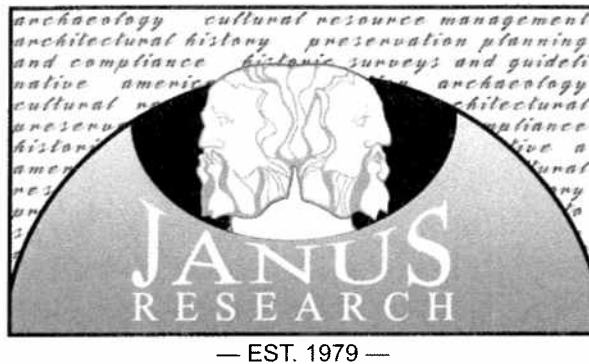


JANUS MAIN OFFICE
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Tampa Bay ▪ Miami ▪ Ft. Myers ▪ Atlanta

April 10, 2010

Mr. Vincent Birdsong
Supervisor/Database Administrator
Florida Master Site File
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Re: Florida Master Site File form: Key West Telegraph Manhole and Conduit
(8MO2133), Key West, Monroe County, Florida

Dear Mr. Birdsong:

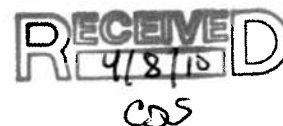
On behalf of the City of Key West and the Florida Department of Transportation, Janus Research is submitting the enclosed Florida Master Site File form and CD with photo and digital FMSF form for the Key West Telegraph Manhole and Conduit in Monroe County, Florida. The manhole and conduit were excavated as part of the Key West United Stormwater Mitigation Project, and plans are underway for the donation of the telegraph conduit to the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum. Although they are not considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, a Florida Master Site File form was prepared so there would be a record of the objects and their original location. Please contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Julia Skawronski

for Amy Groover Streelman
Preservation Planner

c. Catherine Owen, FDOT
Carolyn Sheldon, City of Key West





HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE

Consult Guide To Historical Structure Forms for detailed instructions

Site # 8MO2133

Recorder # 1

Recorder Date 3/17/10

Original Update Site Name Key West Telegraph Manhole and Conduit Other Names _____Project Name Key West United Street Stormwater Mitigation Project/ FDOT 6 Misc. ServicesHistoric Contexts WWI and Aftermath National Register Category Object

LOCATION and IDENTIFICATION

Address NW corner of Intersection of Catherine Street and Whitehead StreetVicinity of NW corner of Intersection of Catherine Street and Whitehead StreetCity Key West County MonroeOwnership City Subdivision _____ Block # _____ Lot # _____

MAPPING

USGS Map KEY WEST Township _____ Range _____ Section _____Quarter _____ Qtr Qtr _____ Irregular Section UTM Zone 17Easting 419078 Northing 2715201 Land Grant UnknownLatitude _____ Longitude _____ Plat or Other Map Aerial Photographs

HISTORY

Architect/Builder Western Union Construction Date 1917 Circa Alterations Date _____ Type/Location _____Additions Date _____ Type/Location _____Moved Original Location In the process of being moved (see continuation sheet).Use Original Telegraph Manhole and Conduit Use Present Excavated for Display at a Museum

DESCRIPTION

Style Vernacular Exterior Plan Not Applicable Interior Plan Not applicable Stories 1Structural System Concrete Exterior Fabric ConcreteFoundation Not Applicable Foundation Materials Not Applicable Foundation Infill N/ANo. of Porches 0 Locations/Features _____Dormers Number/Location _____Outbdgs. Number _____ Nature/Location (Describe below) _____Roof Type Not applicable Roofing Materials Not ApplicableSecondary Structures Comments Not applicable Location _____Chimneys Number 0 Orientation N/A Location N/A Material Not applicableWood Windows Type Not Applicable Light # _____Metal Windows Type Not Applicable Light # _____Exterior Ornament Not ApplicableCondition Good Surroundings Unknown; In the process of being moved

Narrative (general, interior, landscape, context; 3 lines only)

See continuation sheet.Archaeological Remains Present FMSF Archaeological Site Form Completed (if yes, attach)

Consult Guide To Historical Structure Forms for detailed instructions

RECORDER'S EVALUATION OF SITE

Potentially Eligible for Local Register? Yes No Likely, Need Information Insufficient Information
 Individually Eligible for National Register? Yes No Likely, Need Information Insufficient Information
 Potential Contributor to Nat. Reg. District? Yes No Likely, Need Information Insufficient Information

Areas of Significance

Communications

Summary of Significance

See continuation sheet.

