



# WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## HISTORICAL NOTES

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### FIVE POINTS

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“Five Points” has been a landmark in Wilton Manors since Day One. Edward J. “Ned” Willingham laid out the sub-division of Wilton Manors in 1925. The grand entrance was the five pointed intersection of Dixie Highway, Prospect Road, and Wilton Boulevard.



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Wilton Boulevard was framed by four Romanesque towers, designed by noted and prolific architect Francis Abreu. Prospective buyers could climb to the top of the largest tower to pick out their house lot!

Willingham created Wilton Boulevard to be strictly residential, with big, expensive homes.

Dixie Highway was the main road from Palm Beach to Miami. Willingham named the street which marked the northern border of Wilton Manors “Prospect Road,” now NE 26<sup>th</sup> Street. An earlier map has this street going west to the Everglades, noted as about a mile west of NE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. To the east was farmland.

The big tower was torn down in 1957 to make way for an A&W Root Beer stand, which was subsequently was torn down to build the Wells Fargo Bank. The smaller pair of towers, between NE 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Wilton Drive were torn down in 1964. At the time, the

heartburn of the locals was not that we were losing an important historic landmark, but rather that we really didn't need another gas station. The last little tower, next to the A&W Root Beer stand, which itself was now an important landmark, was torn down shortly thereafter.

The Florida Department of Transportation has made several moves to "fix" Five Points which met with vigorous and successful opposition by locals and businesses.

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