



952

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name SUNSET HOTEL

other names/site number Sunset Inn, Crystal Bay Hotel, Parkview Hotel, FMSFPI00218

2. Location

street & number 7401 Central Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town St. Petersburg N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL countv Pinellas code 103 zip code 33710

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Robert F. Boudreau 10/3/14
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Edson H. Beall 11.24.14
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Seasonal Hotel

DOMESTIC/Year-Round Hotel

DOMESTIC/Residential Retirement Hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Mediterranean Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Tar and Gravel

other Arcaded Loggias

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1915-1957

Significant Dates

1915

1926

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Feltham, George

Blder: Bryan, Hardy W.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository

#

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Less than one**UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	2	8	4	5	1	3	0	7	3	0	9	1
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
2															

3														
	Zone		Easting					Northing						
4														

 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Cynthia D. Paulson/Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationistorganization Bureau of Historic Preservation date October 2014street & number 500 South Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mark W. Tong, Crystal Bay Properties, LLCstreet & number 11580 Oakhurst Road telephone (727) 455-2260city or town Largo state Florida zip code 33774-3948**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Sunset Hotel, located at 7401 Central Avenue, was designed by architect George Feltam and built by contractor Hardy William Bryan ca. 1915 by developer Robert Grigg. The character defining stucco finish, arcaded loggias, projecting visor roof, and flat roof with a raised parapet define the three-story L-shaped building as an example of the Mediterranean Revival style. The building served as a hotel from the time of its construction until its conversion to a retirement residence in 1971.¹ After several changes in ownership, Crystal Bay Properties, LLC acquired the title through foreclosure in June 2012. The current owner has renewed the building rehabilitation efforts which were abandoned by the previous owner in 2009, due to a downturn in economy. Upon completion, the renovated building will be returned to service as a hotel offering holistic treatment for wellness. In 2007, the Sunset Hotel was designated as a local landmark for the city of St. Petersburg and officially added to the local register.

SETTING

The city of St. Petersburg is located on the west coast of central Florida, in Pinellas County, at the south end of the Pinellas Peninsula, which separates Tampa Bay from the Gulf of Mexico. The metropolitan area claims almost 300,000 residents. Other communities found on the peninsula, like Clearwater, Largo, Pinellas Park, and Gulfport have grown with St. Petersburg to form an almost continuous urban landscape. St. Petersburg and its surrounding communities are part of the St. Petersburg/Tampa metropolitan area which has a population of more than two million residents. The city is connected to Tampa and its environs by bridges across the bay, and to Bradenton and Sarasota by the Sunshine Skyway Bridge across Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. St. Petersburg has a subtropical climate which principally supports it as a resort and residential city. The economy depends largely on tourism through visitors to the many beaches of the nearby barrier islands along the Gulf of Mexico. Focal points of downtown tourist activity are Bayfront Auditorium and the Municipal Pier, both of which are located on Tampa Bay, and by Tropicana Stadium, the home of the Tampa Bay Rays major league baseball team.² The Sunset Hotel is located west of downtown St. Petersburg on Central Avenue, the east-west thoroughfare spanning the width of the city. It overlooks Sunset Park and Boca Ciega Bay at the gateway of the Treasure Island Causeway which leads to the barrier islands and distinctive individual beach communities of Pinellas County. At the time of its construction in 1915, the area was sparsely inhabited with a few scattered residences. The former Sunset Hotel is now surrounded by single-family residential uses with commercial retail and office uses extending east along Central Avenue.³

¹ St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission, *Sunset Hotel, 7401 Central Avenue Designation Report*, 2007. Available [Online]: http://www.stpete.org/historic_preservation/historic_landmarks/docs/HPC_07_03.pdf [HPC_07_03, October 2007] p. 1

² Mayor Rick Kriseman, *Welcome to Downtown*. Available [Online]: <http://www.discoverdowntown.com/>

³ St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission, *Sunset Hotel, 7401 Central Avenue Designation Report*, p. 1

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The ca. 1915 three-story building is thirteen bays long and thirteen bays wide with an L-shaped footprint featuring a north wing and an east wing, which received two additions by 1926. The hotel is situated at the northwest corner of the intersection of 1st Avenue North and Park Street North. The original primary entrance faces south toward the intersections of Park Street, Central Avenue and 74th Street⁴ (Photos 1-2). The wood frame structure features a stucco finish and rests on a masonry pier foundation with pierced concrete block and masonry infill. A one-story arcaded loggia extends along the west elevation of the east wing of the hotel (Photos 3-5). When the building was constructed, the second floor featured an open verandah with classical columns along the west elevation of the east wing. This second floor loggia was enclosed ca. 1981. The pavilions which project from the south elevation of the west wing and the southwest corner of the south wing were originally open tower features topped by roof terraces with pergolas. These roof pergolas were removed by 1937 and the open porches on the second and third floors were enclosed by 1958.⁵

A secondary entrance is located on the east elevation of the east wing (Photos 6-8). This entrance originally featured nine-light paired French doors flanked by nine-light sidelights with wing walls flanking the steps. One of two primary entrances to the lobby is located on the east elevation. This entrance has a 15-light single French door flanked by three-light sidelights and a nine-light transom. Wing walls flank the steps and a canvas canopy frame is found about the walkway to the street. There are three secondary entrances on the north elevation (Photos 9-10).

