

410016-0005

APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF CH2, CH3 OR CH4 CATEGORY OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE
TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA

The historic resources of the Town of Fort Myers Beach are preserved in accordance with its Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. Upon application, the Historic Preservation Board will evaluate the importance of structures/sites within the town's heritage and issue a determination of Category of Historic Importance (CHI) and assign historic plaques as follows:

CHI1 - Historic Designation: Assigned to historic and/or archaeological resources that meet the requirement standards for county, state and/or national registration. Subject to LDC Chapter 22, Article II, Division 3 and Division. **Must use CH1 petition form to apply.**

CHI2 - Historic Recognition: Assigned to resources that meet the highest criteria of importance to the cultural, religious, educational, commercial, and tourism historical development and/or archaeological resources of the town. Use this form to apply.

CHI3 - Historic Significance: Assigned to resources that on an individual basis do not constitute a significant site, but do contribute to the overall significance of a district. Use this form to apply.

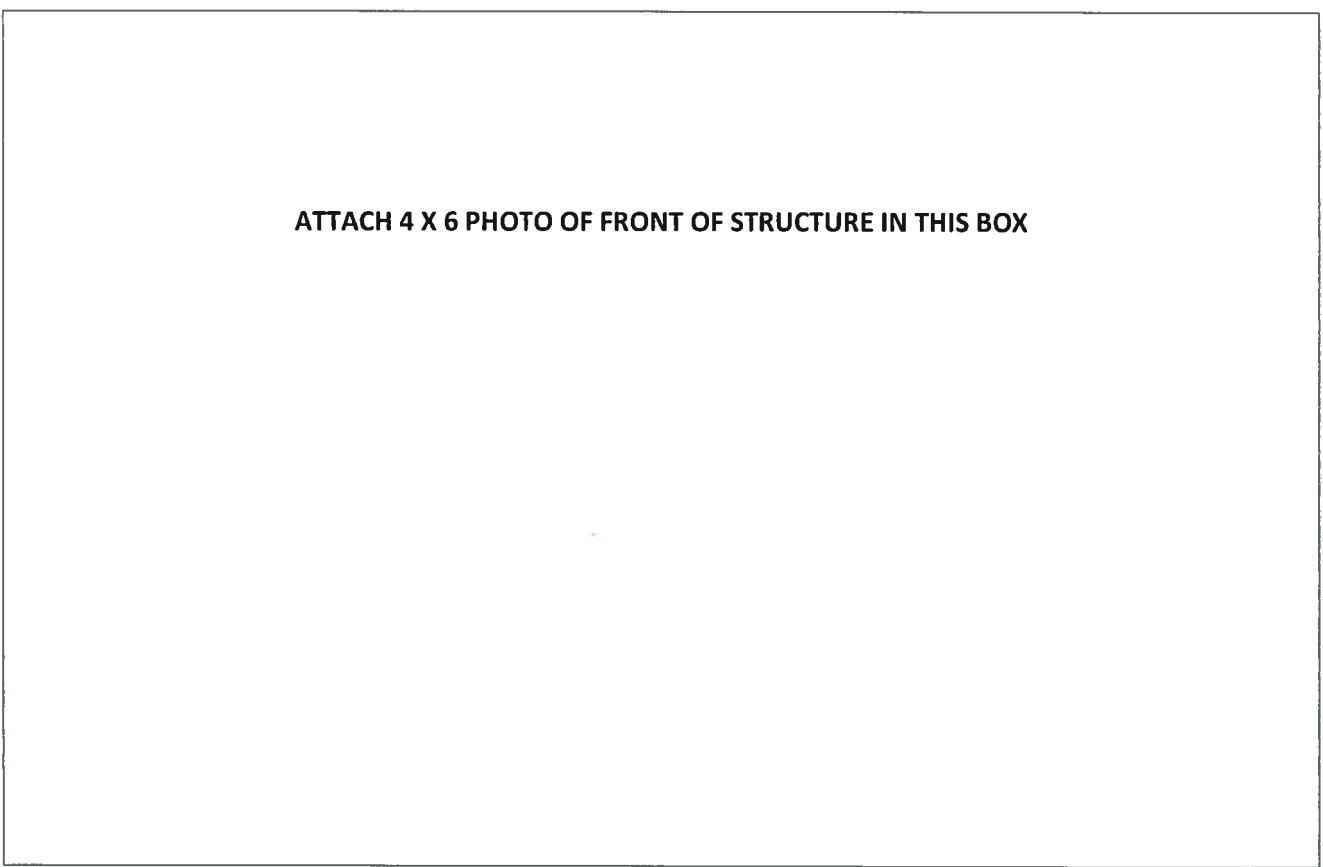
CHI4 - Historic Interest: assigned to areas and vistas that offer insight into understanding the history of the town, the lifestyle of its inhabitants, the historic use of its natural resources and trends in its development. Use this form to apply.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

