



THE CITY OF KEY WEST
Urban Forestry
1300 White Street
Key West, FL 33040

Tree Removal Report

PROPERTY: 629 Dey St.

APPLICATION NUMBER: T2026-0125

REQUEST: The applicant is requesting removal of (2) Cuban Mahogany Trees (1) Gumbo Limbo Tree.

TREE ASSESSMENT and PHOTOS



Key to the Caribbean – average yearly temperature 77 ° Fahrenheit.



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Mahogany #2

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Mahogany #1

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Gumbo Limbo

Diameter: 30"

Location: 80%

Species: 100%

Condition: 20%

Value: 66.6%

Recommended Mitigation: 20 Caliper Inches

The fungal fruiting bodies observed within the basal trunk cavity are consistent in appearance with a jelly fungus, likely belonging to the genus *Auricularia* (wood ear fungus). While definitive identification would require laboratory analysis, the presence of these fruiting bodies is indicative of advanced wood decay within the trunk cavity.

In addition to the fungal activity, evidence observed during the inspection is consistent with suspected and documented subterranean termite activity. The combination of active fungal colonization, extensive internal wood decay, and suspected termite infestation suggests that the structural integrity of the trunk has been significantly compromised.

It is important to note that the fungal fruiting bodies themselves are not necessarily the primary cause of decay; rather, they serve as an indicator that decomposition of the woody tissues is ongoing. The suspected termite activity may further accelerate the degradation of already compromised wood.

Mahogany #1

Diameter: 28"

Location: 60%

Species: 100%

Condition: 70%

Value: 76.6%

Recommended Mitigation: 21.5 Caliper Inches

The subject tree is a mature Cuban mahogany measuring approximately 28 inches DBH and is located in the front yard of a single-family residence. Overall, the tree exhibits fair canopy condition with acceptable foliar density and no significant canopy-wide decline observed during the inspection.

The primary observation of concern involves one of the main scaffold leaders extending over the home's front porch. This leader exhibits extensive bacterial wetwood, which has progressed to the point of causing substantial bark sloughing. Large sections of bark have detached, exposing underlying wood that appears dry, dull, and lacking the typical appearance of healthy cambial tissue. While bacterial wetwood is a relatively common condition in Cuban mahogany, it is less common for the condition to result in bark loss of this magnitude. The extent of exposed wood warrants continued observation as it may indicate localized structural degradation or advancing decline within this leader.

A second large scaffold leader is in direct conflict with the residence. The home's front porch soffit has been constructed with a large cutout to accommodate the stem, indicating the structure was built around the existing tree. At the time of inspection, no obvious signs of active structural failure, cracking, or significant defects were observed within this leader.

No additional significant structural defects, root concerns, or canopy abnormalities were identified during this Level 2 visual assessment.

Mahogany #2

Diameter: 26"

Location: 80%

Species: 100%

Condition: 80%

Value: 86.6%

Recommended Mitigation: 22.5 Caliper Inches

The subject tree is a mature Cuban mahogany exhibiting an atypical canopy architecture resulting from previous heavy pruning. The canopy is composed of several elongated scaffold branches extending from the main trunk, with most primary leaders measuring approximately 8 to 10 inches in diameter at their points of origin. Although the canopy is relatively open and lacks significant density, overall vigor appears fair, with no evidence of widespread canopy decline.

The root flare is visible and appears healthy, with no obvious indications of basal decay, root damage, or structural instability observed during the inspection.

One scaffold branch extends toward and partially over the roof of the adjacent two-story residence. While branch overhang of a structure is generally not considered ideal, this particular limb tapers substantially before reaching the home. The branch originates at approximately 10 inches in diameter and is located roughly 12 feet from the residence. By the point where it extends over the roof gutter, the branch has tapered to approximately 3 to 4 inches in diameter. Based on the branch taper and the reduced loading at its distal end, this condition is not considered an immediate structural concern.

A second scaffold leader located below the overhanging branch was previously removed approximately 7 to 8 feet from its point of origin, leaving a large pruning stub. The location and nature of the cut suggest it was likely performed to accommodate construction of the adjacent residence, which appears to be relatively new. Although the pruning cut is not consistent with current ANSI A300 best management practices, the modification appears to have been made to facilitate building clearance rather than as an arboricultural pruning operation.

No additional significant structural defects, trunk decay, root defects, or canopy abnormalities were identified during this Level 2 visual assessment.

PREPARED BY:

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City of Key West
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