

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THREE ESLPP SITES
Carlton Ranch (Fee Simple), Churchill Ranch and Jordyn Holdings
May 2017

Carlton Ranch (Fee Simple)

Address: 21075 State Rd. 72, North Port

PIDs: 0935-02-0001; 0933-01-0001; 0931-01-0001; 0917-01-0001; 0915-01-0001; -914-01-0001; 0893-01-0001; 0883-01-0001; 0879-01-0001

There are no previously recorded archaeological sites or historic properties on the Florida Master Site File for Carlton Ranch; however, based on predictive models for archeological sites and historic documentation, there is potential for a wide range of cultural resources on the Carlton Ranch parcels.

No systematic comprehensive cultural resource assessment survey(s) has been conducted within the parcels and there are high and moderate probability areas for the occurrence of archaeological and historic sites within selected areas.

A prominent feature is the Myakkahaatchee Creek (Big Slough), which flows through a portion of the property.

Based on a review of a copy of a historic map on file at Historical Resources labeled "Plat Showing 67,000 acres Woodward Estate Sarasota County, Florida – For Sale by Lamar Rankin, Tampa Fla." (not dated, c. 1915?), a number of historic features are identified within sections of the Carlton Ranch parcels. Big Slough Creek (Myakkahatchee Creek) and portions of the "Main Canal," are in sections 34, 35, and 26 of the historic map. Main canal of part of the "Sugar Bowl Drainage District" outlined on the map. Old Ft. Ogden Road also traverses through section 35 and Arcadia and Pine Level Road traverses through sections 22, 15, and 10 of the historic map. Both roads branch off of Englewood Road at Big Salt Springs (Warm Mineral Springs).

In Section 34 of the historic map, "Dipping Vat" and "Cow House" is labeled and "about 10 acres under fence has been cultivated" is written under Cow House.

In Section 35 of the historic map, two structures are indicated; one labeled "Whitten," another "C. Hardey, Jennings Fla."

Multiple other historic features are indicated on the map outside of the Carlton Ranch parcels.

Further research is necessary for more detailed information and a comprehensive systematic Cultural Assessment Survey would help determine the archaeological and historic significance of the properties for assessment, protection, and management purposes.

Churchill Ranch

Address: 4901 Border Rd., Venice

PIDs: 0729-01-1600; 0731-02-2800

The property was owned by the Blackburn Family for many years and has a long time history of ranching.

There are no prominent historical or archaeological features on the property. There are a couple seasonal ponds and poorly define sloughways, and a small seasonal creek bisects the property that connects to another in section 6 that drains into the Myakka River. A large sand mine pond is present in the eastern corner and there are a couple historic trails on the 1954 Soil Survey map.

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There are no previously recorded archaeological sites or historic properties on the Florida Master Site File for Churchill Ranch parcels. The property was surveyed as part of larger project conducted by Panamerican Consultants in 2007 titled, "An Archaeological and Historical Survey of the Four Parcels Project Area in Sarasota County, Florida." Sixty-two (62) shovel test were excavated and screened within two probability high probability areas within the Churchill Ranch parcel. No archaeological sites or historic properties were identified. It should be noted, however that while most of the property was considered low for the occurrence of archaeological and historic resources, less than eight percent of the property was tested and unidentified cultural resources could be present.

Jordyn Holdings

Address: 4193 Woodland Blvd., North Port

PIDs: 0721-00-2000, 0722-00-3000

The property was once owned by the Blackburn Family and has a history of ranching.

According to the Property Appraiser's website, there is a 1977 single story 3-bedroom/2-bath house on parcel 0722-00-3000.

A prominent feature on the property is Deer Prairie Slough that runs through a portion of the property and then becomes a blackwater creek.

The Jordyn Holdings property was surveyed as part of larger project conducted by Panamerican Consultants in 2007, "An Archaeological and Historical Survey of the Four Parcels Project Area in Sarasota County, Florida." During the survey, two archaeological sites and one archaeological occurrence were discovered.

The Jordyn Palmetto area of the property was described as a sparse artifacts scatter site represented by six pottery fragments found in one (1) shovel test was productive of nine (9) that were dug in the area. The artifacts were found between 80 and 100 cm below the surface. Additional testing did not identify any additional material. Based on the recovery of sand-tempered plain pottery the site is dated to the Manasota Period (regional post Archaic culture), occupied sometime after 500 BCE (after 2,500 years ago).

The site is believe to represent evidence from a short-term campsite and based on the limited artifact assemblage, is not considered eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and its research potential is considered low. However, preservation was recommended because it is located on public land and the dwindling number of archaeological sites.

The Jordyn Oaks area of the property was described as a prehistoric artifacts site represented by a sparse density of pottery, bone, shell (freshwater), and charcoal found in six (6) shovel tests of twenty-nine (29) excavated in the immediate area. The site likely represents as short term campsite related to the procurement of local resources along Deer Prairie Slough. Based on the recovery of sand-tempered plain pottery the site is dated to the Manasota Period (regional post Archaic culture), occupied sometime after 500 BCE (after 2,500 years ago). It was not considered eligible for inclusion on the Nation Register of Historic Places, but preservation was recommended due to being located on public land and the dwindling number of archaeological sites. The site did not appear to the recorders to hold potential for additional research; however, even these low density sites can yield important information regarding inland Manasota Period sites in Sarasota County.

The Archaeological Occurrence (AO) is described to have one lithic flake recovered from one shovel test. An AO is defined as three or fewer artifacts recovered from a 30 m area. Based on the single stone flake, little can be said of the occurrence. Additional testing was conducted at a 25 m interval in the vicinity;

however no closer meter interval testing was conducted. Generally, positive shovel tests are tested with two shovel tests at each cardinal direction around the positive at a 10 m interval.

There are also three historic sites recorded within or in immediate vicinity of the Jordyn Estate Property on the Florida Master Site File in the northeastern corner of the parcel. The three sites were recorded as a result of an informant interview and reported in the 1989 report "A Historical Resources Survey of Old Myakka and Selected Portions of the Myakka River, Sarasota County, Florida" (Deming and Williams 1989). They were originally considered within the parcel, but at least two were determined to be outside of the parcel during the Panamerican survey. They are described as "...historic period sites reported by Mr. Wrede Blackburn." "While extremely open and cooperative, in sharing his information, the request for permission to field check these historic resources was denied." "Thus information such as exact provenience and site condition is unknown." Another section is described as "...a whiskey still located in the NE ¼ of Section 1, Township 39 South, Range 20 East. It is situated in an open area known as "High Hammock," approximately 15 meter east of Deer Prairie Slough. Associated with five cottages and Palmetto shacks, it dates to the mid 1930s." The five cottages, also in High Hammock may be associated with Ms. Potter Palmer, "who controlled vast holdings in the Myakka River basin in the 1910s." The complex of palmetto shacks of High Hammock "...were reportedly constructed by Mr. Walter Blackburn in 1942." A field visit and archaeological testing would be needed to confirm the location of these recorded resources.