

# Historical Timeline

**A PERSPECTIVE ON PARADISE:  
RECOUNTING OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS  
AND ANTICIPATING OUR SECOND CENTURY**

This timeline traces the development of our metropolitan region from the years before its founding to the present day, following the arc of its environmental, technological, political, and cultural complexities. In that process, it sets the stage for a new Miami, one that will emerge in the years ahead, as our region responds to a wholly new set of challenges. A broad array of environmental changes will undoubtedly be a critical component of in this evolution. They will challenge us to first imagine --and then create-- an ever more vibrant, resilient and magical Miami.

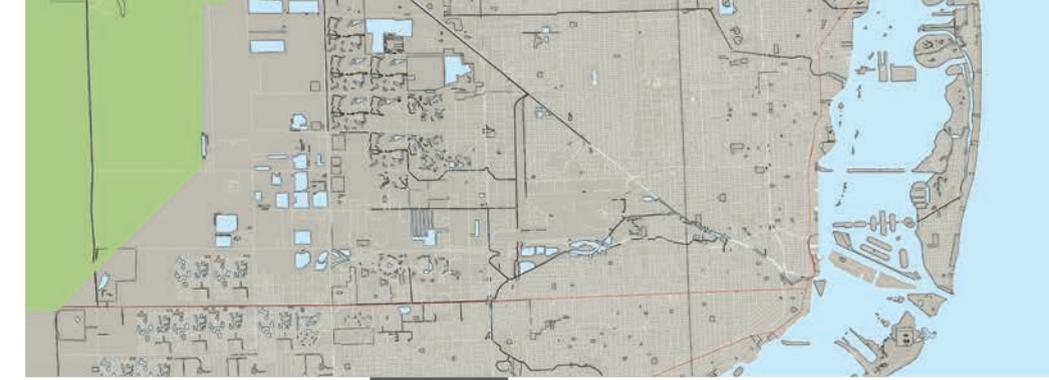
Created over a century of booms and busts, shaped by spurts of growth so rapid as to have arrived in the public imagination (nearly) overnight and (almost) fully formed, Miami has long been a "magic" city. The passage of one hundred years arguably nuances that image, not dissolving its enchantment but buttressing the illusion with substance. Incorporated in 1896, Miami is a young

city, occupying the heart of a growing metropolis. An aggregate of multiple centers independently conceived, the inaugural urbanization of Greater Miami was a product of sequential building booms between the two World Wars. Year-round warmth, water, and sunshine made tourism and farming the chief enticements of its earliest development.

Driven by forces in equal parts vision and ambition, built for profit at breakneck speed, the foundational centers of the metropolis invoked ready-made histories and envisioned landscapes for their elaborate narratives of paradise. Played out in the large-scale reshaping of land and water, Greater Miami was a deliberate paradise, not so much discovered as designed --and meticulously engineered. Hurricanes and financial crises devastated the city in the early decades of the twentieth century. The metropolitan region re-built itself, developing a distinct idiom of tropical modernism to construct

the institutions and the infrastructure of a significant postwar expansion. Home, by midcentury, to permanent, year-round residents, Miami simultaneously solidified its standing as a tourist destination and its nascent aspirations as an international Pan American presence.

The social and political upheavals of the postwar years --played out on stages international and domestic-- profoundly transformed the young city. Miami was shaken, shattered, re-imagined and re-built after new and unexpected floods --not only of wind and of water, but also of equality and civil rights, of migration and immigration, of revolution, and of exile. The mettle of this young city has been repeatedly tested over the course of its history. Miami has proven, with each trial, remarkably resilient. It is a quality that, over the coming century, will serve it well.



2,503,034

**2014**

MIAMI 2014

2009 | Wynwood Walls is founded  
2010 | Port of Miami Tunnel begins construction. Unites States Southern Command Headquarters moves to Doral.  
2011 | The New World Symphony moves to its new home: The New World Center Concert Hall  
2012 | Metrorail is extends westward to the Miami International Airport and a new intermodal transit station.

2001 | Network Access Point [NAP] of the Americas is built in downtown Miami  
2002 | Art Basel Miami Beach is founded.  
The Four Seasons Hotel is completed becoming the tallest building in the State of Florida.

