

City of Miami Cemetery  
Marker and Monument Condition Survey Report  
Conducted Winter/Spring 2020

---



*Prepared for*  
**Dade Heritage Trust, Inc.**  
**Florida Department of State**  
Division of Historical Resources

*Prepared by*  
**RLA Conservation, Inc.**  
Conservation of Art + Architecture  
852 NW 71<sup>st</sup> Street  
Miami, FL 33150

*This project is sponsored in part by the Department of State  
Division of Historical Resources  
State of Florida*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
INTRODUCTION .....	3
METHODOLOGY.....	4
<b>2. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
MARKERS .....	8
MAUSOLEUMS .....	9
TOMBS.....	10
VETERANS MARKERS .....	10
OTHER BUILDINGS .....	11
SIGNAGE.....	11
<b>3. MAPPING .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4. SURVEY SYSTEM.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5. RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>14</b>
HOW TO USE THIS SURVEY: .....	14
TREATMENT PRIORITIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS: .....	14
MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS:.....	15
NEXT STEPS/FUTURE PROJECTS:.....	16
<b>6. CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>7. APPENDICES* .....</b>	<b>18</b>
a. SITE MAP	
b. SURVEY CODEBOOK (SHORT FORM)	
c. SURVEY CODEBOOK (LONG FORM)	
d. SURVEY FORMS	
i. MAUSOLEUM FORMS	
ii. TOMB FORMS	
iii. GRAVE MARKER LONG FORMS	
iv. GRAVE MARKER SHORT FORMS	
e. PHOTOGRAPHS	

\* ON AN EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE AS PART OF FINAL REPORT

# 1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

## INTRODUCTION

With its first recorded burial in 1897, the City of Miami Cemetery is one of the city's oldest landmarks. After William and Mary Brickell sold the ten acres of land to the City of Miami, the cemetery was laid out and divided into plots.<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that more than 8,000 people have been buried in the cemetery. Though originally pineland, a planting of a vast variety of trees and plants soon took place. By the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century the cemetery had become a subtropical oasis with lush plants and trees. Today, the cemetery's park-like setting provides a welcoming refuge from the commercial activity in this area of Miami.

The cemetery is located north of Downtown Miami and southeast of the entertainment district of Wynwood. It is also northeast of the Overtown, the second oldest continually inhabited neighborhood in Miami that was the historic center for commerce for the black community in South Florida.

The City of Miami Cemetery is comprised of a ten-acre tract of land and is divided into eight sections. The cemetery is enclosed by a masonry wall and iron fence approximately 8' high. There are two entrances to the cemetery located on the east and west boundaries. Both of these entrances have iron gates. The words "City of Miami Cemetery" appear above on the NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue entrance. A road bisects the cemetery north and south with two traffic circles on the eastern half. The easternmost circle contains the graves of the Julia Tuttle, the "mother of Miami, and her family. The second circle located near the center of the cemetery is maintained by the Daughters of the Confederacy and contains markers that are frequently vandalized.

The cemetery technically remains in active use, but burials are far and few between. Grave plots are still available and are owned by descendants of the original lot owners. Cemetery visitors range from tourists, nearby residents, and those visiting deceased family members. While the cemetery road is considered public property, individual family plots and graves are private property. This distinction is not noticeable on the ground and visitors are not prohibited from wandering through the different plots. There are volunteers who contribute their time to the research and preservation of many of the graves and those interred in the cemetery, particularly those who served in the military. Although these volunteers may have good intentions, overcleaning or improper treatment of markers/monuments can pose a threat to their longevity.

The City of Miami Cemetery is managed by the City of Miami Parks Department. Maintenance is provided through the Parks Department with a full-time caretaker and grounds crew.

The following report contains the results of a site survey and condition assessment of the grave markers and monuments located at the City of Miami Cemetery, 1800 NE 2<sup>nd</sup>

Avenue. This survey was conducted from January—May 2020 for the Dade Heritage Trust. The scope of this project included onsite surveying and the completion of condition assessments for over 2,700 grave markers, monuments, and mausoleums. The purpose of this survey is to establish a baseline for treatment and maintenance by collecting data on the condition and integrity of each marker/monument.



