



Memorandum

Memorandum No: 24-146

Date: October 24, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

From: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager *Susan Grant*

Re: FY24 Division of Historical Resources Grant and Completion of Intensive Level Architectural Resource Survey

At the September 5, 2023, City Commission meeting, the City Commission approved Resolution 23-177 authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$50,000 to conduct an Intensive Level Architectural Resource Survey in selected areas of the City, which commenced in January 2024. Grant funds were provided from the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources.

Grant funds were used to hire a preservation consultant firm, LW Associates, to organize and conduct the Intensive Level Architectural Resource Survey in the neighborhoods of South Middle River, Middle River Terrace, Historic Dorsey Riverbend, and City View. Architectural Resource Surveys primarily act as a planning tool to provide adequate data to make informed decisions, but most importantly, it documents the City's history and contributes important data into a repository of historical information. Additionally, as a Certified Local Government, there is a commitment by the City to protect its historic resources and provide continuous improvement to historic preservation efforts, including the identification of historic properties within the jurisdiction.

For this project, the survey areas were selected based on a prioritization of neighborhoods with a concentration of potential historic resources that are over 50 years old. LW Associates prioritized the identification of potential historic districts within each neighborhood and identified potential individual resources.

Prior to the start of the Architectural Resource Survey, staff contacted the President of each affected neighborhood association. An overview of the project was provided along with a list of frequently asked questions related to Architectural Resource Surveys and staff also offered to speak to each of their neighborhood leadership groups. Representatives followed up with questions; however, none of the neighborhood associations requested staff to attend one of their meetings.

The survey resulted in the identification of multiple properties that may be eligible for historic designation including two potential historic districts and the identification of two potentially eligible individual historic landmarks in South Middle River and Middle River Terrace, along with three properties that were already designated as historic landmarks. Within the Historic Dorsey Riverbend and City View neighborhoods, one potential historic district and seven potentially eligible individual historic landmarks were identified, along with one property that is already designated as a historic landmark. Additionally, the completion of 282 new historic structures forms, three historic resource group forms, and updates to 55 historic structure forms have been submitted to the Florida Master Site File. The Florida Master Site File is a repository for information regarding Florida's archaeological sites and historical structures which is administered by the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, under the Florida Department of State.

To adopt any of the findings to designate potentially eligible historic districts or historic landmarks found within the Architectural Resource Survey, further outreach to the communities surveyed and property owners would first need to be conducted. In order to designate a new historic district, the Historic Preservation Board (HPB), the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB), and the City Commission would need to consider an ordinance to establish the historic district and a resolution to adopt a "Contributing" and "Non-Contributing" status for each property within the district boundaries.

Should the City Commission request initiation of a historic designation application for either a historic district or historic landmark, a motion in support of the application must be made by the City Commission. This would direct staff to conduct further research and prepare a historic designation application. Once a designation application is complete, it would proceed through the historic designation process which includes scheduling the item for consideration by the HPB and by the City Commission. Per the ULDR, the HPB is also able to make a motion to initiate a historic designation application. Other options outlined in the ULDR for who may apply for historic designation include the property owner(s) or a non-profit organization with a recognized interest in historic preservation.

A final Architectural Resource Survey report has been prepared that provides an overview of the effort, a summary of the findings, recommendations of eligibility, as well as a historical and architectural context for each neighborhood that was surveyed. The report and a summary of its results have been shared on the Historic Preservation Website (<https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/departments-a-h/development-services/urban-design-and-planning/historic-preservation/architectural-resource-surveys>) and will be shared with each affected Neighborhood Association with an offer for staff to provide a presentation at an upcoming neighborhood association meeting. Staff will also be meeting with the Commissioners that represent the areas that were surveyed to review the results and options for next steps as outlined above.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Trisha Logan, Principal Urban Planner, at 954-828-7101 or via email at tlogan@fortlauderdale.gov.

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