

DISTRICT XII
UPPER KEYS GARDEN CLUB
AWARD #36
SUBURBIA PUBLIC PLANTING
CIVIC

4

FLORIDA FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

APPLICATION FOR AWARD

DISTRICT NO. XII

DATE OF APPLICATION Dec. 26, 1979

TO BE PRESENTED IN 1981

AWARD NO. 36 CLASS NAME OF AWARD Suburbia Public Planting

APPLICANT'S NAME: (Club(s), Circle and Club, Council, Individual, High School, Intermediate, Junior or other youth unit and sponsoring club.)

NAME Upper Keys Garden Club

ADDRESS P.O. Box 794, Tavernier, Florida 33070

TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACHIEVEMENT: "BOTANICAL GARDENS"

for COMPLEX OF BLDGS. known as Upper Keys GOVERNMENT CENTER.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS for MONROE COUNTY ASKED U.K. GARDEN CLUB
SEPT. 1979 TO PLAN A MALL - SIDEWALKS TO CONTROL FOOT TRAFFIC FROM
VARIOUS BUILDINGS AND PARKING LOTS. LOW MAINTENANCE PLANTINGS
TO MAKE THE AREA AN ATTRACTIVE RETREAT FOR PEOPLE WAITING
FOR COURT, COUNTY WORKERS (AND SAFE PLANTS). WITH A LARGE
NEW COURT HOUSE WE NEEDED TO SOFTEN, SHADE, and SOMETIMES SCREEN
AREAS. WHILE FUNDING WAS VERY LIMITED AND COUNTY HELP
SLOW TO COME BY - We managed to complete the project on
Schedule by Oct. 1, 1980 with actual starting in summer 1980.
4 large areas were handled. 300'x85' MALL; 224' HILLSIDE; SUNKEN
GARDEN 25'x30'; RAMP FRONT ENTRANCE 100' x 25'.
100 MEMBERS (1-1-80), 100% participating

SIGNATURE: CLUB OR CIRCLE PRESIDENT

Detty B. (Mrs H. H.) Wilson

ADDRESS PO Box 794 Tavernier, FL 33070

NAME OF LOCAL AWARDS CHMN.

Mrs. W. W. Wilson

MRS W. G. THORPE

ADDRESS OF LOCAL AWARDS CHMN.

P.O. Box 794, Tavernier, Florida 33070

Fasten this copy to inside of front cover of Book of Evidence and BEFORE JANUARY 30
(unless otherwise specified in individual award) mail to:

STATE CHAIRMAN OF Landscape Design Critics' Council, Liaison

NAME Mrs. U. A. Young

ADDRESS 505 Royal Palm Way, Tampa, Fl. 33609

DISTRICT XII
UPPER KEYS GARDEN CLUB
AWARD #36
SUBURBIA PUBLIC PLANTING
CIVIC

PLANNING and PLANTING
"BOTANICAL GARDENS"
a project of four areas: Mall - 300' x 85';
Hillside - 220'; Sunken Garden - 25' x 30'; and
a Ramp entrance front of 100'.
MONROE COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, FLORIDA KEYS

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6345 Riviera Drive
Coral Gables, Fla.
33146

November 14, 1980

Mrs. U. A. Young, President
Florida Landscape Critics' Council, Liaison
505 Royal Palm Way
Tampa, Fla. 33609

Dear Mrs. Young:

SUBURBIA PUBLIC PLANTING
CIVIC AWARD No. 36
UPPER KEYS GARDEN CLUB

I have reviewed this Upper Keys Garden Club project personally; inspecting the pictures before hand and their landscape design layout. I have also visited the finished project of the Upper Keys Government Center on Plantation Key.

It is functional and useful. This is a splendid example of how proper landscaping can enhance the attractiveness of public buildings, small triangles, ovals, parks, recreation areas, as well as streets and boulevards in new subdivisions outside city oimits.

