Robin Moore, Historic Resource Specialist St. Johns County Planning Division 4020 Lewis Speedway St. Augustine, FL 32084

RE: Level I Historic American Building Survey of the A.L. Lewis Arch (8SJ3060)
Project # EG07020.00
St. Johns County, Florida
ESI Report of Investigations No. 1138

Dear Mr. Moore:

In May 2007, Environmental Services, Inc. (ESI) conducted a Level I Historic American Building Survey (HABS) of the A.L. Lewis Arch (8SJ3060) in St. Johns County, Florida. Specifically, the arch is situated at the entrance to the former Florida Memorial College campus, which is located on the southwestern corner of the West King Street and Holmes Boulevard intersection in St. Augustine, Florida (Figure 1). It can be found in Township 7 South, Range 29 East, and Section 43 on the St. Augustine Quadrangle map. The project was undertaken at the request of St. Johns County in an effort to thoroughly document the dilapidated structure prior to its proposed relocation to an adjacent property. The arch was photographed, filmed, and subjected to a 3-dimensional laser scan, as detailed below. The A.L. Lewis Arch is currently in a state of neglect as it is overgrown with ivy and Virginia creeper (Figure 2).

Background

The A.L. Lewis Arch is listed with the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) as historical structure 8SJ3060 (Florida Industrial College J). The arch was erected on a tract of land that had been occupied by African Americans since the British period (AD 1763-1784) in St. Augustine (Moore, personal communication, 2007). The campus was established on a portion of a 110-acre parcel known as "Old Homes Plantation," which was formerly one of the largest slave plantations in Florida (Wikipedia 2007). Florida Memorial College historians state that this is where the famous bell which now adorns the Susie C. Holley Chapel was originally purchased. During Anti-bellum times, the bell was used to gather slaves to issue daily orders. It is believed that this bell was cast at the same foundry as the Liberty Bell, which is now enshrined in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Remnants of demolished structures are still evident throughout the property and attest to the historical use of this tract at least since the 1760s (Figure 2).

