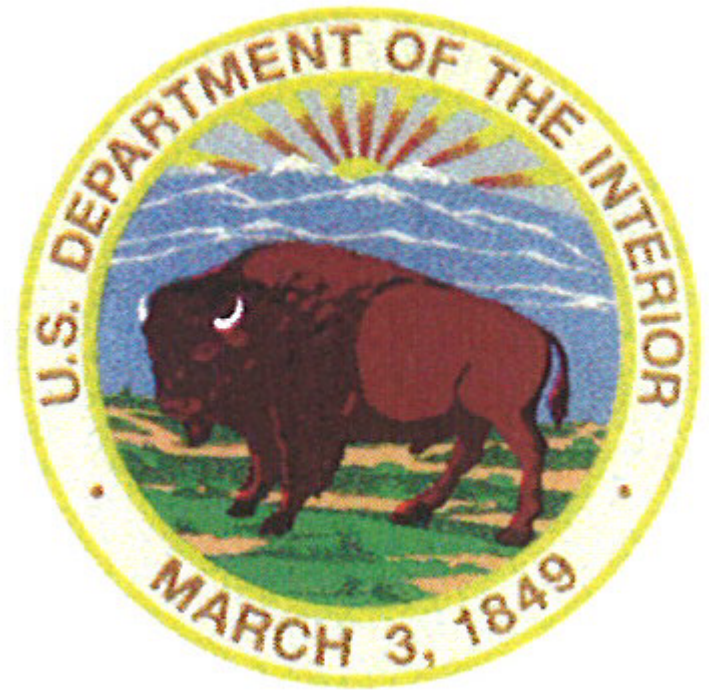




Recreational Segregation: Examining the effects of Jim Crow on the community identity at Homestead Bayfront Beach
Presented by: Iyshia Lowman
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1. Introduction: This project was initiated by the Biscayne National Park’s need to provide historical information about an unknown situation. Master’s student, Iyshia Lowman worked with the park’s Cultural Resource Management department to fulfill this gap in knowledge. This project examines the role of past segregation practices on the future identity of a community through in depth ethnographic study and oral histories.

2. Abstract: Institutionalized racial segregation in the United States has had a great and distinct influence over many aspects of American culture. How groups identify and define themselves and interact with others is dramatically impacted when racial segregation is a factor. These ideas with respect to social stratification are a significant aspect of interviews and documentation extracted when researching the historically segregated Biscayne National Park Homestead Bayfront Beach in Homestead, Florida from the late 1950s to the 1960s. This research will look at the importance of the preservation of historical and cultural resources through oral history interviews, participant observation, and archival research. The research questions that will be addressed are: what was the Homestead community identity during the 1950’s and 1960’s; how does this compare to the current community identity; and how does the history of segregation contribute to the current identity? This research will not only fill the gap in the historical record, it will also provide an idea of how the past can influence the future in reference to the community and start awareness and the opportunity for community change that will be beneficial.

