

### **Peary Court #3 Buffer Zone**

In 1991, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District Archaeologists conducted investigations at the historic Peary Court Cemetery. The Archaeologists determined there were still human remains within this Cemetery, they recommended a 25 foot buffer zone from the northwest cemetery boundary that had been delineated with a fence. A new fence was installed 5' beyond the cemetery boundary, along the property line. The proposed building location known as Peary Court #3 includes 20' of this buffer zone. (Archaeological and Historical Investigations for the Proposed U.S. Navy Peary Court Housing Project Key West, Monroe County, Florida by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District for the Naval Air Station, Key West, Florida 1991)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was contacted about obtaining a permit for archaeological investigations in the buffer zone. Ingrid Gilbert, Chief of Keys Permits Section, replied that a permit was not needed on June 27, 2022. The Bureau of Archaeological Resources, Florida Department of State, was also contacted to see if they required a permit. On June 28, 2022, Brandon Ackerman, Senior Archaeologist and Permit Administrator, replied that no permit was needed.

Archaeological investigations of this buffer zone prior to construction and landscaping activity is proposed here to ensure that no human burials are located in the area of potential impact. Work will be similar to that performed by the Corps Archaeologists except a front-end loader instead of a backhoe will be used to remove topsoil in several layers down to caprock. Areas of protected trees will be left undisturbed. This work will be directed and monitored by a professional archaeologist. If archaeological features such as postholes or remnants of structure foundations are encountered, they will be recorded. Fill from features excavated with hand tools will be screened for small artifacts. If any suspected burial feature is encountered all work will stop and the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State will be notified immediately.

Following this investigation, a report will be issued documenting this work and if artifacts or features are located an Archaeological Site Form will be completed and submitted to the Florida Master Site File.