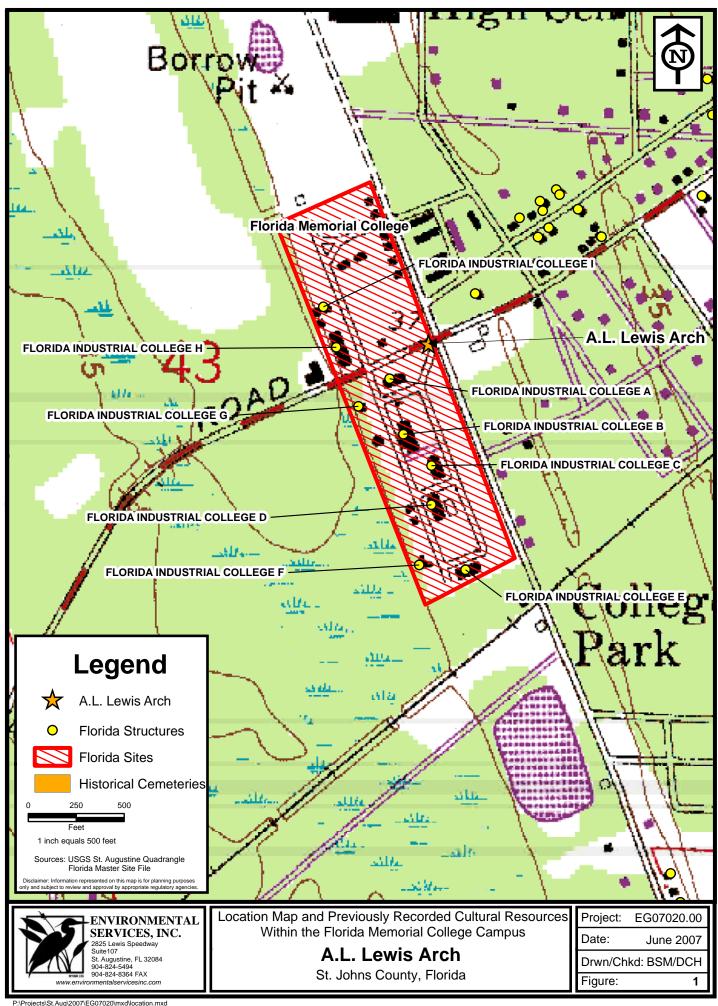




Figure 2. View West toward the A.L. Lewis Arch

Perhaps the most significant undertaking in unincorporated St. Johns County during the 1920s was the expansion of the Florida Normal & Industrial Institute in West Augustine. The roots of the institute included the Florida Baptist Institute in Live Oak (1879) and Jacksonville's Florida Baptist Academy (1892). In 1917, through the encouragement of the St. Augustine Chamber of Commerce, the president of the academy, Nathan W. Collier, made plans to relocate to St. Augustine (the above, and subsequent, text adapted from ESI Report No. 245, Johnston 2001).

A campus plan guided the development of buildings, fields, and training facilities on both sides of King Street. Near the southeastern corner of the campus, the FEC built a wood frame hip-roof shed at College Park station. Dr. Andrew Anderson gave ten thousand dollars for the construction of the first temporary, wood frame buildings, and Mrs. Marion Leavitt of Janesville, Wisconsin contributed additional donations. Plans accelerated in October 1924, when the school incorporated and adopted the name of Florida Normal & Industrial Institute. The school was devoted to educating and providing opportunities to African Americans in Florida. Among the purposes of its charter, the directors outlined the "maintenance of an institution of learning under Christian auspices for the education of colored young men, women, and children."

By 1923, various wood-frame buildings sprinkled the site, including dairy barns and silos, an arts and crafts building, a boy's dormitory, manual training shop, and a sawmill (Smith and Nash 2005). In 1924 the institute embarked on an ambitious \$500,000 building program and completed its first permanent, masonry building, Anderson Hall. The institute occupied Pickford Hall in 1925, and dedicated two three-story dormitories, Bacon Hall and Fisher Hall, in 1927.

Prominent developer August Heckscher of New York City provided resources to construct a gymnasium and swimming pool in 1931, and Mrs. George Coleman and Katherine Westfall contributed funding for a dining hall in 1937, the same year a library was developed. The landscape architect H.J. Stockman from Ormond Beach, redesigned the campus layout to include formal gardens and curvilinear walkways. Circa 1935, the tripartite A.L. Lewis Arch, was constructed at the entrance into the institute along King Street (Figure 3). The arch was named after Abram Lincoln Lewis, a prominent philanthropist and businessman who established American Beach and was president of the African American Life Insurance Company (Moore, personal communication, 2007; Eubanks, personal communication, 2007; Appendix E). The arch's columns were made of coquina-aggregate concrete blocks with wood framing and plastered (stucco) wood lathing. The Lewis Memorial Arch, as it is known by Florida Memorial University, is Mediterranean Revival in style with an irregular exterior plan. The structural system and foundation are both concrete block and the roof type is hip.



Figure 3. Historic Photograph of the A.L. Lewis Arch (Courtesy of Florida Memorial University)

In 1941, the St. Augustine and Live Oak institutions merged, modifying their limited offerings from a junior college classification to a four-year liberal arts institution. Its first four-year class graduated in 1945 (Wikipedia 2007). In 1950 the college changed its name to Florida Normal and Industrial Memorial College, and again in 1963, its name changed to Florida Memorial College. The College relocated in 1968 to its present site in northwestern Miami, where it remains today. Florida Memorial College celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1979. Finally, in December 2004, the institution's name was officially changed to Florida Memorial University. A timeline for the institute's evolution to the modern day Florida Memorial University is represented in Table 1.

