



Tampa Bricks & Mortar

Architectural Review &
Historic Preservation

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April 2019 Public Hearings:

Architectural Review
Commission— Apr 1st
Apr 3rd

6:00 PM

Historic Preservation
Commission—
No meeting this month

Barrio Latino
Commission— Apr 23rd
9:00 AM

- ◆ The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) recommends historic districts and individual landmarks for designation.
- ◆ The Architectural Review Commission (ARC) oversees the individual landmarks and three historic districts:
 - ◆ Hyde Park,
 - ◆ Tampa Heights,
 - ◆ Seminole Heights.
- ◆ The Barrio Latino Commission (BLC) oversees the Ybor City Historic District.

Good and Faulty Construction—Cornice and Ceiling Joist

Radford's 1909 *Cyclopedia of Construction*, Volume Two, covers practical carpentry, house framing, and other elements of wood construction. A portion of the chapter on the Elements of House Framing provides examples of good and faulty construction. The discussion of the cornice and ceiling joist follows:

"In Fig. 95 are shown faulty and good construction of cornice and bearing of the ceiling joist. At E is the usual way of construction for cottages where the ceiling is lower than the plate. The space between the studding is left open and is otherwise built on a refrigerator plan. Great open cracks are left between the frieze and plancier with the idea of covering with the bed mould. After the natural shrinkage of the different members, small crevices are open up to huge proportion and the frosts and cold winds find their way in to compete with the burning coals for supremacy. As the heat rises and warms the attic, the cold air seeks the lower level, and if by faulty construction, as before mentioned, in the lower parts of the house, it has a perfect current of cold air sweeping through these spaces and the result is a cold house. At F is shown how these defects could have easily been remedied at a very little extra expense.

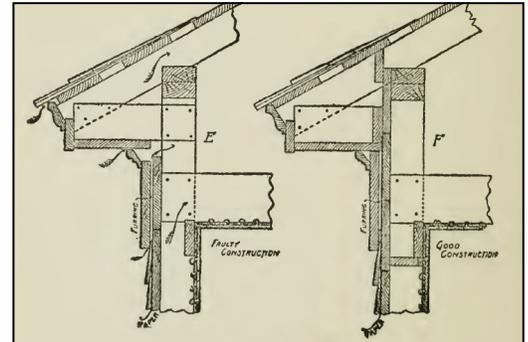


Fig.95, Radford's *Cyclopedia of Construction*, 1909

But it does not stop here, for there are many other parts in and about the house that are constructed on the same principle. Gable studdings are oftentimes continuous from sill to the rafter instead of the plate across the end, thereby leaving an open space the whole way down. The pockets for the sliding doors are often not closed from the surrounding openings. In case of fire getting started every opening is a ready flue to fan on the flames. On the other hand, with these flues cut off, fire is not nearly so apt to get started and if it does it will take much longer time to consume the building, and the chances are much better for saving the house."

New Exterior Additions and Related New Construction

A new addition must preserve the building's historic character, form, significant materials, and features. It must be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and design of the historic building while differentiated from the historic building. It should also be designed and constructed so that the essential form and integrity of the historic building would remain if the addition were to be removed in the future. There is no

formula or prescription for designing a compatible new addition or related new construction on a site, nor is there generally only one possible design approach that will meet the Standards... there must be a balance between differentiation and compatibility to maintain the historic character and the identity of the building being enlarged. Placing an addition on the rear or on another secondary elevation helps to

ensure that it will be subordinate to the historic building. New construction should be appropriately scaled and located far enough away from the historic building to maintain its character and that of the site and setting. In urban areas, new construction that appears as infill within the existing pattern of development can also preserve the historic character of the building, its site, and setting.

Architectural Review & Historic Preservation

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Bayard Clayton Bonfoey, a native of Higganum, Connecticut, received his technical training at Hillyer Institute in Hartford and then worked in construction there for 15 years.

He served in the U.S. Army in the Spanish-American War. After coming to reside in Tampa in 1903, Bonfoey was active in architectural work throughout the state until he retired in 1928. His works in Tampa included City Hall, the Peninsular Telephone Building, El Centro Asturiano, El Circulo Cubano, the YMCA, two Stovall Buildings, the Park Theater, and many of the Mediterranean Revival style homes constructed in Beach Park.

A member of the State Board of Architecture, Bonfoey also served as the vice-president of the Florida Association of Architects and was a member of the American Institute of Architects. He was also a member of the Elks

Club and a charter member of the Tampa Kiwanis Club.

A year after he arrived in Tampa, Bonfoey married Mattie Redditt. In 1908, he partnered with M. Leo Elliott, and their firm was one of the most successful in Tampa prior to World War I. Bonfoey died at Bay Pines Hospital, aged 80, in 1953.



B.C. Bonfoey



Tampa Fire Department Headquarters, c.1913

Fire Station No. 1, built in 1911, was the first stand-alone fire headquarters built for the city of Tampa. The Tampa Fire Department was founded in 1895 with A.J. Harris serving as the first fire chief. Tampa City Council authorized a paid fire department with a staff of 22 full-time fire fighters for five stations. The department headquarters and Fire Station No. 1 were housed in the 1891 city hall, along with the police department. In August 1911, the fire department moved into the new building under the leadership of Chief W.M. Mathews.

Fire Station No. 1 is architecturally significant as an excellent example of an early twentieth century brick vernacular firehouse. The base of the building is yellow sand brick, commonly used in Tampa at that time. The walls are red brick in a Flemish Bond pattern, capped by a red brick parapet accented with a corbeled yellow brick cornice. Accent details of the design reflect elements

similar to those used in the design of Tampa Union Station and the Union Depot Hotel (demolished 2010), which were constructed the following year. Fire Station No. 1 was built with similar facades facing Zack and Jefferson Streets, with three bay doors opening on the south and two opening on the east.

As was typical at the time, both the fire department headquarters and a fire station were housed in the new building. It served in this capacity from 1911 to 1978, when a new fire station and headquarters was built across Jefferson Street from the 1911 station. Today, Fire Station No. 1 is the home of the Tampa Firefighter's Museum. Alterations include several changes to the bay doors to accommodate the transitions from horse-drawn apparatus to larger diesel-powered rescue vehicles and a complete rehabilitation in 2002, the same year that Fire Station No. 1 was designated as a local historic landmark by the City of Tampa.