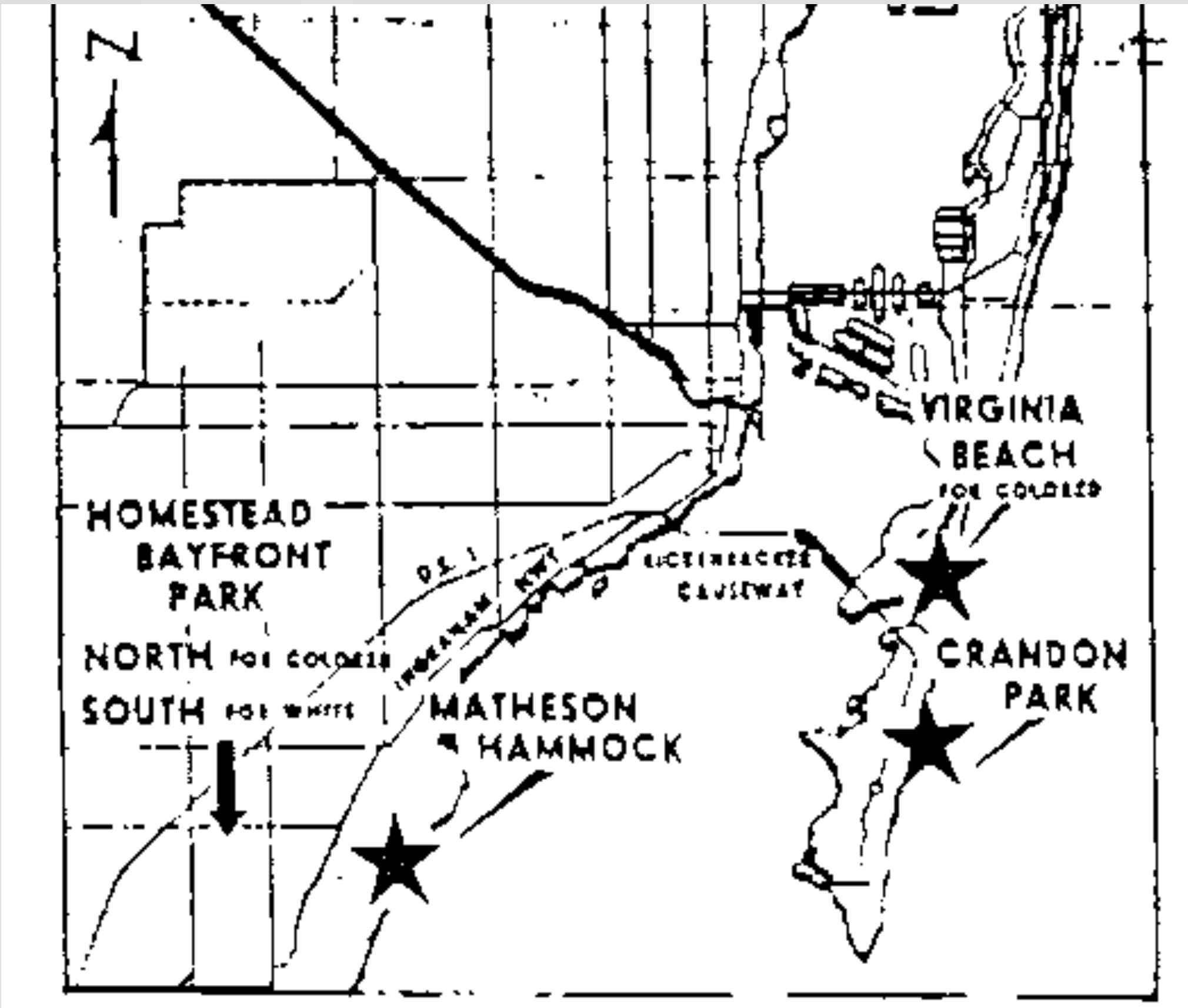
3. Methods: This is a qualitative research project that involves a multitude of methods to develop a better picture of the culture and community in the past and presently. Ethnographic methods were employed to fully explore this topic. The primary research was conducted in South Miami Dade County areas and Homestead, Florida. The ethnographic methods employed included:
-Recruitment was done through snowball sampling, advertisements, and networking.
-Oral Histories
-In-depth semi-structured Interviews of those with first hand and research knowledge of the beach
-Participant observation of Homestead, FL
-Archival Research
-Geographical Information Systems Mapping