Table 1: Evolution of the Florida Memorial University (FMU 2007)

Florida Baptist Institute Florida Baptist Academy		
Live Oak – 1879	Jacksonville – 1892	
Florida Memorial College Live Florida Normal and Industrial Institu		
Oak – 1918	Saint Augustine – 1918	
Florida Normal and Industrial Memorial Institute		
Saint A	ugustine – 1941	
Florida Normal and Industrial College		
Saint Augustine – 1942		
Florida Normal and Industrial Memorial College		
Saint Augustine – 1950		
Florida M	Iemorial College	
Saint Au	gustine – 1963	
Florida Memorial College		
Miami – 1968		
Florida Memorial University		
Miami – December 2004		

Previous Structures Associated with Florida Normal and Industrial Institute

A review of the archaeological site file records maintained by the Florida Master Site File indicated that there are ten structures recorded within with the Florida Memorial College site (8SJ4952), of which only the A.L. Lewis Arch (8SJ3060) remains (Figure 1). The other structures have all been demolished, and the Historical Structure form for 8SJ3060 states that it is ineligible for National Register and local listing.

Table 2: Previously Recorded Structures

SJ04952	FLORIDA MEMORIAL COLLEGE	Archaeological Site
SJ03051	FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE A	demolished
SJ03052	FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE B	demolished
SJ03053	FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE C	demolished
SJ03054	FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE D	demolished
SJ03055	FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE E	demolished
SJ03056	FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE F	demolished
SJ03057	FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE G	demolished
SJ03058	FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE H	demolished
SJ03059	FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE I	demolished
SJ03060	FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE J	Gateway/gatehouse/arched entryway

Methodology

The A.L. Lewis Arch was subjected to a 3-dimensional laser scan using the Leica HDS3000 as part of a Level I Historic American Building Survey (HABS) (Appendix C). The scan captured data for the entire structure, including its interior and exterior detail. The data collected (point cloud) was used to create three dimensional wire frame models of the existing structure (Appendix D). The model was textured and saved to AutoCad format.

The data included a five foot overlap that was scanned surrounding the above ground limits of the structure and the detail of the scan contained 3 dimensional coordinates at a 0.03' grid of all surfaces on the structure (Table 3). The area being scanned was also filmed and photographed to correlate the wireframe model with visual references.

Element	Specific Description	Level of Detail	Accuracy Required
Arch	Above Ground Elements of the Arch (no subsurface data collection will be performed)	Detail scan containing 3 dimensional coordinates at a 0.03' grid on all surfaces of the structure	0.02' relative accuracy

Table 3: Leica HDS3000 Accuracy Statement

Informant Interviews

Gaining familiarity with the history of a project tract is often facilitated through interviewing local citizens that live or spend time within close proximity to the parcel. An informant interview was conducted with Mr. Gerald Eubanks, a former student of Florida Memorial College and active participant in its alumni association. Mr. Eubanks provided supplemental information on A.L. Lewis, which is contained in Appendix E.

Conclusions

In May 2007, Environmental Services, Inc. (ESI) conducted a Level I Historic American Building Survey (HABS) of the A.L. Lewis Arch in St. Johns County, Florida. The project was undertaken at the request of St. Johns County in an effort to thoroughly document the structure prior to its proposed relocation to an adjacent property. St. Johns County is moving and restoring the arch in order to save it from infrastructure related construction. The arch will serve as a historic focal point in the West Augustine community park directly across the street from the college property. The arch was photographed, filmed, and subjected to a 3-dimensional laser scan, as defined in the Contract for Documentation.

The A.L. Lewis Arch is the only standing structure related to the Florida Memorial College in St. Augustine that dates from the first half of the 20th century. As a result, its historical significance lies not in its architecture, but in the fact that the arch constitutes the last structure to represent the impact the college had on the African American community in St. Augustine and the northeastern Florida region during the early 1900s (Moore, personal communication, 2007). Moreover, the arch is significant as a symbolic representation of the efforts of people and

organizations that devoted themselves to improving the socio-economic positions of African American communities during the era of Jim Crow politics.