On the west elevation of the north wing, a fire escape (Photo 11) provides access to the second and third floors by paired five-light French doors. The south elevation of the east wing has a secondary entrance at the west end with a modern door with an oval light (Photo 12). The primary entrance on the south elevation of the north wing has one-light paired French doors flanked by four-light fixed wood windows set at the corner of the L-shaped building (Photo 4). The east wing also features two entrances at this corner on the west elevation. One has one-light paired French doors flanked by two-light sidelights, while the other has one-light paired French doors flanked by six-light sidelights. Entrances within the arcaded loggia (Photo 5) feature a six-light pair of French doors. The arcaded loggia has a closed balustrade.⁶

The remaining historic windows are wood 1/1-light, 3/1-light, and 4/1-light double-hung sash set independently (Photo 13). The first floor of the south and west elevations are characterized by a series of arches. While most

⁴ Ibid., p. 1-2.

⁵ Ibid., p. 2.

⁶ St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission, *Sunset Hotel, 7401 Central Avenue Designation Report*, p. 2-3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

of the west elevation remains an open loggia, the arches on the south elevation feature 6-, 9-, and 15-light casement windows set in a ribbon pattern under four- and seven-light fanlights. Elsewhere on the building, some historic windows have been replaced or verandahs have been enclosed by 2-light vinyl siding and metal 2/2-light, metal 8/8-light, and vinyl 1/1-light single-hung sash windows placed independently, paired, and in a ribbon pattern. Air conditioning units (Photo 14) extend through the wall below some window units.⁷

A raised parapet with coping obscures the flat roof which is pierced by two chimneys and an elevator shaft, added in the 1930s. A visor roof with exposed rafters and brackets projects below the roof parapet (Photos 2-4). A second visor roof with exposed rafters and triangular knee braces in the eaves visually delineates the first from the second floor (Photo 10). The enclosed second floor verandah features a shed roof with paired brackets in the eaves (Photo 4).

Interior

The Sunset Hotel underwent a period of expansion within the first few years after construction. A one-story porch on the west wing was enclosed and enlarged to form a dining room (Photos 15-16). In an effort to compete with the newer hotels, the Sunset Inn expanded with a three-story addition to the west wing in 1926, which also enlarged the dining room.⁸ The second floor originally featured an open verandah with classical columns along the west elevation of the south wing. This second floor loggia was enclosed ca. 1981. The pavilions which project from the south elevation of the west wing and the southwest corner of the south wing were originally open tower features topped by roof terraces with pergolas. These roof pergolas were removed by 1937 and the open porches on the second and third floors were enclosed by 1958.⁹

Alterations and Additions

The Sunset Hotel experienced many alterations during the early and mid-1930s, including the removal of the roof pergolas, installation of new decor, and the refinishing and rearrangement of interior facilities. With most of the original open verandah system now enclosed, the interior floor plan has changed significantly since the building's original construction. Most of the interior walls and doors, especially on the upper floors, were removed and rebuilt as part of the effort to reconfigure spaces. The west wing of the first floor featured a dining room, with the lobby and service areas at the juncture of the two wings. Individual rooms occupied the other wing and upper floors (Photos 17-22). This overall use of space remains intact. Some decorative moldings, original flooring, and windows remain intact. Some window openings and transom openings have been

⁷ Ibid., p.3.

⁸ Ibid., p.10. Citing Leland Thorpe. Interview by Diane Greer. Summer 1973. Notes from interview, Subject file, Archives, St. Petersburg Museum of History, St. Petersburg, FL.

⁹ Ibid., p 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

enclosed. Much of the original decorative detail on the upper floors has been removed. Significant interior features include the remaining original windows and window openings, original wood floors, and moldings. On the first floor, the former lobby areas retain their beamed ceilings, sections of wood flooring, and wood window trim. Evidence of original double-hung sash window and transom openings remain.¹⁰

Several hotel functions also occurred in buildings on the adjacent block to the east. A residence and a pump house and furnace building were situated on the northwest corner of the adjacent block. The Sunset Garage, a masonry structure used to house automobiles owned by guests, was located mid-block along Central Avenue.¹¹ Sunset Park, situated across from the hotel along Boca Ciega Bay, was rejuvenated by the park board and Pasadena Estates, Inc. starting in 1923.¹² By 1951, the rectangular garage along Central Avenue had been demolished but a new Garage and Repair Shop, with a capacity of 25 cars opened at 7328 1st Avenue North.¹³ Between 1994 and 2006, the pump house, residence, and garage at 7822 and 7832 1st Avenue North were demolished.¹⁴

¹⁰ St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission, Historic Preservation Staff Report, *Historic Preservation Plan for the Establishment of Historic Transfer of Development Rights Request Report Sunset Hotel (HPC #07-03), 7401 Central Avenue*, (November 21, 2008), p. 9

¹¹ Sanborn Map Company. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*. 1923. Available [Online]: <http://sanborn.umi.com>; R.L. Polk, ed. *Polk's St. Petersburg City Directory*. (Jacksonville: R.L. Polk, Co., Jacksonville, 1924).

¹² Karl Grismer, *History of St. Petersburg: Historical and Biographical*. (St. Petersburg: Tourist News Publishing Company, 1924) p. 201.

¹³ Sanborn Map Company. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps*. 1951.

