

**THEMATIC RESEARCH STUDY FOR COLD WAR RESOURCES  
FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**



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**August 5, 2019**

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# INTRODUCTION

Miami-Dade County was the site of many significant events during the Cold War. South Florida's proximity to Latin America positioned the area as a logical center for activities to further the U.S. policy of containment of communism in the Western Hemisphere. Several military bases, including the former Opa-locka Naval Air Station/Marine Air Station and Homestead Air Force Base in Miami-Dade County and bases at Key West, were used to launch operations in support of the policy. Covert activities were directed and carried out in downtown buildings, residential neighborhoods, rural areas, beaches, and swamps. Significant Cold War events associated with Miami-Dade County include the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, covert anti-Castro activities, and the arrival of hundreds of thousands of Cuban refugees that fled the Castro regime.

Although the Cold War started in 1946, just after the end of World War II, the period essentially began in Miami-Dade County on January 1, 1959, when Fidel Castro took power in Cuba. The effects of that action were felt immediately in the County and continue to this day. The Cold War officially ended in 1991 with the fall of the Soviet Union, but for many, the Cold War continues, since Cuba remains under communist control.

The events of the Cold War dramatically shaped the South Florida region, and physical manifestations of many of these events still exist in Miami-Dade County. The Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, under Resolutions #R-159-17 and #R-398-17, directed the Miami-Dade County office of Historic Preservation (MDOHP) to conduct a survey of Cold War resources in the County, including resources associated with the Bay of Pigs invasion force, Brigade 2506.

## ***Statement of Intent***

Heritage Architectural Associates was retained by MDOHP to perform a Thematic Research Study for Cold War Resources for Miami-Dade County. This study is intended to provide the following:

- A. A list of potential sites that could be included in a "Cold War Heritage Trail" to illustrate the Cold War-related events that took place in Miami-Dade County. Potential sites for the Heritage Trail are not limited to those under the jurisdiction of the MDOHP but include resources throughout the County. Sites were chosen to represent events connected with the broad themes of the Cold War as follows:
  - 1. Efforts to overthrow Castro
    - a. Bay of Pigs (including Brigade 2506)
    - b. Operation Mongoose
    - c. Post-Mongoose activity
  - 2. Defense
    - a. Cuban Missile Crisis
    - b. Arms Race (no resources found in County)

- c. Missile Defense (added during course of project)
- d. Civil Defense (added during course of project)
- 3. Receiving refugees / immigrants
  - a. Operation Pedro Pan
  - b. Camarioca Boatlift (no resources found in County)
  - c. Freedom Flights
  - d. Mariel Boatlift
  - e. Hermanos al Rescate

B. Identification of significant Cold War sites that are within the jurisdiction of MDOHP and that have the potential for local historic designation.

The Period of Significance for the Study is 1959 – 1991, from the Cuban Revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power until the end of the Cold War. Although the end date is less than 50 years ago, events of 1959-1991 related to the Cold War had a significant and lasting influence on South Florida, and especially on Miami-Dade County.

The Scope of the Study is limited to resources in Miami-Dade County. No resources outside the County were reviewed for inclusion in the Study.

# **METHODOLOGY**

## ***Pre-field Research***

Deborah Griffin of Heritage Architectural Associates (Heritage) reviewed resources provided by the County, including the *Cold War in South Florida Historic Resource Study*, and the *Feasibility Study Resolution No.: R-970-09*. She reviewed numerous books and conducted on-line research to find references to Cold War resources. She compiled a preliminary list of potential resources to include in the study.

In March 2019, Steven Avdakov and Deborah Griffin of Heritage conducted a call with Sarah Cody of the Miami-Dade Office of Historic Preservation (MDOHP), and Jerry Bell, Assistant Director for Planning, to discuss the project and initial progress. Sarah assisted with introductions to several people who potentially could contribute information to the research effort.

Steven and Deborah conducted interviews with Dr. Paul George (in person) and Dr. Anthony Atwood (by phone) to obtain information about the Cold War in Miami-Dade County. They also visited with Dr. Atwood in person at the Miami Military Museum. They received a written list of potential sites from Antolin Garcia Carbonell.

Deborah visited the HistoryMiami Research Center and the Cuban Heritage Collection at the University of Miami to obtain data and historic photographs. She developed a list of potential resources, many of which did not include exact locations. She attempted to find specific location data by searching phone and city directories of the period at the Miami-Dade Public Library. It became clear that commemorative resources (museums and monuments) dedicated to events of the Cold War should be included in the Heritage Trail. Steven and Deborah reviewed an updated resource list with Sarah in April 2019.

## ***On-site Research***

In April 2019, Steven visited each site and took photographs of the resource. He evaluated the historic integrity and importance of each non-commemorative resource.

## ***Post-field Research***

Deborah conducted additional research on sites that are within the jurisdiction of MDOHP to confirm significance and potential eligibility for local designation.

## ***Data Analysis***

Based on the field verification and research, Heritage evaluated each resource to determine if it merited inclusion in the list of potential sites for the Heritage Trail. Heritage developed a list of potential sites to represent the broad categories of resources listed in the scope. Resources were chosen based on the ability to pinpoint the location, availability of information, importance to the theme, uniqueness, and historic integrity. No viable resources were found in Miami-Dade County for the category “Defense-Arms Race”. Further research indicated that defense contracting was not a significant component of the economy of Miami-Dade County during the Cold War. Additionally, no local resources were found that were specific to the Camarioca Boatlift, since most of the boats landed in the Florida Keys. Consequently, no resources are identified for these two sub-categories. However, the sub-categories “Missile Defense” and “Civil Defense” were added to the “Defense” category. Deborah reviewed the updated list with Sarah in May 2019.

## ***Thematic Research Study***

Heritage compiled the Thematic Research Study, which includes:

1. The methodology for selecting sites for inclusion in the Heritage Trail.
2. A list of potential Heritage Trail sites, including brief historical information and photographs.
3. A list of resources (within the jurisdiction of MDOHP) that are candidates for local historic designation, including historical information and photographs.
4. A bibliography of resources consulted.
5. A spreadsheet listing each resource with its name or description, the related category or categories, and its location or address. Resources are keyed to the map.
6. A list of sites that were considered but omitted from inclusion in the Heritage Trail, along with the reasons for omission.
7. A map of the entire county with potential sites identified.



## **SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The genesis of the project was the passage of Resolutions #R-159-17 and #R-398-17 by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners. The Resolutions directed the Miami-Dade County Office of Historic Preservation (MDOHP) to survey and identify resources related to Brigade 2506 and the Cold War and to make “recommendations for appropriate recognition of such sites, including possible historical recognition.” Several significant Cold War sites have already been historically designated by Miami-Dade County and/or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Preliminary research revealed that although there was a tremendous amount of activity in Miami-Dade County during the Cold War, many resources have been demolished and others have been modified to such a degree that they do not retain enough historic integrity to warrant designation. It also became clear that many significant sites were located outside the jurisdiction of the MDOHP, which would present regulatory challenges to establish comprehensive historic recognition for those resources. If only the sites under the jurisdiction of MDOHP were recognized, the project would not convey the full story of the Cold War in the County.

For these reasons, the recommendation is to establish a Cold War Heritage Trail in Miami-Dade County that would encompass all significant sites regardless of jurisdiction. The Heritage Trail will be a valuable resource for residents and visitors alike to better understand the role of Miami-Dade County in the Cold War.

The following pages discuss the important themes of the Cold War in Miami-Dade County and list the significant resources that are recommended for inclusion in the Cold War Heritage Trail. Additionally, sites within the jurisdiction of MDOHP were reviewed for potential eligibility for local historic designation. The only site that is recommended for designation by Miami-Dade County is the Operation Pedro Pan site Camp Matecumbe.

# ANTI-CASTRO

## *The Cuban Operation*

Due to his suspected communist leanings, the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had been watching Fidel Castro since his student days in the late 1940s. Less than a year after Castro came to power in Cuba on January 1, 1959, the U.S. government determined that he and his government must be removed in order to secure the Western Hemisphere from communism. On March 17, 1960, President Eisenhower approved a CIA-authored plan called "A Program of Covert Action Against the Castro Regime". Included in the plan were:

1. The formation of a central opposition organization of Cuban exiles that would direct activities and provide cover for CIA operations.
2. A campaign of anti-Castro propaganda.
3. The creation of a network of operatives inside Cuba that would gather intelligence and carry out missions on direction from the opposition organization.
4. The creation of a paramilitary group outside Cuba that would be infiltrated into the country to recruit and train resistance fighters.

After the plan was approved, CIA's Western Hemisphere Division created "Branch 4" to run the Cuban Operation. Initially, the branch had 40 employees – 18 at headquarters (Langley, Virginia), 20 in Havana and 2 in Santiago, Cuba. Staff was added as operations ramped up, and by the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961, there were 588 in the Branch plus personnel in other divisions that provided support.

The Branch began negotiations for a paramilitary training site in Central America. Research was conducted on Cuban opposition leaders to determine the best choices to form a united front and provide cover for clandestine activities. Propaganda activities were initiated. Branch personnel began looking at various buildings in and around Miami to use as offices, recruiting locations, warehouses, safe houses, communications center and bases for movement of personnel, materiel and propaganda in and out of Cuba.

It was important that the operation be kept secret to ensure "plausible deniability" for the U.S. Government. The exile group would provide cover for any activities that became public. The "Bender Group" was established by the CIA as a cover organization, supposedly consisting of representatives of private American business interests, to deal with the Cuban exiles.