Ultimately, the laser scan of the A.L. Lewis Arch produced a highly detailed wireframe representation of the structure that documented architectural and construction details sufficient to satisfy Level I Historic American Building Survey (HABS) standards. The scan also permitted the creation of a 3-dimensional rendering of the structure. If the structure is damaged when relocated, the scan will serve as a model for reconstruction or repair. All electronic deliverables can be found in Appendix D.

Sincerely yours,

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Michael A. Arbuthnot, M.S., RPA Senior Project Manager, Archaeologist

REFERENCES CITED

Johnston, Sidney P.

2001 Historic Properties Survey, St. Johns County, Florida. ESI Report of Investigations No. 245. Manuscript on file, DHR, Tallahassee.

Eubanks, Gerald

2007 Personal Communication with Eugene Eubanks, Former Student at Florida Memorial College, Class of 1963 (trgee@aol.com). July 2007.

Florida Memorial University (FMU), Brief History of

2007 Florida Memorial University Website. 15800 Northwest 42nd Avenue, Miami Gardens, Florida 33054 Electronic Document: http://www.fmuniv.edu/About_Us/history.htm

Moore, Robin

2007 Personal Communication with Robin Moore, St. Johns County Historical Resource Specialist. April and May 2007.

Smith, Greg C. and Jennifer L.F. Nash

2005 A Cultural Resource reconnaissance Survey of the Florida Memorial College, St. Johns County, Florida. ESI Report of Investigations No. 672. Manuscript on file, DHR, Tallahassee.

Wikipedia Florida Memorial University, History of

2007 Electronic Document: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida_Memorial_University

APPENDIX A

Survey Log Sheet

Page 1



Survey Log Sheet Survey # (FMSF only)______ Florida Master Site File Version 2.0 9/97

Consult Guide to the Survey Log Sheet for detailed instructions.

Identification and Bibliographic Information
Survey Project (Name and project phase) A.L. Lewis Arch, Historic Architectural Survey
Report Title (exactly as on title page) Level I Historic American Building Survey of the A.L. Lewis Arch (8SJ3060),
St. Johns County, Florida
Report Author(s) (as on title page— individual or corporate; last names first) Arbuthnot, Michael A.
Report Addition(s) (as off title page—individual of corporate, last fiames first)
Publication Date (year) <u>June 2007</u> Total Number of Pages in Report (Count text, figures, tables, not site forms) <u>7</u> Publication Information (If relevant, series and no. in series, publisher, and city. For article or chapter, cite page numbers. Use the style of <i>American Antiquity</i> : see <i>Guide to the Survey Log Sheet</i> .) ESI Report of Investigation No. 1138
Supervisor(s) of Fieldwork (whether or not the same as author[s]; last name first) Michael A. Arbuthnot
Affiliation of Fieldworkers (organization, city) Environmental Services, Inc., St. Augustine, Florida
Key Words/Phrases (Don't use the county, or common words like <i>archaeology</i> , <i>structure</i> , <i>survey</i> , <i>architecture</i> . Put the most important first. Limit each word or phrase to 25 characters.) A.L. Lewis Arch, Florida Normal and
Industrial Institute, Florida Memorial College, King Street, Holmes Road
Survey Sponsors (corporation, government unit, or person who is directly paying for fieldwork)
Name: Environmental Services, Inc
Address/Phone 2825 Lewis Speedway, Suite 107 St. Augustine, Florida 32084
Recorder of Log Sheet Michael A. Arbuthnot Is this survey or project a continuation of a previous project? x No Yes: Previous survey #(s) [FMSF only]
Mapping Mapping
Counties (List each one in which field survey was done - do not abbreviate; use supplement sheet if necessary) <u>St. Johns County</u> USGS 1:24,000 Map(s): Map Name/Date of Latest Revision (use supplement sheet if necessary): <u>St. Augustine Quad (1956, 1988, 1992)</u>
Description of Survey Area
Dates for Fieldwork: Start 5/8/2005 End 5/8/2005 Total Area Surveyed (fill in one)hectares 0.25 acres
Number of Distinct Tracts or Areas Surveyed <u>1</u>
If Corridor (fill in one for each): Width metersfeet Length kilometersmiles

