



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD  
STEPHEN P. CLARK CENTER  
111 N. W. FIRST STREET  
SUITE 695  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128  
305-375-4958  
Facsimile 305- 372-6394

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

RESOLUTION NO. 09-07

**The Demolition of St. Stephen's Chapel, Coconut Grove, FL**

**WHEREAS**, the original mission-style Church building at St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School was built in 1912, and the 1919 addition included the tile-roofed cloister and colonnade; and

**WHEREAS**, the church's first congregation included many of Coconut Grove's most important pioneer figures, including Kirk and Mary Barr Munroe, Flora McFarlane, Dr. Eleanor Galt Simmons, J.W. Ewan, Commodore Ralph Munroe and William J. Matheson; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1950s the church and cloister were converted into classrooms and gallery space, altering and removing some of the original features of the buildings but leaving intact the actual structures, Dade County Pine exposed roof trusses, tongue and groove ceiling boards, cypress brackets, portions of the Ludowici tile roof and bell tower; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School has traditionally been committed to preserving their unique heritage and promoting their history, including the release of their new 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book written by a renowned local historian; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of their ongoing campaign to improve the student facilities on their campus, St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School was planning to build a new LEED Certified Green building for new classroom spaces that originally incorporated a portion of the original chapel and cloister; and

**WHEREAS**, because the certified letter, which was sent to neighboring businesses, residents and organizations per Class II permitting requirements, did not mention demolition as part of the proposed project, and the demolition permit only included elevations showing the back side of the building, many in the community did not understand that the intention was to demolish the original church building; and



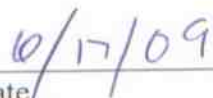
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**WHEREAS**, upon learning that the original church and cloister were going to be completely demolished and not incorporated into the new design, a group of highly regarded local preservationists and preservation architects requested a week's "stay of demolition" to try and assist the school in finding alternate solutions to pure demolition or at least to be afforded the opportunity to salvage the original building materials; and


**WHEREAS**, the school and church were not open to the possibility of compromise with concerned citizens over this historic building, but instead proceeded with its demolition with no further discussion as to its future even after an earlier assurance that they would listen to dissident voices;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Historic Preservation Board, on June 17, 2009, proffers its strong opposition with the unnecessary destruction of one of Miami Dade County's most historic structures, and vows to support a more ambitious system of educating our citizenry about those buildings and sites that constitute the cultural, historic and architectural legacy of this area and the rich history associated with it.

  
Alberta Godfrey, Chair  
Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation Board

  
Date

Prepared by:

  
Rick Ferrer, Preservation Planner  
Office of Historic and Archaeological Resources



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Board Members

Vote

Ruth Campbell	YES
Adriana Cantillo	ABSENT
Roger Carlton	YES
Rick Cohen	YES
Paul George	YES
Alberta Godfrey, Chair	ABSENT
Hyacinth O. Johnson	ABSENT
Robert McKinney	YES
Mitch S. Novick	YES
JoEllen Phillips	YES
Enid C. Pinkney	YES

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE**

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this June 17, 2009 by  
Alberta Godfrey, Chairperson, Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation Board.

*Dianne Hough*

Personally known or produced identification  
Type of identification produced



DIANNE HOUGH  
MY COMMISSION # DD 594191  
EXPIRES: December 6, 2010  
Bonded thru Budget Notary Services