



Miami Affordability Project (MAP) : Historic Properties Dataset

Prepared by:

UM Office of Civic and Community Engagement

The [Miami Affordability Project \(MAP\)](#) contains data on subsidized housing and selected demographic data for Miami-Dade County. The intent is to provide an open-access tool for affordable housing and community development practitioners and advocates to better understand the supply and demand for housing and its geography, thereby leading to more informed housing policy and practice. The historic layer of MAP contains a list of historically significant sites in and around the Overtown neighborhood. The data was compiled from the City of Miami Historic Preservation Office and the Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser.

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Name: Chaille Block

Address: 401-447 N Miami Avenue

Year Built: 1914-1919

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: USA

Description: The buildings on the Chaille Block were built between 1914 and 1919, and the block is the only commercial streetscape from this period still intact in downtown Miami. The five buildings that comprise the block were built in the Masonry Vernacular style, a form of architecture typical of early twentieth-century South Florida. The block was named after William H. Chaille, a local businessman and politician who arrived in Miami in 1900. The mixed-use buildings are particularly noteworthy for their use of arcades, balconies, and canopies designed to adapt to the local climate.



Image courtesy of the Library of Congress (1991)

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Chaille Block] Designation Report [CBD-1/9], Miami, Florida [1988]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: Hindu Temple

Address: 870 NW 11th Street

Year Built: 1920

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: Krassimir Ivanov

Description: The Hindu Temple is a two-story frame and stucco building with domed octagonal towers and finely detailed windows. John Seybold, a German immigrant to Miami, originally commissioned the house. Seybold arrived in Miami in 1896 and eventually established himself as a prominent merchant and developer, building the Seybold Building and Arcade in downtown Miami in 1925. The Hindu Temple was inspired by one of the earliest motion pictures shot in Miami, the 1919 film *The Jungle Trail*. Seybold decided to construct a permanent structure based on a temporary set created for the movie, which included an elaborate temple. Seybold quickly sold the house to Charles Richardson, an actor who moved to South Florida in 1897. The Hindu Temple is still a private residence.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Hindu Temple] Designation Report [C-1], Miami, Florida [1991]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: St. Agnes' Episcopal Church

Address: 1750 NW 3rd Avenue

Year Built: 1930

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: St. Agnes Episcopal Church

Description: In 1898 Reverend James O.S. Huntington founded the St. Agnes' Episcopal Church to serve the city's Anglican Bahamian community. The congregation continued to grow and in 1923 they broke ground on a new building. However, financial problems and a major hurricane in 1926 delayed the opening of the new church until 1930. Harold Hastings Mundy, a noted Miami architect, designed the church, which combines elements of Gothic Revival and Mission styles of architecture. The interior of the church is particularly noteworthy and includes a finely detailed barrel-vaulted ceiling. During the 1940s, St. Agnes' was the third largest black Episcopal congregation in the nation. St. Agnes Church leaders have played an important role in advocating for Miami's black community. Reverend John E. Culmer, a minister at St. Agnes, was actively involved in a variety of social campaigns, including advocacy that eventually led to the construction of Miami's first public housing project in 1937, Liberty Square.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [St. Agnes' Episcopal Church] Designation Report [R-3], Miami, Florida [2003]. Prepared by Amy Streelman, Aileen de la Torre, and Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: Salvation Army Citadel

Address: 49 NW 5th Street

Year Built: 1925-1926

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: The Citadel Arena Corporation

Description: The Salvation Army Citadel was constructed in 1925 as a response to the growing need for social services in Miami due to the rapid influx of people to the area during the land boom. The Salvation Army Citadel is one of the few examples of Venetian Gothic architecture in Miami-Dade County. Robert A. Taylor, the building's architect, adapted this style to South Florida by including a first story arcade that covers the sidewalk. The building's pointed arches resemble the Doge's Palace in Venice. The Salvation Army occupied the building until 1969, when the organization moved to a new location. Only the front portion of the building still exists and is currently used as an entry portico to an office building.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Salvation Army Citadel] Designation Report [CG-2/7], Miami, Florida [1983]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Address: 301 NW 9th Street

Year Built: 1928

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: Historic Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church Inc.