Page 2 Survey Log Sheet of the Florida Master Site File

Research and Field Methods			
Preliminary Methods (☐Check as many ☐ Florida Archives (Gray Building)	□ archaeological X architectural □ historical as apply to the project as a whole. If needs □ library research- local public □ library-special collection - nonlocal □ Public Lands Survey (maps at DEP) X local informant(s)		□ windshield □ aerial photography
corresponding letter. Blanks are F(-ew: 0-20%), S(-ome: 20-50 x Check here if NO archaeologic surface collection, controlled surface collection, uncontrolled shovel test-1/4"screen shovel test-1/8" screen shovel test-unscreened Historical/Architectural Metho corresponding letter. Blanks are F(-ew: 0-20%), S(-ome: 20-50) Check here if NO historical/ar	ow); M(-ost: 50-90%); or A(-II, Ne cal methods were used. other screen shovel test (size water screen (finest size: posthole tests auger (size:) coring test excavation (at least 1x2 ods (Describe the proportion of proper interpreted as "None.") fow); M(-ost: 50-90%); or A(-II, Norchitectural methods were used.	arly all: 90-100%). If needed execution soil resistivity magnetometer side scan sonar unknown other (describe): perties at which method was early all: 90-100%). If needed	ed write others at bottom. (at least 2x2 M) s used by writing in the ded write others at bottom.
building permits commercial permits interior documentation other (describe): Thorough 3D la	demolition permits exposed ground inspected _A_ local property records ser scan; photo; and film	neighbor interview occupant interview occupation permits	subdivision maps tax records unknown
Building Survey (HABS) of the A request of St. Johns County in an	In May 2007, Environmental Servi L.L. Lewis Arch (8SJ3060) in St. Joh effort to thoroughly document the aphed, filmed, and subjected to a 3-	ns County, Florida. The pro structure prior to its propose	ject was undertaken at the ed relocation to an adjacent
	Survey Results (cultural re	sources recorded)	
Site Significance Evaluated? Site Counts: Previously Reco Previously Recorded Site #'s Newly Recorded Site #'s (A updates, ie, researched the FMS	Yes X No If Yes, circle orded Sites 1 (List site #'s without "8." Attach with a sure you sure all are originals and not off records. List site #'s without "8 orm X FMSF Paper Form 1	e NR-eligible/significant site Newly Recorded Sites supplementary pages if nece of updates? Identify method 3." Attach supplementary pa	sssary)ssary)
DO NO	OT USE *****SITE FILE USE	ONLY	JSE
BAR Related ☐ 872 ☐ 1A32 ☐ CARL ☐ UW			ated storic Preservation Grant nce Review: CRAT #

ATTACH PLOT OF SURVEY AREA ON PHOTOCOPIES OF USGS 1:24,000 MAP(S)

APPENDIX B

 ${\bf 8SJ3060\; Updated\; Structure\; Form}$

Page 1

☐ Original X Update (give site#)



HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE

Version 3.0 11/96

Consult Guide to Historical Structure Forms for detailed instructions.