There is one public two-way road that bisects the City of Miami Cemetery. There are two traffic circles that include grave markers and monuments.



The City of Miami Cemetery contains a variety of grave markers and monuments amongst trees and vegetation that create a park-like setting.

## METHODOLOGY

This condition survey of the City of Miami Cemetery documents grave markers and monuments in addition to providing a priority rating for each marker based off of a condition assessment. This rating can be used to identify and treat the elements that are in the greatest risk and should be prioritized for receiving treatment. This is further detailed in “Section 5: Recommendations”.

Assistant Conservator Caroline Dickensheets and Assistant Conservator Kristen Munchheimer carried out the survey with onsite assistance from RLA technicians, Dade Heritage Trust employees, and trained volunteers. Principal Conservator Kelly Ciociola reviewed this report and approved the recommendations for this cemetery.

Surveying began with the assignment of a Unique ID, and mapping of each grave marker/monument. This process is described in further detail in “Section 3: Mapping”. Once each marker/monument was accounted for, surveying could begin. Surveying training sessions allowed for RLA technicians, Dade Heritage Trust employees, and trained volunteers to learn both the terminology and methodology for documenting and surveying markers.

The goal in surveying was two-fold: documenting each grave marker/monument and assessing their current physical condition. Documentation included recording of names, birth dates, death dates, and any inscriptions. Physical characteristics about the marker such as monument type, material, measurements, and orientation were also recorded.

Condition assessments of each marker/monument included assigning an overall rating for both condition and integrity on a scale of 0-3. Condition levels and their descriptions are as follows:

<b>CONDITION LEVEL</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>0</b>	Extremely poor condition. This marker is in an extremely deteriorated condition with structural failures. Possible public safety hazard.
<b>1</b>	Poor condition. There is a threat to the structural stability and/or the marker as a whole. Structural cracks, fragmentation, losses, and/or displacement present.
<b>2</b>	Fair condition. Marker is structurally stable and does not require immediate intervention. Moderate deterioration is present such as mower abrasion, hairline cracks, minor chips.
<b>3</b>	Excellent condition. Only minor staining or microbiological growth present.

The integrity of a marker was also determined. A marker/monuments level of integrity refers to the amount of original material present. A sculpture can be in good condition but have a low level of integrity if it is missing certain elements or shows signs of alteration.

INTEGRITY LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
0	Total loss of integrity. Little if any original material remains and/or an overwhelming presence of inappropriate replacement materials or alterations.
1	Low integrity. 25% - 75% of original materials remain and/or a significant presence of inappropriate replacement materials or alterations.
2	Moderate integrity. Majority of original materials remain and/or a minimal presence of tolerable replacement materials or alterations.
3	High integrity. All original materials remain, no noticeable replacement materials or alterations.

An RLA conservator was present at all times on site to project manage and answer surveyor questions. This process is described in further detail in "Section 4: Survey System."

As specified in the proposal, digital photographs were taken for each marker/monument in the cemetery. These photos illustrate this report and provide a full photographic conservation record of the cemetery markers as of Spring 2020. Photographs from the survey are included as part of an electronic copy of a full range of images on an external drive that will be submitted to the DHT. The images are organized by Unique ID with a folder corresponding to each identified marker/monument.

In addition to photographs, the external hard drive includes the following documents: a site map, survey codebooks, and all survey forms.

## 2. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The care of the City of Miami Cemetery requires a proactive policy to make sure the markers and grounds are maintained for future generations. The following are general observations pertaining to overall conditions that were noted during the survey:

- Though many of the grave markers/monuments require maintenance and conservation, none were found to pose a significant public safety hazard at this

time. However, a few (less than 5%) of the smaller grave markers were loose and pose a slight safety hazard.