By May 1960, the Frente Revolucionario Democrático (FRD), an umbrella organization uniting several exile groups, had been formed. Anti-Castro propaganda was broadcasted from Miami and from a CIA-controlled radio station at Swan Island, off the coast of Honduras. The Cuban magazine *Avance*, which was shuttered by the Castro administration, resumed publication in

exile. The magazine's office was located at 10 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Miami (since demolished). The Agency opened its covert Miami Station in Coral Gables.

Screening of Cuban exiles for the paramilitary force began in Miami in April, and training in Central America began in June 1960. On April 17, 1961, the invasion of Cuba began. The invasion forces were quickly overwhelmed by the Cuban military and were defeated on April 19. About 1,200 members of the invasion force were captured. They were freed in December 1962 in exchange for \$53 million in food and medicine secured from American donors. The Bay of Pigs invasion was a disaster for the Kennedy Administration and set the stage for the Cuban Missile Crisis eighteen months later.

From 1960 to 1963, CIA's Executive Action group attempted to assassinate Fidel Castro. As part of this effort, the group reached out to the Mafia, which had suffered severe losses in Cuba due to the Castro regime. A number of schemes were purportedly discussed, including poisoning, explosions and an assassination team. Other schemes sought to embarrass and discredit Castro among his people. Many of the proposals were quite outlandish, including an idea to introduce a depilatory through Castro's shoes to cause his beard to fall out. Few, if any, of the plans were carried out, and none was successful.

In November 1961, a new operation, code named Operation Mongoose, commenced with the objective of removing Castro from power. The chief goal of Operation Mongoose was to spur a revolt of the Cuban people against Castro. Although some of its objectives were achieved, the operation was cancelled by President Kennedy after the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962.

After the Cuban Missile Crisis ended, the United States continued efforts to overthrow Castro. Activities were directed from the covert headquarters of the Miami Station (code named JMWAVE) located at the University of Miami South Campus. The Station operated under the cover name Zenith Technical Enterprises. Training of Cuban exiles for land and sea raids continued, and raids into Cuba were successfully accomplished. Anti-Castro propaganda continued to be produced and distributed. Activities at Miami Station were scaled back beginning in 1966, as attention had turned toward Vietnam. The Station moved to Miami Beach in 1968, and in 1974, responsibility for Cuba was transferred to CIA Headquarters at Langley.

During the early 1960s, the CIA was a major employer in South Florida. In addition to Zenith Technical Enterprises, the Agency maintained a large number of front companies to support its activities. The types of companies established or purchased included motels, airlines, boat yards, marinas, merchant shipping lines, travel agencies and property management companies. Southern Air Transport was a CIA-owned airline with offices near Miami International Airport. Gibraltar Steamship Corporation, which operated Radio Swan, was located in the Langford Building in downtown Miami. The Vanguard Service Corporation later occupied the same location. Transworld Marine was located in the Commonwealth Building on NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The Agency maintained its own boat yard near SW 117th Avenue in Miami.

Many companies were “on paper” only. Some existed as a vehicle to provide end-of-year tax documents to employees, who were often paid in cash. Some companies were listed under false addresses and others listed addresses of the attorneys that filed incorporation papers for the company. Ace Marine Survey had an address that was in the middle of the Miami River. (Hinckle and Turner, 147) Red Sunset Enterprises and South Allapatah Properties were officially located at the office of Paul Helliwell, attorney and CIA agent, at 600 Brickell Avenue (now demolished). The Double-Chek Corporation, which recruited American pilots to train the exiles, was located at the office of attorney Alex Carlson at 145 Curtiss Parkway, Miami Springs.

***Site***

***Recommendation***

**Cuban Memorial**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

University Park, Florida International University

The memorial commemorates those killed by causes attributable to the Castro regime.



Cuban Memorial at FIU, 2019.



Detail of one of the plaques at Cuban Memorial, 2019.

**Central Intelligence Agency Office**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

299 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables

Just two weeks after Castro came to power in 1959, the CIA opened its first office in Miami. This building housed the overt (publicly acknowledged) CIA office, which was part of the Domestic Contacts Division of the Directorate of Intelligence. The primary role of the office was to gather intelligence about Cuba.



Office building that housed the first CIA office in Miami, 2019.

**Clarence A. Depew and Sons**  
304 Palermo Avenue, Coral Gables

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

Clarence A. Depew and Sons was the front company for the original Miami Station – the CIA’s covert operation in South Florida. The office opened in May 1960 for the “purpose of coordinating all support, training and preparatory activities for operations against Cuba.” (Colby, 2). The office also supported Havana Station until it was closed in January 1961, when diplomatic relations with Cuba were broken. In September 1961, Miami Station was moved to Building #25 at the South Campus of the University of Miami (former Richmond Naval Air Station).



Clarence A. Depew office, 2019.

***Bay of Pigs***

Shortly after President Eisenhower approved the anti-Castro plan “A Program of Covert Action Against the Castro Regime” in March 1960, recruitment and screening of volunteer Cuban exiles began in South Florida. Initially, the invasion plan consisted of guerrilla activity along with air support. The first recruits were former Cuban military officers and university students to comprise the guerrilla force. Recruits were initially sent to Useppa Island off Florida’s west coast. Later, some were sent for guerrilla training in the Panama Canal Zone, and the others remained at Useppa for radio training. The intent was for these early recruits to train others in guerrilla warfare. In addition, pilots were recruited and trained for an exile air force. Pilots were trained on B-26 aircraft, which was the same plane that was used by the Cuban Air Force (Fuerza Aérea Revolucionaria – FAR).

Because the State Department objected to exile training in U.S. territory, the CIA established a training base and airport in Guatemala. In October, an airstrip and docking station were established at Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, which was about 250 miles closer to Cuba than the Guatemalan base. Once recruits passed the screening process, they were taken in closed trucks to Opa-locka Airport, where they were put aboard planes with blacked-out windows for transport to the training camps. Members of the guerilla brigade were given serial numbers starting with 2501, and members of the air force were given numbers counting backward from 2500. The numbers were centered around 2500 to give the impression that the brigade was a much larger force. The brigade adopted the name Brigade 2506, in honor of Carlos Rodriguez Santana, serial number 2506, who was killed in a training accident.

By November 1960, Miami Station had recruited and sent for training 101 airmen, 370 paramilitary forces, 6 specialists and recruited 124 maritime personnel for the invasion fleet. (Inspector General's Survey of the Cuban Operation and Associated Documents Part 1, 17) In November, the strategy was changed from a guerilla operation to a more conventional military operation with an amphibious invasion and airborne assault. The change required an expanded force, so recruiting efforts were increased. By early April 1961, just before the Bay of Pigs invasion, the brigade numbered 1390. (Inspector General's Survey of the Cuban Operation and Associated Documents Part 1, 17)

While paramilitary forces were being recruited and trained, several successful infiltration operations were completed. Men and materiel were transported to Cuba by boat, and several airdrops were performed. By mid-March 1961, there were 21 counterintelligence, 11 positive intelligence, 9 propaganda, and 6 paramilitary agents in Cuba. (Inspector General's Survey of the Cuban Operation and Associated Documents Part 1, 17)

By March 1961, the invasion landing site had been changed from the original location of Trinidad to the Bay of Pigs, a swampy area 80 miles to the west of Trinidad. The reasons were that the Trinidad airstrips could not accommodate the B-26 planes and that President Kennedy wanted a "less spectacular" (Bohning, 31) location that would be better for deniability of U.S. involvement in the invasion.

On the night of April 14, 1961, the invasion fleet left Puerto Cabezas for the Bay of Pigs. The next day, eight B-26 bombers, under the false colors of FAR, simultaneously attacked three Cuban airfields. The purpose was to disable most or all of the Cuban air capability in advance of the ground invasion. The air strikes were only partially successful. In an attempt to avoid the appearance of direct U.S. involvement in the operation, President Kennedy cancelled a second round of pre-invasion air strikes that were planned for April 17.

Also on April 15, a Cuban exile pilot flew a B-26 near Cuba and then turned toward Florida. He issued a "mayday" call and requested permission to land at Miami International Airport. The plane, which was painted with FAR insignia, had been deliberately shot through the engine cowl before leaving Puerto Cabezas in Nicaragua. The pilot claimed that he and three other FAR pilots were defecting after having carried out attacks against three Cuban air bases. The pilot requested and was granted political asylum.



False-color Cuban Air Force plane that landed at Miami International Airport on April 15, 1961. (Miami Herald, 4/16/1961, 1A)

A second false-color FAR plane, with two aboard, crash landed at Boca Chica Naval Air Station near Key West, and a third plane reportedly landed in Jamaica. (Jones, 1) The intention was to make the world believe that the attacks on Cuba were from internal anti-Castro forces. Although a few perceptive reporters noticed that the planes differed in some ways from FAR aircraft, the false story was generally accepted and reported by the press.

In the early morning of April 17, 1961, the land invasion began. Long before all the troops were landed, word of the invasion had gotten to Castro. He put the militias on alert and ordered airstrikes. The Brigade was hampered by loss of equipment and supplies, including radios. Although there were some small victories, the Brigade was forced to retreat after three days of fighting. The invasion forces lost about 120 men, including some Americans. About 1,180 were captured. (Triay, 115)

In May 1961, Castro offered to release the prisoners for 500 farm tractors valued at \$28 million. That deal did not come to fruition, and it was another 19 months before the prisoners were released in exchange for \$53 million food and medicine. The prisoners were flown back to Homestead Air Force Base. On December 20, 1962, President and Mrs. Kennedy met the Brigade members at a ceremony at the Orange Bowl.