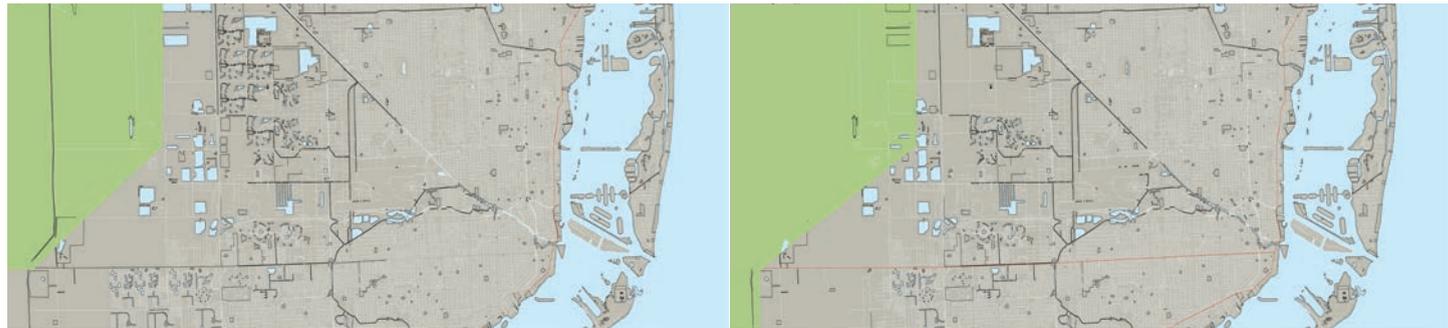
2005 | Construction begins on Midtown, an urban residential/retail development on the site of an abandoned FEC rail yard, and located north of Downtown Miami between the Miami Design District and the Wynwood/ Edgewater neighborhood.  
Midtown is home to the December Art Miami Fair.  
The City of Cutler Bay is incorporated.

2006 | The Carnival Centre for the Performing Arts [CCPA] opens its concert and opera halls  
June: The Miami Heat wins  
The City of Miami Historic Preservation Board designates the MiMo [Miami Modern] Biscayne Boulevard Historic District  
2008 | The CCPA is renamed the Arsh Center for the Performing Arts.

Art|Basel Miami Beach

2013 | December: Perez Art Museum of Miami moves to a new waterfront location.  
The Frost Museum of Science, currently under construction. The Miami Heat wins a third NBA Championship.  
2014 | The Port of Miami Tunnel commences operations

PAMM (Perez Art Museum Miami)



1997 | Voters approve name change from Dade County to Miami-Dade County. Gianni Versace is murdered on the steps of his Ocean Drive estate, Casa Casuarina. The City of Sunny Isles Beach is incorporated.

**Jorge Mas Canosa, controversial and prominent Cuban exile leader, dies in Miami. Head of the Cuban American National Foundation [CANF], he is instrumental in the creation of Radio and TV Marti. South Beach Wine and Food Festival begins at the Florida International University Biscayne Bay Campus, moving to South Beach in 2001.**

1998 | the tobacco companies, citing them for 'extreme and outrageous conduct' in making a defective product that causes death and disease. El Nuevo Herald becomes an independent publication, separating from the Miami Herald.

1999 | The American Airlines Arena opens on bay front property near the original Port of Miami, on the site of

2,253,779

2000

1988 | Franchised in 1987, the Miami Heat, an NBA team, is founded. The Miami Arena opens. It hosts multiple professional and collegiate sports teams until its demolition in 2008. The original construction, located in Overtown/ Park West, is controversial, as it requires substantial neighborhood demolition.

1989 | immigration to Miami. Metrorail connects to the Tri-Rail metropolitan commuter line. The Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act enables to restore its natural hydrology.

1990 | The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation relocates its headquarters from Akron Ohio to Miami, Florida.



1986 | April: The Inner Loop of Miami's Metromover begins operations to supplement Metrorail within downtown Miami.

Haitians immigrate to Miami after the collapse of the Duvalier regime. The new Haitian community forms today's Little Haiti in the area once known as Lemon City.

Miami City Ballet is founded, and opens its studios on Biscayne Blvd. The ballet moves to its Collins Park location in 2000.

1987 | Pope John Paul II visits Miami.

The New World Symphony Orchestra is founded.

Bayside, the Rouse Company

1981 | Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami opens in a storefront gallery, moving to a permanent home in 1996. Jorge Mas Canosa founds the Cuban American National Foundation [CANF], with the goal of achieving regime change in Cuba through politics.