The proper placement of plants and shrubs by the Club will not make for traffic hazards. Native trees and plantings are a wise choice and afford ease of maintenance. The Garden Club will see to overall care by enlisting aid from other groups.

Upper Keys Garden Club sets a good example of civic pride through their own efforts and willingness to do and share.

A worthy project, deserving of a high Award!

Sincerely,
Estelle Pullias
Mrs. George M. Pullias
Landscape Critic

Dale R. Baldwin

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

REGISTERED

1030 DOVE ROAD
LIME GROVE ESTATES
KEY LARGO, FLORIDA 33037
PHONE 852-3221
MIAMI 253-5033

November 24, 1980

Upper Keys Garden Club
Tavernier, Florida 33070

RE: Plantation Government
Center
Plantation Key, Florida

To Whom It May Concern:

As a Landscape Architect and a member of the American Institute of Landscape Architects, I have been asked to evaluate the landscape installation at the subject complex.

The open areas between the buildings and adjacent to the parking is part of the entry to the Government Center. This is nicely laid out, preserving the existing trees and using small scale flowering trees to highlight this interesting walkway. Planting is small but mostly of native variety and is planted in such a manner that it allows room to grow properly. Existing native trees provide shade to the parking and soften the buildings.

Two areas are under the overhang or roof areas and are nicely handled as these areas slope up to the entry or floor elevation. This is done with low ground covers, cypress dowels, boulders, and highlighted by the use of Brassia Arborea as a back ground.

Once one is on the upper or floor level you immediately view a sunken boulder rock garden bordered by a wood boardwalk. This area features three small cascading waterfalls on different levels with native fern, Philodendron and other tropicals that tolerate the shade. It is quite unique in the treatment of this area and the light sound of the water coming over the waterfalls is quite a relaxing atmosphere when visiting this center.

The landscaping is nicely designed and is definitely a credit to the entire area and the citizens of Monroe County.

Sincerely,

Dale R. Baldwin
Dale R. Baldwin
Landscape Architects

DRB/k1

In September, 1979, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners contacted Mrs. Betty Wilson, President of the Upper Keys Garden Club: would the Club be interested in a landscaping project at the new Government Center on Plantation Key?

We came--we looked--would the membership be able to transform a dead-grass sunken garden and a coral rock expanse of earth into an attractive, eye-catching inviting area?

Well, it was certainly a challenge, if nothing else, so in October all those interested members of our 100 member Club met with Don Schloesser, Chairman of the County Commission at our Francis Tracy Garden Center at Mile Marker 94 on U.S. Highway 1. (PHOTO BELOW)

Our thirty year old Club has been involved in several landscaping projects at schools and public buildings through the years.

So we said "Yes", after the details were explained:

- 1) The Public Works Dept. of the County would be doing the labor. (That turned out to be an exaggeration!)
- 2) \$3500 was the amount stipulated, but more funds would be made available. (\$5000 additional was allowed at the September 18th Commission meeting.)
- 3) The County would maintain the area after planting was complete. (As of this date, we're still watering!)

So now we had a real job before us--what to do first? Study the areas, photograph them, measure all the space to be planted, and decide WHO...WHAT...WHEN...WHERE...HOW...

So what was there? A 300 foot mall, a 220 foot hill-side entry up to the first level, a 24 x 30 foot sunken garden, and a building entrance from High Point Road. (All uninviting, dull, and plant-less, we might add.)



Committee members began their tasks after determining that the plan should,

1) Utilize native trees and shrubs in the mall, using low maintenance plantings for texture and color harmony.

2) Control foot traffic making easy access to all of the buildings from the parking area, using curving sidewalks and ramps for the handicapped.

3) Shading and screening the near-by old zoning building, (a nice conservation measure, too).

4) Partially screen the mall from the parking area.

5) Screen from view the unsightly road equipment stored at the end of the mall.

6) Last, but not least, take this delightful opportunity to carry out the PLANT GOLD theme of the Florida State Federation of Garden Clubs golden anniversary.