***Site***

**Frente Recruiting Office**

914 NW 12th Street, Miami

***Recommendation***

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

The house was one of several locations where Cuban volunteers were recruited into Brigade 2506. Another location mentioned in several sources was at 427 SW 4th Avenue, but that building has been demolished. Upon news of the invasion, new volunteers flocked to recruiting offices to sign up for the Brigade.



Cuban exiles at anti-Castro recruiting office on day of Bay of Pigs invasion, April 17, 1961. (Miami Herald, 4/18/1961, 1A)



Frente Recruiting office, 2019

**Frente Office/Bay of Pigs Mobilization Site**

1045 SW 27th Avenue, Miami

The site was used for recruiting volunteers for Brigade 2506 and also served as a mobilization site.

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**



Mobilization area and recruiting site for Brigade 2506, 2019.

**Segovia Plaza Apartments**

545 Coral Way, Coral Gables

This apartment complex was used for screening Cuban volunteers for Brigade 2506. It was one of many locations in Miami-Dade County that was used by the CIA to screen and train individuals for the invasion of Cuba.

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**



Segovia Plaza Apartments, 2019.



**Weapons Cache**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

1675 NW South River Drive, Miami

The riverfront house was a storage location for weapons for the Bay of Pigs invasion.



1675 NW South River Drive, 2019.



Boat dock at 1675 NW South River Drive, 2019.

**Opa-Locka Airport (site)**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

14201 NW 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Opa-locka

The airport served as an origination point for numerous missions during the Cold War. “Black flights” to Brigade 2506 training locations in Central America took off from runways at Opa-locka. The members of the Cuban Revolutionary Council were housed at the airport during the Bay of Pigs invasion. None of the buildings associated with Cold War activities survive.

**Homestead Air Force Base (site)**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

360 Coral Sea Boulevard, Homestead

The members of Brigade 2506 that has been captured during the Bay of Pigs operation landed at Homestead after being freed from Cuban prisons in 1962.

**Orange Bowl (site)**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

1501 NW 3rd Street , Miami

The members of Brigade 2506 met with President John F. Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy at the Orange Bowl on December 29, 1962 after being freed from Cuban prisons.



President John F. Kennedy meeting with  
Brigade 2506 veterans at the Orange Bowl,  
1962  
(Miami News Collection)



Brigade 2506 flag being presented to President  
Kennedy, 1962  
(Miami News Collection)

**Brigade 2506 Museum**

1821 SW 9th Street, Miami

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

The museum commemorates the men of Assault Brigade 2506 who participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion.



Brigade 2506 Museum, 2019.



Detail of plaque at Brigade Museum, 2019.

**Brigade 2506 Memorial, Cuban Memorial  
Boulevard Park**

SW 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south of SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

The Brigade 2506 Memorial is dedicated to the martyrs of the invasion at the Bay of Pigs. The memorial features an eternal flame.



Brigade 2506 Memorial, 2019.



Detail at front of the memorial featuring the logo of the Brigade, 2019.



Detail of one of the plaques honoring those killed in the Bay of Pigs invasion, 2019.

**Bay of Pigs Memorial**

Miami Executive Airport

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

The site is a memorial to the flyers, both Cuban and American, who lost their lives during the Bay of Pigs invasion. It includes a restored Douglas B-26 Invader, which was the type of plane used in the invasion. The base of the memorial is painted to resemble the Cuban flag.



Bay of Pigs Memorial ,2019.



Detail of B-26 plane at Bay of Pigs Memorial, 2019.

## ***Operation Mongoose / Post-Mongoose***

### **Operation Mongoose**

After the embarrassment of the Bay of Pigs, the Kennedy Administration was even more determined to remove Castro from power. In November 1961, an inter-agency task force was formed with representatives from the Defense and State Departments and the CIA. The White House was represented by General Maxwell Taylor and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. The operation was code-named Operation Mongoose. The chief goal of Operation Mongoose was to spur a revolt of the Cuban people against Castro. In January 1962, an ambitious plan was presented by Air Force Major General Edward Lansdale, who headed the project. The plan had 33 tasks, which were scheduled to be completed in less than a year. Plans included support for the resistance within Cuba, economic pressure through trade restrictions and sabotage, and psychological warfare through propaganda. Additionally, the U.S. would prepare for military intervention to support the resistance, if required. However, President Kennedy continued to resist the idea of military intervention. Although some of the tasks were accomplished, the timeline was unrealistic. Instead of toppling Castro by October 1962, the U.S. faced a bigger problem – Soviet missiles in Cuba. Operation Mongoose was cancelled by President Kennedy after the Cuban Missile Crisis.



Training site on No Name Key, 1962.  
(Miami News Collection)



Trainees receiving instruction in jungle fighting,  
1962.  
(Miami News Collection)

### **Post Mongoose**

After the Cuban Missile Crisis ended, management of anti-Castro efforts was transferred to the National Security Council. Operational efforts were conducted from the CIA's Miami Station, which had been moved from Coral Gables to leased facilities at the University of Miami's South Campus (former Richmond Naval Air Station) in September 1961. The facility operated under the cover name of Zenith Technical Enterprises. The Miami Station became the second largest CIA station in the world, after CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia. With an estimated budget of

\$50 million a year in 1960s dollars (Bohning, 130), the Station was a major contributor to the economy of South Florida. The Station had 300- 400 agents on its payroll and operated 300-400 front companies. (Bohning, 129) It maintained the third largest navy in the Caribbean, after the U.S. and Cuba. Ted Shackley, Station Chief, estimated that there were up to 15,000 Cubans “connected to us in one way or another.” (Bohning, 130)

The Station continued to train Cuban exiles for infiltration or commando teams. Infiltration teams were sent to Cuba to develop intelligence gathering networks and paramilitary forces that could be called upon if a guerrilla operation was initiated. Trainers were lent by the Army to develop more effective programs. The exiles received training in land, water, and paratrooper operations as well as explosives training. Many of the exercises were conducted in South Florida, especially in the Keys and the Everglades.

Additionally, the Station was involved in political, psychological and economic actions to try to undermine confidence in the Castro regime. Radio Swan became Radio Americas after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion and continued broadcasting anti-Castro propaganda from Swan Island until 1968.

In 1964, two reporters “outed” Zenith Technical Enterprises as a front for the CIA in a *Look Magazine* article and a subsequent book, *The Invisible Government*. The cover name was changed to “Melmar Corporation”, but the Station continued to operate from the same location. Station operations were reorganized in 1966, and many front companies were terminated. Maritime activities were scaled back and emphasis on intelligence collection and counterintelligence were increased.

The CIA presence in South Florida had been an “open secret” almost since the beginning. Due to security and budgetary concerns, the Station was downsized and relocated to a more secure facility in Miami Beach in August 1968. Intelligence collection activities were increased. All maritime activities were discontinued and activities supporting Cuban exile organizations were reduced. Responsibility for Cuban operations was transferred to CIA Headquarters in 1974.

***Site***

***Recommendation***

**CIA Miami Station Headquarters**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

12460 SW 152nd Street, Miami

Building #25 was originally the Headquarters of the Richmond Naval Air Station during World War II. After the war, the Station was decommissioned and leased to the University of Miami, which used it as its South Campus. It served as the Headquarters of CIA’s covert Miami Station (JMWAVE) from late 1961 to 1968. The front company for JMWAVE was known as Zenith Technical Enterprises. The Miami Station was the second largest CIA station in the world, after CIA Headquarters. The building was moved one-half mile from its original location in 2010. It is

currently the home of the Miami Military Museum. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is also locally designated.



Signage for Zenith Technical Enterprises, 1964.  
(Castro Obsession, photo section)



JMWave Headquarters at University of Miami South Campus, c.1961.  
(CIA Electronic Reading Room)



Building 25, JMWave Headquarters, 2019.



JMWave Headquarters, 2019.

### **CIA Safe House and Boat Base** 6312 Riviera Drive, Coral Gables

### **Candidate for Heritage Trail**

The house was used as a safe house and boat base by the CIA during the Post-Mongoose era, and several missions to Cuba were operated out of this location. The CIA operated many safe houses in South Florida during the Cold War. One of the most famous was the house used by E. Howard Hunt, a CIA agent who later was a major player in the Watergate break-in. That house was located on Poinciana Drive in Coconut Grove but has since been demolished. Safe houses varied from very modest to quite extravagant. In order to avoid attention, many of them were located in sparsely-populated areas, such as the rural areas south of Miami.



Safe house at 6312 Riviera Drive, Coral Gables, 2019.



Aerial view of 6312 Riviera Drive. 2019. (Imagery ©2019 Google, Map data ©2019)

**Versailles Restaurant Coffee Window**  
3555 SW 8th Street, Miami

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

The coffee window east of the main entrance of the Versailles Restaurant was a handoff location for covert activities during the latter part of the Cold War.



Versailles Restaurant, 2019.



Coffee window at Versailles Restaurant, 2019.

## Jones Boat Yard

3399 NW South River Drive, Miami

The Jones Boat Yard was one of several boat yards used by the CIA to maintain its fleet of boats and ships. The Agency had its own boat shop on SW 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue (specific location unable to be identified). The Agency maintained the third-largest navy in the Caribbean in the early 1960s. Other boat shops used by Miami Station include Miami Ship on SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Tommy's Boatyard on SE 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and Merrill Steven on NW 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Candidate for Heritage Trail



Jones Boat Yard, 2019.