NAME OF APPLICANT: JACQUELYN LISZAK
APPLICANT MAILING ADDRESS: 10041313 CUB DR, FMYB, FL 33931
APPLICANT PHONE NUMBER: 954-413-2233
APPLICANT EMAIL ADDRESS: jacqueline99@gmail.com
SIGNATURE: [Signature] DATE SUBMITTED: 5/20/16

HISTORIC STRUCTURE, SITE OR RESOURCE

STREET ADDRESS OF SITE: 1698 ESTERD BLVD. FMYB, FL 33931
STRAP NUMBER: 19-4624 W4 0070 B. 001A
SUBDIVISION: CRESCENT BEACH BEES BLOCK NO: B LOT NO: E 1/2 LOT 4
OWNERSHIP TYPE: () Residential () Commercial () Church () School Other (specify): MIXED USE LOT 4
HISTORIC NAME(S) FOR SITE (if known/applicable): 1ST PUBLIC LIBRARY IN LEE COUNTY.
LEE COUNTY HISTORIC SURVEY NUMBER (if known/applicable): _____
PHOTO OF STRUCTURE OR SITE: Attach 4 x 6 photo of structure in the box below.



ATTACH 4 X 6 PHOTO OF FRONT OF STRUCTURE IN THIS BOX

NOTE: PLEASE REFER TO BROCHURE TO ASSIST IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS AS NEEDED

AGE: TAX ROLL 1946
a. YEAR STRUCTURE WAS BUILT: ? ARCHITECT: ? BUILDER: ?
b. CURRENT CONDITION (check one): () EXCELLENT (X) GOOD () FAIR () DETERIORATED
c. INTEGRITY OF STRUCTURE (check one or more): () UNALTERED/ORIGINAL (X) REMODELED in year(s) ?
() RESTORED in year(s) _____ by _____

LOCATION/SETTING:
a. INTEGRITY OF SITE: () STRUCTURE IS ON ORIGINAL SITE (X) STRUCTURE MOVED in year 1940? from ?
b. SETTING: () CANALFRONT () BEACHFRONT (X) OTHER (describe) ESTERO FRONTAGE

FUNCTION:
a. ORIGINAL USE: home/library PRESENT USE: gift shop

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE/DESIGN:
a. () FRAME VERNACULAR (X) POST/PILING HOME () BUNGALOW (circle type number) type 1 type 2 type 3 type 4
() MISSION () MEDITERRANEAN REVIVAL () COMMERCIAL VERNACULAR () OTHER _____
b. NO. OF STORIES: 1 NO. OF PORCHES: 1

MATERIALS/WORKMANSHIP:
a. STRUCTURE: (X) WOOD FRAME () BLOCK () COMBINATION WOOD FRAME/BLOCK () OTHER _____
b. FOUNDATION: () PINE PILINGS (X) TREATED POSTS () SLAB () OTHER (describe) _____
c. EXTERIOR SIDING () VERTICAL/BOARD AND BATTEN () ASBESTOS SHINGLE () WOOD SHINGLE (X) HORIZONTAL SIDING
() STUCCO () OTHER _____
d. ROOF SHAPE: () FLAT (X) PITCH (state type) SIDE MATERIAL: SHINGLE
.....# OF DORMERS: 0 () WIDOW'S WALK () CUPOLA
e. WINDOW TYPES (check all that apply): () JALOUSIE () GROUPED WINDOWS () DOUBLE HUNG () SLIDING DOORS (X) OTHER
ORIGINAL EXTERIOR DETAILS: _____ () RAIN BARREL/CISTERN
f. ORIGINAL INTERIOR DETAILS: () SLASH PINE FLOORS () PINE PANELING () HISTORIC FIXTURES () OTHER
CHIMNEY: NUMBER: 0 MATERIALS: _____ FIREPLACE LOCATIONS IN STRUCTURE: N/A
g. ASSOCIATED WITH IMPORTANT PEOPLE OR EVENTS? () NO (X) YES (describe) 1st library in Lee County (1955)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE:
h. HAVE ARTIFACTS OR OTHER REMAINS BEEN FOUND ON THE SITE? (X) NO () YES (attach list/photos)
DO YOU HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THERE ARE ARTIFACTS ON THE SITE? (X) NO () YES (explain)

FMSF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FORM COMPLETED? (X) NO () YES (please attach)

PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS AND DESCRIPTIVE NARRATIVE:
If desired, please attach pages to explain the history of the structure/site as you know it, including copies of photographs, maps or articles that relate to its importance in the history of our town. Originals will NOT be returned to the applicant.
NUMBER OF PAGES ATTACHED BY APPLICANT: 2 pages.

