

**JOHN F. GERMANY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
AND AUDITORIUM  
900 N. Ashley Drive  
Tampa, Florida**



**CITY OF TAMPA  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
January 9, 2024**



**LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK  
DESIGNATION REPORT**



# JOHN F. GERMANY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND AUDITORIUM 900 N. Ashley Drive Tampa, Florida

## LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

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**CITY OF TAMPA  
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW & HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
2555 E. HANNA AVE  
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33610  
813.274.3100**

## **LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT**

Name of Property: JOHN F. GERMANY LIBRARY AND AUDITORIUM

Historic Name of Property: TAMPA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Street Address: 900 N. ASHLEY DRIVE

City: TAMPA Neighborhood: AER IN THE ARTS DISTRICT

County: HILLSBOROUGH State: FLORIDA Zip Code: 33602

Acreage: 1.6 AC MOL Folio Number: 196305.2364 FMSF No: N/A

Property Owner: CITY OF TAMPA

Owners Address: 306 E. JACKSON STREET, TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

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**Historic Resource Description**

Ownership	Resources	Contributing	Non-Contributing
<u>  </u> Private	Buildings	<u>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u>
<u>  X  </u> Public - Local	Sites	<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>
<u>  </u> Public - State	Structures	<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>
<u>  </u> Public - Federal	Objects	<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>

Historic Function: PUBLIC LIBRARY

Current Function: PUBLIC LIBRARY

Architectural Classification: MID-CENTURY MODERN

Materials: Foundation: CONCRETE  
 Walls: CONCRETE  
 Roof: FLAT ROOF

Period of Significance: 1968

Significant Dates: 1968, DATE OF CONSTRUCTION; 1976, DATE OF ADDITION

Significant Person(s): JOHN F. GERMANY

Cultural Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: MCLANE, RANON, MCINTOSH & BERNARDO-MCELVY & JENNEWEIN

Areas of Significance:

A: ASSOCIATED WITH SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

B: PERSONS OF SIGNIFICANCE: JOHN F. GERMANY

C: ARCHITECTURE: MID-CENTURY MODERN



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**Criteria Evaluation**

<b>Code Criteria</b>	<b>Criteria Description</b>	<b>Meets Criteria</b>
27-257 (a)(1)	Was constructed or achieved its significance during the period of historic significance as delineated in the NRHP guidelines or as established in the nomination pursuant to those guidelines;	<b>Yes</b>
27-257 (a)(2)	Has a quality of significance in American, state or local history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture which is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association	<b>Yes</b>
27-257 (a)(2)	Meets the National Register of Historic Places Criteria <i>(at least one)</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history</li> <li>ii) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past</li> <li>iii) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history</li> <li>iv) <input type="checkbox"/> D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history</li> </ul>	<b>Yes</b>
27-257 (c)(1)	Whether the owner(s) supports the designation.	<b>Yes</b>
27-257 (c)(2)	Whether the owner(s) has timely applied for and adequately established an economic hardship in accordance with the requirements set forth in sec. 27-259, and, if so whether economic incentives are applicable to adequately offset any economic hardship.	<b>NA</b>

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Report Prepared by: Historic Preservation Commission

Dennis W. Fernandez, Manager

Heather Bonds, Historic Preservation Specialist

Organization: City of Tampa

2555 E. Hanna Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33610

Telephone Number: 813.274.3100

Date of Presentation to HPC: January 9, 2024

Date of Presentation to City Council: TBD 2024

All research material located in the offices of:

Architectural Review & Historic Preservation  
City of Tampa  
2555 E. Hanna Ave  
Tampa, Florida 33610

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**DESIGNATION INTRODUCTION**

The John F. Germany Public Library, located at 900 N. Ashley Drive, is being considered for Tampa Local Historic Landmark status. Constructed in 1965, it is an outstanding example of Mid-Century Modern architecture. The site maintains its architectural integrity as there has minimal change to the character of the structures.

The library was designed by local architectural firms McLane, Ranon, McIntosh & Bernardo and McElvy & Jennewein. It replaced the original 1917 Tampa Free Library, which the growing city had outgrown. An addition, designed by McElvy, Jennewein, Stefany & Howard, added 50,000sqft in 1976 but has removed. In 1999, the Tampa Public Library was renamed to the John F. Germany Public Library to honor local civic leader John Germany. Mr. Germany helped secure funding for the library's original construction and expansion.

Today, the 140,000sqft building continues to serve as the flagship library and main hub for the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System. It also serves as a reference and resource center, hosts cultural and educational events, and houses pieces of public art.