## Alpha 66 Office

109-115 SW 12th Avenue, Miami

Alpha 66, one of many Cuban exile groups in Miami, had offices at this location.

## Candidate for Heritage Trail



Alpha 66 office, 1966.  
(UM Cuban Heritage Collection)



Alpha 66 office, 2019.



## Microwave Tower and Card Sound area

47600 Card Sound Road

## Candidate for Heritage Trail

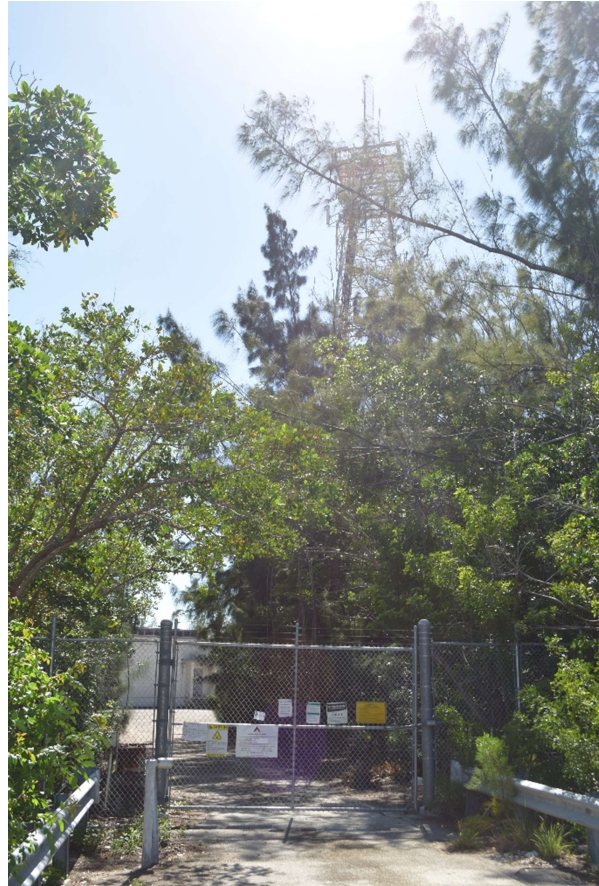
The microwave tower was used as a practice target as part of the training of Cuban exiles in the Post-Mongoose era. The surrounding Card Sound area was also used for navigation, reconnaissance, and infiltration training due to its similarity to the topography of Cuba.



Card Sound area used for training, 2019.



Aerial view of Microwave Tower site, 2019.  
(Imagery ©2019 Google, Map data ©2019)



Entrance to Microwave Tower site, 2019.

# DEFENSE

## *Cuban Missile Crisis*

On October 16, 1962, President John F. Kennedy was informed that high-altitude U.S. reconnaissance U-2 aircraft had photographed Soviet offensive missiles in three locations in Cuba. The photographs confirmed intelligence that had been gleaned by several agents and from a Cuban refugee that was debriefed in Florida. Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet premier, believed that U.S. President John F. Kennedy was weak and would not act against the Soviet Union for placing missiles in Cuba.

After several days of discussion and planning within the Administration, Kennedy publicly revealed the presence of the missiles and announced a naval blockade of Cuba on October 22. The purpose of the blockade was to prevent additional military equipment from reaching the island. The Pentagon immediately began the largest military mobilization since World War II. The Strategic Air Command (SAC) distributed aircraft to bases all over the United States. Bombers based in Europe were armed with nuclear weapons. Missile launching systems were readied. Armed nuclear submarines were sent to the North Atlantic. Flatbed railroad cars were requisitioned to move air defense and warning systems to Florida. Over 15,000 personnel from the 1st Armored Division were relocated to Georgia and Florida. Four Nike Hercules missile bases were hastily constructed in South Florida. The missiles, which were capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, were placed to counteract incoming missiles that might be fired from Cuba. Over the next few days, tensions rose further as Khrushchev vehemently objected to the blockade and argued that it would lead to war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

On October 24, the U.S. military readiness level was raised to DEFCON2, which is one step from nuclear war. Over 1,400 bombers were on constant alert, with approximately 175 in the air at any one time, and all crews were put on alert. U.S. forces prepared to invade Cuba on approximately October 31. Continued reconnaissance indicated that construction of the missile bases in Cuba was accelerating and that several bases were complete. On October 27, a U-2 plane was shot down over Cuba, and the pilot was killed. Military advisors recommended an immediate invasion. The same day, Khrushchev was given 24 hours to begin removal of the missiles or the United States would invade Cuba. On October 28, the Soviet Union agreed to remove all missiles from the island in exchange for the U.S. agreement to abandon any plans to invade Cuba and to remove missiles from Turkey at a later date.

**Site**

**Recommendation**

**Homestead Air Force Base (site)**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

360 Coral Sea Boulevard, Homestead

Homestead Air Force Base was used for reconnaissance during the Cuban Missile Crisis. It also served as a base for the Strategic Air Command, the Tactical Air Command, and for the missile defense systems in South Florida. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tent city was erected to accommodate over 10,000 troops that were deployed to the base. (Clark) Due to Hurricane Andrew, no buildings associated with the Cold War remain.



Homestead Air Force Base, 1963  
(University of Florida Map and Imagery Library)



Homestead Air Reserve Base, 2019  
(Imagery ©2019 Google, Map data ©2019)

**Opa-Locka Airport (site)**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

14201 NW 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Opa-locka

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the airport served as headquarters for 2nd Logistical Command. None of the buildings associated with Cold War activities survive.



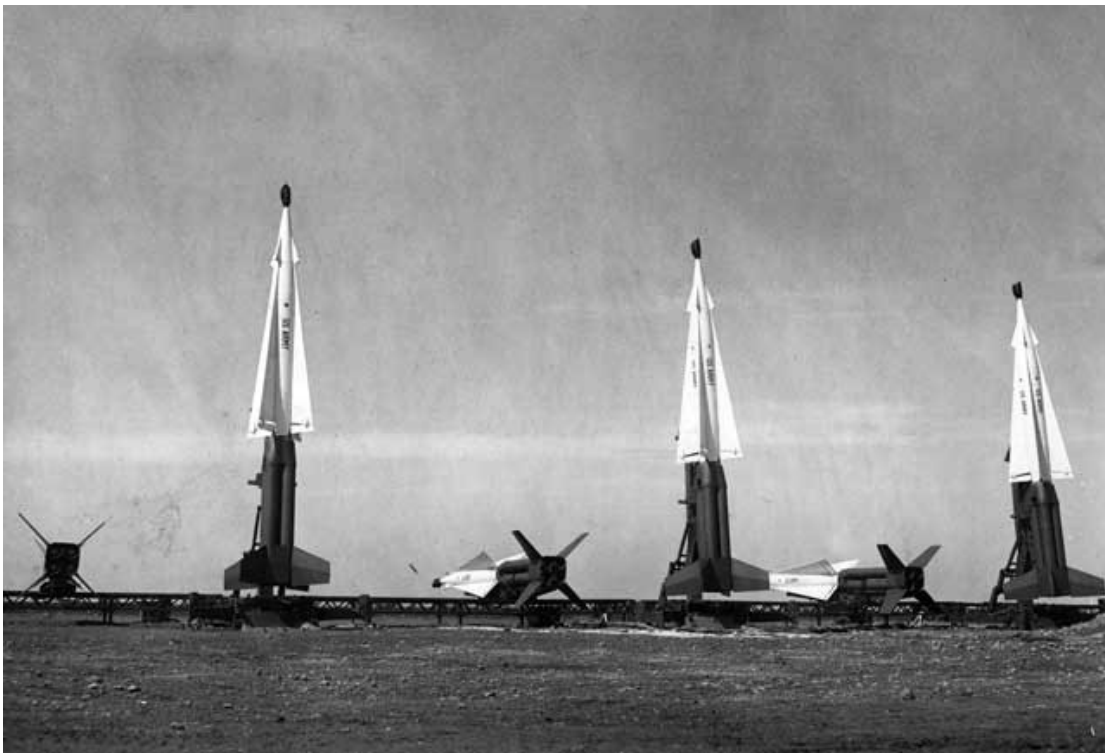
Opa-locka Airport, 1963  
(University of Florida Map and Imagery Library)



Opa-locka Airport, 2019  
(Imagery ©2019 Google, Map data ©2019)

## ***Missile Defense***

Although the immediate threat from the Cuban Missile Crisis had ended, it was determined that military installations would remain targets for Soviet missiles. Approximately 265 Nike Hercules missile bases were located near military installations in 30 states. Nike bases were also located in strategic locations in foreign countries. The U.S. constructed four permanent Nike missile sites in South Florida to replace the temporary installations constructed during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Nike Hercules was a surface-to-air missile with a range of about 75 miles and a top speed of Mach 3 (about 2,400 miles per hour). One of the bases (designated HM-40) was located on Key Largo. Part of base HM-03 was located in northern Miami-Dade County and part was located in Broward County. Two sites were fully contained in Miami-Dade County. HM-69 was located in Everglades National Park, and HM-95 was located at the site of the current Krome Detention Center.



