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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CORAL GABLES MUSEUM RECEIVES UNIQUE DONATION

When Dolores Houston purchased her old Spanish home on Venetia Avenue in 1966, she didn't pay much attention to the colorful, old sign that was stored up on the rafters in her garage. She knew it must have had some importance, and kept it. As time passed, she meant to investigate the origin of the sign but never got around to it – much to the benefit of the Coral Gables Museum.

Hearing about the Museum project, Ms. Houston contacted Christine Rupp, the Museum's Director of Operations, to determine if the sign would be of interest to the Museum. Constructed of Dade County Pine, hand stenciled and colorfully painted in teal, royal blue and yellow, the sign reads:

Designed
By
Siefert & Risch
242 Aragon Ave.
Coral Gables

Ms. Rupp contacted Simone Chin at the City of Coral Gables Historical Resources Division who confirmed that Siefert & Risch were indeed the architects of the home, originally built for Mr. J.M. Stabile under city permit number 1929, dated December 3, 1925. Siefert was an Austrian sculptor and architect. Stabile was the namesake for the Stabile Building at the southeast corner of Aragon and Salzedo, the old Books and Books location.

The sign was undoubtedly displayed in the front yard of the Venetia Avenue house when constructed and then stored in the garage for 83 years before Ms. Houston donated it to the Museum. Thrilled to hear about the history and significance of the sign, Ms. Houston is delighted she kept the sign for all these years and could contribute it to the Museum's collection. Hopefully, her story may compel other Gables residents to come forward with memorabilia and items that may assist in uncovering the history of the City Beautiful.

For information, call Ms. Rupp, Director of Operations, at 305-910-3996 or e-mail info@coralgablesmuseum.org.

Photo attached: Dolores and Richard Houston with sign