Description: The Mt. Zion Baptist Church was founded on September 17, 1896 in a shack made of palmetto wood. The congregation eventually erected a wooden-framed structure on the church's present site, which was severely damaged by the hurricane of 1926. Construction of the present church building began in 1928 and took thirteen years to complete. Reverend J.R. Evans, one of the most prominent religious leaders of Overtown, oversaw construction. Mt. Zion is one of the few examples of Mediterranean Revival style architecture in Overtown. As with many other historical properties in this area, its design is also significant because of the ways planners adapted this style to the local environment by incorporating high ceilings and porches. The church was significantly impacted by the construction of Interstate 95 in the 1960s, when a portion of the church was acquired to build an entrance ramp. The congregation of Mt. Zion Baptist Church remains an active part of the community today.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Mt. Zion Baptist Church] Designation Report [RG-3/7], Miami, Florida [-]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: D.A. Dorsey House

Address: 250 NW 9th Street

Year Built: 1913

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: Black Archives History & Research Foundation Inc.

Description: Dana A. Dorsey, Miami's first black millionaire, commissioned the Dorsey house in 1913. Dorsey moved to Miami in 1897 and soon became a prominent real estate investor. In addition, he founded the city's first black-owned bank, served on the school board, and remained an important civic leader within the black community for most of his life. Dorsey built the house at 250 NW 9th Street in 1913 for his second wife Rebecca, and lived in the home until his death in 1940. The house is in the Frame Vernacular style, a form of South Florida architecture that features porches, gables, and overhanging eaves. The structure is historically significant because of its association with an important Overtown civic leader, businessman and philanthropist.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [D.A. Dorsey House] Designation Report [R-4], Miami, Florida [1983]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: Dorsey Memorial Library

Address: 100 NW 17th Street

Year Built: 1941

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: City of Miami Department of P&D Asset Management Division

Description: In 1940, Dana A. Dorsey, Miami’s first black millionaire, donated land to the Washington Heights Library Association and the City of Miami to build a new library in Overtown for black residents. The Dorsey Memorial Library was the first city-owned building constructed specifically as a library and was only the second library in Miami to accommodate African-American residents. The library was partly financed by a fundraising campaign led by the Washington Heights Library Association and the Friendship Garden and Civic Club. The prominent local architectural firm of Paist and Steward (which also designed the first public housing project in Miami, Liberty Square) designed the building in the Masonry Vernacular style, which makes use of local materials like limestone, clay, and coral. In 1961, the collection at the Dorsey Library was moved to the new Dixie Park Branch Library, leaving the Dorsey Memorial Library building vacant. The Dorsey Memorial Library both reflects the unique, architectural history of Miami and the important history of black mutual aid associations in Overtown.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Dorsey Memorial Library] Designation Report [R-3], Miami, Florida [-]. Prepared by Ellen J. Uguccioni and Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: Dr. William A. Chapman House

Address: 526 NW 13th Street

Year Built: 1923

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: School Board of Miami-Dade County

Description: Dr. William A. Chapman was a pioneer physician in Miami's black community and was the first black doctor in Florida to travel throughout the state to educate people on disease prevention and treatment. The Chapman home was built in 1923 and exemplifies the type of Masonry Vernacular architecture prevalent in Dade County in the 1920s. The house features classic detailing on the large porch and front façade. Dr. Chapman occupied the property until his death in 1940. The home is one of the most elaborate personal residences in Overtown that survives from this period and is now located on the grounds of Booker T. Washington High School.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Dr. William A. Chapman House] Designation Report [R-4], Miami, Florida [1983]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: Black Police Precinct and Courthouse

Address: 1009 NW 5th Avenue

Year Built: 1950

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: City of Miami – Department of P&D Asset Management Division