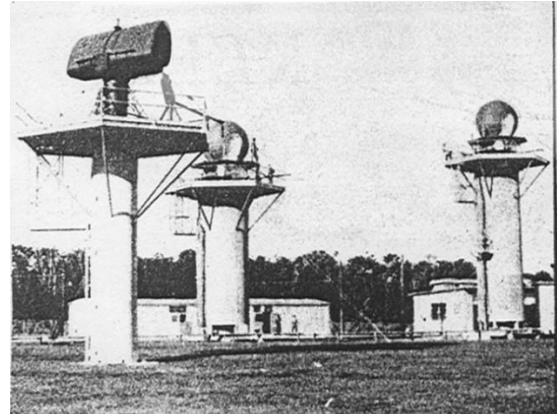
Nike Hercules missiles at HM-95 base near Homestead, 1963.  
(HistoryMiami: The Cuban Missile Crisis and Cold War)

Nike bases were located on approximately 120 acres. The large amount of open space provided a safe location for the propellant rockets when they fell away from the missile after launch. Each Nike base consisted of two components. The Launch site was located about a mile from the Integrated Fire Control (IFC) site, which contained the radar and equipment used to fire the missiles. The IFC was comprised of five radar towers. The High Power Acquisition Radar (HIPAR) component was contained in a geodesic dome and had a range of 150 miles. Low Power Acquisition Radar (LOPAR) served as a backup to HIPAR and operated on a different radar

frequency in case the HIPAR frequency was jammed. Other radar equipment provided Target Tracking, Target Ranging and Missile Tracking. A small antenna provided identification (IFF- Identification, Friend or Foe).



Tracking and high powered radars at HM-40, c.1968.  
(The Bohemian Blog)



Radar installations at HM-40, c.1968.  
(The Bohemian Blog)

The long range Nikes were supported by low to medium-range HAWK (Homing All-the-Way Killer) missiles. All of the missiles and radar equipment were mounted on trailers for ease of mobility. Four HAWK missile batteries were located around Homestead Air Force Base in Miami-Dade County. HM-12 was located near the coast off Biscayne Trail between SW 220th Street and 224th Street. HM-84 was located inland at SW 216th Street and SW 207th Avenue. Battery HM-59 was located inland at SW 424th Street near SW 182nd Road. HM-39 was located at SW 344th Street near Turkey Point. HAWK missiles had a range of 22 miles and could travel at Mach 2.5 (about 1,918 miles per hour).



HAWK missiles at the base in Everglades National Park. March 1963.  
(HistoryMiami: The Cuban Missile Crisis and Cold War)

***Site***

***Recommendation***

**Nike-Hercules Missile Base HM-69**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

Long Pine Key Road, Everglades National Park

This site was one of four Nike Hercules Missile Bases that were located in South Florida during the Cold War era. The Hercules was a high-altitude missile that was capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. Because of the high water table in the Everglades, the missiles were housed above ground rather than underground, as they were in most other locations. Existing buildings and structures in the Launch area include three Missile Shelter Buildings (with launch pads), the Missile Assembly and Warheading Building, and a Canine Kennel. Earthen berms with concrete bunkers surround the Missile Shelter Buildings, and a berm surrounds the Missile Assembly Building. Several other miscellaneous structures are located in the Launch Area. The Integrated Fire Control (IFC) area includes the Administration/Barracks Building, Generator Building, Garage/Warehouse, Intercorridor Connecting Building, and other miscellaneous utility buildings. The IFC area also includes a helipad. The base was constructed in 1964 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and was closed in 1979. A restored Nike missile is on display in Missile Shelter A. Because of its location within Everglades National Park, the site possesses a high degree of historic integrity. HM-69 is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



View of HM-69 looking southeast, 2019.



Missile Shelter A at HM-69, 2019.



Detail of restored Nike Hercules Missile, 2019.



Missile Assembly and Warheading Building, 2019.



Administration/Barracks Building, 2019.



Interconnecting Connecting Building and Generator Building, 2019.

### **HAWK Missile Base HM-39**

### **Candidate for Heritage Trail**

10190 SW 344th Street, Homestead

The site was the location of one of the four HAWK Missile Batteries surrounding Homestead Air Force Base during the Cold War era. The HAWK was a low-to-medium altitude missile that supported the Nike Hercules.



Diagram of the layout of HM-39 (Rings of Supersonic Steel, 27)



View of HM-39 HAWK site, looking southeast, 2019.



View of HM-39, looking south, 2019



View of HM-39, looking northeast, 2019.

### Observation Station

Off Old Cutler Road, R. Hardy Matheson County Preserve

### Candidate for Heritage Trail

This bunker structure was likely an observation post during the early 1960s. (Coral Gables Bunker) Although it has been completely covered with graffiti, it still retains enough integrity to convey significance of the Cold War era.



Observation Station, 2019.



Interior of Observation Station, 2019.



## **Civil Defense**

Air raid sirens were installed in areas that were potential targets for attack during the Cold War. The Dade County Civil Defense office downtown siren was located on top of the Congress Building and could be heard for eight miles. Schools and communities held regular air raid and first aid drills.

Some people constructed personal bomb shelters in their homes. Both plans and ready-made bomb shelters were offered for sale. Burdine's Department Store featured a display of two bomb shelters on the roof of its downtown location.



Dade County downtown air raid siren, 1953.  
(HistoryMiami: The Cuban Missile Crisis and Cold War)



Ready-made bomb shelter displayed for sale, 1961.  
(HistoryMiami: The Cuban Missile Crisis and Cold War)



Radiation shelters displayed on top of Burdine's Department Store, 1961.  
(HistoryMiami Archives)

## **Site**

### **Congress Building**

111 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Miami

The Congress Building was the site of the Dade County Civil Defense office's downtown air raid siren, which could be heard for eight miles. Sirens were also located at the Coral Gables Coliseum, Miami Beach Auditorium, North Miami Jr. High School, Jai-alia Fronton, Woodrum Furniture Building, and Loew's Riviera Theater near South Miami

## **Recommendation**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**



Dade County downtown air raid siren (circled)  
atop the Congress Building, 1953.  
(HistoryMiami: The Cuban Missile Crisis and Cold  
War)



Congress Building, 2019.

## REFUGEES

Fidel Castro ousted President Fulgencio Batista and became the leader of Cuba on January 1, 1959. Many Cubans welcomed the change until Castro began embracing Marxist policies. The first wave of Cuban exiles came to the U.S. in the period 1959-1962. Many of these exiles were wealthy people whose property had been confiscated, along with well-educated people in the professional class. They arrived in Miami via commercial airlines until the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, when air travel between the two countries was discontinued. From late 1960 to late 1962, over 14,000 unaccompanied children (The History of Operation Pedro Pan) were sent to the U.S. through Operation Pedro Pan by Cuban parents who wanted to save their children from communist indoctrination.

The second large wave of immigration began in late 1965 and consisted of skilled workers and people from the Cuban middle class. For a few weeks in 1965, Castro opened the port of Camarioca, and around 5,000 people (In Search of Freedom: Cuban Exiles and the U.S. Cuban Refugee Program) left Cuba during the Camarioca Boatlift. In November 1965, the U.S. and Cuban governments agreed to an airlift that became known as the Freedom Flights. Twice-daily Freedom Flights occurred from December 1965 until early 1973, transporting nearly 270,000 refugees (In Search of Freedom: Cuban Exiles and the U.S. Cuban Refugee Program) to the U.S.

The third large wave of immigration was via the Mariel Boatlift in 1980. Over a six month period, nearly 125,000 refugees (The Mariel Boatlift of 1980) emigrated to the U.S. by boat from the port of Mariel, Cuba. The third wave consisted mostly of blue collar workers who were affected by a severe downturn in the Cuban economy. This wave became an embarrassment to Castro, as the people who were emigrating were the people in whose name the revolution was accomplished.

A fourth wave began in 1991 when people began leaving Cuba via rafts. The private non-profit group Hermanos el Rescate was founded to find and rescue refugees that were trying to reach the U.S. by small watercraft.

### ***Receiving and Processing Cuban Exiles***

Any exile from Cuba was automatically granted refugee status. Local authorities struggled with handling the influx of refugees for over a year before the federally-operated Cuban Refugee Center opened in January 1961 in Miami. Several refugee assistance facilities, both public and operated by religious groups, were established to assist the approximately 1,500 to 2,000 exiles arriving in Miami each week. (How the U.S. Cuban Refugee Program Operates). In 1962, the Cuban Refugee Center was relocated to the former Miami News building, which was renamed "Freedom Tower."

Initially, refugees landing at Miami International Airport were transferred by bus to a processing center at Opa-locka Airport. After the Freedom Flights began, a Reception Processing Center

(Freedom Gate) was opened at Miami International. At the Processing Center, the refugees met with representatives of the Public Health, Customs and Immigration and Naturalization departments. They were then registered with the Cuban Refugee Program. Freedom House, a former Air Force officer's club, was opened in 1965 to provide temporary housing for those who were planning to relocate outside the Miami area.

***Site***

***Recommendation***

**Cuban Refugee Assistance Center**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

501 NE 1st Avenue, Miami

The Cuban Refugee Assistance Center operated out of this building in 1961. Other refugee centers were located at 223 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (Leyden, A Christmas Present for Latin Exiles), 408 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (Leyden, Now Free, How Will They Live?), NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street and NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and at SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Coral Way. (Old News Tower Leased for Cuban Refugee Workers)



Cuban Refugee Assistance Center, 2019.

**Opa-locka Airport (site)**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

14201 NW 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Opa-locka

Some buildings at Opa-locka Airport were used for processing of Cuban refugees prior to the Cuban Missile Crisis. As a result of the Crisis, all air travel between Havana and Miami was discontinued. When the Freedom Flights began in late 1965, Opa-locka was used as a refugee processing center until Freedom Gate was opened at Miami International Airport.