At just the right time, the Monroe County Agent, Ray Zerba, gave a course in Landscape Design for the Florida Keys, and nine of our club members received one credit from the University of Florida for taking the course.

The final plans were drafted, presented to the County Commission, accepted unanimously, and so in March, 1980, we were on our way!

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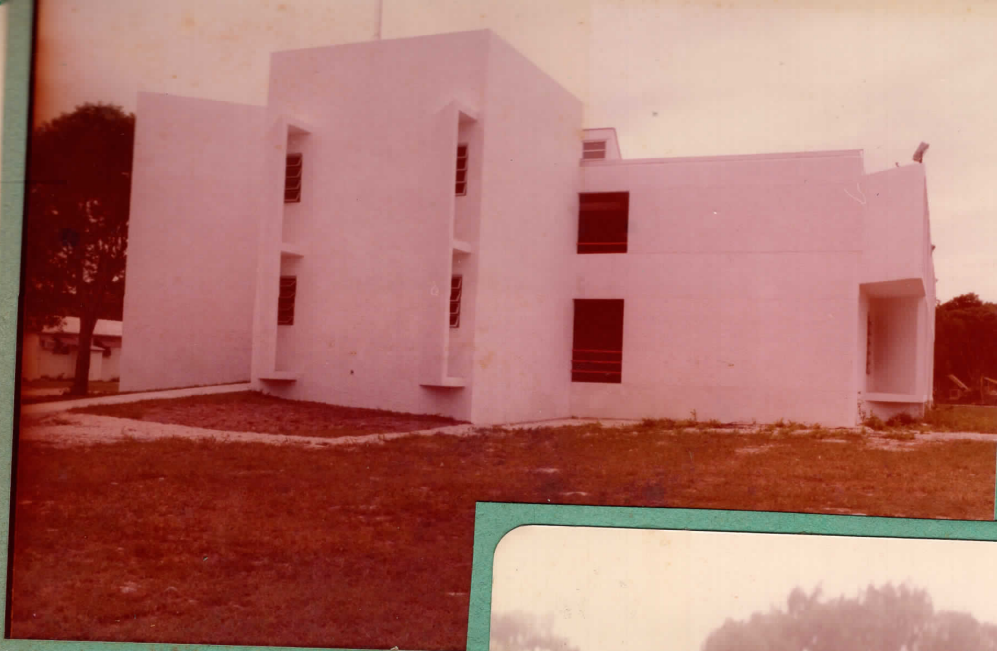
DESIGNATION AFTER OUR INVITATION
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF 9-8-79

Highway Beautification Committee. Motion was made by Commissioner Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Dolezal to refer this matter to the Interim County Administrator for investigation and a full report. Motion carried unanimously.

