

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
OF
KEY WEST

Prepared for the
Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties
Division of Archives

History and Records Management
Report #48

Published after 1976

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CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY OF KEY WEST

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BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES & MONUMENTS, DIV. OF ARCHIVES

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY OF KEY WEST
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PREFACE
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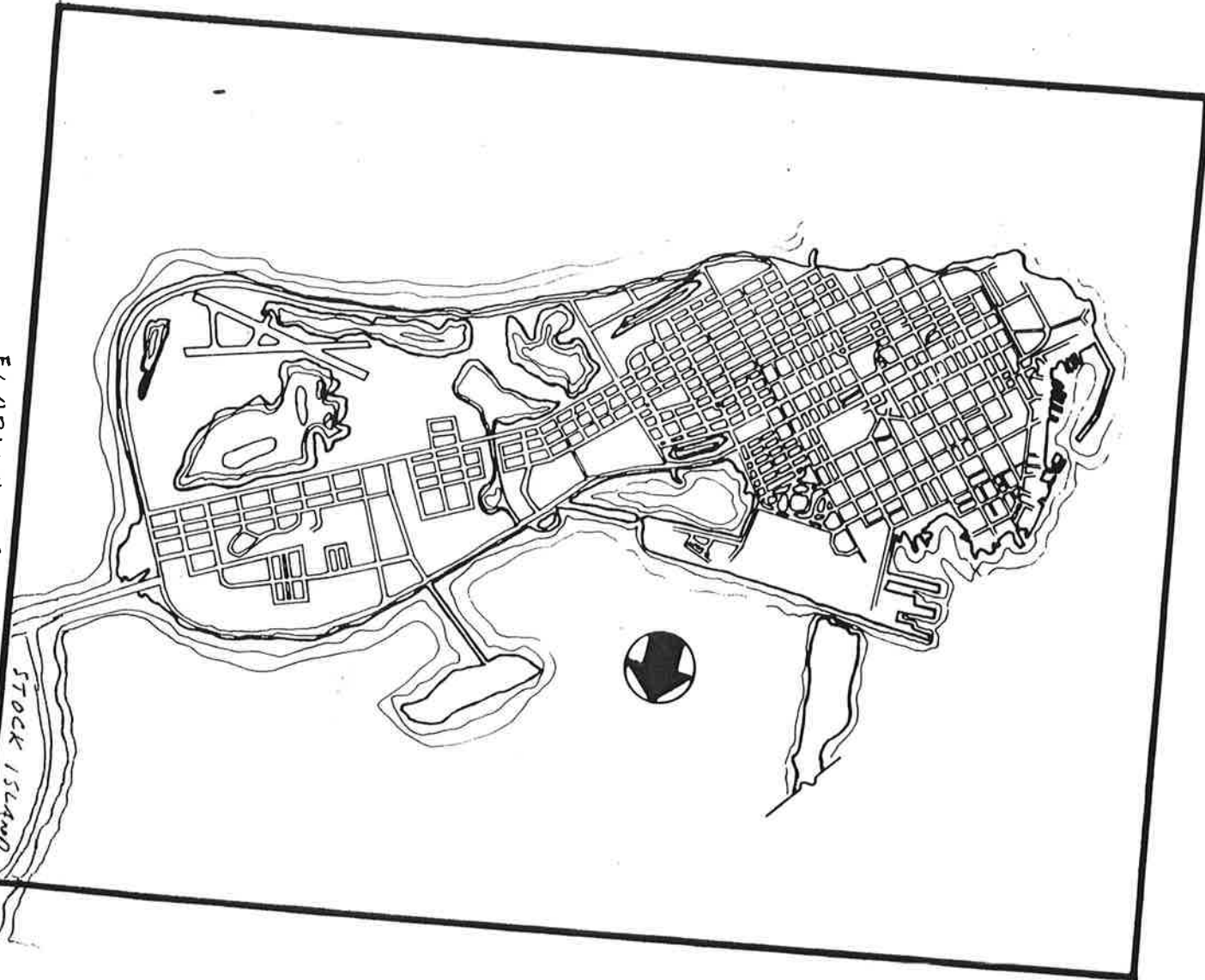
The Survey Background

The Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties of the Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management is mandated to "locate, acquire, preserve, and promote the location, acquisition and preservation of historic sites and properties, buildings, artifacts, treasure troves, and objects of antiquity which have scientific or historical value or are of interest of the public . . . " (Chapter 267.061, Florida Statutes). The known abundance of the cultural resources of the island and city of Key West made it an obvious location for a future in-depth survey. The course of events, however, made it necessary and possible to conduct such a survey at an earlier date than previously forecast.

The withdrawal of the military from Key West, announced for 1977, brought Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment," and CFR 800, "Procedures for the Protection of Historic Cultural Properties," into play. Their requirements and impacts on cultural resources and mitigation of any possible cooperation with the liaison officer for historic preservation for the state . . . involved. Thus, while D.A.H.R.M. was not specifically required to conduct an immediate cultural resource survey of Key West, the conjunction of its state-mandated functions with planned federal actions made early activity desirable. Further, in 1975, the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida, sitting as the Board of Administration, designated the Florida Keys, including Key West, an Area of Critical State Concern. That designation signified the recognition that the natural and cultural resources of the Keys transcended local considerations and would be considered state resources. While there was certainly some knowledge about the extent of the cultural resources of the island of Key West, no comprehensive survey had ever been conducted.

A further consideration in favor of a cultural resource compilation was the result of developmental pressures from both the private and public sectors. Private demolition of nineteenth century buildings to make way for new construction has been a constant problem in Key West. The destruction of the Convent and the Caroline Lowe House are only the extreme examples. Certain federal programs in the realm of low-income housing, such as that which resulted in the Fort Village development, have demolished cultural resources in order to relocate people in the same locale.

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STOCK ISLAND

Key West Map, 1973