Description: In 1944, five African-Americans were officially sworn in as the City of Miami’s first black police officers. By the late 1940s there were more than forty black officers and in 1949 city officials constructed a separate facility in Overtown to serve as a police station for the patrolmen and as a municipal court with an African-American judge presiding over black defendants. Lawson Edward Thomas was appointed to serve as judge of the Black Municipal Court in 1950 becoming the first black judge in Miami-Dade County and the first black judge in the South since Reconstruction. Under this court, many of the city’s black defendants experienced equal protection and due process for the first time. Walter C. DeGarmo, a prominent local architect, designed the Black Police Precinct and Courthouse in a Modern style. The precinct operated until July 1963 when its officers were transferred to the main police headquarters. The building is currently preserved as the Black Police Precinct and Courthouse Museum.



City of Miami Designation Report (c. 1955)

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Black Police Precinct and Courthouse] Designation Report [G/I], Miami, Florida [2002]. Prepared by Ellen J. Uguccioni and Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: Lyric Theater

Address: 819 NW 2nd Avenue

Year Built: 1913

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South Florida Inc.

Description: Cedar Walker, a wealthy black businessman, commissioned the Lyric Theater in 1913. The theater served as a movie house and was an important venue on NW 2nd Avenue, which was then known as “Little Broadway.” Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, the theater and the surrounding area featured famous black performers such as Billie Holiday, Marion Anderson, Nat King Cole, and Bessie Smith, helping Miami earn the moniker “the Harlem of the South.” Built in the Masonry Vernacular style, the Lyric Theater also includes various classical details in its impressive façade such as Corinthian-style pilasters, recessed bays, and arched parapets. As the last surviving theater building from this era, the Lyric Theater represents an important period in Overtown’s history and is a historical testament to the community’s vibrant cultural life. After lying vacant for several years, the building has been restored and serves as a performing arts center.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Lyric Theater] Designation Report [CR-3/7], Miami, Florida [-]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: X-Ray Clinic

Address: 171 NW 11th Street

Year Built: 1939

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South Florida Inc.

Description: Dr. Samuel H. Johnson constructed the X-Ray Clinic in 1939. Johnson arrived in Miami as a child in 1903 and eventually became the first black radiologist in South Florida. Black residents were denied access to x-ray facilities at Miami’s City Hospital, and Johnson created his clinic to serve the area’s black population. Dr. Johnson’s brother, John, practiced law from the X-Ray Clinic between 1947 and 1955; in 1949, he hosted Thurgood Marshall, then legal counsel for the NAACP, at the clinic. Dr. Johnson continued to operate the clinic until 1967. He donated his former office building to the Black Archives in 1981. The X-Ray Clinic is an example of Streamline Moderne-style architecture, which can be seen in the building’s rounded corners, horizontal band of windows, use of glass block, and central relief details. The building is an excellent example of 1930s Miami architecture, and an important historical site reflecting the city’s history of segregation and black activism.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [X-Ray Clinic] Designation Report [CR-3/7], Miami, Florida [1984]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: New Providence Lodge Site No. 365

Address: 937-939 NW 3rd Avenue

Year Built: 1954

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: Loin Folk Life Village LLC

Description: In 1912, a Freemason chapter exclusively for black men was incorporated in Florida. The Overtown lodge was issued its charter in 1917; the chapter's building was completed in 1954. Prominent members of the New Providence Lodge included the founder of the *Miami Times*, Garth Rese; famed event promoter, Clyde Killens; owner of the Ward Rooming House, Shaddack Ward; and several others. The structure has numerous symbolic references to the Mason organization including the stones aligning the door, which allude to the stone quarries used to build King Solomon's Temple.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo (c. 1950s)

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [New Providence Lodge No. 365] Designation Report [SD-16], Miami, Florida [2009]. Prepared by Chelsa Arscott, Richard Eleman, and others.