**Freedom Tower (Cuban Refugee Center)**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

600 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami

To deal with the increasing influx of Cuban refugees, the U.S. government leased the first four floors of the former Miami News building in July 1962. Christened "Freedom Tower", the Cuban Refugee Center provided new residents with identification cards, a medical examination, food, toilet articles, and cash assistance. The Center also provide relocation assistance to people who wished to settle outside the Miami area. After 1965, the Center kept a list of refugee relatives that were still in Cuba, as only Cubans with relatives in the U.S. were allowed to leave on the

Freedom Flights. The Center operated until 1974. The building is a National Historic Landmark and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



People waiting in line for services at Cuban Refugee Center, date unknown. (UM Cuban Heritage Collection)



Refugee family being processed at Cuban Refugee Center, 1962. (UM Cuban Heritage Collection)



Freedom Tower (Cuban Refugee Center), 2019.

**Freedom Gate (Reception Processing Center) and Freedom House (site)**

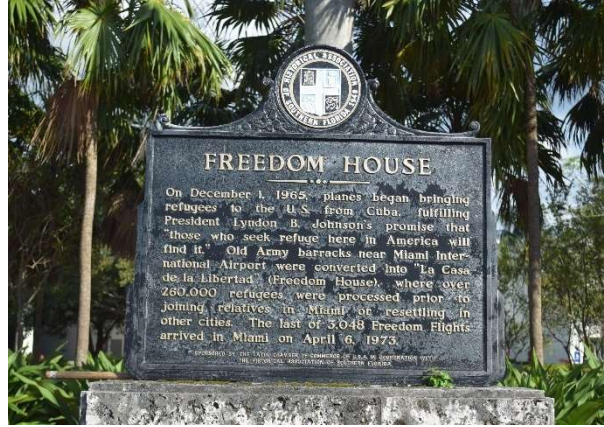
**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

Southeast corner of NW 25<sup>th</sup> Street and NW 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Freedom Gate was located in Building 90 on the grounds of Miami International Airport. The building was used to process incoming Cuban refugees arriving by air. Freedom House was used as a dormitory to temporarily house Cuban exiles. Both buildings have been demolished.



Freedom House, 1965.  
(Miami News Collection)



Detail of marker at site of Freedom House and Freedom Gate, 2019.

### ***Operation Pedro Pan***

In December 1960, the Unaccompanied Cuban Children's Program was established to allow Cuban parents to send their children unaccompanied to the United States. The program was founded by Father Bryan O. Walsh, director of the Catholic Welfare Bureau (CWB) in Miami. He was inspired to create the program when an unaccompanied boy named Pedro was brought to the Welfare Bureau by relatives that could not afford to care for him. Father Walsh realized that there might be many more "Pedros" sent to the U.S. by parents who could not afford to emigrate themselves. In Cuba, private and Catholic schools had been closed, and there was a real fear that children would be indoctrinated into Marxist-Leninist policies and possibly even separated from their parents. Many Cubans believed that the Castro regime would be short-lived and that the children would be reunited with the parents in the near future. In the beginning, the program was operated quietly so as not to gain the attention of the Cuban authorities. After knowledge of the program became public, it was nicknamed "Operation Pedro Pan" by a Miami Herald reporter. (Yanez 2009)

The U.S. State Department authorized Father Walsh to sign visa waivers for the unaccompanied children. Soon copies of the waiver and money orders to cover the airfare were being sent by exiles to their relatives in Cuba. The program was assisted in Cuba by James Baker, an American who headed the Rushton Academy in Havana. Baker arranged for the children to fly on one of the two daily flights from Havana to Miami. Once in Miami, unaccompanied children were met by workers from the CWB. The children that did not have relatives or friends to take them immediately were housed by the CWB in a number of locations.

Some locations were intended to be transient, while others were permanent facilities. Ten sites in Miami-Dade County, including private homes, apartment buildings, motels, school

dormitories, orphanages, military barracks and a summer camp, were repurposed to house children from the program. Only two of the sites, Camp Matecumbe and Florida City, retain any buildings from the Pedro Pan era.

The program was halted abruptly in October 1962 when air travel between Cuba and Florida was discontinued due to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Approximately 14,000 unaccompanied children between 6 and 18 years of age were brought to the U.S. by Operation Pedro Pan. About 70% of the children were boys over the age of 12. (The History of Operation Pedro Pan) About half of the children were settled with family or friends in the Miami area, and the other children were placed in the Cuban Children's Program operated by the CWB. These children were distributed to foster homes all over the country. Some children were eventually reunited with their parents who were able to immigrate later, but some never saw their parents again.



Cuban children arriving at Miami International Airport, 1961.  
(Barry University)



Cuban children saying grace before a meal, 1963.  
(Barry University)

***Site***

**Camp Matecumbe**

13841 SW 120th Street, Miami

***Recommendation***

**Candidate for Heritage Trail  
Candidate for Local Designation**

Camp Matecumbe was constructed by the Catholic Archdiocese of Miami in 1954 as a summer camp. It was first used as a transient shelter for Operation Pedro Pan in August 1961, when 16-18 year old boys from the overcrowded Kendall Children's Home were transferred to the camp. The original capacity of the camp was 60 boys, but that capacity was soon exceeded. Army tents were used temporarily to house the overflow while additional buildings were constructed. At its peak, the camp housed up to 400 teenage boys. The facility included a dining hall, chapel, classroom, dormitories, swimming pool and athletic fields. Matecumbe High School graduated its first and only class with 19 students in 1963. The camp was closed in May 1964 when the remaining students were transferred to the Opa-locka Airport facility. The facility, which was still

owned by the Archdiocese, was converted into Boystown of Miami to house homeless boys and those from broken homes. The camp was purchased by the Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department in 2003.



Dining Hall, c.1962  
(Miami-Dade Parks)



Dining Hall, 2019.



Gymnasium, c. 1962.  
(Miami-Dade Parks)



Gymnasium, 2019.



Building at Camp Matecumbe, 2019.



Building at Camp Matecumbe, 2019.



## Florida City Camp

## Candidate for Heritage Trail

155 NW 14th Street, Florida City (main building)

The Florida City Camp was a transient shelter that housed boys under 12 and girls up to age 18. In late 1961, the Catholic Welfare Bureau leased 18 buildings with 80 apartments. In 1962, a large dormitory (main building) and a dining hall were constructed, bringing the capacity to 700 children. The main building was located on the south side of NW 14th Street, and the other buildings were located between NW 14th and NW 16th, and between NW 1st Court and NW 2nd Court. The camp had its own school, Our Lady of Charity School. The camp closed in June 1966. A documentary about the Florida City camp, *The Lost Apple*, was produced by the United States Information Agency in 1962/63 and is available on YouTube.



Florida City Camp, NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from NW 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 1962/3.  
(Barry University)



NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from NW 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 2019.  
(Imagery ©2019 Google, Map data ©2019)



Main (dormitory) building, 1963.  
(Barry University)



Main (dormitory) building, 2019.

**Kendall Children’s Home (site)****Candidate for Heritage Trail**

11395 SW 79th Street, Miami

The Kendall Children’s Home was a county home for African-American children until the summer of 1960, when the county desegregated its facilities. The Catholic Welfare Bureau leased the facility from the County for \$1 per year, and it was opened as a co-ed transient shelter in January 1961. The facility was located within a large county-owned complex that included a hospital and home for the aged. The Children’s Home was about a mile from the other buildings and was surrounded by a large open space, so it provided a good location to house the children.

The facility featured 60 beds in a girl’s cottage and a double-winged boy’s cottage. The boy’s cottage had a kitchen and dining room between the two wings. and there was also a separate classroom building. In January 1963, the camp was closed after the remaining children had been moved to other locations. No buildings associated with Operation Pedro Pan are known to exist at this site.

**Opa-locka Airport (site)****Candidate for Heritage Trail**

14201 NW 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Opa-locka

Several barracks buildings at the former Naval/Marine Air Station at Opa-locka were used during Operation Pedro Pan to house boys transferred from other camps. The facility consisted of a mess hall, administration building, chapel, clergy quarters, laundry and two dormitories. The facility, which was bounded by Ely, Bennet, Langley and Musica Roads, opened in January 1963 with boys from the Kendall Children’s Home. In mid-1964, boys from Camp Matecumbe were transferred to the facility. By October 1964, all homes and shelters housing teenage boys were closed, and the boys were transferred to the Opa-locka site. The facility was closed in June 1966. Unfortunately, none of the buildings associated with Operation Pedro Pan survive.

**Operation Pedro Pan Memorial****Candidate for Heritage Trail**

SW 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between SW 20<sup>th</sup> and SW 21<sup>st</sup> Streets, Miami

Operation Pedro Pan is commemorated by a memorial located in Cuban Memorial Boulevard Park between SW 20<sup>th</sup> and SW 21<sup>st</sup> Streets. Each face at the base of the pedestal depicts a scene in relief. The south face depicts children walking up airplane steps in Havana with the Spanish words “Pedro Pan Ninos que Volaran”. The north face depicts children walking down airplane steps in Miami with the English words “Peter Pan Children That Flew”. The east and west faces depict a boy and a girl holding suitcases.



Pedro Pan Memorial, 2019.



Detail of "Havana" side of Memorial, 2019



Detail of "Miami" side of Memorial, 2019.

### ***Camarioca Boatlift***

In September 1965, Castro announced that any Cuban with relatives in the U.S. could leave through the port of Camarioca. Between October 13 and November 3, nearly 5,000 refugees (In Search of Freedom: Cuban Exiles and the U.S. Cuban Refugee Program) left Camarioca by boat and landed at Key West. A few days later the U.S. and Cuban governments agreed to an airlift to transport to Cubans to Florida, which became known as the Freedom Flights. No sites in Miami-Dade County are directly related to the Camarioca Boatlift.