Site #8_<u>SJ3060</u>

Recorder #____

Field Date _5 / 8 / 2007

Form Date _6/ 26/2007

Survey A.L. Lewis Arch, Historical Architectural Survey National Register Category (Please check one: consult with Site File before using last four):		
Address (Include N,S,E,W; #; St., Ave., etc.) southwest corner of West King Street (CR 214) and Holmes		
Cross Streets (nearest / between)		
Cross Streets (nearest / between) City / Town (within 3 miles) St. Augustine In Current City Limits: x y □n □unknown County St. Johns Tax Parcel #(s) 102700 0000		
County St. Johns Tax Parcel #(s) 102700 0000		
Subdivision name NA Block NA Lot NA L		
Ownership (Please check one):		
Name of Public Tract (e.g., park)		
Route to (especially if no street address)_		
MAPPING		
USGS 7.5' Map Name & Date <u>St. Augustine Quad (1956, 1988, 1992)</u> Township _7 S Range _29E Section _43 ¼ section: □NW □SW □SE □NE □Irregular-name:		
Landgrant UTM: Zone □16 X 17 Easting <u>465767</u> 0 Northing <u>3306127</u> 0		
Plat or other map (map's name, location)		
DESCRIPTION		
Style* Frame Vernacular Exterior Plan* tripartite arch with columns Number of Stories 1_ Structural System(s) * Wood frame with concrete blocks.		
Foundation: Type(s) *raised Material(s) * wood Material(s) * wood		
Foundation: Type(s) *raised		
Roof secondary strucs. (dormers etc.) *		
Windows (types, materials, etc.)*		
Windows (types, materials, etc.)		
Main Entrance (stylistic details)		
Porches: #open #closed #incised Location(s)		
Porch roof type(s) Exterior Ornament		
Interior Plan* Condition (N		
Condition (Please check one): ☐ excellent ☐ good Xair ☐ deteriorated ☐ ruinous Surroundings (N=None, S=Some, M=Most, A=All/nearly all): _S commercial _M residential _S institutional _S undeveloped		
Ancillary Features (No., type of outbuildings; major landscape features. Use continuation sheet for descriptions of interior, landscaping, etc) Associated with remains of		
former structures related to SJ3051, SJ3052, SJ3053, SJ3054, SJ3055, SJ3056, SJ3057, SJ3058, SJ3059, and site SJ4952		
Archaeological Remains		
Consult <i>Guide to Historical Structure Forms</i> for preferred descriptions (coded fields at the Site File).		
DHR USE ONLY OFFICIAL EVALUATIONS DHR USE ONLY		
NR DATE KEEPER-NR ELIGIBILITY		
// SHPO-NR ELIGIBILITY: Dyes Dno Dpotentially elig. Dinsufficient Info Date//		
DELIST DATE LOCAL DESIGNATION:Date//		
National Register Criteria for Evaluation $\Box a \Box b \Box c \Box d$ (See National Register Bulletin 15, p. 2)		

HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM

Site #8 OR7794_

Consult Guide to Historical Structure Forms for detailed instructions.

HISTORY	
Construction date: Exactly (year) Approximately 1935 (year) Earlier than (year) Later than (year) Architect (last name first): Stockman, H.J. Builder (last name first): Moves: Dyes Xno Dunknown Dates Original address Alterations: Dyes Xno Dunknown Dates Nature* Additions: Dyes Xno Dunknown Dates Nature* Original Use* (give date ranges) Entrance to FLMemorial in circa 1935+ Intermediate Uses* (give date ranges) Vacant	
Present Use* (give date ranges) <u>vacant, -2007</u> Ownership History (especially original owner, dates, profession, etc.) <u>Florida Memorial College</u>	
♣ Consult Guide to Historical Structure Forms for preferred descriptions (coded fields at the Site File). RESEARCH METHODS (Check all choices that apply; if needed write others at bottom)	
□ formal archaeological survey	
SURVEYOR'S EVALUATION OF SITE (Check one choice on each line)	
Potentially eligible for local register?	
represent the impact the college had on the African American community in St. Augustine and the northeastern Florida region during the early 1900s. Moreover, the arch is significant as a symbolic representation of the efforts of people and organizations that devoted themselves to improving the socio-economic positions of African American communities during the era of Jim Crow politics.	
DOCUMENTATION (Photos, Plans, etc.)	
Bibliographic References (Use Continuation Sheet, give FMSF Manuscript # if relevant) Level I Historic American Building Survey of the A.L. Lewis Arch (8SJ3060); ROI No. 1138 Location of negatives & negative numbers All material, one location. On file at ESI until a permanent repository is selected.	
RECORDER	
Name (last name first) / Address / Phone / Fax / Email / Affiliation Michael Arbuthnot, ESI, 2825 Lewis Speedway, Ste 107, St. Augustine, Florida 904-824-5494; marbuthnot@esinc.cc	
Remember: Use a <i>Supplement for Site Forms</i> or other continuation sheet for descriptions that do not fit in the spaces above.	