DHR USE ONLY		OFFICIAL EVALUATIONS	DHR USE ONLY	
NR DATE _/_/___	KEEPER-NR ELIGIBILITY <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		Date	_/_/___
DELIST DATE _/_/___	SHPO-NR ELIGIBILITY: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> potentially elig. <input type="checkbox"/> insufficient info		Date	_/_/___
	LOCAL DESIGNATION: _____ Local office _____		Date	_/_/___
National Register Criteria for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d		(See National Register Bulletin 15, p. 2)		

DOCUMENTATION

Research Methods Florida Site File search; Sanborn maps; Local Informant

Bibliographic References See continuation sheet.

Location of Negatives Janus Research

Negative Numbers #9

RECORDER INFORMATION

Recorder Name Janus Research

Recorder Affiliation JANUS RESEARCH, 1107 N Ward Street, Tampa Florida 33607 Telephone 813-636-8200

- REQUIRED:**
1. USGS 7.5' MAP WITH STRUCTURES PINPOINTED IN RED
 2. LARGE SCALE STREET OR PLAT MAP
 3. PHOTO OF MAIN FACADE, PREFERABLY B&W, AT LEAST 3x5

SITE NAME: Key West Telegraph Manhole and Conduit

A. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The telegraph manhole and conduit were originally located seven feet in the ground at the northwest corner of the intersection of Catherine and Whitehead Streets in Key West, Monroe County, Florida. They were excavated as part of the Key West United Stormwater Mitigation Project and plans are underway for the donation of the telegraph conduit to the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum. The manhole is a simple concrete structure with a round opening at the top. It also has square side openings through which the cables would pass. The telegraph system and cables are located inside of the manhole in a box. The cables are lead encased copper wire. The manhole and conduit are in good condition.

B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The telegraph manhole and conduit were part of Key West's telegraph system initially developed by the International Ocean Telegraph Company (IOTC). The following information regarding the history of the International Ocean Telegraph Company is based on Tom Hambright's 1991 article, "Key West & Cuba Become Link for International Communications: International Ocean Telegraph Co. in Key West," unless otherwise noted.

The IOTC was established in December of 1865, by James A. Scrymser and Alfred Pell Jr., for the purpose of connecting Florida and Cuba by telegraph line. The first telegraph land line construction of the IOTC occurred in 1867, from Lake City to Punta Rassa. Undersea cable was then laid from one shore of Key West to Sand Key, and from Havana to the other shore of Key West. The Cuba and Sand Key Cables were spliced on August 18th, 1867. The underwater cable required the use of a new insulator, Gutta Percha, a rubber-like substance from the Gutta Percha tree. On August 21st, 1867, the Mayor of Key West, E.O. Gwynn, and Joaquin del Manzano, Captain-General of Cuba, exchanged telegrams. After an outbreak of yellow fever, the Key West mainland connection was completed on September 10th, 1867. On September 11th Secretary of State William H. Seward and Joaquin del Manzano exchanged telegrams. The completion of the telegraph cable ended the isolation of Key West with its earlier communication limited to irregular mail service.

The shore connections in Key West were located one near the bridge at Ft. Zachary Taylor, and one on the north side of the island at the army barracks in the area now known as Peary Court. Underground lines ran across the mainland to the telegraph office. The location of the first telegraph office is unknown, but circa-1873 the building at 416 Greene Street was constructed as the IOTC/Western Union Office. Due to the immense success of the IOTC, Western Union acquired a controlling interest in the company in 1873, and cable lines were replaced and added over the years. New lines were added to the Key West-Havana Cable in 1873 and 1917; to the Key West-Punta Rassa cable in 1871, 1875, 1890, and 1927; and a Key West-Miami cable was completed in 1899. The

SITE NAME: Key West Telegraph Manhole and Conduit

locations of the storage tanks, which keep the connections underwater, have changed over time.

According to Tom Hambright, Historian for the Key West Library, this telegraph cable was constructed in 1917. It would have been part of the Key West to Havana cable constructed that year. This cable connected to the cable hut on Whitehead Street, next to the Southernmost Point, which connected it to the undersea cable which went to Cuba.

Communication was further improved in Key West with the arrival of the Bell telephone system in the early 1900s. Southern Bell's first Key West office was shared with the IOTC/Western Union Office located at 416 Greene Street, and it was from this building on December 25, 1900 that the first international phone call was placed over telegraph cable (Griffin 2009). Southern Bell became the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) and began to lay their own underwater telephone cables to Cuba in 1921 (Griffin 2009).

The manhole is a simple concrete structure similar to others from various historical periods. It provided access to underground facilities, but has limited historical significance. The telegraph conduit retains local significance for its role in the history of communication in Key West. As an integral part of Key West's telegraph system in the early twentieth century, the conduit represents the area's evolving technology of communication and it would be eligible for local historic designation. However, the conduit is only one small piece of a larger, international communications network: the telegraph system. It has been removed from its original location and its historic function and context have been compromised. Therefore, the conduit is not considered eligible for listing in the National Register.