### ***Freedom Flights***

On December 1, 1965, twice daily Freedom Flights began transporting Cubans from Varadero Beach to Miami International Airport. Refugees were processed at Freedom Gate and Freedom Tower (noted above). The Freedom Flights continued until early 1973. Nearly 270,000 Cubans immigrated to the U.S. via the Freedom Flights. (In Search of Freedom: Cuban Exiles and the U.S. Cuban Refugee Program)



Arrival of first Freedom Flight on December 1, 1965.  
(Miami News Collection)



Cubans arriving on a Freedom Flight, 1970.  
(UM Cuban Heritage Collection)

### ***Marief Boatlift***

In 1980, after a significant number of people sought to gain asylum at various South American embassies, Fidel Castro announced that anyone that so desired was welcome to leave Cuba from Mariel Harbor, about 25 miles west of Havana. The Mariel Boatlift brought approximately 1,700 boats and 125,000 Cubans (The Mariel Boatlift of 1980) to Florida between mid-April and the end of October 1980. Cubans were immediately granted refugee status upon landing on U.S. soil. In addition, about 25,000 Haitians arrived during the same period (The Mariel Boatlift of 1980) In June, the Cuban-Haitian Entrant Program was established whereby Haitian immigrants would also have refugee status. By the end of May, over 90,000 Cubans had arrived in the U.S. The large influx of people created challenges for local officials. Makeshift immigrant processing centers were set up at Key West, Opa-locka and Miami. In Miami, tent cities were established at the Orange Bowl and under an Interstate 95 overpass. The abandoned Nike missile base on Krome Avenue was established as a temporary processing center, and refugees were also housed at Opa-locka Airport. Due to the crowded conditions, the federal government established processing centers and shelters at locations outside Florida, and some of the “Marielitos” were transferred to these other locations. It is estimated that between 60,000 and 80,000 Marielitos permanently settled in South Florida. (The Mariel Boatlift of 1980)



Boat with Cuban refugees during Mariel Boatlift, 1980.  
(Civios)



U.S. Coast Guard assisting refugees during the Mariel Boatlift, 1980.  
(Miami News Collection)

***Site***

**Orange Bowl (site)**

1501 NW 3rd Street , Miami

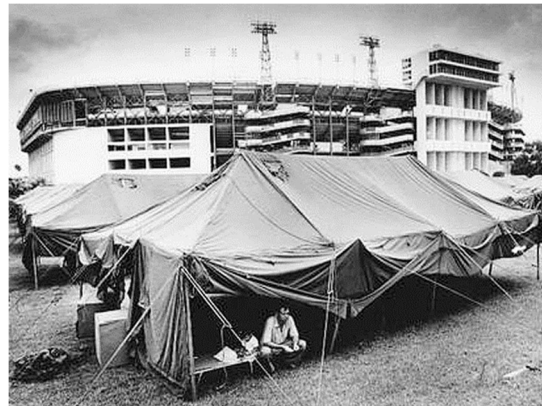
***Recommendation***

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

Tents were erected in and around the Orange Bowl to house refugees as a result of the Mariel Boatlift.



Tent city at the Orange Bowl parking lot, 1980.  
(Miami News Collection)



Cuban refugees at the Orange Bowl, 1980.  
(Civios)

**Tent City site**

Under Interstate 95 on the south bank of the Miami River, east of Jose Marti Community Center, Miami

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

A tent city was established under the interstate to temporarily house Cuban refugees from the Mariel Boatlift.



Tent City under I-95 overpass, 1980.  
(Civios)



Tent City site, 2019.

**Opa-locka Airport (site)**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

14201 NW 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Opa-locka

The airport was used for temporary housing during the Mariel Boatlift. Unfortunately, none of the buildings associated with these activities survive.

***Hermanos al Rescate***

Hermanos al Rescate (Brothers to the Rescue) was established in 1991 to conduct humanitarian missions by looking for rafters in the corridor between Florida and Cuba. The non-profit group was founded after a 15-year-old boy died from dehydration while trying to flee Cuba on a raft. The group, which is still active, includes pilots and volunteers from numerous countries. It also has participated in political activities by dropping leaflets over the island. In 1996, two Hermanos planes were shot down by Cuba while flying near the island but over international waters. Four pilots were killed in the incident.

***Site***

***Recommendation***

**Hermanos al Rescate Memorial**

**Candidate for Heritage Trail**

Bounded by NW 103<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Frontage Road, Hialeah Gardens

This memorial commemorates the four civilian pilots whose lives were lost when their planes were shot down by the Cuban government in 1996. Although this action occurred after the end of the Period of Significance, Hermanos group began operating in 1991, which is within the Period of Significance.



Hermanos al Rescate Memorial, 2019.



Detail of the plaque honoring Carlos Alberto Costa, one of the four Hermanos pilots shot down in 1996 by the Cuban government, 2019.

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## APPENDIX A – SITES INCLUDED

NOTE: Sites that are recommended in more than one category are listed under each category but are assigned a single number. Sites are designated on the map by the Resource Number.

Resource Number	Name	Location
<b>Anti-Castro</b>		
<b>The Cuban Operation</b>		
1	Cuban Memorial	University Park, Florida International University
2	Central Intelligence Agency Office	299 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables
3	Clarence A. Depew and Sons	304 Palermo Avenue, Coral Gables
<b>Bay of Pigs</b>		
4	Frente Recruiting Office	914 NW 12th Street, Miami
5	Frente Office/Bay of Pigs Mobilization Site	SW 27th Ave & 10th (1045 SW 27th Ave)
6	Segovia Plaza Apartments	545 Coral Way, Coral Gables
7	Weapons Cache	1675 NW South River Drive
8	Opa-Locka Airport (site)	14201 NW 42 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Opa-locka
9	Homestead Air Force Base (site)	360 Coral Sea Boulevard, Homestead
10	Orange Bowl (site)	1501 NW 3rd Street , Miami
11	Brigade 2506 Museum	1821 SW 9th Street, Miami
12	Brigade 2506 Memorial, Cuban Memorial Boulevard Park	SW 13 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, south of SW 8 <sup>th</sup> Street, Miami
13	Bay of Pigs Memorial	Miami Executive Airport
<b>Mongoose/Post-Mongoose</b>		
14	CIA Miami Station Headquarters	12460 SW 152nd Street, Miami
15	CIA Safe House and Boat Base	6312 Riviera Drive, Coral Gables
16	Versailles Restaurant Coffee Window	3555 SW 8th Street, Miami
17	Jones Boat Yard	3399 NW South River Drive, Miami
18	Alpha 66 Office	109-115 SW 12th Avenue, Miami
19	Microwave Tower and Card Sound area	47600 Card Sound Road



<b>Defense</b>		
<b>Cuban Missile Crisis</b>		
9	Homestead Air Force Base (site)	360 Coral Sea Boulevard, Homestead
8	Opa-Locka Airport (site)	14201 NW 42 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Opa-locka
<b>Missile Defense</b>		
20	Nike-Hercules Missile Base HM-69	Long Pine Key Road, Everglades National Park
21	HAWK Missile Base HM-39	10190 SW 344th Street, Homestead
22	Observation Station	Off Old Cutler Road, R. Hardy Matheson County Preserve
<b>Civil Defense</b>		
23	Congress Building	111 NE 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Miami
<b>Refugees</b>		
<b>Receiving and Processing Cuban Exiles</b>		
24	Cuban Refugee Assistance Center	501 NE 1st Avenue, Miami
8	Opa-Locka Airport (site)	14201 NW 42 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Opa-locka
25	Freedom Tower (Cuban Refugee Center)	600 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami
26	Freedom Gate (Reception Processing Center) and Freedom House (site)	Southeast corner of NW 25 <sup>th</sup> Street and NW 67 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
<b>Pedro Pan</b>		
27	Camp Matecumbe	13841 SW 120th Street, Miami
28	Florida City Camp	155 NW 14th Street, Florida City (main building)
29	Kendall Children's Home (site)	11395 SW 79th Street, Miami
8	Opa-locka Airport (site)	14201 NW 42 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Opa-locka
30	Operation Pedro Pan Memorial	SW 13 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, between SW 20 <sup>th</sup> and SW 21 <sup>st</sup> Streets, Miami
<b>Maribel Boatlift</b>		
10	Orange Bowl (site)	1501 NW 3rd Street , Miami
31	Tent City site	Under Interstate 95 on the south bank of the Miami River, east of Jose Marti Community Center, Miami