Name: Ward Rooming House Gallery

Address: 249-51-53-55 NW 9th Street

Year Built: 1925

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: SEOPWCRA

Description: The Ward Rooming House is a two-story Masonry Vernacular building that served as a rooming house during segregation. The property is linked to Shadrack Ward, who arrived to Miami from Key West in 1894. Built in 1925, the structure has Conch and Mediterranean Revival influences. The building's porches and symmetry are elements of the Conch style—an architectural style that can be traced to Key West and the Bahamas. The structure's Mediterranean Revival influences can be seen in the ornamental brackets along the arches of each bay as well as the stucco finish. The Rooming House was frequently occupied by Bahamian immigrants and is historically significant because of its association with the early African-American community of Overtown.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo (c. 1940)

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Ward Rooming House] Designation Report [Multi-Family, High Density Residential], Miami, Florida [2006]. Prepared by Kisa K. Hooks, Ellen J. Uguccioni, and Kathleen Kauffman.

Name: Ebenezer Methodist Church

Address: 1042 NW 3rd Avenue

Year Built: 1947

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: SEOPWCRA

Description: The Ebenezer Methodist Church, originally called the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, was founded in August 1898, and by 1907 was one of six active religious organizations in the Overtown community. Construction on the current church, the third site for the congregation, began in 1947. Ebenezer Methodist Church is an excellent example of a twentieth-century adaptation of the Gothic Revival style. The stylized front façade includes a recessed entry and the sides of the church feature large arched windows, important adaptations of the Gothic Revival style for the South Florida climate. The church has served as an important meeting place for the Overtown community throughout its history, and the congregation has provided important humanitarian and social services.



City of Miami Designation Report (1988)

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Ebenezer Methodist Church] Designation Report [CR-2/7], Miami, Florida [1988]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: St. John's Baptist Church

Address: 1328 NW 3rd Avenue

Year Built: 1940

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: St. Johns Baptist Church Inc.

Description: St. John's Baptist Church was founded in 1906 and is one of the oldest black churches in Miami. By 1939, the congregation exceeded 1,000 people, necessitating the construction of a larger church. The design of St. John's Baptist incorporates Art Deco and modernist architectural styles, a rarity for ecclesiastical buildings. The church is also one of the few Art Deco buildings in the Overtown area. McKissack and McKissack, one of the first major black architectural firms in the United States, designed the building. The structure has not been altered since its construction and the congregation remains an active part of the community today.



Courtesy of HistoryMiami (1979)

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [St. John's Institutional Baptist Church] Designation Report [CR-2/7], Miami, Florida [-]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: Greater Bethel AME Church

Address: 245 NW 8th Street

Year Built: 1927

City of Miami Historic Designation: Yes

Owner: Greater Bethel AME Church

Description: The Greater Bethel AME Church houses the oldest black congregation in Miami. The congregation was established in 1896, several months before the City of Miami was incorporated. Construction on the present structure began in 1927 and was not completed until 1943. The two-story masonry building is architecturally significant because it is one of the few examples of the Mediterranean Revival style in Overtown. The structure includes stained-glass windows and a stylized Romanesque arch motif that wraps itself around the building’s façade. The scale and façade of the church make it one of the most imposing structures in the neighborhood. Throughout its existence, the Greater Bethel AME Church has served the religious and humanitarian needs of the Overtown community.



Courtesy of HistoryMiami (1989)

Citation: City of Miami Planning and Zoning Department [Greater Bethel AME Church] Designation Report [CR-3/7], Miami, Florida [2004]. Prepared by Sarah E. Eaton.