(1) USGS 7.5' MAP WITH STRUCTURE PINPOINTED IN RED REQUIRED: (2) LARGE SCALE STREET OR PLAT MAP

(3) PHOTO OF MAIN FACADE, PREFER B&W, AT LEAST 3X5

APPENDIX C

Photographs of the A.L. Lewis Arch and Scanning Process



View of Arch Looking West-Northwest



View of Arch Looking South



View of Arch Looking South-Southeast



Photograph of the Leica HDS3000



Photograph of Laptop Collecting Survey Data



View of Arch Looking South across West King Street



View of Arch Looking Northeast from Campus



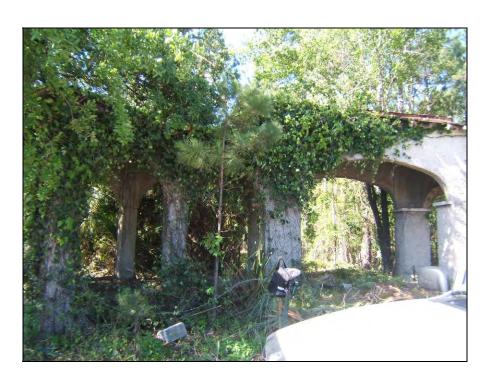
View of Arch from inside Looking Northwest



View of Damaged Ceiling from within Arch



View of Arch Looking West



View of Arch Looking Southwest

APPENDIX D

CDs with:

- AutoCad file containing a wire frame model of the arch.
- AutoCad file containing a textured model of the arch.
- A CD containing all digital photos collected by the scanner.
- Computer animation of point cloud and color overlay.

APPENDIX E

Background Information on A.L. Lewis (Courtesy of Gerald Eubanks)

FEORIA MEMORAL UNIVERSITY THE ARCHWAY

AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE FORMER FLORIDA MEMORIAL COLLEGE OF ST. AUGUSTINE IS AN EXQUISITE PIECE OF ARCHITECTURE, AN ARCH. IT STANDS AS A LIVING MONUMENT, SYMBOLIZING ONE OF THE MANY GIFTS WHICH THE GENEROUS MR. ABRAM LINCOLN LEWIS (A NATIVE SON OF FLORIDA) MADE TO BEAUTIFY THE NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS IN THE GLORY DAYS OF THE GREAT INSTITUTION, NOW FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, LOCATED IN MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA. IT STANDS, STILL, AS A LIVING MONUMENT, SYMBOLIZING THE GREAT HISTORY OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF A GREAT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION AND THE GENEROSITY OF A MOST UNIQUE AFRICAN-AMERICAN.

THIS PERENNIAL SYMBOL OF FLORIDA MEMORIAL IS CONSTRUCTED OF MASONRY AND REFLECTIVE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE OF THE DOMINENT EDIFICES WHICH EXISTED ON THE CAMPUS PROPER. CONSTRUCTED OF MASONRY, IT IS REMINISCENT OF THE INDOMITABLE COURAGE, UNTIRING PATIENCE, AND CHRISTIAN FORTITUDE WITH WHICH THE GIVER SERVED HIS RACE, AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHICAL TENETS FROM WHICH THE INSTITUTION SPRANG AND ESPOUSED TO ITS STUDENTS. THIS ARCHWAY IS AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS THE LEWIS MEMORIAL ARCH.

