



COA (ST) 2015-161
DECEMBER 17, 2015

Historical Resources &
Cultural Arts

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STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS PROPOSAL
FOR ALHAMBRA PLAZA
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA
A LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Proposal: The application requests design approval for the installation of a Historic Marker honoring Frank Button.

Current Owner: The City of Coral Gables

Site Characteristics: Alhambra Plaza is located at the intersections of Alhambra Circle, Granada Boulevard, and Majorca Avenue.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATION

The City of Coral Gables proposes to place a two-sided, bronze historical marker in honor of Frank Morse Button (1866-1938) within Alhambra Plaza. The text of the proposed marker is attached. The text was reviewed and approved by the Landscape Advisory Board at its meeting held on December 3, 2015.

Frank M. Button was a landscape architect who was instrumental in the creation of Coral Gables. Button graduated from the University of Vermont with a degree in Civil Engineering. Early in his career he worked as an engineer for Fort Sheridan (Illinois), Fort Logan Roots (Little Rock, Arkansas), Jefferson Barracks (Missouri), and for the Columbian Exposition Company of Chicago. It was through his association with O. C. Simmonds, a nationally known landscape company, that he first came to Miami.

In 1920, Button began his own landscape practice in Miami. He was retained to plan several privately owned properties, town plans, and parks, both locally, nationally, and in Canada. Among his commissions were the Charles Deering Estate (Miami), Lincoln Park (Chicago), and the grounds of the state capitol of Vermont.

Frank Button's association with George Merrick began in 1921, when he assumed the role of the landscape architect for the City of Coral Gables. He played a key role in Merrick's initial design team, planning, designing, and coordinating the plans for the new city. In 1926, the City of Coral Gables established the landscaping department and named Frank Button as the department head. Button died in 1938.

The historical marker will be installed in the Plaza, to the east of Granada Boulevard, and unveiled at the City's annual Arbor Day celebration to be held on April 29, 2016.