**Watercolor and pencil rendering of the 1968 Main Library by Richard Lewis (1964-1968)  
(Courtesy, Tampa-Hillsborough County Library System)**

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**TAMPA'S HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM**



The City of Tampa designates historic properties that have distinctive character, architectural value, or cultural significance. This local historic designation protects properties for the future. The City has four local historic districts, 61 local historic landmarks, and five multiple property designations, all of which encompass approximately 4,530 buildings and other historic resources. Each structure and site represents a piece of the physical development of Tampa's history, from the bridges spanning the Hillsborough River, to the grand Tampa Bay Hotel and Plant Park,

to the modest shotgun homes that were built by the hundreds to support the cigar industry. Each structure was constructed to satisfy Tampa's booming growth as the area transformed from a small community around an Army fort to a major urban center.

Local historic designation encourages sensitive treatment and discourages unsympathetic changes from occurring. This is ensured through a process called design review, whereby the appropriate architectural review commission reviews and approves changes, additions, new construction, and demolitions.

Designations occur by local ordinance and the process is described within Chapter 27, City of Tampa Code of Ordinances. The designation is layered over the existing zoning classifications and results in regulations over only the exterior appearance of the improvements within the designated historic area. The historic designation does not change the uses for which the properties are permitted.

The majority of Tampa's local historic landmarks are also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the United States' official list of historic places. The listing identifies buildings, structures, and objects as well as historic districts that are historically, architecturally, or archaeologically significant.

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**HISTORIC AND SITE BACKGROUND**



**Tampa Free Library, 1918**

The Carnegie Foundation bestowed a grant to Tampa to build a library in 1912. Designed by architect Fred James, the library near Franklin Street and Seventh Avenue opened on April 27, 1917. The masonry and brick structure sat on the geographic center of the city at that time. The library opened with a donation of 3,800 books. For over 50 years it served as Tampa's central library until the need for a new library hub was evident.

Helen V. Stelle served as the first Director of the Tampa Public Library system from the opening of the first library in 1917 to 1947. As the city grew, Miss Stelle led the development of a city-wide library system as individual library branches opened to serve different parts of the city. In 1919, a segregated library for Tampa's black population opened at the Harlem Academy, which moved to the Urban League Headquarters in 1923. The Seminole Heights Branch Library opened in 1927 in the neighborhood park and in 1934 Ybor City opened a branch. By 1930, Tampa's first bookcar made stops to local factories and schools to promote reading. Throughout the 1930s to 1960s local Women's Clubs opened library centers in Temple Terrace, Brandon, Port Tampa, and Plant City.

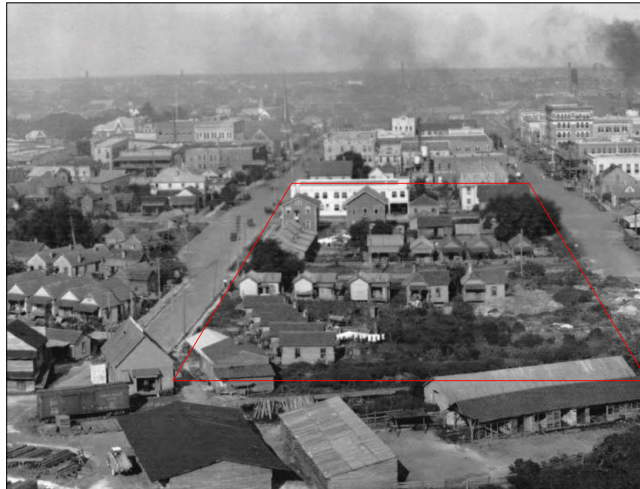
As the library branch system expanded with the growth of Tampa's population, a larger and modernized main library was needed to serve the community. The outdated 1917 library was designed to serve a community of 52,000, and by the 1960s the population was over 274,000 residents. The community aided in planning for the new library which would serve as the main library hub and the headquarters for the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System. Local writer, Ed Hirshberg, wrote in the Tampa Times on May 16, 1963, "a new library...has been Tampa's most urgent cultural need for decades". A new library was needed with larger reading rooms, space for bookstacks, and needed parking spaces. A convenient location for residents coming downtown was also imperative.

The location selected was part of a Riverfront Urban Renewal project to develop along the Hillsborough River. The 2.5 acre block purchased for the library was one of the first confirmed developments of the renewal project. Historically, the riverfront area had been industrial to serve the lumber industry with residential structures for the workers and community.