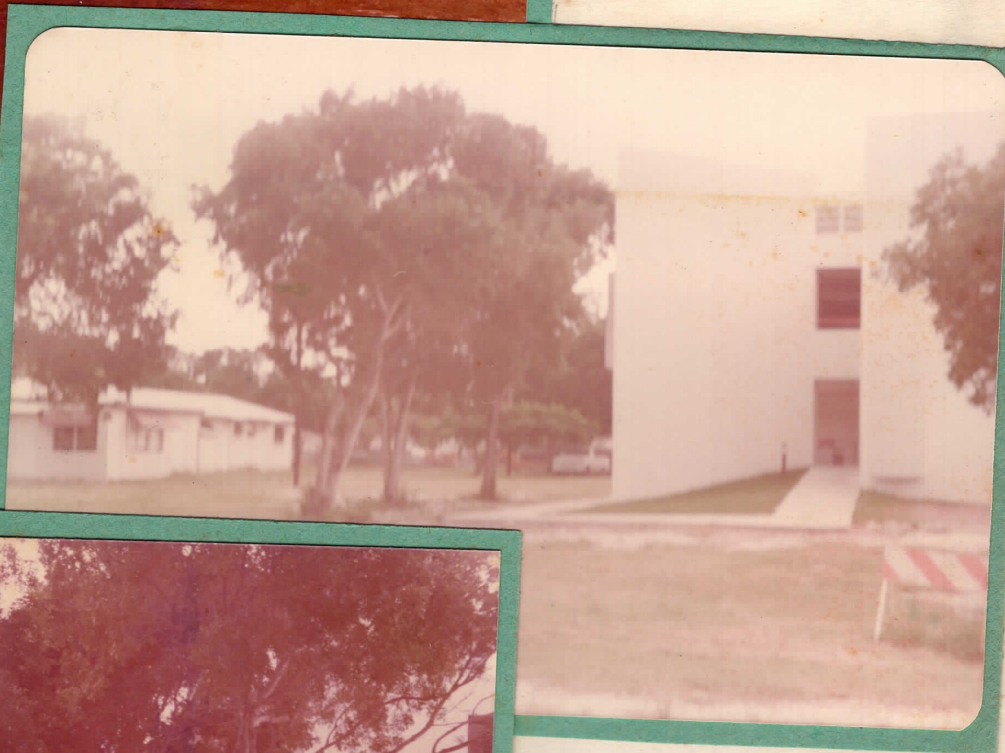
Commissioner Kerr was to discuss fuel for County Government. This matter was withdrawn from the agenda.

Chairman Schloesser made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Hernandez to designate the Upper Keys Garden Club as the agency responsible for the landscaping for the Upper Keys Governmental Center and authorizing the use of County personnel and equipment for this purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

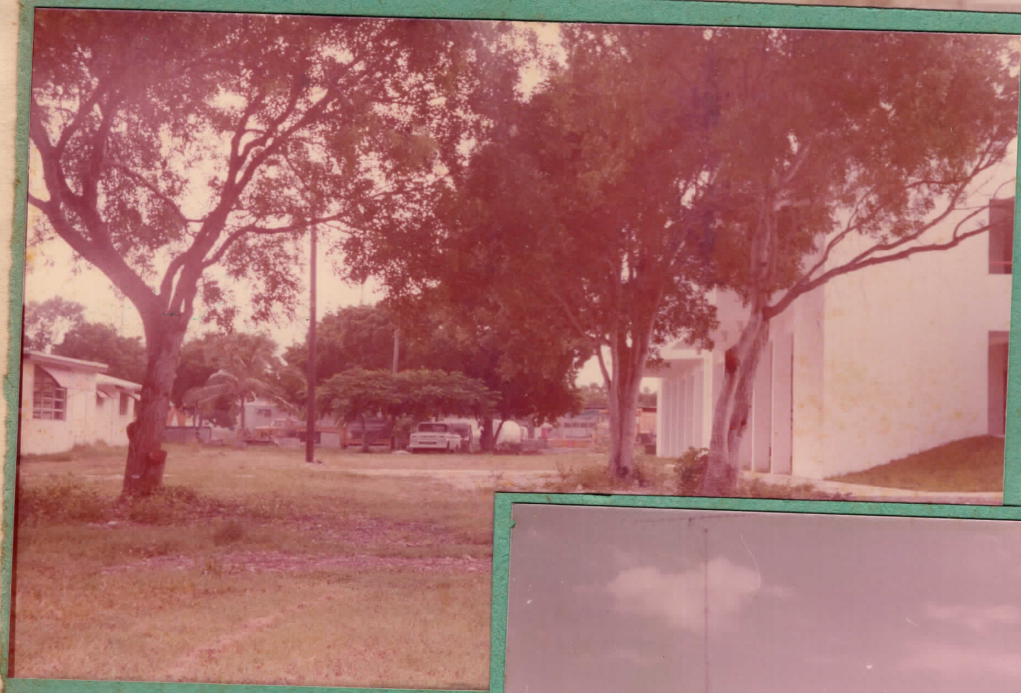
NEW COURT BLDG
UNDER CONSTRUCTION
BACKSIDE VIEW



MULTI-BLDG. COMPLEX
MANAGE TO SAVE
ALL LARGE OLD
MAHOGONY, Sapodillo,
POINCIANA.