Name: Lawson Edward Thomas' Overtown Law Office

Address: 1021 NW 2nd Avenue

Year Built: 1936

City of Miami Historic Designation: No

Owner: Lawson E. and Eugenia B. Thomas

Description: The simple concrete block building at 1021 NW 2nd Avenue was the law office of Lawson Edward Thomas. Thomas, a civil rights activist and the first black judge in Miami-Dade County, used this site as his office for over 30 years, from the late 1950s until the late 1980s. Thomas was involved in a number of groundbreaking civil rights campaigns and lawsuits, including organizing a protest against the customary exclusion of blacks from Miami's beaches and a lawsuit that succeeded in restricting Miami-Dade County from formally zoning along racial lines. Following his numerous legal achievements, Thomas was appointed judge of Miami's Black Municipal Court in 1950, becoming the first black judge in the post-Civil War South. Built in 1936, the Masonry Vernacular style building has a stucco exterior and features a simple rectilinear plan. The building still retains the law firm's original signage and is currently vacant.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo (c.1940s)

Citation: UM Office of Civic and Community Engagement [L.E. Thomas' Overtown Law Office] Preliminary Designation Report [T6-8 O], Miami, Florida [2016]. Prepared by Jorge Damian de la Paz and Alexander Adams.

Name: Clyde Killens' House

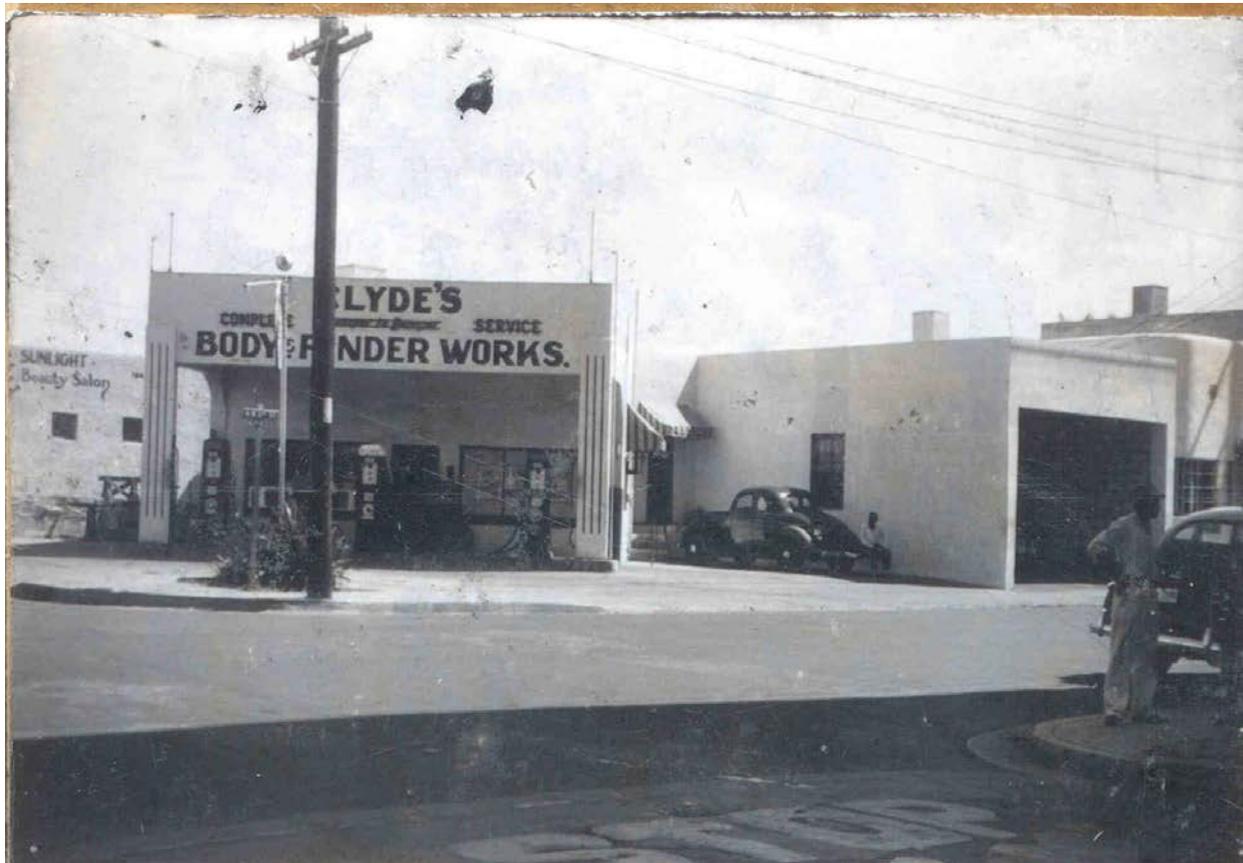
Address: 173 NW 11th Street

Year Built: 1925 (Remodeled in 1941)

