

From: [HPB](#)
To: [Fons, Monique](#); [Bueno, Lizbeth](#)
Subject: Fwd: Historic Designation of 93 Palm Island
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 12:16:57 PM

Please process

From: David MCKINNEY <david.d.mckinney416@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 6:49:32 PM
To: HPB <HPB@miamibeachfl.gov>
Cc: Gonzalez, Jessica <JessicaGonzalez@miamibeachfl.gov>
Subject: Historic Designation of 93 Palm Island

[THIS MESSAGE COMES FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL - USE CAUTION WHEN REPLYING AND OPENING LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS]

Chair and Members,
Historic Preservation Board
City of Miami Beach

Dear Chair and members:

I write in support of the historic designation of 93 Palm Island as a local historic site. As noted in the staff report and outlined in the city code, historic designation is based on meeting at least one criteria, and as also noted in the staff report, 93 Palm Island satisfies two of the criteria:

- (1) Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the history of the city, the county, state or nation.
- (2) Association with the lives of persons significant in the city's past history.

These criteria are compelling reasons for designation, and throughout the history of the preservation movement, historic associations have outweighed other factors in the designation of structures. For the importance of the house to the history of the region, I refer you to the website of History Miami (<https://miami-history.com/al-capone-in-miami-part-1-of-4/>). To summarize why this relates to the historic preservation code, I note the following that indicate association with events and lives of persons significant to the city, county, state and nation, as well association with the lives of persons significant in the city's past history:

- Purchase of 93 Palm Island through a dummy involved Newton Lummus, mayor of Miami Beach, as transfer agent, and Parkerson Henderson, Jr., as purchaser.

Henderson, son of Miami mayor, becomes an operative for Capone and liaison with local officials. (Lummas later denies knowledge of the scheme and calls for Capone to leave the area. His association with the purchase places Miami Beach in national headlines)

- 93 Palm Island to be the headquarters of **Capone's "Alcohol Empire"** because of the proximity to Havana. (New York Times 1928) *Miami Daily News* calls it "Capone's Summer White House" in a headline and on its front page describes his attempts to retain it.
- Local businessmen frequent 93 Palm Island as guests of Capone. Article in the *Miami Herald* outlining the influence of Capone locally and on the press (Miami Herald 1930)
- **Parker Henderson, Jr.'s involvement in gang slaying.** Hotel owner and son of a Miami mayor, Henderson secured the guns that were used in the murder of Frankie Yale that made national news. The *New York Times* headline read "**PAL OF CAPONE HERE TO AID IN YALE CASE; Son of Ex-Mayor Henderson of Miami Expected to Shed Light on Gang Murder. SAID TO KNOW OF GUN SALE Pistol of Slayer Reported to Have Been Traced to Florida City**"
- **Best known case of tax evasion in American history.** Tax lien on 93 Palm Island figures in the case against Capone.
- **Change in local ordinances.** Local authorities attempt to drive Capone out of the area so they enact stricter vagrancy laws and arrest Capone and his associates because they have no legitimate means of support. Circuit court dismisses the case.

Clearly, the criteria has been more than satisfied, and to disregard or diminish these links to history is to disregard the historic preservation code of the city.

Please support the intent and spirit of the city's historic preservation code and move to designate this property.

Sincerely,

David McKinney



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