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**Archaeological Investigations
at Indian Key, Florida**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT
INDIAN KEY, FLORIDA

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FOREWORD

The following report is intended as an overview of archaeological field work conducted on Indian Key in 1972-73. Although it presents a summary of this field work and some rather impressionistic conclusions it should not be considered "final." To present a thorough analysis of the Housman mansion itself would require nearly as much time as has been allotted for analysis on the entire key. The fact that the mansion was discovered at all, however, should serve as some solace to those (including the author) who are disappointed with the brevity of its treatment in the following report.

This report is intended to be read in conjunction with a report on the history of Indian Key by Michael Schene for the Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management. For this reason the usual "Historical Background" portion of the report has been omitted as have the customary historical textual citations and bibliography.

A preliminary plant list compiled by Lt. Richard E. Roberts of the Florida Department of Natural Resources is included in the report along with a list of plants imported to South Florida by Dr. Perrine in the early nineteenth century.

INTRODUCTION

The initial stage of the Indian Key Project was devoted to two main objectives: (1) the preparation of an accurate topographical map of the island including major archaeological features and (2) the conducting of a systematic archaeological survey of the island in an effort to locate and identify as many historically significant structures as possible.

The result of this research was released for limited circulation in the form of a preliminary report in September of 1972. Wherever applicable, excerpts from that report are included in this report with little or no modification.

The second stage of the project was devoted to correlating archaeological data with the cartographic and historical materials available, testing the working hypotheses formed during the first stage of the project, and carrying out extensive and intensive archaeological excavations in an effort to gain an overall understanding of the site.

The following report is a summary of the archaeological work completed on the island during the first and second stages of the project.