

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD FOR THE PLACEMENT AND WORDING OF A HISTORIC MARKER BY THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF CORAL GABLES FOR THE CORAL GABLES RIDING ACADEMY AND BRIDLE PATH.

WHEREAS, in 1924, the Coral Gables Riding Academy office and stable opened on the northwest corner of Salzedo Street and Giralda Avenue; and

WHEREAS, in 1929, George Merrick invited John A. Gazlay to bring his string of horses to Salzedo; and

WHEREAS, the Coral Gables Riding Academy was one of the City's longest-lasting businesses; and

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2016 representatives of the Historic Preservation Association of Coral Gables (HPACG) appeared before the Historic Preservation Board with a proposed marker concerning the Coral Gables Riding Academy and Bridle Path; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Board unanimously (9-0) passed a motion to recommend to the Coral Gables City Commission the placement of a historic marker in the South West corner of Salzedo Street and Giralda Avenue bearing the wording proposed by the Historic Preservation Association of Coral Gables; and

WHEREAS, the HPACG will pay for the marker; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to approve the marker.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That the recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Resolution are hereby adopted by reference thereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth in this section.

SECTION 2. That a historic marker will be placed in the South West corner of Salzedo Street and Giralda Avenue.

SECTION 3. That the following wording is approved for the above referenced marker:

Marker Front:

The Coral Gables Riding Academy & Bridle Path

One of the original dimensions of Coral Gables Founder George Merrick's dream was the importance of horses in the social and sporting life of his new city. In 1924, the Coral Gables Riding Academy office and stable opened on the northwest corner of Salzedo Street and Giralda Avenue. To the south was the riding ring which took up the block on Salzedo between Giralda and Aragon Avenue.

In 1926, Merrick hired riding master James A. Macauley (replacing Dr. Herbert L. Cox, first Academy director). Major Joseph C. Kittell, an expert on equitation followed. In 1929, Merrick invited John A. Gazlay to bring his string of horses [from outside the city) to Salzedo. Thus began the Gazlay years at the Academy—described in the 1930 city directory as “featuring cross-country rides and excellent acclimated saddle horses”. The Academy was one of the city's longest-lasting businesses.

The Academy had a permit allowing horse riding throughout the city. The median of Alhambra Circle, which ran along the back of the stable, was originally laid out with a bridle path. The 35-mile horse trails ran along Alhambra and Country Club Prado, around the Granada Golf Course, the Biltmore course, the campus of the University of Miami, and beside the waterways.

Marker Back:

The Coral Gables Riding Academy

From 1930 to 1952, the Gazlay's managed the Coral Gables Riding Academy, bringing the beauty of horses and the excitement of horse shows to Coral Gables residents. The Academy played an important role in the local equestrian community. Some horses at the Academy were well known. Silver, famous as the mount of the Lone Ranger in the movies, was the star at local events and parades.

2017

Historic Preservation Association of Coral Gables • City of Coral Gables Commission

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Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark, City Manager

In Appreciation

Leah La Plante, Author
The Coral Gables Historic Preservation Board
Historic Resources & Cultural Arts Department

SECTION 4. That this resolution shall become effective upon the date of its adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D.,
2017.

JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRAIG E. LEEN
CITY ATTORNEY