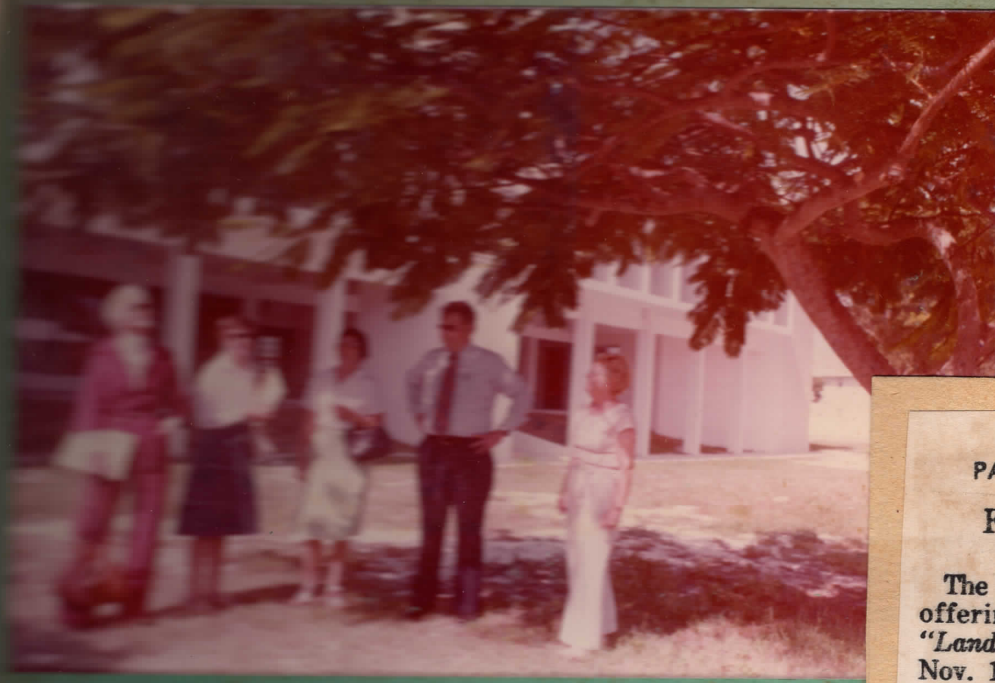


AREA DESIGNATED TO
BE 300' x 85' MALL



WILL HAVE TO
SCREEN OLD BLDG.
WEST EXPOSURE
OLD MOTEL
CONVERTED INTO
BLDG. & ZONING
OFFICES -
ALONG SIDE
MALL
DOORS - UNUSED





TAKING A BREAK AT NOON, FROM CLASS -- WE CONFER WITH COUNTY AGENT ZERBA ABOUT OUR IDEAS ON SOIL AND PLANTINGS

STANDING ON BEDROCK, POSED A PROBLEM FOR TREE PLANTING. HILLSIDE (224') IN BACKGROUND (FILL) UP TO LOWER LEVEL OF BUILDING,

PROBLEM AREAS EVERYWHERE ROAD DEPT AREA AT END OF MALL WILL HAVE TO BE SCREENED



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FREE LANDSCAPING COURSE

The Florida Cooperative Extension Service is offering a Saturday short course entitled "Landscaping in the Keys" to be held Saturday, Nov. 10th and Saturday, Nov. 17th, 1979 at the cafeteria in Coral Shores High School. One Continuing Education Credit will be offered to all those who attend both sessions. The course is designed to look in detail at the various plants that are commonly grown in the Keys.

This course has never been offered in the Upper Keys area before. It is realized that a lot of information is being presented all at once and that the sessions are long, but restrictions on travel and a desire to conserve energy dictate this type of presentation.