¹⁴ City of St. Petersburg. *Property Card. 7401 Central Avenue, and 7328 and 7338 1st Avenue North*. (City of St. Petersburg, Development Services).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1 SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Sunset Hotel is significant at the local level under Criterion A for Entertainment/Recreation and Criterion C for Architecture. The hotel was constructed in conjunction with the development of the Davista and Jungle subdivisions to encourage settlement and western expansion of the city. By providing lodging for prospective residents, the hotel supported the early growth of the city. The Sunset Hotel was designed by architect George Feltham and was one of his first commissions in Florida. Hardy William Bryan served as the contractor for the construction of the hotel. The Sunset Hotel is also significant for its role in the economic development of the tourism industry in St. Petersburg. The Sunset Hotel set a precedent in the city for the 1920s development of a resort hotel with nearby golf courses, tourist recreation attractions and residential opportunities. The evolution of the Sunset from a hotel to a residential retirement facility also evidences the overall pattern of growth and evolution of the privately-owned, non-chain hotel during the twentieth century.¹⁵

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Early Days, Growth of St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg, Florida came into existence when the sparsely inhabited waterfront site was chosen as the terminus of the Orange Belt Railroad in the mid-1880s. Peter Demens built the narrow gauge railroad to 250 acres of prime waterfront land which he platted as the town of St. Petersburg in 1888 on land owned by Detroit native John C. Williams in the sparsely settled Pinellas Peninsula served as the major impetus to the formation of a town. The Orange Bell Railway however, was not a successful venture and in effort to boost profits, the Railway started offering seaside excursions to St. Petersburg in 1889. The Pinellas Peninsula had received the endorsement of Dr. Van Bibber as the perfect location for a "Health City" cited in promotional literature during the 1885 annual convention of the American Medical Association.¹⁶ These seaside excursions were one of the first concentrated efforts by the community and the development company to attract tourists.¹⁷ One such individual to arrive in Florida to alleviate his own health problems was Frank A. Davis, a prominent publisher from Philadelphia who utilized Dr. Van Bibber's endorsement to heavily promote the health benefits of St. Petersburg during the late 1800s and early 1900s.¹⁸

By 1890, the population had grown from approximately 50 to 273 residents and St. Petersburg was officially incorporated in 1892. The town grew even more following a series of severe freezes during the winter of 1894-

¹⁵ St. Petersburg Historic City Council to Honorable James S. Bennett, Chair and Members of City Council, October 4, 2007, Historic Landmark Designation of Sunset Hotel (HOC Case No. 07-03) Available [Online]:

www.stpete.org/LegisStream/MG185829/.../DO_187997.PDF.

¹⁶ Arsenault, *St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream 1888-1950*. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996), p. 62.

¹⁷ Grismer, *The Story of St. Petersburg: The History of Lower Pinellas Peninsula and The Sunshine City*. p. 70, 97, 111.

¹⁸ *St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream 1888-1950*. p. 82-85.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2 SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

95 which destroyed the citrus groves throughout north and central Florida and triggered property owners in these areas to relocate to coastal areas such as St. Petersburg, which did not experience freezes as severe.¹⁹

During the early 1900s, the creation of St. Petersburg's waterfront park system, incorporation of a trolley system, and construction of the Electric Pier drew additional tourists and new residents to the area.²⁰ Largely through the efforts of city boosters to attract businesses and residents, local developers created the city's first real estate land boom that spanned from 1909 to the start of World War I. The resulting development created a pattern for the future growth of the city. Efforts by the Atlantic Coast Line railroad brought organized tourist trains from New York in 1909 and from the Midwest in 1913. Many of these tourists continued to winter in the city with some even relocating to St. Petersburg.²¹ The City's administration also started to formally encourage tourism with promotional campaigns following the election of Al Lang as mayor in 1916. Lang was elected after he arranged to bring the Philadelphia Phillies baseball team to the city for spring training. Under his leadership the City publically encouraged tourism and made efforts to improve the physical appearance of the city.²²

Westward Expansion

In 1902, Frank A. Davis formed the St. Petersburg Investment Company which served as a holding company for both the city's electric and streetcar companies. During the local real estate boom which began in 1909, the St. Petersburg Investment Company acquired approximately 4,000 acres west of the city backing a plan to extend Central Avenue west to Boca Ciega Bay. One of the subdivisions platted in 1912 was Davista, named in honor of Davis. Immediately north of Davista, the St. Petersburg Investment Company opened the Jungle Terrace 1 subdivision which incorporated the Jungle Country Club and Golf Course, the city's first golf course.²³ The original plat for Davista depicted a park along Boca Ciega Bay, brick streets and paved sidewalks, and a trolley line along Central Avenue and Park Street. Advertisements for Davista, situated in the area now known as Pasadena, proclaimed the development as "'The Gem of All Florida Developments.'" The high-end residential neighborhood was supported by the extension of the trolley line and the brick paving of the western end of Central Avenue in 1913 and 1914. When constructed, Central Avenue came to a dead end at the park, located along the shore of Boca Ciega Bay. Across from the park, on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Park

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 64, 81-82.

²⁰ Ibid., p. 87-89.

²¹ Ibid., p. 135-137, 144-145.

²² St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission, *Sunset Hotel, 7401 Central Avenue Designation Report*, p. 6.

²³ Ibid., p. 67-79, 273; Ibid., 119, 304-306; Pinellas County Clerk of Circuit Court, December 1912. Plat Book 1, p. 61-64; April 1916, Plat Book 4, p.18.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Street, the St. Petersburg Investment Company leased land to Robert Grigg in exchange for his promise to build a hotel.²⁴

Tourism Based Economy

The city's population grew from 4,127 in 1910 to 14,237 by 1920. With the outbreak of World War I, tourism and the real estate market slowed and depression ensued. St. Petersburg quickly rebounded following the war with the winter season of 1918-1919 more profitable than before the war. The lack of hotel space and the booming economy during the early 1920s prompted the conversion of a number of private residences surrounding downtown into boarding houses, apartment buildings, or small hotels. With only five major hotels providing fewer than 500 hotel rooms at the start of the boom, city leaders were encouraged by the construction of several mid-sized and large hotels. Between 1924 and 1927, the number of hotels and boarding houses in St. Petersburg rose from 77 to 123.²⁵