- A total of approximately 2,700 markers were identified through this survey. In addition to the 1,400 veteran markers located on the north and south boundaries of the cemetery, there are a total of approximately 4,100 markers total in the cemetery. This is different from the total number of interred for three presently identifiable reasons: A) It is often the case that there are multiple people interred for one marker B) There may be buried markers that were not identified during this survey and C) There are numerous people interred with no marker to identify the burial location. The latter is especially true in the African American section of the cemetery where there is a significant amount of open space with no visible markers.
- All of the markers are located outdoors within one mile of the ocean. As a result, these markers are subject to saline conditions and high humidity that occur repeatedly over the course of a year. Their location within a semi-tropical environment also means that they are regularly exposed to fresh water that is slow to evaporate. Additionally, all of the markers are exposed to extremely high winds during hurricanes and tropical storms, which can cause damage due to impact with flying plant and building debris. This is particularly true to sections of the cemetery that are in close proximity to older trees.
- The effect of decades old vandalism remains visible throughout the cemetery. Many of the metal elements, specifically bronze, have been removed from the markers and monuments due to vandalism of past decades. In the case of mausoleums, plywood has been placed over several of the window and door openings.
- The grounds crew does an excellent job at maintaining the cemetery. They are able to respond quickly to fallen branches and provide security to the cemetery. They also allow for all instances of vandalism to be mitigated as soon as possible. This is beneficial as it discourages the public from continuing to vandalize the markers. There is generally little debris or trash found throughout the cemetery.
- The ground is particularly soft and unstable in the southeastern portion of the cemetery due to excessive moisture and inadequate drainage. This results in a sunken area of markers/monuments and can be dangerous to visitors as well as the markers.
- Although vegetation generally does not have a negative impact in the cemetery, there are certain location such as Jewish section where the roots of large trees have caused the collapse of markers or threaten their stability.



*Although vegetation generally does not have a negative impact in the cemetery, there are certain location such as Jewish section where the roots of large trees have caused the collapse of markers or threaten their stability.*



The ground in the southeastern portion of the cemetery was found to be soft and unstable. A surveyor's foot punched into the ground near a marker.

## MARKERS

- Markers are largely either granite, marble, or concrete. In addition, there are five (5) coral stone markers that were identified during the survey.
- The markers overall are in fair condition due to public interaction, exposure to high levels of atmospheric pollution, minor instance of corrosion, natural material deterioration, and the unintended consequence of landscaping mower abrasion.
- Public "abuse" in the form of vandalism was limited. In few instances, headstones appear to have been pushed off of their bases. Moderate to severe instances of graffiti are present. This was found mostly on the wall surfaces of the mausoleums and markers associated with the Confederate States Army.
- Markers from later dates (typically after 1950) tended to be made of granite, whereas older ones are carved from marble. The marble markers tend to be in poorer condition as a result of erosion over time.
- Some markers appear to be added at a date later than the date of death for the interred. This could be because the markers were replaced or were not marked until a later date. As a result, one should not assume that the "death date" inscribed on a marker corresponds to the date the marker was placed.



One of the five (5) coral stone (oolitic limestone) markers with a marble plaque. This marker was considered to be in fair condition, but 3 of the other markers require treatment.



A hand carved marker found in the African American section of the cemetery. There are less than 20 of these hand carved markers.

## MAUSOLEUMS

- Mausoleums are defined as a structure, accessed through a door/other entrance, for above ground interments. There are a total of 14 mausoleums situated in the cemetery.
- The mausoleums are in overall good condition with only one receiving a “poor” (Level 1) condition. Mausoleums generally had fair/good integrity. Reasons for lower scores of integrity include missing elements such as doors, hardware, and windows. These elements were likely stolen and have now been replaced with plywood or sealed with concrete.