Applicant: Do not write below this line

HPB DETERMINATION OF CATEGORY OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE

DETERMINATION OF CATEGORY OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE LEVEL: () CHI1 () CHI2 () CHI3 () CHI4
DATE OF DETERMINATION: ___/___/_____
IMPORTANT AT COUNTY LEVEL? () YES () NO () LIKELY () INSUFFICIENT INFO
ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTRY? () YES () NO () LIKELY () INSUFFICIENT INFO
SUMMARY OF IMPORTANCE: (limit to six lines)

ARE DETERMINATION HEARING MINUTES ATTACHED? () YES () NO (State reason): _____
SIGNATURE OF HPB/TOWN REP: _____ TITLE: _____

Historical Buildings on the Beach

Elementary School



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population increased rapidly. The newly constructed lunchroom was built behind the school and served as an additional classroom when the third teacher was added in 1943. 1948 marked the end of an era, when the last classes retired the school to move to the larger Beach Elementary in 1949. The faculty of three no longer served as teachers, custodians and bus drivers!

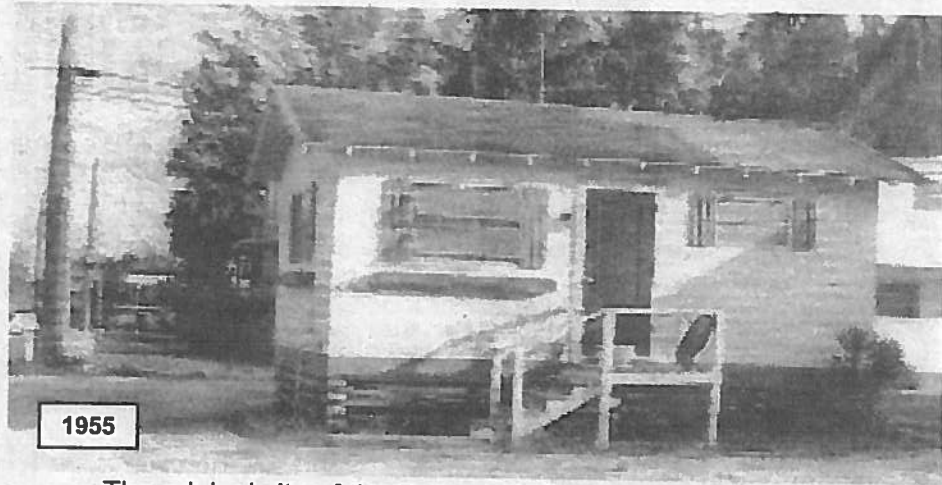
The third and current school built on the island opened in 1949 at 2751 Oak Street for grades 1-6 with 5 teachers and a principal. Today it serves grades K-5 with 12 teachers, a principal and support staff.

Beach Elementary opened with a large auditorium and stage, with three classrooms in each wing. One classroom served as lunchroom until the cafeteria was added in 1955. The school quickly expanded adding an office side entrance with ramp leading to the courtyard and primary wings. The two kindergarten classrooms opened in 1972, and later the auditorium was converted to a library/media center.

A grateful community continues to remain active in supporting the island children and Beach Elementary School.

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Beach Library



The original site of the first beach library in 1955-1956 was the cottage of Clem and Lucy McGee at 1698 Estero Blvd. It rented for \$300 per year, but could hold no more than four to five patrons as well as 1,200 books classified by the Dewey Decimal System. In 1956 the Beach Library became the first free public library in Lee County. It opened with volunteers for a few hours each day and a few days each week. In 1957, the library relocated to a larger cottage on Avenue A, with a collection of 3,000 books. Rent was \$75 per month.

By 1960, this library site was purchased for the opening of the third beach library that was built on Oak Street in 1961. The new building had space for 15,000 books. Later a permanent addition was added in 1978, when the library Board moved to purchase the adjacent Estero Blvd. property for expansion and much needed parking.