A relatively healthy tourist trade initially kept the local economy afloat following the downturn of the real estate market in 1926 and the devastating hurricanes which damaged south Florida in 1926 and 1928. However, the crash of the stock market in 1929 created a dismal tourist season during the winter of 1929-1930.²⁶

Federal relief projects helped revive the city's economy by the mid-1930s. The new Deal agencies brought partial economic recovery and with an improved financial outlook, tourists returned to St. Petersburg during the late 1930s.²⁷ One of the most far-reaching local projects undertaken during this period was the construction of the Treasure Island Causeway built to connect Central Avenue to Treasure Island. Limited development had occurred on the island from the 1910s through the 1930s without such a direct link to the mainland. The 1.8 mile causeway consisting of three bridges formally opened in 1939.²⁸ The causeway opened the Gulf beach both to tourists and residents and increased the traffic flow at the western end of Central Avenue.

The onset of World War II severely curtailed St. Petersburg's tourism based economy but the opening of a technical services training center for the Army Air Corps brought over ten thousand soldiers to the city during the summer of 1942. The military leased almost every major hotel and many of the smaller hotels in the city.

²⁴ Grismer, *History of St. Petersburg: Historical and Biographical*, p. 67-79, 201, 273.; *The Story of St. Petersburg: The History of Lower Pinellas Peninsula and The Sunshine City*, p. 119, 304-306; PCCCC Plat Book 1, p. 61-64 ; Plat Book 4, p.24.

²⁵ Polk. *Polk's St. Petersburg City Directory*, 1924, 1927.

²⁶ St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission, *Sunset Hotel, Designation Report*, 2007, p 11.

²⁷ Arsenault, *St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream 1888-1950*. p. 257-260.

²⁸ Grismer. *History of St. Petersburg: Historical and Biographical*, p, 188; Ralph Reed, "The Keys on the Gulf Come Into Their Own: Authorized Construction of Free Causeway to Long Key has had the Effect of Beginning a Phenomenal Development," *Tourist News*, 9 January 1926. Subject File, Archives, St. Petersburg Museum of History, St. Petersburg; Roy A. Jackson, *Historic Highway Bridges of Florida*. Tallahassee: Environmental Management Office, Florida Department of Transportation, 2004. p. 66-67.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4 SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

The city rapidly demilitarized following the war, and many veterans returned to St. Petersburg. The Great Depression and governmental restrictions during the war had led to a housing shortage following World War II. Many hotels and boarding houses were again occupied with tourists and new residents awaiting the construction of new homes to fill the subdivisions platted during the 1920s.²⁹

As development spread westward, the introduction of shopping centers, including Central Plaza and Tyrone Gardens Shopping Center, and motels along the west coast drew new residents and tourists away from downtown St. Petersburg and prospered in the late 1940s and 50s.³⁰ With the increasing development of the coastal beaches, the mainland hotels suffered and declined. Some opened as year round rather than seasonal hotels, while others converted to retirement residence hotels to provide retirees an affordable cost of living in a warm and humid destination ideal for the elderly.³¹

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Snowbirds, Retirees and Recreation

St. Petersburg, Florida has been considered an ideal retirement destination since the 1920's. The city is the fourth most populated area in the state of Florida with over 240,000 residents. St. Petersburg has been nicknamed "The Sunshine City" with a reported 360 days of sunshine a year.³² Throughout the 1920s, the St. Petersburg Times boasted the daily edition would be given away free on sunless days. Local real estate companies, boards of trade, community leaders and politicians zealously promoted the city touting the healthful aspects and creating an image of easy carefree life in contrast to northern frozen winters.

St. Petersburg became a major lure for retirees seeking refuge from the cold northern winters reflecting a new trend of appeal to seasonal residents. In an April 7, 1915 article, the St. Petersburg Times noted the Sunset Hotel would be "modern hotel in every particular with several of the apartments already contracted for by seasonal residents."³³ The hotel would feature a roof garden, dining room and refreshment parlor. Each room could be accessed by an elevator and would feature a folding bed, telephone and hot and cold running water. Accommodating parties and dances, the facility would also feature a billiard room, tennis and croquet courts.

²⁹ St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission, *Sunset Hotel, Designation Report*, 2007, p 15.

³⁰ Arsenault, *St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream 1888-1950*. P.307-313.

³¹ St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission, *Sunset Hotel, Designation Report*, 2007, p. 16.

³² Senior Living.org, *Your Unbiased Guide To Senior Living And Retirement*, Available [Online]:

<http://www.seniorliving.org/assisted-living/florida/st-petersburg/>

³³ Hotel Contract Let Yesterday to a Local Man, *St. Petersburg Times*, 7 April 1915,1.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 5

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Close proximity to the Jungle golf course and direct access from downtown via the trolley proved a boon to the first hotel built beyond walking distance of downtown.³⁴

The seasonally operated Sunset Hotel welcomed Florida's pioneer "snowbirds," temporary residents of both the North and South. St. Petersburg became iconic as a winter haven. Hotels and apartment houses catered exclusively to the winter visitor and retired person since the 1920s. The Sunset Hotel during the 1930s boasted the various 'home away from home' amenities with appealing descriptions - home-like atmosphere, close to all activities yet quiet and restful, private bath, telephone, steam-headed, Northern chefs to prepare meals, and moderate hotel rates.³⁵ These winter visitors directly impacted the local economy and eventually altered the city landscape as the perfect winter residence that often gave way to permanent settlement.