1983 | The Miami Book Fair begins. Miami's Center for the Fine Arts opens in the Miami-Dade Cultural Center, which houses the Main Branch of the Miami-Dade County Public Library and the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

1973 | Maurice Ferre, native of Puerto Rico, is

1976 | The Spanish language insert El Herald begins circulation to supplement The Miami Herald for Miami's Latin population. The Miami Design Preservation League is formed to advance the preservation of Miami's historical built heritage.

1977 | Anita Bryant leads a successful crusade against a Miami Human Right Ordinance to protect individuals from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

1969 | Access ramps to I-95 from downtown Miami open. Marjory Stoneman Douglas helps found Friends of the Everglades.

1980 | April - October: The Mariel Boatlift brings some 150,000 Cubans to the Miami area, many on rafts and barges. There are numerous casualties at sea. The INS Detention Center on Krome Avenue is established on the site of a former missile base.

1961 | April 17: Sponsored by the CIA, the Bay of Pigs Invasion of Cuba fails. Construction of Interstate-95 reaches Miami. It is the suburban expansion and reshape the city.

1962 | October: The Cuban Missile Crisis resolves. The USSR withdraws its weapons from the island, and the U.S. agrees to refrain from invading Cuba without direct provocation. Anticipating vast suburban expansion in Miami aided by the construction of the Palmetto Expressway, Dadeland Mall opens.

1963 | President John Fitzgerald Kennedy is assassinated. The Bacardi U.S.A. Building opens on Biscayne Boulevard.

1954 | The Fontainebleau Hotel opens on Collins Avenue as one of the first all-inclusive hotels.

1955 | The Eden Roc Hotel opens next door to the Fontainebleau. The Towns of Miramar and Margate are incorporated.

1956 | The Miami International Airport Terminal Building opens.

Roadway and highway construction plans are approved: A North-South expressway (now part of I-95); an East-West Expressway (now the Dolphin Expressway/SR 836); a 36th Street Expressway (now the Airport Expressway/SR 112) and the Palmetto Expressway/SR 826. These projects are completed through the 1960s and the early 1970s. The construction of I-95 and SR 836 destroys much of Miami's Overtown.

1957 | The Sunshine State Parkway (now the Florida Turnpike) opens the state to rapid interstate traffic.

1959 | January: Fidel Castro comes to power in Cuba, ousting Fulgencio Batista. Cuban refugees begin to depart the island for Miami.

The Julia Tuttle Causeway opens, linking Miami and Miami Beach at 41st Street.

1960 | Over 100,00 Cuban refugees flee to Miami, escaping Castro's regime. Metro Dade County Transit Authority is created.

1969 | Access ramps to I-95 from downtown Miami open. Marjory Stoneman Douglas helps found Friends of the Everglades.

1970 | Inaugural Earth Day celebrated in Miami, focusing attention on environmental concerns heightened in 1970 by drought and fear of compromised regional water supply.

1971 | The Latin Chamber of Commerce is established. Channel 23 WFTV is sold to Spanish International Network and begins airing in Miami.

Versailles Restaurant opens, becoming a popular spot for Cuban exiles - and later, tourists.

Studies begin on the development of a heavy rail public transit system for Dade County.

Walt Disney World opens in Orlando, Florida.

1972 | Florida International University, chartered in 1965, opens its doors to students.



1944 | The Fontainebleau Hotel opens on Collins Avenue as one of the first all-inclusive hotels.

1945 | World War II ends. Many servicemen who trained in Miami return to make the city home. A boom of infrastructure and suburban expansion, and growing tourism characterize the post war years.

Dade County Port Authority is established to commence the creation of what will become Miami International Airport at the Miami 36th Street Airport. In response to the Haulover Wreck-in and other public demonstrations, Virginia Key Beach is established as a black-only beach.

The City of North Bay Village is incorporated.

1946 | The City of Bal Harbour is incorporated.

The Democratic Party of Florida repeals the prohibition against black participation in primaries, and the Florida Supreme Court outlaws the segregation of residential districts. This does not stop the erection of a wall in Coconut Grove to separate white and black residents.

1941 | The U.S. enters WWII; tourism ends. Miami and multiple areas of Dade County serve as training bases for the armed services. Many trainees leave the city with "land in their shoes" and return after the war as permanent residents. Racial tensions continue: Supported by the KKK, white veterans petition in opposition to the construction of a black development on NW 7th Ave. The City of Sweetwater is incorporated.

1942 | Submarine Chaser School commissioned in the Port of Miami. The U.S. Navy Gulf Sea Frontier is based at the Al DuPont Building in Miami.