In 1994 this two-story

structure opened facing Estero Blvd. It introduced computer resources, educational children's and patron programs, as well as additional parking.

The Beach Library's new three-story wing expansion completed in 2013 with an Internet cafe, pre-owned bookstore, classrooms, meeting rooms and covered parking. The library currently has over 88,000 books and audio titles and has a staff of 10 plus numerous volunteers. Extensive library services are now assured for future generations.

Information and photos courtesy of the Estero Island Historic Society. Their Historic Cottage, built in 1921 and located at 161 Bay Rd, is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10am-noon. The EIHS offers monthly lectures free to the community during season on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Beach Library. Volunteers are welcome to join the EIHS. For more information call 239-463-0435.




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Our Mission

The mission of the Fort Myers Beach Library District is to continually improve our service to the public by:

- Providing the residents of the district with access to library materials in a variety of formats.
- Helping patrons of all ages find information which meets their diverse personal, educational, and professional needs.
- Encouraging children to develop a love of reading, learning and libraries.
- Promoting community enrichment, economic vitality and individual achievement through reading and life-long learning.

To accomplish this mission, the Library:

- Recognizes our responsibility to balance available resources to serve everyone in the district.
- Is staffed with friendly, dedicated, and professional people to assist the public.
- Acquires, organizes, and maintains a collection of books, materials, and information technology to serve the community's diverse needs.
- Maintains an appropriate facility and hours to meet community needs.
- Supports local, state and national libraries and organizations to increase public access to information.
- Evaluates community needs and invites public input.

The library board and staff of the Fort Myers Beach Public Library District are committed to pursuing its mission in a responsible and cost-effective manner.

A Timeline of Our History

1954: Ruth Healy asked the Beach Women's Club for financial assistance to establish a library.

1955: September 25, library opened in a tiny cottage (which is still standing at 1698 Estero) with 1200 books. If more than five people were in the cottage at one time, the librarian, Marge Quigg, had to step outside.

1956: Became the first free public library in Lee County. Mrs. James Miller served as volunteer librarian for nearly 10 years.

1957: Moved into larger cottage on Avenue A.

1959: Lot purchased on Bay Road.

1960: Ground broken on May 31st for new library building, made possible through pledges of money, labor and materials, as well as the proceeds of the library's first auction. In September, Hurricane Donna hit while building was under construction. Bare walls remained standing, so loads of sand and shells were trucked in to raise the level.

1961: The new building opened on July 28th with enough space for 15,000 books.

1963: Received trophy for being a semi-finalist in the Lane Bryant contest for volunteer service to the community.

1965: There was a movement to establish a county library system, but the Beach Library decided not to participate, as plans and financial structure were indefinite. July 27th, a referendum was held to establish a library tax district, as increased circulation and increased demand for services could no longer be met by fund-raisers and county assistance. Of the 977 registered freeholders, the vote was 678 for and 32 against. Emily Spencer became the first full-time professional librarian over a collection of 10,500 books and periodicals.

1970: The library doubled in size.

1972: Jayne Coles, former school librarian, was hired part time to catalog donated books and become familiar with library procedures to take over as director when Emily Spencer retired.

1974: Construction-type trailer added for technical processing.

1975: Emily Spencer retired, additional paid staff hired.

1978: Interior refurbished and rearranged, and temporary office replaced by another permanent addition.

1990: Population and patron growth necessitates the need for more parking, so the board approved the purchase of adjacent property.

1992: Parking lot was completed, Friends of the Library financed the landscaping, and Kiwanis donates the flagpole.

1993: Construction began on new library building, with Fowler company as project manager and Gora and Magahey as architects.

1994: The new building was completed on February 28th.

2000: Jayne Coles retired as director. Leroy Hommerding was hired as her replacement.

2002: Adjoining land purchased for expanded parking and future building development.

2004: Library's total holdings numbered 77,000 items, including 58,000 books, 7,400 videos, 5,200 audios. Staff numbers 10 with volunteers welcomed.

2006: Expanded parking became available on adjoining land; evaluation of building expansion needs and possibilities continued.

2008: Architects presented conceptual design for expanded library; zoning and variance hearings gave green light to proceed.

2010: Library experienced 23% increase in number of users in past decade. Harvard Jolly Architects hired to assist in completing construction documents for expansion. Manhattan Construction hired as Project Manager.

2011: Construction begins with Groundbreaking on April 5th.

2012: Expansion is complete and move-in is celebrated with Ice Cream Social in October. Usage increases dramatically.