**Hermanos al Rescate**

32 Hermanos al Rescate Memorial

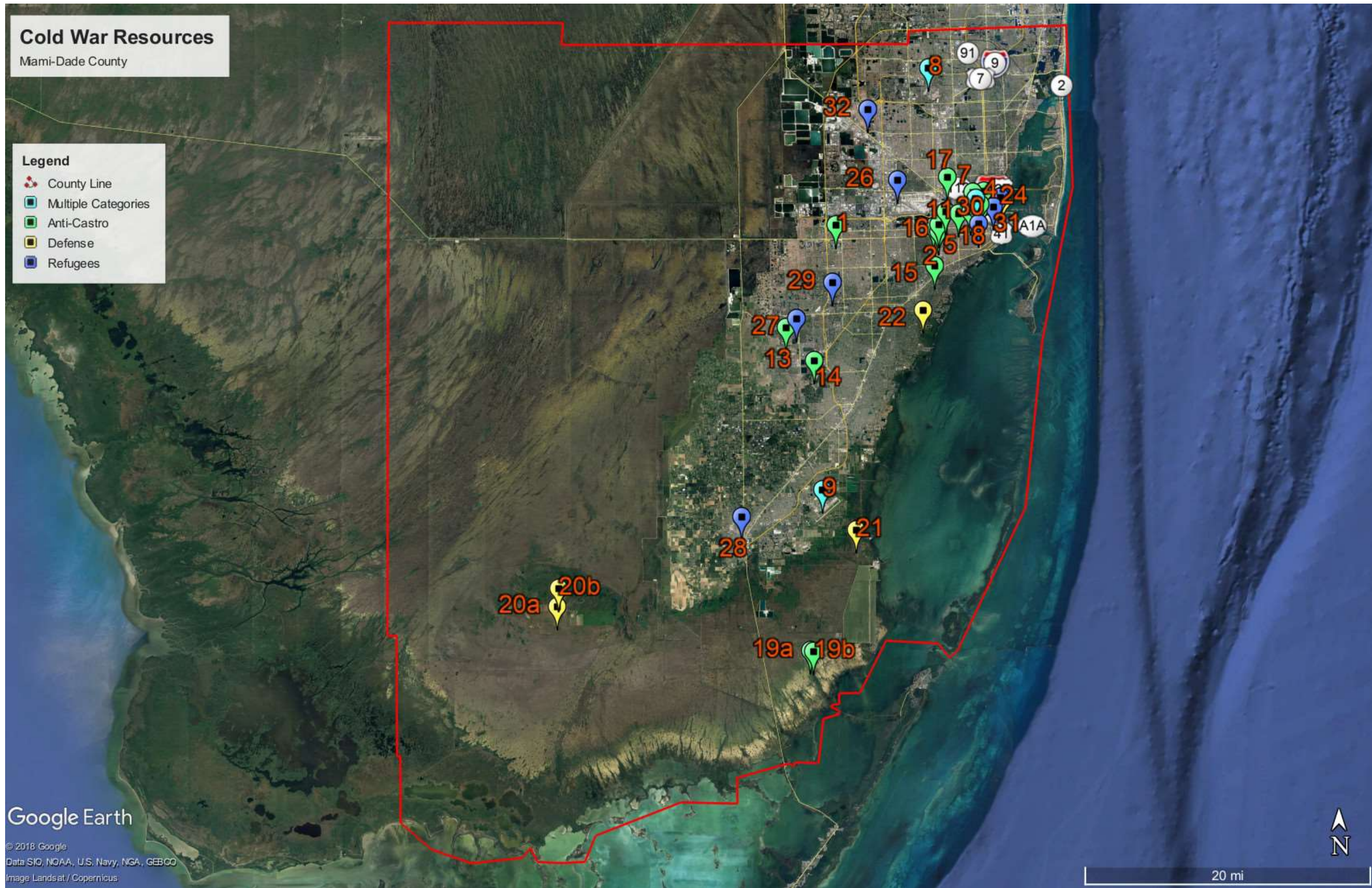
Bounded by NW 103<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW 87<sup>th</sup>  
Avenue and Frontage Road, Hialeah Gardens

## APPENDIX B – SITES IDENTIFIED BUT EXCLUDED

Name / Location	Notes / Reason excluded
<b>Anti-Castro</b>	
<b>Bay of Pigs</b>	
Brigade 2506 barracks 7650 SW 128th Street, Pinecrest	House used as a barracks by Brigade members Difficult to see, low importance
Dinner Key Auditorium (site) Dinner Key, Miami	Brigade 2506 reunited with families after return from Cuba Demolished, low importance
<b>Mongoose/Post-Mongoose</b>	
Vanguard Service/Gibraltar Steamship 121 SE 1st Street, Miami	CIA front company location Not unique
Transworld Marine 139 NE 1st Street, Miami	CIA front company location Not unique
Ace Cartography Company 10440 SW 186th Terrace, Cutler Bay	CIA front company location Not unique
Double-Chek Corporation 145 Curtiss Parkway, Miami Springs	CIA front company location Not unique
La Moderne Hotel 4350 SW 8th Street, Coral Gables	CIA training site Low integrity
Traveler's Motel 4767 NW 36th Street, Miami Springs	CIA training site Low integrity
Merrill Stevens Boat Yard 1270 NW 11th Street, Miami	Boat yard used by CIA - located at this site in early 1960s, buildings demolished Low integrity
<b>Defense</b>	
<b>Missile Defense</b>	
Nike Hercules Missile Site HM-95 18201 SW 12th St, Miami	Now Krome Detention Center Low integrity, inaccessible
Nike Hercules Missile Site HM-03 IFC 18650 NW 62th Avenue, Hialeah	IFC only, launch site in Broward County Low integrity

HAWK Missile Base HM-84 20701 SW 216th Street, Miami	Now a plant nursery, few buildings from era Low integrity
HAWK Missile Base HM-59 18500 SW 424th St, Homestead	Now Dade Juvenile Residential Facility Low integrity, inaccessible
HAWK Missile Base HM-12 22025 SW 87th Ave, Cutler Bay	No buildings from era Low integrity

**APPENDIX C – MAPS**



# Cold War Resources

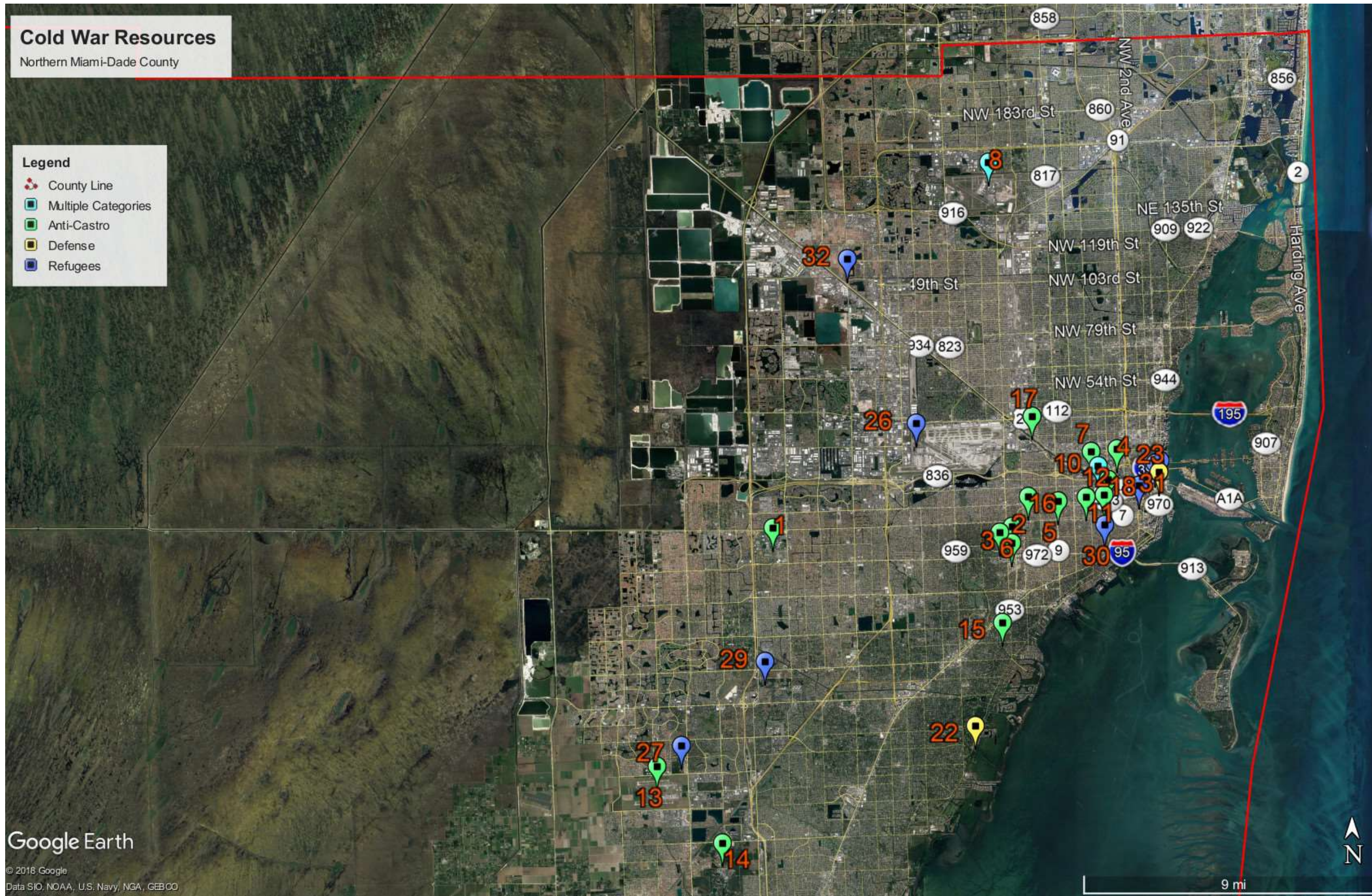
Northern Miami-Dade County

## Legend

- County Line
- Multiple Categories
- Anti-Castro
- Defense
- Refugees

Google Earth

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Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO



# Cold War Resources

Southern Miami-Dade County

## Legend

- County Line
- Multiple Categories
- Anti-Castro
- Defense
- Refugees

Google Earth

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