The promotion of the developing beaches boosted St. Petersburg as a recreational vacation destination to become a major lure for new tourists. Postcards advertised the "Sunshine City" showing beach fun in the sun. The Sunset Hotel, positioned along one of the primary routes to the Gulf beaches, prospered in the late 1940s and 1950s. "A delightful vacation paradise overlooking Boca Ciega Bay...Perfect winter vacation residence. 10 minutes from Heart of City. 3 minutes from Gulf Beaches over new causeway. Beautiful tropic grounds. Dining room (open to public). Sun bathing, golf swimming, fishing."³⁶ This eventual shift to year-round tourism prompted the Sunset Hotel to cease operations as a seasonal winter hotel in 1958. The building was remodeled, which included enclosing some of the open porches, and closing the dining room to the public. The hotel reopened as a new year-round residential property.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The hotel is significant as the product of a master architect and builder who played a significant role in the development of the city. Architect George Feltham designed the Sunset Hotel as one of his first commissions in the city following his arrival to the area in 1913. George Feltham was born in England in 1874 to a family with a long line of architects. His family moved to Savannah, Georgia when he was 13. Following his college graduation, Feltham relocated to Atlanta to apprentice with architect Dewill Bruen. He returned to Savannah then moved to Ocala, Florida, before eventually settling in St. Petersburg in 1913 to partner with Architect Edgar Ferdon. Ferdon & Feltham was one of only five architecture firms working in the city in 1916. The partnership lasted only two years and was dissolved in 1918. He was a member of the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects. George Feltham died on May 9, 1927. Feltham was responsible for the design, additions to, and the remodeling of a number of important buildings in the community including the Ponce de Leon Hotel, Green- Richman Arcade, First Baptist Church, Elks Club, Lantern Lane Apartments, Huntington

³⁴ St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission, *Sunset Hotel, Designation Report*, 2007, p. 8.

³⁵ Griffith Advertising Agency, *St. Petersburg Hotels & Apartments*, (St. Petersburg: Chamber of Commerce. 1937), p. 18

³⁶ Polk. *Polk's St. Petersburg City Directory*, 1955, p. 115.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 6 SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE

Hotel, Polson Apartments, and the Lakeview Apartments, among others. In his *History of Pinellas County, Florida*, W.L. Straub stated that "his work will stand throughout the years as a monument to his skill, knowledge and ability."³⁷

Hardy William Bryan served as the contractor for the Sunset Hotel. Originally from Tennessee, Bryan relocated his family to St. Petersburg from Tampa in 1911. He built a small cottage residence on Rowland Court in 1912 and the three-story, wood-frame Bryan Apartments in 1914. Located across from their residence, the apartment building was owned by the Bryans and managed by his wife Ruth. The following year, Bryan constructed the Sunset Hotel. Although Bryan worked as a general building contractor, he specialized in the construction of decorative terra cotta tile. His most significant works in the city include the construction of the decorative terra cotta on the Open Air Post Office, built in 1916, and the Snell Arcade, completed in 1928.³⁸

The Sunset Hotel was built during the latter years of the Florida Land Boom Era and reflects the changing character of the city's lodging industry from small boarding homes to larger size hotels designed with typical features of the Mediterranean Revival. This building stands as a predecessor to later prominent buildings, including the Jungle County Club Hotel (now the Admiral Farragut Academy), Vinoy Park Hotel, the Don CeSar Hotel and the Snell Arcade. It was the first hotel built on the western edge of St. Petersburg and is significant for its role in the development and westward expansion of the city. The evolution of the Sunset from a hotel to a residential retirement facility also evidences the overall pattern of growth and decline of the privately-owned, non-chain hotel industry during the twentieth century.

³⁷ St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission, *Sunset Hotel Designation Report, 2007*, citing W.L. Straub, *History of Pinellas County: Narrative and Biographical*, (St. Augustine: The Record Company Printers, 1929) p. 286, 289. Available [Online]: www.lib.usf.edu.; "Illness Fatal to Architect: George Feltham Succumbs to Long Sickness: Funeral Tomorrow," *St. Petersburg Times*, May 10, 1927; Polk. *Polk's St. Petersburg City Directory*, 1916; Ancestry.com, *1900 United States Federal Census*, (Provo, UT: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004) Available [Database Online]; *1910 United States Federal Census*, (2006); *1930 United States Federal Census*, (2002); *Florida Death Index*, (2004).

³⁸ Ibid. Citing Yvonne Bonnie Kuntz, *Local Landmark Proposal: Love Henry – Hardy Bryan House*, [Manuscript on File]: City of St. Petersburg, 1993; "Hotel Contract Let Yesterday to a Local Man", *St. Petersburg Times*, April 7, 1915; Ancestry.com, *1910 United States Federal Census*, (2006); *1930 United States Federal Census*, (2002); *Florida Death Index*, (2004).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ancestry.com. "1900 United States Federal Census" [Database Online]. Provo, UT: The Generations Network, Inc. 2004. Accessed May 2012.

_____. "1910 United States Federal Census" [Database Online]. Provo, UT: The Generations Network, Inc., 2006. Accessed May 2012.

_____. "1930 United States Federal Census [Database Online]. Provo, UT: The Generations Network, Inc., 2002. Accessed May 2012.

_____. "Florida Death Index, 1877-1998 [Database Online]. Provo, UT: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004. Accessed May 2012.

Arsenault, Raymond. *St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream 1888-1950*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996.