IT IS HOPED THAT THIS ARCHWAY WILL SERVE AS AN INCENTIVE TO OUR YOUTH, OUR STUDENTS PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE TO DRINK OF THE EVER-SERVING RESERVOIR OF LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE WITHIN THE WALLS OF OUR INSTITUTION. IT IS EXPECTED, FURTHER, THAT THE UNIVERSITY WILL BE ENDEARED TO MR. ABRAM LINCOLN LEWIS AND OTHERS OF HIS ILK, AND THAT SONGS OF GRATITUDE WILL BE SUNG DOWN ITS CORRIDORS AND AMONG MOSS-HUNG AND TALL PALM TREES, IN PERPETUITY!!

BIOLOGICAL SKETCH OF

ABRAM LINCOLN LEWIS

ABRAM LINCOLN LEWIS, BORN IN 1864, IN MADISON, FLORIDA, HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN NEGRO BUSINESS PROMOTER. HE SPENT HIS LIFE ENCOURAGING AND ASSISTING THE NEGRO IN BUSINESS.

A VERY CLOSE FRIEND AND ASSOCIATE OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, THEY WORKED TOGETHER ALONG WITH MAJOR R.R. MOTON, C.C. SPAULDING AND MAJOR R.R. WRIGHT TO ORIGINATE THE NATIONAL NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUE, ONR OF THE MOST POWERFUL AGENCIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF BIGGER AND BETTER NEGRO BUSINESS. A.L. LEWIS WAS AN OFFICER AND ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE NATIONAL NEGRO INSURANCE ASSOCIATION. HE WAS AWARDED THE HONORABLE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS BY WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY OF WILBERFORCE, OHIO, FOR BEING A FUNDAMENTAL FORCE IN NEGRO BUSINESS CIRCLES, IN JUNE 1936

THOUGH BORN POOR, DR. LEWIS BECAME THE LARGEST NEGRO TAXPAYER IN FLORIDA AND ONE OF THE LARGEST IN OUR NATION AS A RESULT OF SUCCESSFUL INVESTMENTS, KEEN FORESIGHT, SYSTEMATIC PLANNING AND FRUGAL SAVINGS. WHILE HE WAS DENIED THE PRIVILEGE AND OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE AN EDUCATION, HE COMPENSATED HIS DEPRAVITY BY CONSTANTLY READING. YET, HE WAS, TOO, DETERMINED TO SEE THAT OTHER NEGRO YOUTHS WERE GIVEN A CHANCE TO HAVE A BETTER EDUCATION. HE GAVE GENEROUSLY LARGE SUMS TO INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING, NOT ONLY IN HIS BELOVED FLORIDA, BUT THROUGH OUR COUNTRY.

PART TWO ---

THIS GREAT AMERICAN, INFLUENCED, POSSIBY INFLUENCED POSSIBLY BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, BECAME, TOO, A FORCEFUL PROMOTER OF WORKING TOWARDS IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN RACIAL GROUPS.

IN CONCLUSION, THE BAREFOOT BOY IN THE BACK WOODS OF WEST FLORIDA, MADISON, DR. A. L. LEWIS, COURAGEOUSLY OVERCAME DISADVANTAGES, SURMOUNTED OBSTACLES, BRIDGED THE WIDE CHASMS OF DIFFICULTIES, AND BY THRIFT, ECONOMY, RIGHTEOUS LIVING, AND FAITH IN GOD, ENVISIONED HOPE FOR HIS PEOPLE, UNTIL HIS DEATH ON MARCH, 10, 1947, HE WAS A MAN OF INDOMITABLE WILL, MATCHLESS LEADERSHIP, HONORED AND RESPECTED BY ALL WHO KNEW HIM—BY PEOPLE OF HIS OWN RACE AND OF OTHERS. HIS WAS A LIFE OF SERVICE AND INSPIRATION.

...CONTRIBUTED BY GERALD EUBANKS



::: THE HISTORIC ARCH

The Arch, located on the old St. Augustine Campus, holds fond memories for all who entered its gates.