1943 | Miami City Commission establishes its new City Hall at Dinner Key, in the former Pan American Airways Seaplane Terminal Building.

1944 | City of Miami hires first black police officers. Miami pharmacist Benjamin Green creates a successful suntan lotion, which becomes Coppertone.

1947 | Al Capone dies in Miami Beach. The Rickenbacker Causeway opens, linking Key Biscayne and Virginia Key to Miami. Marjory Stoneman Douglas publishes The Everglades: River of Grass. President Harry S. Truman dedicates the new National Park. Discriminatory signs are banned from places of business by Miami Beach ordinance. The Cities of Bay Harbor Islands, West Miami, and Virginia Gardens are incorporated.

1948 | Miami businessman Charles Winters provides B-17 bombers to Jews fighting for Israeli statehood. He is convicted of violating the Neutrality Act in 1949. The Sawney, Carabaliana and Sans Souci Hotels open. All have elements of the new International style.

1949 | The South Florida Water Management District is founded to manage water levels and prevent flooding south of Lake Okechobee. The Junior Museum of Miami, precursor to the Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science, opens. In 1960 it moves to the Vizcaya Farm House complex. A permanent home at Miami Museum Park is under construction, scheduled for completion in 2015.

1950 | At local, State and Federal levels, the policies, laws and practices of segregation are overturned piece by piece. Racial tensions and confrontations, often supported by the KKK, increase. The Miami Herald wins a Pulitzer Prize for its reports on organized crime in the city.

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1936 | The Miami area begins to emerge from the Great Depression - ahead of other areas in the U.S. - 38 tourist hotels, 110 apartment buildings, and 320 homes were constructed in Miami and Miami Beach.

1937 | Another 150 hotels and 508 apartment buildings are erected.

A project of the New Deal's Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Coral Gables Public Library is completed.

Liberty Square, a 753-unit public housing project of the New Deal's Public Works Administration (PWA) opens in Liberty City.

Edison Court, a 345-unit public housing project of the New Deal's Public Works Administration (PWA), opens in Lemon City.

Aviators Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan depart Miami to circumnavigate the globe, disappearing on the final leg of their journey, over the Pacific Ocean.

The Budline Stadium (renamed the Orange Bowl in 1959) opens. It is demolished and replaced in 2008.

The City of El Portal is incorporated.

1939 | A project of the New Deal's Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Coral Gables Public Safety Building (now the Coral Gables Museum) is completed.

The Miami Beach Post Office, a project of the New Deal's Works Progress Administration (WPA), is completed.

Florida Legislature bans blacks from voting in primaries.

Miami and other U.S. and international ports deny entry to the S.S. St. Louis, a ship carrying Jewish refugees seeking asylum from Nazi Germany. All who return to Hamburg are killed.

The Village of Indian Creek is incorporated.

1932 | The City of Miami Shores is incorporated.

1933 | An assassination attempt is made on President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt at Miami's Bayfront Park. New Deal programs employ nearly 20,000 Miamians and create numerous public projects throughout the city.

Cuban President Gerardo Machado is ousted and flees to Miami. Other Cubans follow. The City of Biscayne Park is incorporated.

1934 | The U.S. Congress creates the Everglades National Park.

Eastern Airlines begins flights from the Miami 36th Street Airport, eventually making Miami its corporate headquarters.

1935 | The City of Surfside is incorporated.

September 2: The Labor Day Hurricane destroys Flagler's Overseas Railway, permanently interrupting rail service. A New Deal Public Works Administration (WPA) project uses its infrastructure to complete the Overseas Highway, which opens to traffic in 1938.

1921 | James Bright and Glenn Curtiss plot and begin to sell land in the subdivision of Hialeah.

1922 | Bayshore Golf Course is built. Fulford-by-the-Sea, later named North Miami, is platted and begins land sales.

1924 | The Florida Legislature passes laws that ban state income and inheritance taxes.

1925 | The Cities of Coral Gables and Hialeah are incorporated. The City of Miami annexes Coconut Grove, Lemon City and other area neighborhoods, nearly quadrupling in size and becoming Greater Miami.

1926 | The Cities of Miami Springs, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Opa-locka and South Miami are incorporated.

September 18: The Great Miami Hurricane strikes. Winds of up to 145 miles per hour devastate the city and its environs. Estimated damages top \$165 million. The hurricane, coupled with the Great Depression that follows shortly afterward, lead to the end of the Miami Land Boom.