City of Miami Historic Designation: No

Owner: SEOPWCRA

Description: The Clyde Killens' House was originally built as a gas station and was significantly remolded in 1941 to include a second-story addition over the commercial garage. The property was the home of Clyde Killens, a local musician, club owner and promoter. Count Basie, Nat King Cole, Aretha Franklin, and numerous others played at his venues located along NW 2nd Avenue, which was then known as "Little Broadway." The property is currently vacant.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Name: Clyde Killens' Pool Hall

Address: 920 NW 2nd Avenue

Year Built: 1954

City of Miami Historic Designation: No

Owner: SEOPWCRA

Description: Built in 1954, the billiards hall was once owned and operated by club promoter and musician, Clyde Killens. The Clyde Killens' Pool Hall was located on Overtown's major entertainment corridor, NW 2nd Avenue. The property is being renovated by the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency. Once the renovations are completed the agency plans to lease the building as an art gallery and/or jazz club.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Name: The Josephine and Dunn Hotel

Address: 1028 NW 3rd Avenue

Year Built: 1938

City of Miami Historic Designation: No

Owner: JEJ Properties Inc.

Description: The two hotels, which consisted of two separate buildings, are some of the few remaining hotels in the area from the early and middle twentieth century. The Josephine Hotel was built in 1938 and the Dunn Hotel in 1947. During segregation, hotels in Overtown would serve black entertainers barred from receiving accommodation in Miami Beach. The Josephine and Dunn Hotel is being renovated into a boutique hotel with funding from the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Name: 1950 Moderne Office

Address: 1034 NW 3rd Avenue

Year Built: 1950

City of Miami Historic Designation: Lion 1034 LLC

Owner: No

Description: The 1950 Moderne Office is a great example of mid-century Modern architecture in Overtown. The concrete block, mixed-use building includes three recessed, angled entrances for the first floor business and a large rectangle relief on the second floor, which contains seven apartment units. The building's stone trim along the ground floor entrance is a common detail of the mid-century Modern style. The 1950 Moderne Office is currently occupied by various small businesses.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Name: Stirrup Building

Address: 801-23 NW 3rd Avenue

Year Built: 1925

City of Miami Historic Designation: No

Owner: MTZ Carver LLC C/O Mt. Zion Development Inc.

Description: The Stirrup Building was constructed in 1925 by Ebenezer Woodbury Franklin Stirrup, a Bahamian developer and entrepreneur. Stirrup was the first black developer in Coconut Grove and by the time of his death in 1957 had built more than one hundred houses for the black community. The three-story Stirrup Building includes ten residential units as well as commercial space on the first floor. The Mt. Zion Community Development Corporation and the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency recently redeveloped the structure into a mixed-use affordable housing development.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Name: Hotel Foster

Address: 342 NW 11th Street

Year Built: 1938

City of Miami Historic Designation: No

Owner: 342BH LLC

Description: The Hotel Foster is one of the few remaining examples of Mediterranean Revival architecture in Overtown. Built in 1938, this property has been significantly remolded over time. The structure initially contained a detached bungalow in the rear, an open porch, wood windows, and plaster walls, all of which have been removed. The two-story building is a now multifamily residence with twenty-four living units.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo

Name: Dorsey Park

Address: 1775 NW 1st Avenue

Year Built: 2000

City of Miami Historic Designation: No

Owner: City of Miami – Department of P&D Asset Management Division

Description: In 1917, Dana Dorsey, a local civic leader and philanthropist, provided land to the City of Miami for the first public park for black residents in Overtown. The site is still a public park.



City of Miami Tax Historic Tax Card Photo