*Overall image of the only mausoleum to score a "poor" condition rating. Structural cracks and vegetation put this structure at high risk of continued deterioration and intervention should be prioritized.*



*The Belcher mausoleum is that largest mausoleum in the cemetery and is in impeccable condition. It retains a majority, if not all, of its original elements.*

## TOMBS

- Tombs are defined as a sealed above ground structure with four walls and a roof. The interred may be above or below ground.
- There is a total of 14 tombs situated in the cemetery.
- Overall, the tombs were found to be in fair condition. Three (3) tombs scored a 1 for condition. Reasons for lower scores for condition include cracking (both structural and hairline). All tombs scored a 2-3 for integrity. Reasons for lower scores in integrity included missing elements such as plaques or panels.

## VETERANS MARKERS

- There are approximately the 1,400 veteran markers located on the north and south boundaries of the cemetery. In both locations, the markers are organized into two rows that run parallel. The markers on the north boundary are oriented to the south and the markers on the south boundary are oriented to the north.
- Nearly all of these markers are ground tablets and are made of either marble or granite.
- Approximately 90% of these markers are in good condition. Signs of deterioration include chipping, staining, microbiological growth, displacement (markers sinking into ground), and vegetation.

## OTHER BUILDINGS

- Located in the southeast area of the cemetery is a small, one story city building which contains an office and restrooms. Archival documents are housed in this building and the grounds crew typically occupy the space during the workday. The building is rectangular in plan with the center portion of the building open and supported by four columns. This Mediterranean Revival style building is covered with textured stucco and topped with a hipped roof that is covered in Spanish tiles.
- A small utilitarian shed is located west of the Jewish Section.

## SIGNAGE

- There is a painted metal historical marker adjacent to the city building that is in good condition. This marker identifies the City of Miami Cemetery as a “Florida Heritage Site” sponsored “by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Dade Heritage Trust, Commissioners Regalado, Winton and Teel, and the Florida Department of State”.

## 3. MAPPING

This survey included a site map indicating all identified markers within the cemetery. This map only includes general locations of the veterans grave markers rather than precise submeter locations. There were multiple options for creating a map of this cemetery. Initial options included drawing over aerial images or by taking drone photographs if such high-resolution images are not available. Due to the significant amount of foliage, it was not possible to locate grave markers through aerial images alone. As a result, surveying equipment was used to gather the precise location of all markers. These collected points were then able to be plotted in a geographic information system (GIS) software to allow for the creation of a digital map that stores data about each point; in this instance, the points hold the marker’s unique ID.

Prior to capturing the location of each grave marker, a unique numeric ID was assigned to each individual physical marker. A marker was defined by its physical ability to take up space. Therefore, a single marker could represent multiple interred people. Conversely, multiple markers could be representative of a single interred person. A common example of this was an additional C.S.A. marker that corresponded to primary gravestone element. In this instance, the C.S.A. marker was treated as an additional “element” to the primary element. A numeric ID was deemed necessary for identifying individual markers due to the large number of markers at the cemetery.

For markers that do not appear to be in their original location, the point was taken at the grave marker’s current location. For resetting fallen stones that do not appear to be in their

original location, additional research is necessary to determine their proper position and orientation.

To create a site map, a Leica GS07 GNSS RTK Rover Receiver and a Leica TS06 2" R1000 Total Station were used to collect accurate point locations of each grave marker that were collected on a Leica CS20 Data Collector.<sup>ii</sup> While typically a submeter GPS is sufficient to capturing point data, the amount of tree coverage required the additional use of a total station in order to capture accurate locations of the markers. All of the captured points were stored on the data collector and were later converted into a .csv file and a shapefile. The shapefile was imported into ArcMap, the main component of Esri (Environmental Systems Research Institute) ArcGIS suite of geospatial processing programs. This software is used to view, edit, create, and analyze geospatial data. All files related to the mapping of the cemetery are included on the included hard drive.

It should be remembered that this map only represents the location of known physical markers. Due to the size of the cemetery, it will take significant effort to identify locations of those interred without a corresponding grave marker. This can be accomplished through archival research, probing, and ground penetrating radar (GPR).