1928 | The Tamiami Trail is completed, connecting the coasts of the Florida peninsula.

1929 | October 29: The Great Stock Market Crash ushers the Great Depression.

The City of Golden Beach is incorporated.

1930 | Al Capone returns from prison to Miami. Art Deco buildings become popular; the architectural district begins to take shape.

Pan American Airways begins Clipper operations from its Seaplane Base in a former naval airbase at Dinner Key, Coconut Grove.

1931 | Dry spell in South Florida lowers water tables and threatens municipal wells with salt water intrusion.

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1914 | World War I begins, ending in 1918. Florida City is incorporated.

1915 | The City of Miami Beach is incorporated with only 33 registered voters.

Carl Fisher begins construction of Lincoln Road.

1917 | U.S. enters World War I. Pilots train at Miami flight schools.

Carl Fisher begins the construction of residential islands in Biscayne Bay. Completed in 1922, Star Island is followed by Palm and Hibiscus Islands.

1918 | Miami City Hospital, 'The Alamo,' opens in what will become, at mid-century, the Miami Civic and Medical Center.

The County Causeway opens, providing a land route connecting Miami and the barrier island of Miami Beach.

1920 | The Miami Land Boom, a dramatic explosion in real estate speculation, transforms the city so rapidly that Miami earns the moniker 'Magic City.'

Carl Fisher's Miami Beach Railway Company connects Miami Beach and Miami by a single rail trolley via the County Causeway.

The Roman Pools and Casino open on Miami Beach, as does the Flamingo Hotel.

1910 | Everglades Land Sales Company is established in Miami.

Miami population: 5,471, 42% of whom are black.

1911 | John Collins begins construction of the Miami Beach Collins Canal to facilitate movement of produce from the island to the mainland.

The Florida East Coast Canal (later renamed the Intercoastal Waterway) is completed.

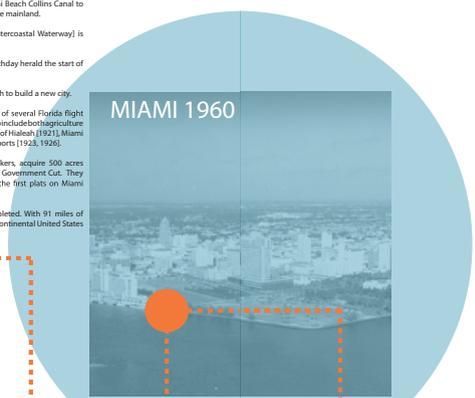
Aerial displays in celebration of the Miami's 15th birthday herald the start of the city's pre-eminence as a hub for aviation.

1912 | Entrepreneur Carl Fisher arrives in Miami Beach to build a new city.

On Miami Beach, Glenn Curtiss establishes the first of several Florida flight schools. Curtiss eventually expands his aviation ventures to include beekeeping, agriculture and real estate development, including the founding of Hialeah [1921], Miami Springs [1923], Opa-locka [1926], and two Miami airports [1928, 1926].

The Lummas brothers, Miami developers and bankers, acquire 500 acres of Miami Beach land, extending from 14th Street to Government Cut. They establish the Ocean Beach Realty Company, filing the first plats on Miami Beach.

Henry Flagler's Overseas Railway extension is completed. With 91 miles of track and 38 bridges, it connects the Florida Keys to continental United States via Miami.



### MIAMI 1960

1906 | Everglades reclamation projects begin, pushing back the natural wetlands of the South Florida region through the first of an extended future network of drainage canals.

The projects produce land fertile for cultivation and give birth to runaway urban development based on a real estate industry that aggressively promotes the sale of "land by the gallon."

1907 | John Collins gains ownership of all land on the barrier island of Miami Beach from present day 14th Street to 67th Street. He discovers fresh water and begins a cultivation of avocados, fruits, and vegetables.

1908 | Construction of the Miami Canal begins near the Miami River Falls, facilitating commercial inland navigation along the Miami River and connecting the new viaduct to Lake Okechobee by 1913.

1913 | The Collins Bridge (later site of the Venetian Causeway), longest wooden bridge in the world, opens. Connecting Miami and Miami Beach, it facilitates rapid development of the barrier island. That year, the Browns Hotel becomes the first hotel on the island, and Collins Avenue becomes its first paved road.

The Lyric Theater opens in Overton.

The City of Homestead is incorporated.