City of St. Petersburg. *St. Petersburg, The Sunshine City*. Accessed via internet, <http://www.stpete.org/ataglance.asp>

City of St. Petersburg. Planning and Economic Development Urban Planning and Historic Preservation. *Jungle Country Club Hotel*. HPC #92-01, September 1994. Accessed via internet, http://www.stpete.org/historic_preservation/history_of_st_petersburg/notable_architects/docs/Jungle_Country_Club.

Desrosiers-lauzon, Godefroy. *Florida's Snowbirds: Spectacle, Mobility, and Community Since 1945*, Quebec: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2011.

Grismer, Karl H. *History of St. Petersburg: Historical and Biographical*. St. Petersburg: Tourist News Publishing Company, 1924.

_____. *The Story of St. Petersburg: The History of Lower Pinellas Peninsula and The Sunshine City*. St. Petersburg: P.K. Smith & Company, 1948.

Hotel Contract Let Yesterday to a Local Man, *St. Petersburg Times*, 7 April 1915,1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 2 SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Illness Fatal to Architect: George Feltham Succumbs to Long Sickness: Funeral Tomorrow." *St. Petersburg Times*, 10 May 1927. Subject file, Archives, St. Petersburg Museum of History, St. Petersburg.

Jackson, Roy A. *Historic Highway Bridges of Florida*. Tallahassee: Environmental Management Office, Florida Department of Transportation, 2004.

Kriseman, Mayor Rick. *Welcome to Downtown*. Accessed via internet, [http:// www. Discover downtown.com/](http://www.Discoverdowntown.com/)

Pinellas County Clerk of Circuit Court (PCCCC). Map of Davista, St. Petersburg. December 1912. Plat Book 1, Pages 61-64.

_____. Revised Map of Davista, St. Petersburg. 10 April 1916. Plat Book 4, Page 24.

Polk, R.L., ed. *Polk's St. Petersburg City Directory*. 1916, 1924. Jacksonville: R.L. Polk, Co., Jacksonville.

Reed, Ralph. "The Keys on the Gulf Come Into Their Own: Authorized Construction of Free Causeway to Long Key has had the Effect of Beginning a Phenomenal Development." *Tourist News*, 9 January 1926. Subject file, Archives, St. Petersburg Museum of History, St. Petersburg.

St. Petersburg City Council. *Appeal Of the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) Denial of an appeal of the staff approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) requesting alterations to the Sunset Hotel Located at 7401 Central Avenue*. City File COA 11-90200023, September 8, 2011. Accessed via internet, www.stpete.org/LegisStream/.../DO279146/DO_279146.PDF.

St. Petersburg City Council to Honorable James S. Bennett, Chair and Members of City Council. Historic Landmark Designation of Sunset Hotel. HOC Case No. 07-03. Accessed via internet. www.stpete.org/LegisStream/MG185829/.../DO_187997.PDF.

St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission. *Sunset Hotel, 7401 Central Avenue Designation Report, 2007*. HPC_07_03, October 2007. Accessed via internet, http://www.stpete.org/historic_preservation/historic_landmarks/docs/HPC_07_03.pdf.

_____. *Historic Preservation Staff Report, Historic Preservation Plan for the Establishment of Historic Transfer of Development Rights Request Report Sunset Hotel*. HPC #07-03, November 21, 2008.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 3

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. 1918, 1923, 1951, 1952. Accessed via internet, <http://www.sanborn.umi.com>.

Senior Living.org. *Your Unbiased Guide To Senior Living And Retirement*. Accessed via internet, <http://www.seniorliving.org/assisted-living/florida/st-petersburg/>.

State of Florida. Tract Book Entries. Township 31 South, Range 17 East. Accessed via internet, <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/default.htm>, State Lands, Land Document and Title Search.

State of Florida. Plat Map. 1845 and 1848. Accessed via internet, <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/default.htm>, State Lands, Land Document and Title Search.

Straub, W.L. *History of Pinellas County: Narrative and Biographical*. St. Augustine: The Record Company Printers, 1929. Accessed via internet, <http://www.lib.usf.edu/City,County,&RegionalHistoriesE-BookCollection>, University of South Florida.

Thorpe, Leland. Interview by Diane Greer. Summer 1973. Notes from interview, Subject file, Archives, St. Petersburg Museum of History, St. Petersburg.

Tong, Mark. Interview with Cynthia Paulson. Personal Interview. Indian Rocks Beach, FL. May 12, 2014.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is defined by the footprint of the Sunset Hotel located on Parcel 19/31/16/20484/041/0010, described as Block 41, Revised Map of Davista, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 4, Page 24 of the Public Records of Pinellas County, Florida, together with that part of the vacated right-of-way as recorded in O.R. Book 7992, Page 1880, Public Records of Pinellas County, Florida.

Boundary Justification

The boundary consists of the property historically associated with the Sunset Hotel.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Sunset Hotel
2. 7401 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg (Pinellas County, Florida)
3. Mark Tong
4. December 2013
5. Mark Tong
4. April 2014
6. South Elevation, North Wing, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 1 of 22

Numbers 1-3, 5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

4. April 2014
6. South Elevation, North Wing, Detail of Enclosed Porch, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 2 of 22

6. West Elevation of East Wing, Looking East toward Arcaded Veranda
7. Photo 3 of 22

4. April 2014
6. Intersection of South Elevation of North Wing and West Elevation of East Wing, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 4 of 22

4. October 2010
6. East Wing, Detail of Veranda, Looking South
7. Photo 5 of 22

4. April 2014
6. Secondary Entrance, East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 6 of 22

4. April 2014
6. Secondary Entrance, East Elevation, Looking West
7. Photo 7 of 22

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 2

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 4. April 2014
- 6. Secondary Entrance, Detail of Door, East Elevation, Looking West
- 7. Photo 8 of 22