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The image to the right shows the historic block of the existing library, looking east in 1921. The residential dwellings that made up the block are shown on the 1915 Sanborn Map (bottom) which indicates the block was made of wood-frame, one-story structures with open front porches. The Southern Lumber & Supply Co. and Planing Mill and Mill Work with “500,000 lumber in Stock” is noted on the full Sanborn page. A large lumber shed (dark roof, bottom-left of the image) and metal storage building (to the right) are seen in the photo. W. Tyler Street dead-ends to the office building; the white lean-to structure attached to the office is indicated as a metal/steel (blue coloring) “vault” on the Sanborn map. Today the library’s entrance faces N. Ashley Drive, where the three two-story wood frame structures are shown on the Sanborn Map and the image (in front of the white structure). From the picture and Sanborn map, it is determined that this block was completely residential, sandwiched between the lumber yard and Hillsborough River to the west and the emerging city to the east. The eastern block after Tampa Avenue had brick buildings including the Le Roy Hotel, Bank of Commerce, White Star Laundry, “Moving Pictures”, bakeries, and other commercial uses. According to the 1915 Polk City Directory, the homes along Ashley were occupied by black residents: 902 Ashley by Mary James (a widowed cook); 904 Ashley by Samuel Edwards (a porter), and 908 Ashley by Maria C Murray (a cook).



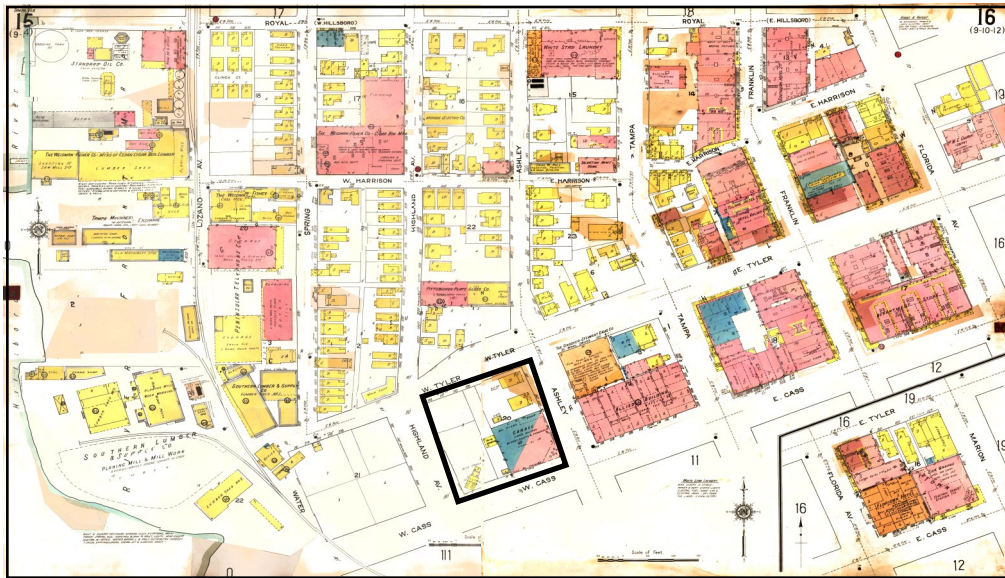
**Tampa, 1921 (Courtesy, Tampa-Hillsborough County Library System)**