1903 | Henry Flagler gains federal funding for infrastructure projects that connect the new Port of Miami on Biscayne Bay to the Atlantic Ocean: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers create Government Cut by slicing through mangrove swamps at the southern tip of Miami Beach, and the dredge the Miami Ship Channel.

Over time, the by-products of dredging operations create a causeway connection across Biscayne Bay between mainland Miami and Miami Beach (later known as the MacArthur Causeway), as well as a series of spoil islands.

The Miami Evening Record and The Miami Metropolis begin publication.

1905 | Anticipating expanded shipping trade with the construction of the Panama Canal, Flagler extends the FEC southward, commencing work on the Florida Overseas Railway to Key West. Some speculate that Flagler ultimately hoped to connect Key West and Cuba. The Overseas Railway is completed in 1912 and operates until its destruction by the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935.

42,763

# 1920



Royal Palm Hotel in 1897



1891 | Julia Tuttle moves from Ohio to settle in Miami, purchasing the former Fort Dallas and 640 acres of land along the north bank of the Miami River.

The Tropical Sun, Miami's first newspaper, begins publication.

1897 | On the north bank of the Miami River, on the shore of Biscayne Bay, Henry Flagler builds and opens the 400-room Royal Palm Hotel. Constructed over Tequesta remains, the wood-frame hotel becomes a symbol of Gilded Age luxury for the new city. Badly damaged by the hurricane of 1926, it is demolished in 1930.

City of Miami Cemetery is established on land sold to the city by the Brickell family.

1899 | A second major fire destroys much of the city center, resulting in more stringent building regulations.

1900 | Flagler Public Library is established.

The Florida Audubon Society is established.

1894 | After financial losses, the Lums sell their coownership to the Lathan Field and Ezra Osborne of New Jersey, who in turn sell their holdings to John Collins and Thomas Penocost before abandoning South Beach.

Industrialist Henry Flagler extends the Florida East Coast Railway southward from New York, reaching West Palm Beach. After punishing freezes that affect northern Florida but leave south Florida untouched, William Brickell and Julia Tuttle help persuade Flagler to extend the railroad south to Miami.

The agreement between Flagler and the two principal landowners on the north and south banks of the Miami River includes substantial real estate. In addition to the railroad, Flagler agrees to build an urban infrastructure for Miami extending north and south of the river. He also agrees to build the Royal Palm Hotel.

1896 | April 13: The first train of the Florida East Coast Railway reaches Miami, linking the growing collection of settlements in the region to northern Florida and to the remainder of continental United States. Bahamian blacks have comprised the majority of the labor force constructing the railroad and remain in the area after its completion.

July 28: 344 registered voters, 40 percent of whom are black, vote for the incorporation of the new City of Miami.

Colored Town (later known as Overton), whose legal boundaries are established through deed restrictions at the time of incorporation, grows and begins to flourish.

Fire destroys much of the Miami central business district on December 26, 1896.

The Miami Metropolis newspaper (later renamed The Miami Times) begins publication.



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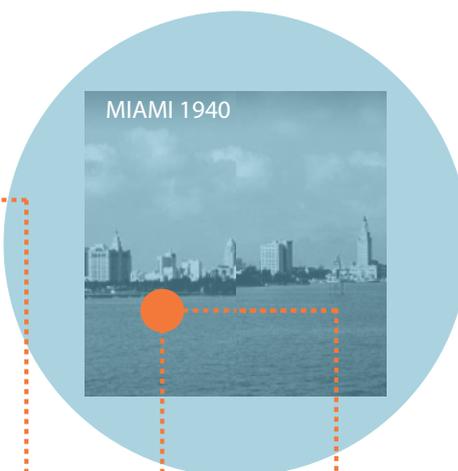
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# 1900

4,856



1870 | William and Mary Brickell settle and establish a trading post south of the Miami River. They and their extensive family succeed as traders and developers.



### MIAMI 1940

Henry Lum and his son Charles arrive in what is now South Beach from New Jersey. They purchase 165 acres of land on the barrier island from the federal government at 75 cents per acre for the purpose of planting and harvesting coconuts.



Bahamian immigrants in Coconut Grove 1890



# 1880

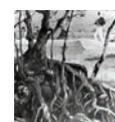
257



End of Second Seminole War



1842 | Second Seminole War ends.



