

SIDE ONE:

FRANK MORSE BUTTON (1866-1938)

Frank Button was the first registered landscape architect in Florida and a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The designer of Lincoln Park in Chicago, Mr. Button was hired by City Founder George Merrick as the master planner for Coral Gables at a fee of \$1 an acre. He completed the first comprehensive map of Coral Gables in July 1921.

His design for the City of Coral Gables included parkways, canals, gardens and recreational facilities. His planting plans incorporated native plants which he integrated with tropical and imported specimens, a design concept that he wrote about in his 1921 article "The Suburb Beautiful."

He also directed the landscaping of all the streets, plazas, parkways and parks in Coral Gables. This close participation in field-work led to his untimely death on August 4, 1938 when he fell into the path of a truck while supervising the planting of the now immense Ficus benjamina trees in the median of Bird Road.

Coral Gables is evidence that the wisdom of Mr. Button's planning and design has established a legacy for generations to come.

SIDE TWO:

"Coral Gables with its immense acreage of gently rolling and undulating land, offers rare advantages for the best that the landscape architect can produce. Its broad vistas invite the greatest freedom in planning spacious boulevards, delightful parks, charming recreation centers and many other features which are possible under exceptional conditions."

"On all of the principal boulevards at Coral Gables have been laid out delightful parks, plazas and rest spots, one-half to five acres in area, that break the vista of the avenues and provide the most charming possibilities for landscape work of the most effective kind."

Frank Button, "The Suburb Beautiful" Miami Herald Article, November, 1921

"Perhaps the most important adjunct to the landscape artist is the wonderful blue sky with masses of snowy clouds lightly floating, interrupted on the horizon by the tall picturesque Caribbean Pine. At sunset the day passes, through all the liquid colors of the rainbow, into a brilliant starry night, and it is then that about once a month for a few nights the balmy air is filled with the heavy perfume of the night blooming jessamine."

Frank Button, "Landscaping in Southern Florida" Southern Architect and Building News, February 1930