- 4. January 2014
- 6. North Elevation, North Wing, Looking South along 74th Street North
- 7. Photo 9 of 22

- 4. April 2014
- 6. North Elevation of North Wing, Looking Southeast
- 7. Photo 10 of 22

- 4. April 2014
- 6. Fire Escape, West Elevation of North Wing, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 11 of 22

- 4. April 2014
- 6. South Elevation of East Wing, Looking North
- 7. Photo 12 of 22

- 4. October 2010
- 6. View of Window Types, in the South Elevation of North Wing, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 13 of 22

- 4. April 2014
- 6. Air Conditioning Unit, Second Floor of North Wing, Looking Northeast
- 7. Photo 14 of 22

- 4. March 2011
- 6. Interior, Lobby, Looking West toward Dining Room
- 7. Photo 15 of 22

- 4. April 2014
- 6. Interior, Lobby, Detail of Center Stairs, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 16 of 22

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 3

SUNSET HOTEL
ST. PETERSBURG, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- 4. September 2010
- 6. Interior, Lobby Seating Area, Looking Northwest
- 7. Photo 17 of 22

- 4. April 2014
- 6. Interior, East Wing, Enclosed Porch Sitting Area, (Direction Uncertain)
- 7. Photo 18 of 22

- 4. September 2010
- 6. Interior, South Wing, Second Floor Guest Room, (Direction Uncertain)
- 7. Photo 19 of 22

- 4. January 2011
- 6. Interior, East Wing, First Floor Corridor, Looking South
- 7. Photo 20 of 22

- 4. September 2010
- 6. Interior, South Wing, Second Floor Guest Room, (Direction Uncertain)
- 7. Photo 21 of 22

- 4. January 2011
- 6. Interior, West Wing, Second Floor Mini-Suite, Looking Southwest
- 7. Photo 22 of 22



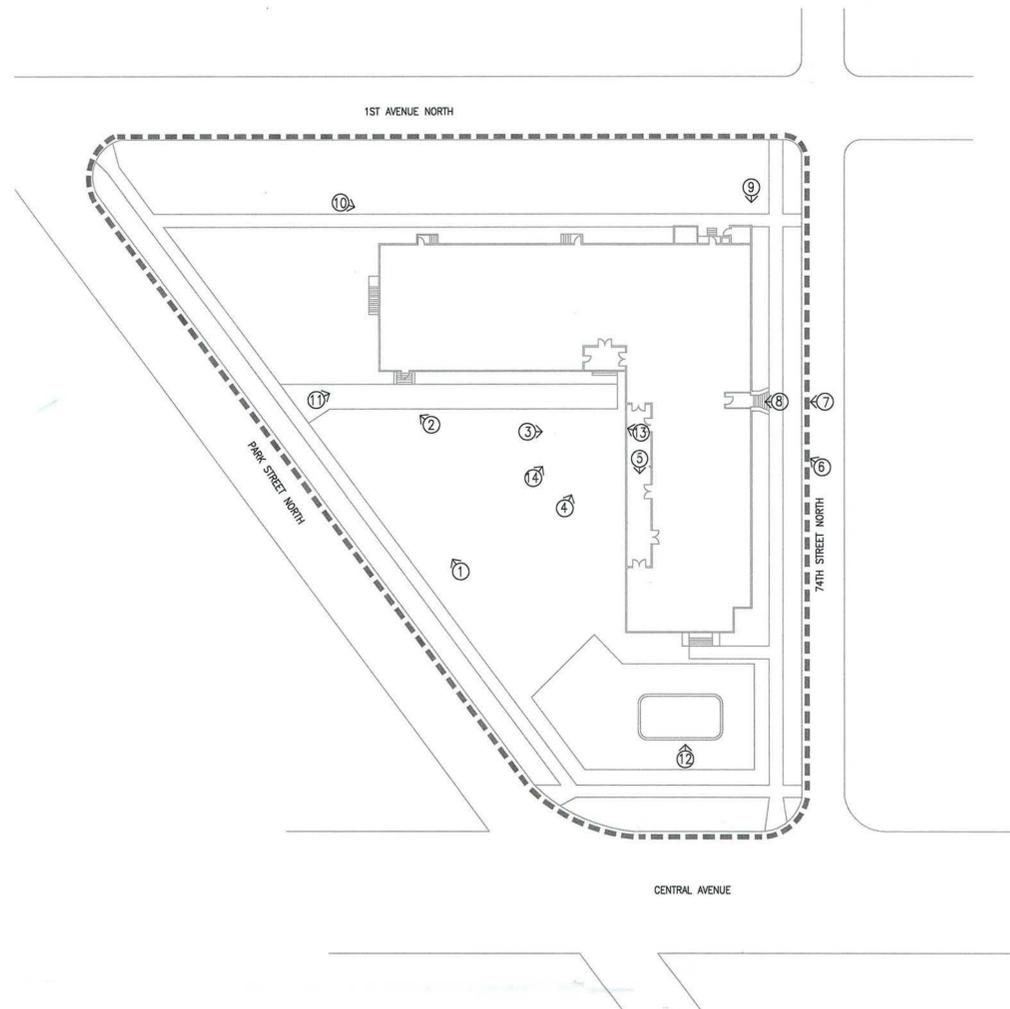
SUNSET HOTEL
7401 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg
Pinellas County