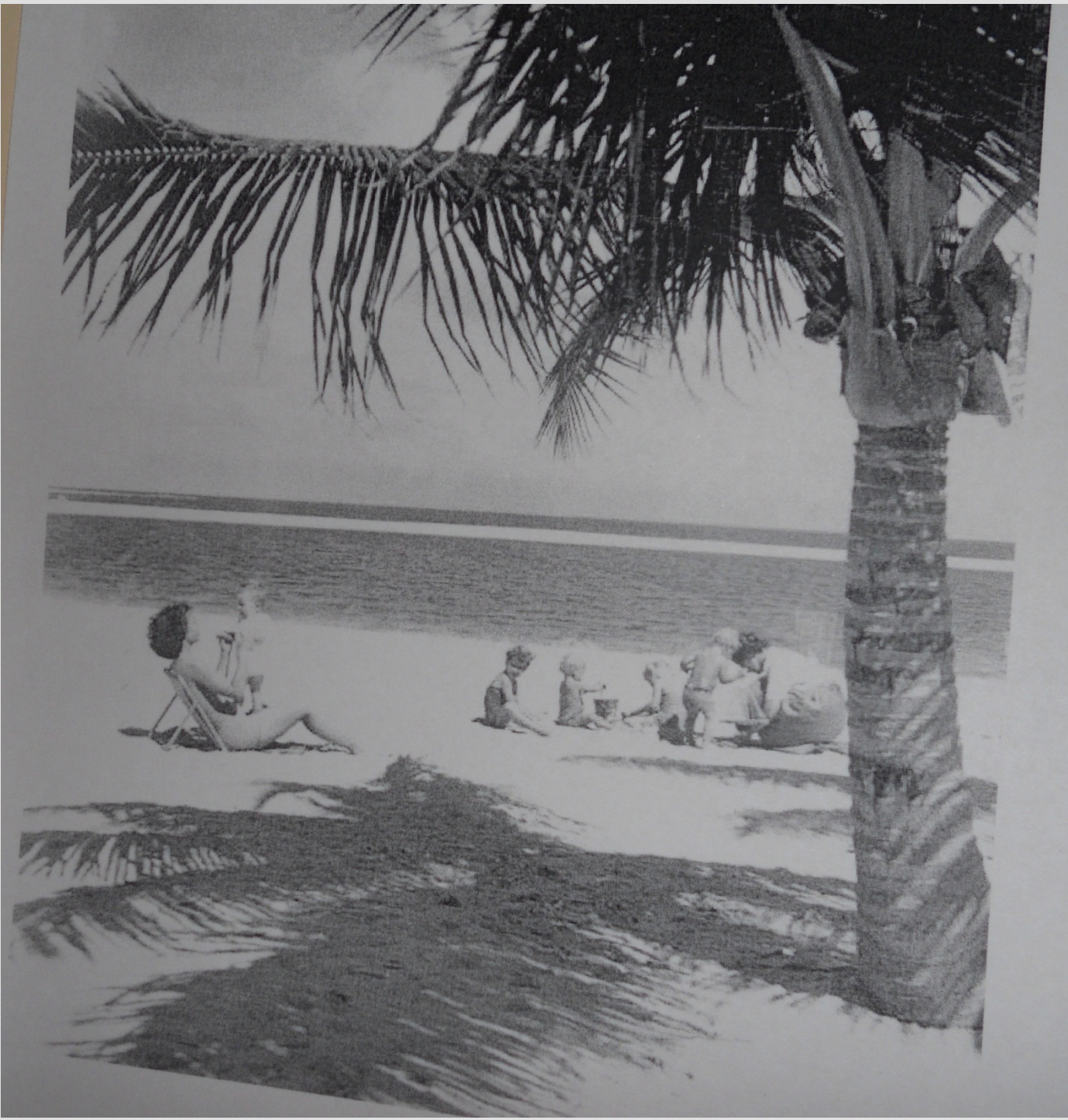
Picture of Iyshia Lowman



Homestead Bayfront Beach (South Beach area)



Picture courtesy of The Miami Herald, 1959



Photograph courtesy of The Florida Memory Project (1952)

4. Results and Conclusion: The anticipated outcome for this project will include an assessment of the past and present Homestead community identities. These results will enable the preservation of past occurrences as well as an description of the changes that can occur in a community partially due to the effects of segregation not only racial, but ethnic, gender, and class. These conclusions could provide future support for community development ideas and standards.

5. Timeline:

March-May 2012: Continue conducting oral history interviews and participant observations. Continue archival research and GIS mapping. Produce final report for Biscayne National Park

June-August 2012: Continue archival research and participant observation. Final stages of project data collection.

September-November 2012: Finish analysis and project in written form.

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Photo courtesy of the Florida Memory Project