This GIS project was built on top of an aerial base map to provide context for geospatial data (i.e. the data points representing grave markers). Because tree foliage obscured most of these monuments, elements such as roadways, buildings, and cemetery sections were denoted to provide reference to the grave markers.



*Using the Leica Total Station and other equipment to collect accurate point locations for each grave marker/monument. This produced a data set with GPS coordinates of each marker that was included on every survey form.*



*Large open section in the African American section that likely has unmarked graves. This is one of many areas that should be further investigated through archival research, probing, and/or ground penetrating radar (GPR).*

## 4. SURVEY SYSTEM

Surveying is both one of the most used and most beneficial tools in the field of preservation. The data collected through this survey of the City of Miami Cemetery creates a primary source for future research. In creating this survey, it was critical that the format be able to be adapted for future use. As a result, it was determined that physical single sheet PDFs of the survey must be made as a primary mode of documentation. By having physical survey forms and digital records, this format can be modified for present and future use without the fear of the original documentation method becoming obsolete (i.e. collecting all data using a software that has to be continuously updated).

Once all markers were identified and given their unique numerical ID, surveys could be completed using this number as their primary identifier. For all markers/monuments the “Graver Marker Long Form” was used to document and record conditions. Surveyors completed these forms on site using iPads to record information. Technical difficulties included the ability to efficiently edit text within a PDF and ensuring the organization of which markers were surveyed. Once each survey was completed and confirmed by the conservator, its flag was removed.

“Mausoleum Survey Forms” and “Tomb Survey Forms” were completed only by conservators due to their more complex structural nature. Mausoleums were surveyed in a more qualitative manner to allow for accurate descriptions of conditions present. Tombs Survey Forms were a hybrid of the Grave Marker and Mausoleum survey forms. Because they act as a structure, it was necessary to provide more in-depth description of the tomb and its condition. However, this did not require as in depth a survey as the larger more complex mausoleums. Each was still assigned a condition and integrity level to determine their overall priority.

Site safety ultimately limited the ability affectively work at the cemetery. Upon the shelter in place order due to COVID-19, on site surveying was replaced by remote surveying. Photographs taken onsite served as the basis on which descriptions and condition assessments were performed. Because certain characteristics were unable to be ascertained through photographs (specific measurements, orientation, etc.) a simplified “Grave Marker Short Form” was created to accommodate for remote survey work.

In total, four forms used in the surveying of the City of Miami Cemetery:

1. Grave Marker Long Form – this form was used for grave makers surveyed on site. Each grave marker component (base, decorative element, etc.) is assessed and each condition is assigned a value from 0-3 depending on severity.
2. Grave Marker Short Form – this form was used for grave markers surveyed remotely and is a simplified version of the Grave Marker Long Form. Rather than assessing each element of a marker and assigning it a value for each condition, each visible condition is recorded.

3. Mausoleum Survey Form – this form was used for the 14 mausoleum structures surveyed onsite. For the purposes of this survey, a mausoleum is defined as an external free-standing building that encloses the interment space of burial chamber of a deceased person or multiple people. In addition to basic information about the structure, this survey has a written description and condition assessment.
4. Tomb Survey Form – this form was a combination of the grave marker form and the mausoleum form to allow for a slightly more in-depth condition assessment

Due to the incredibly large inventory of grave markers at the City of Miami Cemetery, numerous measures were taken to keep photos and survey forms organized. By assigning Unique IDs to each grave marker and including the flag in each set of photos, it is estimated that 99% of grave markers are accounted for and are attributed with the correct survey form. Possible errors include the mislabeling of photos and survey forms, but it is believed these errors account for less than 1% of those markers/monuments surveyed.

It is important to note that there are other possible grave markers that were not identified during this survey. These could be sunken, displaced, or mistaken as part of another grave marker. Regardless, this survey provides what it believed to be a complete or nearly complete account of all visible grave markers in the City of Miami Cemetery.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

### HOW TO USE THIS SURVEY:

- For treatment purposes, this survey can be used to prioritize markers that require treatment as funds become available.
- Each marker/monument is assigned an overall condition and integrity level. These scores should be used together to determine priority. This is further outlined below.
- Based off of recorded conditions, specific treatments steps can be made for each marker prior to conducting any on site work.

