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NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION NAMES BAY HARBOR'S EAST ISLAND TO ITS 2014 LIST OF AMERICA'S 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES®

(MIAMI, June 30, 2014) – The National Trust for Historic Preservation has listed Bay Harbor's East Island on its 2014 America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. This annual list spotlights important examples of the nation's architectural, cultural, and natural heritage that are at risk of destruction or irreparable damage. More than 250 sites have been on the list over its 27-year history. As a result of this listing, only a handful of these sites have been lost.

The town of Bay Harbor Islands was founded in April of 1947, by Belarusian-American banker, lawyer and philanthropist, Shepard Broad. He served as the first and longest running mayor of the town, having been elected for 26-consecutive one year terms with an annual salary of one dollar.

Bay Harbor's East Island is one of the largest concentrations of mid-century Miami Modern (MiMo) style architecture in the country. Several of the east island's historic buildings were designed by renowned architects including Henry Hohauser, Charles McKirahan, Morris Lapidus, and Igor Polevitzky, who were instrumental in transforming Miami's popular Art Deco style into the distinct MiMo design.

MiMo is Miami's unique interpretation of the mid-century Modern movement, adapted to suit the local climate. MiMo embodied the mid-century ideals of progress, looking forward towards the future. Pre-cast concrete screens boasted fun geometric patterns while sheltering residents from the intense sun. Cantilevered roofs were perforated with cut-outs where palm trees could stretch up to the open sky above. Exterior decoration

evoked a sense of the tropical environment, using abstract forms in shades of sea green, and featuring representations of sea life, like mermaids, dolphins, seahorses, and seashells. The MiMo style defined a new architectural vocabulary that not only spoke to the novelty and futurism embedded in modernist design, but that addressed functional concerns of living in the subtropical climate of Miami.

Today, Bay Harbor's East Island stands threatened with redevelopment as large-scale construction moves throughout the area. Proposals call for the demolition of several mid-century structures that have long formed the cohesive collection of MiMo buildings. Approximately 170 buildings have been identified as historically significant on East Island and are eligible for national and local historic designation.

People are drawn to Miami's distinct neighborhoods like Bay Harbor Islands because they offer a unique sense of place. The rapid development that is occurring on East Island is stripping the neighborhood of its character and charm. If this pattern of demolition and development continues, the unique architectural features that attracted residents and tourists to the community will be lost, along with the sense of place that defines Bay Harbor Islands.

"Bay Harbor's East Island tells a significant part of our American history post World War II," said Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "The historic buildings were thoughtfully constructed to benefit not only the people but also the tropical environment it surrounds. We must urge developers and the city not to subject these uniquely designed mid-century modern structures to the wrecking ball but instead reuse them to meet the needs of the community and engage the larger public around its exceptional history."

You can learn more about the 2014 American's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, and the threat against Bay Harbor's East Island at www.preservationnation.org/issues/11-most-endangered.

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