Mr. J.E. Carroll and Mr. Lonnie Martin, April 11, 1994, by Brent R. Weisman. Video copies on file, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Naples, and Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research, Tallahassee.

APPENDIX B

J. E. CARROLL LETTER AND MAP

CANNON ISLAND AREA

3-14-84

Mr. Bill Vines

Dear Bill:

After our discussion regarding the history of Cannon Island and the surrounding area I talked to my father about that to see what additional light he could throw on the subject. Dad was born on McIlvane Island in 1898 and says that his family lived on just about every one of the islands in the vicinity.

The concept of a "Little Marco Settlement" was totally familiar to him. His description was fairly close to what you and I surmised. He said that the Little Marco Settlement encompassed the families living on Little Marco Island, Munlun Island, Cannon Island, Hall Bay and Henderson Creek Bay.

In 1906 or 1907 this would consist of the house located on the east side of Little Marco Island, a short distance south of the north point (1). (These numbers will refer to locations on a map with this letter.) This house is still in existence and Dad says that it is the "oldest house in Collier County". It may or may not be the oldest house but it has certainly been in existence for a long, long time.

The next house was located almost directly across the channel to the northeast and was on Munlun Island (2). Dad says this house was bigger than the house on Little Marco Island.

There were three houses on Hall Bay. The first was the Hall place with a house built by Isiah Hall (3). This is located on what is now called Shell Island and would be in the stand of old mango trees to the south of the boat launching ramp. The Carrolls lived there in 1907 and at that time the property was allegedly owned by Walter Collier. My grandfather entered into a agreement to deed for the entire Shell Island with Walter Collier for \$400 or \$500 and wasn't able to keep up the payments.

The schoolhouse for the area at that time was located near the Hall place on Shell Island. The building was very close to where the elevated water tank now is located on Shell Island. Apparently this was a frame building with one room with dimensions of approximately 12' x 12'.

The next house was the Walter Collier place which was located on Hall Bay and was the farthest to the west or southwest on the Bay (4).

There was a third house near the center of Hall Bay between the Hall place and the Walter Collier place (5). This was occupied from time to time but Dad doesn't connect it with any family in particular.



The one other place that was in the <sup>AREA</sup> ~~SEAS~~ of influence referred to as the Little Marco Settlement would have been the Jones place (6) which was occupied by the George Jones family at the time we are discussing. This was located at what is now the site of the Conservancy Lab at Shell Island.

The next bit of high land up Henderson Creek Bay on the east side was referred to as the Bolger place (7) and next beyond that was Bear Hammock, which we now own (8), and this was owned by a man named Disbrow at that time.

What is now called Cannon Island was then referred to as the "Jack Collier place". Jack Collier built a place on the west side of Cannon Island (9) about opposite where Hurricane Pass first blew through Little Marco Island. At the time we are discussing, or very shortly thereafter, a man named John Weeks ("Shorty John" - no kin to the local Weeks family) lived in the Jack Collier house. Dad remembers going there as a boy and climbing the big mulberry tree to eat the mulberries.

Some time later Roy Cannon bought the second tract (this was one of the tracts of the Hammill-Crayton Subdivision which was platted in 1923) to the north of the Jack Collier house. However, Roy Cannon never built a house or lived there.

Roy Cannon was the oldest son of Jim Cannon. Roy had two brothers, Dana and Jack (or Ren). Jack was the youngest brother and was a commercial fisherman and guide here in Naples who I knew for many years.

Another man, whose name Dad can't remember, bought the tract (Hammill-Crayton) lying between the Roy Cannon purchase and the Jack Collier house. About 1916 he assembled a pre-fabricated house on the tract and built a dock. Both the house and the dock were still standing in the early 1940's. I remember seeing it before and after the hurricane that created Hurricane Pass.

Dad says there was a landing on the Calhoun Channel side of Cannon Island just about opposite the Jack Collier place. There was a man-made clearing just inshore from that landing several acres in area. Dad says it has occurred to him that maybe <sup>CALLED</sup> Calhoun was the guy who made the clearing. However, he didn't know or know of anyone Calhoun being connected with anything down there. Apparently it wasn't a name that was discussed at that time although the waterway was known as Calhoun Channel at that time.