### TREATMENT PRIORITIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Mausoleums 0161, 0326, should take priority when receiving treatment as they have structural cracks that threaten their structural stability and increase the likelihood that material will be lost in the future as deterioration continues. Due to their large footprint and visibility, the conservation of all mausoleums should be prioritized.
- Tombs 0342, 0343, and 0493, should take priority when receiving treatment as they have structural cracks that threaten their structural stability and increase the likelihood that material will be lost in the future as deterioration continues.
- Grave markers that have high scores in integrity and low scores in condition should be prioritized. In doing so, this assures that the markers retaining the most amount of original material but are in the worst condition are treated. The following is a list of scores in order of priority:

<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>	CONDITION: 0, INTEGRITY: 3 CONDITION: 1, INTEGRITY: 3 CONDITION: 2, INTEGRITY: 3
<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>	CONDITION: 0, INTEGRITY: 2 CONDITION: 1, INTEGRITY: 2 CONDITION: 2, INTEGRITY: 2 CONDITION: 0, INTEGRITY: 1 CONDITION: 1, INTEGRITY: 1 CONDITION: 2, INTEGRITY: 1
<b>LOW PRIORITY</b>	CONDITION: 3, INTEGRITY: 3 CONDITION: 0, INTEGRITY: 0

- Other markers that should take priority include the five (5) coral stone markers and those with handwritten inscriptions as they are unique to this specific cemetery.

#### MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Serious damage can be done to grave markers/monuments by the use of improper cleaning methods. A conservator should be consulted prior to any cleaning to ensure the proper treatment. Although in many cases, effective work may be carried out by volunteers and regular maintenance staff, it is recommended that an on-site training program led by a conservation professional take place.
- Commercial pesticides should not be used around grave markers/monuments.
- Mower blade abrasion was commonly seen on grave markers. Due to the frequent landscaping maintenance, this is not surprising. In order to preserve markers, in particular the ones of soft material such as marble, special care should be taken by maintenance to avoid direct contact of the mower blades/weed whackers with the markers. If not already in use, rubber bumpers can be placed on mowers to help protect markers from damage. Weed eaters using nylon filament rather than a blade are also an option.
- Upon the discovery of new markers and/or marker elements, it is recommended that the piece be documented and remain in place if possible. Once a marker is removed from its location, it loses its context within the cemetery. All markers should remain in place so it can retain its role a grave marker rather than disassociated monument. If a marker fragment is deemed vulnerable to theft or poses a safety hazard, it should be documented, clearly and securely identified, and stored in a safe, dry place so that it can be retrieved when the time comes for its repair. The fragment should be identified with respect to the City of Miami Cemetery, its location within the cemetery, and the grave marker (by name) to which it belongs, if this can be determined.

- It is recommended that photographs be taken of instances of vandalism prior to treatment and after for documentation purposes.



*Examples of vandalism on one of the monuments in the Confederate Circle. The cemetery grounds crew promptly acted in removing this graffiti. It is recommended that photographs be taken of such instances prior to treatment and after for documentation purposes.*



*Example of a marker in poor condition but high integrity that should be prioritized when determining an overall treatment approach at the cemetery.*

#### NEXT STEPS/FUTURE PROJECTS:

- If possible, the information gained from the surveys should be entered into a database. The simplest option being an Excel® spreadsheet, but a database management system such as Microsoft Access® would function well for collecting and organizing data of this type.
- Once a database is developed and the data is entered, this information can be digitally connected to the ArcMap®. This would enable visualizations of the data to make it mean something rather than gleaning the correct information from a spreadsheet.
- Future mapping projects can include georeferencing maps so that a scanned map can be laid in top of aerial imagery, or the points collected in this project.<sup>iii</sup>
- Due to their age and condition, some markers were difficult to read. Although surveyors were able to record a majority of inscriptions, this data should be cross referenced with records of the cemetery to provide an accurate data set.
- The survey should be extended, if possible, to include all markers in the cemetery, including those still buried and the veteran's markers. Only then will a complete picture of the cemetery markers' conditions be obtained. Due to the repetitive nature of the veteran's markers located on the north and south border of the

cemetery, it is possible that a simplified survey can be produced by a conservator and carried out by a volunteer group, girl scout troop, etc.

