



Lisa Joaquin <lisajoaquin1221@gmail.com>

Re: Guidance on Historical Eligibility Research for The Islander

Lisa Joaquin <lisajoaquin1221@gmail.com>
To: "Lucas, Kyra" <Kyra.Lucas@dos.fl.gov>

Mon, Aug 25, 2025 at 2:52 AM

Good morning Dr. Lucas,

I wanted to reach out with some information that may be important in determining eligibility for The Islander, and I also have a few questions I'm hoping you could guide me on.

We've discovered that while the Dolphin Apartments may not have been the very first lodging on the beach, it appears to be one of the earliest multi-unit apartment-style properties (12–16 units, larger than the 4–6 unit cottage or tourist courts) in North Redington Beach. It reflects the transition from small cottages to purpose-built apartment/motel complexes that later became common along Gulf Boulevard and the barrier islands.

Because of this, we believe the Dolphin Apartments could hold historic significance as one of the first apartment-style complexes in the area — and notably, it remains standing today with relatively few alterations.

I would greatly appreciate your guidance on a few key points:

Does a property need to be the very first of its type, or is being one of the earliest examples sufficient for historic consideration?

What types of documentation are most helpful for your team (e.g., photographs, plat maps, aerials, property records, newspaper archives)?

Are there particular sources or archives you recommend we prioritize in our research?

We are already reviewing the Pinellas County Property Appraiser records, plat maps, Tax Collector, building permits, historic aerials, and the St. Petersburg Times, among others, but would value your direction on what carries the most weight in your review process.

I also wanted to note that I confirmed directly with the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's office that ownership of The Islander is held in fee simple. From my understanding, this means the nomination for historic designation would require approval or acceptance by the owners themselves, rather than the current board. This distinction feels important, since it ensures the decision about The Islander's future ultimately rests with the ownership group if your team deems the property eligible.

Thank you so much for your guidance and support — it is very much appreciated.

Warm regards,
Lisa Joaquin
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