



## The City of Coral Gables

LHD 2012-01  
January 19, 2012

### *Historical Resources Department*

**REVISION TO THE LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION REPORT OF  
THE "OLD POLICE AND FIRE STATION" AT  
285 ARAGON AVENUE  
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA  
A LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK AND  
LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

<u>Folio Numbers:</u>	03-4108-006-3100
<u>Legal Description:</u>	Lots 1 thru 4 and 42 thru 48 inc. and 20 ft. alley lying between, Block 34, Coral Gables Section K, Plat Book 8, Page 33 of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.
<u>Date of Original Construction:</u>	1939
<u>Original Architect:</u>	Phineas Paist
<u>Original Builder:</u>	W.P.A.
<u>Architect of Addition:</u>	Jorge L. Hernandez
<u>Owner:</u>	City of Coral Gables
<u>Original Use:</u>	Police and Fire Station
<u>Present Use:</u>	Coral Gables Museum (first floor tenant), City of Coral Gables Historical Resources Department (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
<u>Site Characteristics:</u>	The subject property is comprised of several irregularly shaped lots and is bounded by Giralda Avenue to the north, Salzedo Street to the east, and Aragon Avenue to the south.

### **BACKGROUND/EXISTING CONDITIONS**

As a municipal W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) structure constructed in Coral Gables, the "Old Police and Fire Station" is noted for its craftsmanship, design, and detailing. Designed by Phineas Paist, the supervising architect for the City of Coral Gables, it is historically significant as an outstanding example of oolitic rock architecture built during the Depression years. The exterior sculptures on the south and west facades were carved by Theresa (Jon) Keller, a noted Depression Moderne sculptor. The property was designated as a local historic landmark on February 26, 1985 (Ordinance No. 2546 attached) and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 6, 1994.

On January 19, 2006 the Historic Preservation Board reviewed an application for a Special Certificate of Appropriateness [COA (SP) 2005-21 attached] for the "Old Police and Fire Station". The Board approved the application requesting design approval for the construction of an addition, restoration, and alterations to the historic building. On July 7, 2009 the Coral Gables City Commission vacated the alley between Lots 1-4 and Lots 42 thru 48 (Ordinance No. 2009-30 attached)

#### STAFF OBSERVATIONS

In the original designation report, the boundary description of the site did not include the parking lot to the north (Lots 1 thru 4 inclusive, Block 34, Coral Gables Section K). The public plaza and addition to the historic building that were approved by the Historic Preservation Board on January 19, 2006 [COA (SP) 2005-21] were built on Lots 1 thru 4, the former location of the parking lot. This revision to the original designation report is to include those lots plus the alley in between in the legal / boundary description of the property.

Respectfully submitted,



Dona M. Spain  
Historic Preservation Officer

Location Map