Dad says he doesn't know how the name "Cannon Island" got started. He thinks perhaps it originated on Marco and I will not repeat his comment regarding its validity. He says that in 1906 or 1907 the island apparently had no specific name in common usage among the people he was associated with. They simply referred to it as the "Jack Collier place". To expand this a bit more, as Dad did, I'll comment on three other homesites. Sam Williams (10) and Bob Everett (11) lived on the high land lying immediately north of what is now Isles of Capri and fronting on what is now called the easterly reach of Johnson Bay. Dad thinks this should really be called Williams Bay. These two homesites were within the influence of Marco and weren't considered a part of the Little Marco Settlement.

Johnson Island was the location of the Johnson place. Chris Johnson lived on the east side of Johnson Island fronting on Johnson Bay. This location was also within the influence of Marco. Dad says Chris Johnson was one of the first people to have a gasoline engine in his boat in this area. In addition to the Johnson homesite (12) Johnson cleared and farmed several acres along the east side of Calhoun Channel and raised watermelons. Dad remembers that he had a number of landing sites along the Channel so that he wouldn't have to carry the melons so far to put them in a boat.

One of the points that interested me was that apparently Jack Collier and the fellow who built the pre-fab house (whatever his name was) were the only two people, with the possible exception of Calhoun, who ever actually lived on the island. This was a bit surprising considering the amount of high land and the number of places where it was accessible by water. However, I questioned Dad in this respect several times and he repeatedly said, that to the best of his knowledge, no one else had ever lived on the island.

2  
BUILD  
HOUSES

Hopefully, this will be of some assistance to you. If there is anything further I can do, let me know.