Latitude: 27.771364°
Longitude: -82.740944°

UTM References

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
17	328451	3073091

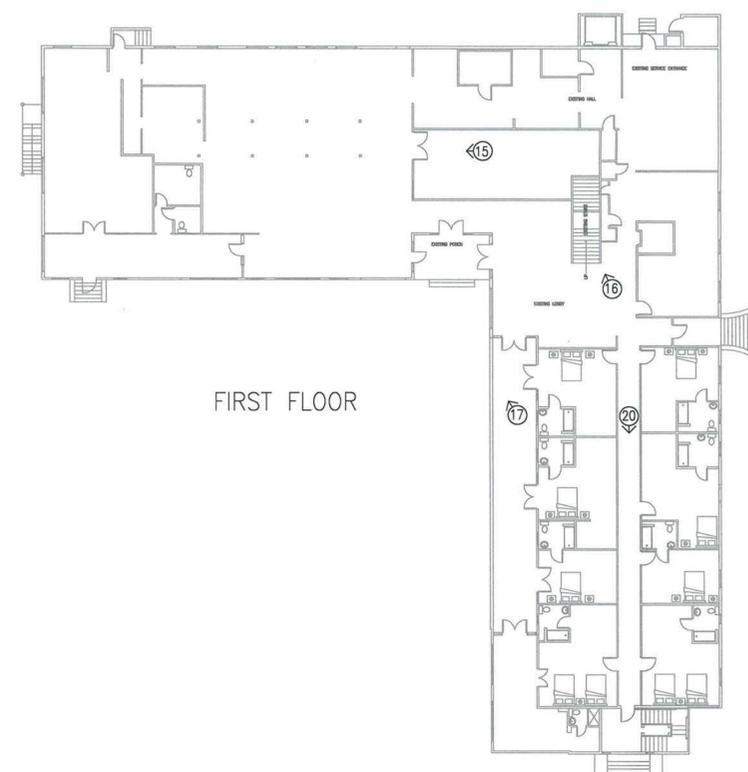




THIRD FLOOR

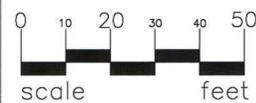


SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

SUNSET HOTEL
 7401 CENTRAL AVENUE
 ST. PETERSBURG (PINELLAS COUNTY), FLORIDA



MAP DRAWN FOR:
 Cynthia D. Paulson
 Crystal Bay Properties, LLC
 11580 Oakhurst Road
 Largo, Florida 33774-3948
 Telephone: (850) 556-4249
 Email: cynthiapaulson@gmail.com

MAP DRAWN BY:
 W. CARL SHIVER, HISTORIC PRESERVATIONIST
 FLORIDA BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 R.A. GRAY BUILDING
 500 SOUTH BRONOUGH STREET
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0250
 DATE: AUGUST 2014

Property Owner:
 Crystal Bay Properties, LLC
 11580 Oakhurst Road
 Largo, Florida 33774-3948
 Telephone: (727) 455-2260

THE SUNSET HOTEL SITE AND FLOOR PLANS WERE DRAWN USING A VARIETY OF VISUAL RESOURCES INCLUDING SURVEY MAPS, COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER GIS MAPS, AERIAL AND HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS AND ON-SITE VIEWS. THE SITE AND FLOOR PLANS HAVE BEEN DRAWN TO APPROXIMATE SCALE BUT VARIATIONS WERE ALLOWED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARITY. THE MAP WAS PREPARED USING THE AUTOCAD COMPUTER DRAWING PROGRAM.

(15) PHOTO NUMBERS
 - - - - - HISTORIC BOUNDARY

SITE & FLOOR PLANS













ONE WAY







1 AV N

1 AV N





NO
PARKING
ANY
TIME

©2014 Esonfy



©2014 Esonfy























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sunset Hotel
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Pinellas

DATE RECEIVED: 10/10/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/03/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/18/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/26/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000952

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT 11.24.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

14000952



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

Pinellas Co

POST OFFICE BOX 2842, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 33731-2842

WEB SITE: www.stpete.org Channel 35 WSPF-TV

TELEPHONE: 727 893-7171

August 12, 2014

Mr. Robert F. Bendus, Director
Division of Historical Resources
c/o Historic Preservation Grants Program
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

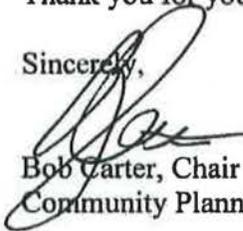
Re: Nomination of the Sunset Hotel at 7401 Central Avenue to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Bendus:

As the Chair of the Community Planning and Preservation Commission of the City of St. Petersburg, I am pleased to inform you that the Commission is in support of listing the Sunset Hotel in the National Register of Historic Places. The Sunset Hotel is significant as an early hotel important to the evolution of the tourism industry and westward expansion of St. Petersburg. The hotel is also important as the work of master architect George Feltham and builders Charles DuBois and Hardy William Bryan. These men played a vital role in the architectural design of the city during the 1910s and 1920s.

As the Commission charged with determining eligibility of properties for both the local and National Register, we are excited to support this designation of an early hotel in the City. Our hope is to educate the public regarding the importance of every aspect of our history and architectural legacy. This is an important step. Therefore, our Commission commends the owner in this valuable initiative to designate and preserve this gem of pioneer construction. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Bob Carter, Chair
Community Planning and Preservation Commission



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State



October 3, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is a submission of the nomination and additional materials (nomination form, continuation sheets, site plan, GIS data, digital images and disk) for:

Sunset Hotel (FMSF #8PI0218), Pinellas County

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6333 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Desiree Estabrook
Historic Preservation Supervisor, Survey & Registration
Bureau of Historic Preservation