- With all of the known marker locations, the map can be used as a tool for searching for unmarked graves. Physical probing can be used in place of more expensive GPR investigations which might prove to be more cost effective for the purposes of the City of Miami Cemetery. Additionally, research into the existence of early documents can save much time in the efforts applied to cemetery documentation and should be explored prior to work.
- Rather than replace deteriorated markers in their entirety, it is recommended that secondary elements accompany the older, historic markers to clarify inscriptions and information about the interred.
- With the condition survey of the City of Miami Cemetery complete, it is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan be developed to determine overall preservation treatment approach and guidelines that complement that approach. A master plan would present a clear vision that combines the goals of the local Miami government with those within the community.



*19<sup>th</sup> century marble grave marker that was conserved by inserted into a modern granite marker. Found on the western boundary of the cemetery.*



*One of the five (5) coral stone (oolitic limestone) markers with its detached marble plaque. This marker should be prioritized when determining overall cemetery treatment priorities due to the uniqueness of the material.*

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

Although the physical condition of the markers was the primary focus of this survey, equally valuable information was gained through the documentation of each marker. By recording information such as birth years and names, this survey is the basis of a complete record of those interred at the City of Miami Cemetery that can be cross-referenced with original written records.

The use of trained volunteers for this complex project required careful planning and coordination. While trained volunteers are invaluable to the success of a cemetery preservation project, it is advised that trained conservators continue lead preservation efforts with regards to the physical conservation of the markers/monuments.

Unlike many cemeteries in South Florida and Miami, the City of Miami Cemetery is neither abandoned nor neglected. It has an attentive grounds crew that provides care for the property and the markers year-round allowing the cemetery to play a significant role as a cultural landscape within the community.

While the markers and monuments found within the City of Miami Cemetery are different in materials, scale, and character, they share many common conditions and issues. The general observations and recommendations in this report provide general guidelines that should be implemented in conjunction with more detailed treatment recommendations.

Overall, the City of Miami Cemetery was found to be in relatively fair condition. Despite its erroneous stigma as a place of crime and neglect, there is enormous potential for the cemetery to serve as a major community asset. With its protection by the city from future development, this cemetery acts as the solitary green space in downtown Miami. The conservation of its grave markers and monuments will act as a catalyst for overall improvements and appreciation for the cemetery.

## 7. APPENDICES\*

- a. SITE MAP
- b. SURVEY CODEBOOK (SHORT FORM)
- c. SURVEY CODEBOOK (LONG FORM)
- d. SURVEY FORMS
  - i. MAUSOLEUM FORMS
  - ii. TOMB FORMS
  - iii. GRAVE MARKER LONG FORMS
  - iv. GRAVE MARKER SHORT FORMS
- e. PHOTOGRAPHS

\* ON AN EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE AS PART OF FINAL REPORT

---

<sup>i</sup> Sarah E. Eton, "City of Miami Cemetery Designation Report," City of Miami, 1983.

<sup>ii</sup> All mapping equipment was rented through FLT Geosystems located at 809 Progresso Dr., Fort Lauderdale FL 33304

<sup>iii</sup> There are multiple examples of how GIS is being used to gather, analyze, and visualize geographic data to make better decisions, specifically in cemeteries. One more recent project is taking place at the Woodlands, a historic cemetery located in Philadelphia, PA. <http://woodlandsphila.org/blog/gis-at-the-woodlands>