C. HISTORY AND REFERENCES CITED OF PAST WORK AT SITE

Griffin, J. Gregory

2009 "The Key West to Havana Submarine Telephone Cables." Accessed online at <http://atlantic-cable.com/CableCos/KeyWest/index2.htm>.

Hambright, Tom

1991 "Key West & Cuba Become Link for International Communications: International Ocean Telegraph Co. in Key West." Accessed online at <http://atlantic-cable.com/CableCos/KeyWest/index.htm>.

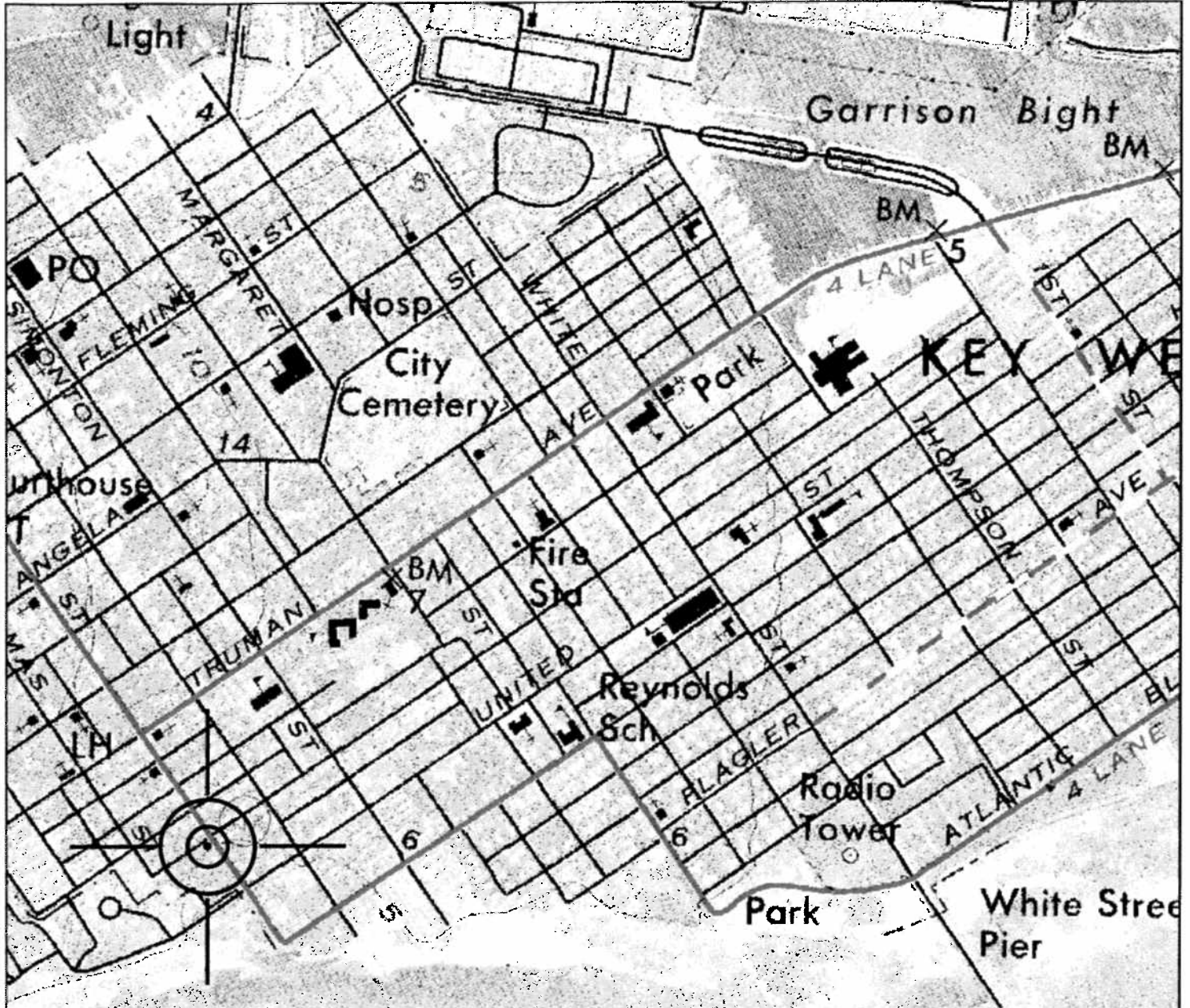
PHOTOGRAPH



SKETCH MAP



USGS QUADRANGLE MAP



Location of 8M02133
USGS Quadrangle: Key West (1971)