Please call toll free 664-9190 or 664-2581, ext. 263 to let us know if you'll be coming.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 10th, 1979:

- 9:30 - 10:30 AM Plants as Environmental Modifiers
- 10:30 - 11:30 AM Understanding Our Growing Conditions
- 11:30 - 12:00 N. Questions and Answers
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch Break
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM Landscape Design Principles and Examples
- 2:00 - 3:00 PM Ground Covers for the Keys
- 3:00 - 3:15 PM Break
- 3:15 - 4:15 PM Hedges for the Keys

Saturday, November 17th, 1979:

- 9:30 - 10:30 AM Specimen Plants for the Keys
- 10:30 - 11:30 AM Trees for Shade
- 11:30 - 12:00 N. Questions and Answers
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch Break
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM Flowering Trees for the Keys
- 2:00 - 3:00 PM Fruit Trees for the Keys
- 3:00 - 3:15 PM Break
- 3:15 - 4:15 PM Vegetables for the Keys

SEPTEMBER 4, 1980 THE RE

don Schlo

NEXT MEETING: 9/11 (Thursday) at Plantation Government Center.

Once again, let me remind you of the many vitally important items on the agenda at the September 11th meeting. The meeting will be held on Thursday, instead of the normal Tuesday, because of the Primary Election.

We will have public hearings in the Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Planning Act. There will be changes in the text of the Zoning Ordinance relative to definitions of "story" and "height" along with appeal procedure changes. We will have the appeal hearing on the Port Largo Airport. The extremely controversial Lobster Trap ordinance will have its first public hearing, along with two other zoning change appeals. Our new courtroom seats 135 people, but I believe we will be playing to a full house next Thursday. The "routine" items start at 10:00 AM. However, nothing seems to be "routine" anymore in a growing county like ours. As people live closer together, a very small segment of the population, who care nothing about their neighbors, create problems that affect the other 90%. Each year we have more of these problems to solve.

We had the cornerstone ceremony for the new Upper Keys Government Center on Saturday, August 23. The Masons conducted their ancient ceremony for this event. I hereby express my thanks to the Masons and all the other people, including County staff, that did the behind-the-scenes detail work to make the ceremony a success. It was just about a year ago to the day that we formally opened the Government Center for court and Commission meeting purposes. According to the schedule, both the Judges and State Attorney should be moved into their new quarters by now, in the upstairs part of the building.

The Garden Club designed the landscaping, including the waterfalls that will ultimately be finished. We may have been last in getting our building, but when fully landscaped, it will be the most attractive of all the county buildings.

At our August 26th meeting we opened the bid for new daymarkers in Tavernier Creek Channel. For both this channel and one near Key West, we received only one bid. Staff will review the bid. If it meets specifications, and is reasonable, it will be awarded. Some day I've got to get my boat running and see what the Keys look like from the water. It's been on the trailer for two years now without having been run.

All too often "a" Commissioner is either criticized or given credit for something that is done in the County. It takes the vote of at least three County Commissioners to authorize various projects. "We" Commissioners authorized the expenditure of the last \$1,000. in our discretionary account for recreational use at Harris Park. By law, we cannot give any group funds. What we do is authorize legitimate expenditures, purchased by an through the County, for worthwhile purposes.

We passed the Resolution agreeing to the cooperative effort with the City of Key West concerning the disposition of the Navy Submarine Base in Key West. Some of the people in Key West criticized the County for getting involved because all the land is in the corporate limits of the City. Our position for involvement was that even though

CORNER-STONE BUT OUR GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS ARE STILL PLANTING.

THE FOLLOWING WEEK FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED FOR LABOR TO FINISH THE PROJECT BY OCT. 1. THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR. SO we had some help. TO BEGIN WITH WE WERE ONLY ASKED TO PLAN.

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ENT CENTER CORNERSTONE



A cornerstone laying ceremony was held at the government center on Key last Sat., conducted by the Lodge. Present Chairman of the Monroe Commission Don Schloesser, who was chairman when the facility was planned in 1968, presided over the ceremony.