William English, nephew of Richard Fitzpatrick, restores the Miami Riverfront holdings of his uncle, creating and selling property in the "Village of Miami" on the south bank of the river. The Miami River, a name said to derive from the native Mayami Tribe, gives its name to the growing town. English leaves the area for California in 1850.

1844 | Seat of Dade County moves from Indian Key Village to Miami.

1845 | Florida is admitted to the Union as a slave state.

1855 | Third Seminole War begins, ending in 1858.



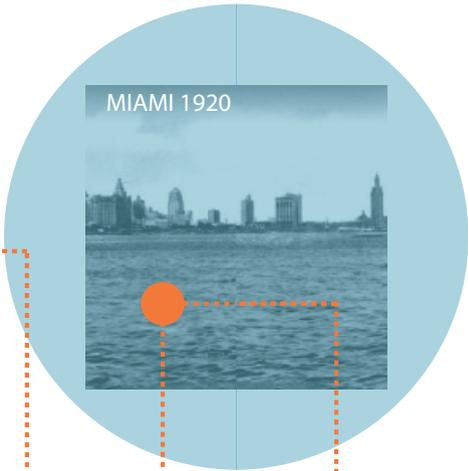
The United States Army reconstitutes Fort Dallas along the Miami River to support the Third Seminole War effort, abandoning it after the war ends.

# 1860

83



Miami in the early 1800s



MIAMI 1920

1830 | Richard Fitzpatrick purchases 4 square miles of land held by Bahamian families along the Miami River (2 square miles on each bank of the river). He cultivates the land, growing a range of tropical products, with the labor of 60 slaves. He abandons the plantation after the start of the Second Seminole War.

1835 | Second Seminole War begins, ending in 1842. It is the bloodiest and the longest war ever fought between the U.S. government and Native American populations. Many settlers depart from the region by the end of the decade.

Fort Dallas is established as a U.S. military post on the southern bank of the Miami River, on part of the plantation originally settled and later abandoned by Fitzpatrick.

1840 | Seminoles attack Indian Key Village (the original Dade County seat), burning down all but one house.



1836 | A new county is formed, extending from Indian Key to Jupiter Inlet (including today's Martin, Broward and Palm Beach Counties) and named after U.S. Army Major Francis L. Dade, killed in the Seminole Wars. Fitzpatrick becomes its first representative.

Seminoles set fire to the Cape Florida Lighthouse at nightfall. John Thompson, assistant lighthouse keeper, survives the attack but his attendant Aaron Carter dies.

1840

1821 | Spain sells Florida to the United States for \$5 million in partial settlement of Spanish damage claims against the American government.

1822 | Florida is designated a U.S. Territory, first step toward eventual statehood.

1825 | The Cape Florida Lighthouse structure remains the oldest existing building in Miami. Initially built in 1825, it burned in 1836, and repaired and returned to operation in 1846.



1820

1817 | First Seminole War begins in northern Florida, ending a year later in 1818.



1820 | To alert maritime traffic of dangerous reefs, Key Biscayne acquires 3 acres of land to build the Cape Florida Lighthouse.



1800



1565 | Mendez de Aviles visits Tequesta settlements and claims areas around the future site of Miami for Spain. It begins the first of two periods of Spanish rule, interrupted by two decades of British rule in the later half of the 1700s.

1743 | Spain builds military defenses and places of worship in the future Miami.

1766 | Touchetis among those who receive land grants from the British government in the years of English rule, settling in the Miami area during 18th century an interruption in Spanish dominance.



1784 - 1821 | Second Spanish Period: Spain expands settlement policies in order to incentivize development. Bahamians are among those who settle and farm Florida lands along the Miami River and Biscayne Bay.

1800



1513 | Ponce de Leon and Spanish explorers claim the territory of Florida for Spain. The Calusa, Tequesta and other native tribes number approximately 350,000 in population. Most disappear over the next 250 years of Spanish rule.

MIAMI 1880



13,000 BC

14,000 - 15,000 BC | Paleo-Indians settle in the area that will become southeastern Miami-Dade County, along the coast of South Biscayne Bay.

Florida Landscape is comprised of large dunes. The area had the sweeping winds of a dry region. 6,500 BC.

Climate changes gradually create a humid landscape.

5,000 BC | Lake Okechobee contributes to the rise of the Everglades ecosystems.



The Native American Calusa and Tequesta tribes emerge. Their settlements extend from the Florida Keys to what will later be known as St. Johns County. Their primary settlements are on Key Biscayne and along the north bank of the Miami River.