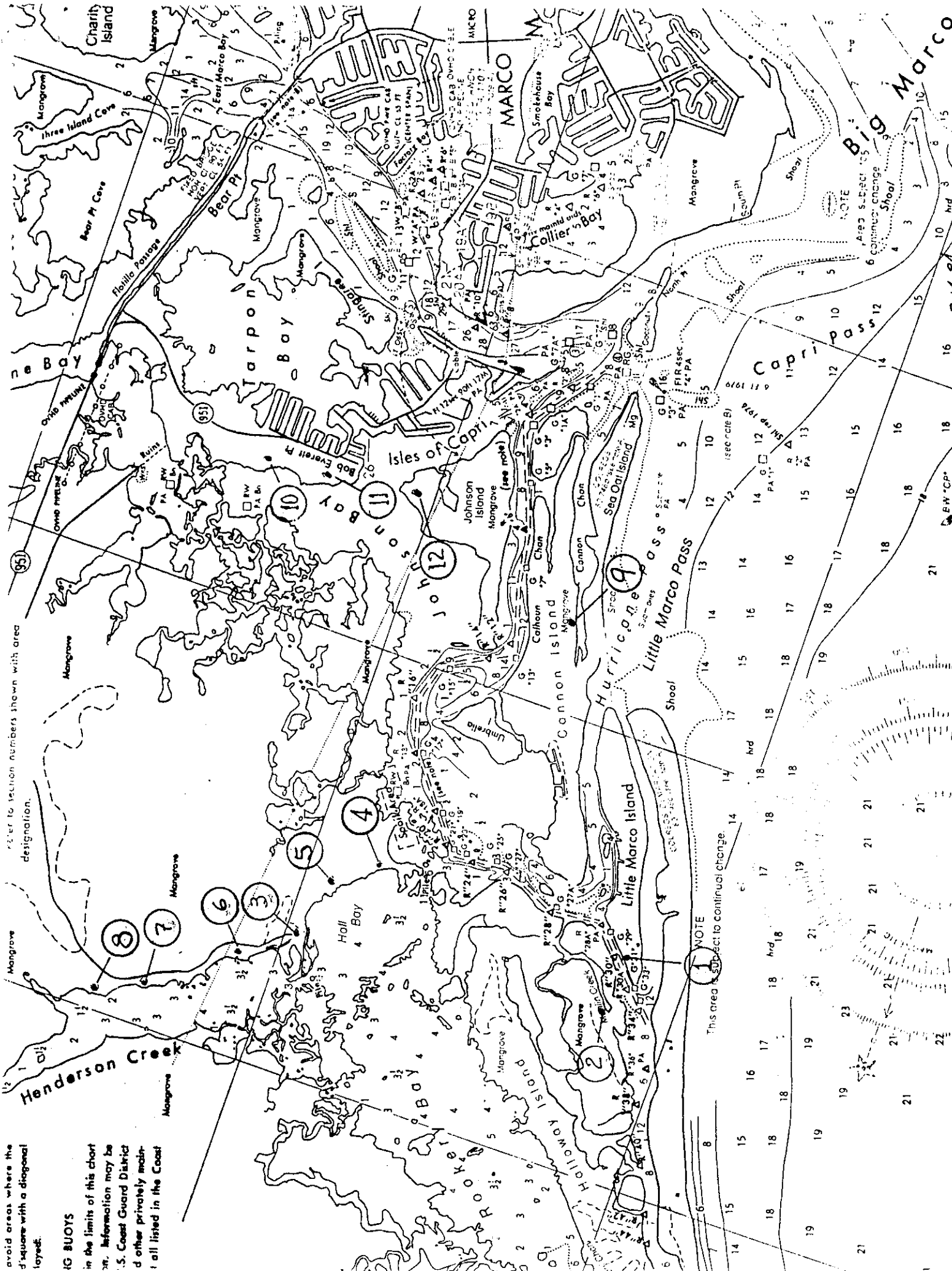
Sincerely,



avoid areas where the  
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**IC BUOYS**  
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**NOTE**  
 This area is subject to continual change.

**NOTE**  
 Area subject to  
 continual change  
 Shoal

3-14-84

BW "CP"  
 Mo (A)

March 22, 1984

CANNON ISLAND AREA

Mr. William Vines

Dear Bill:

As we discussed, I have talked to Preston Sawyer about the history of Cannon Island as he remembers it.

His immediate reaction was that it should have been named, or was first named, Jack Collier Island. Jack Collier lived there sometime before 1900.

Sometime subsequent to that the Hammill-Crayton subdivision was created on the island and Roy Cannon bought one of the tracts that stretched completely across the island. This tract, according to Preston, took in the place where the Jack Collier house stood. Roy lived there for some time and farmed several acres raising a variety of vegetables.

Sometime after that a man named Leonard Couch bought the property from Cannon, rebuilt the old Jack Collier house and lived there for some time.

According to Preston, it was this rebuilt Jack Collier house, sitting in the center of a rather large cleared area with several coconut palms along the water's edge and a dock reaching out to the west, that was in existence in the early 1940's and that I saw on numerous occasions.

According to Preston Sawyer that was the only house ever to exist on Cannon Island, that is, the house built by Jack Collier, repaired by Roy Cannon and again repaired by Leonard Couch.

Interestingly enough, Preston Sawyer went on and explained that the houses at Little Marco, Cannon Island, Hall Bay and Henderson Creek were collectively referred to as "Little Marco".

Preston says he doesn't know where Calhoun may have lived as Calhoun was before his time.

He also said that he did not know any name for the waterway lying on the west side of Cannon Island but that Calhoun Channel did lie on the east side between Cannon Island and Johnson Island.

He also remarked about the old house on the east side of Little Marco Island near the north point. Preston says that it is "probably the oldest house in Collier County" and that hundreds of people have lived there from time to time.

Mr. William Vines

Page 2 of 2

He also commented about the origin of the name of "Tarheel Cove" that was located near the south end of Little Marco Island and is basically where Capri Pass is today. Preston said that people from North Carolina came and camped there and fished for extended periods and that people from Marco didn't really like this encroachment so that took their guns and ran the North Carolinians off.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Vines". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".