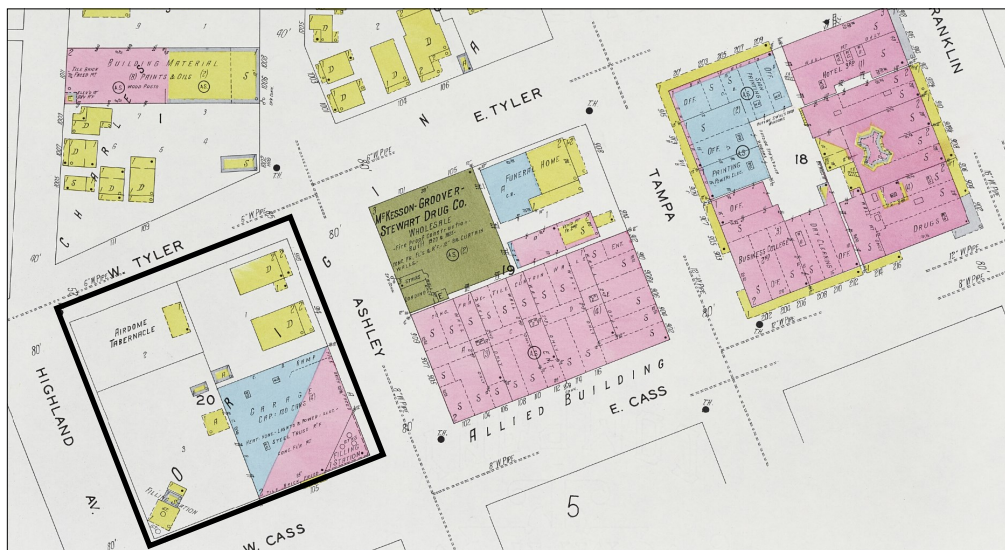
**Sanborn Map Company, 1915**

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The Sanborn Map pages below show that growth intensified by 1925 and the block contained a concrete public garage, auto washing structure, a filling station and only two remaining wood frame two-story dwellings facing Ashley Drive. The 1931 Sanborn Map indicates that the garage was 4 floors and had a 120 car capacity and was made of steel trusses, a concrete floor, and tile brick faced. An “airdome tabernacle”, typically an empty lot for outdoor entrainment or religious ceremonies, is located on the northwestern portion of the block.



The Sanborn Map Company, 1925



The Sanborn Map Company, 1931



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As the area continued to evolve away from industrial uses and the downtown area became more defined as an office and commerce area, the city looked to highlight the Hillsborough River as a unique asset within the City. A Riverfront Urban Renewal project was initiated to rejuvenate and modernize development along the Hillsborough River. Located on Ashley Drive between Cass and Tyler Streets, the library location was selected to connect the northern end the planned riverfront complex to surrounding shopping, transportation links, and abundant parking. The City also set aside 4.8 acres for a cultural center northwest of the library. A 17-acre parcel to the north was purchased by Riverpark City Center for commercial purposes, a hotel, shops, and a high-rise apartment building. The first private Riverfront Urban Renewal property sold was to Central Life Insurance Co. of Florida, a black life-insurance company. IBM also proposed a \$2million, eight story structure within the Riverfront Urban Renewal project. A mile and a half pre-cast concrete seawall, partially funded by the city was also planned. Today, the Riverwalk, which spans the east outline of the Hillsborough River downtown, is a celebrated feature of Tampa's amenities which continues to connect the cultural institutions, sports complexes, offices, restaurants and shopping, as originally envisioned over 60 years ago. As the first structure planned as part of the Riverfront Urban Renewal project of the 1960s, the library is physical reminder of how Tampa has placed an importance of incorporating its local culture and history in future land planning.



**This photo by the Tampa Times shows the rear of the library, auditorium, and staff parking lot from the Hillsborough River. The library was still under construction. (10/24/1967, Tampa Times)**



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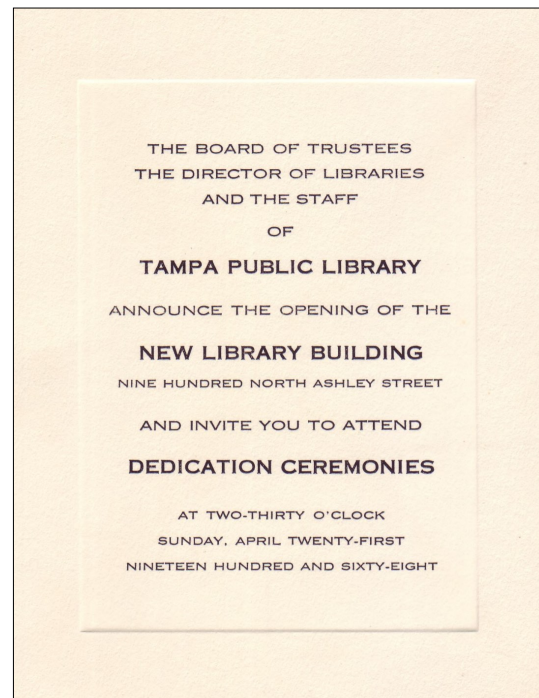
In 1960, local judge John Germany was elected as the president of the Friends of the Library, a group charged to plan the development and funding of a new library. The committee was comprised of other civic leaders in Tampa and supported by Mayor Nick Nuccio and the Tampa City Council. Mr. Germany spearheaded a funding source by proposing a cigarette-tax bond issue. In 1963, John Germany unveiled the plans at a public meeting with current Mayor Lane presenting the proposed architectural plans and a model. Groundbreaking took place on April 23, 1965 for the new library.

The total construction cost was \$3.2 million, including grant and taxed money. Tampa also received a grant to upgrade librarian training, add specialization sections, and increase pay scales. These specialized areas were integrated as part of the newly designed building and include business, science, technology, and fine arts components. The new library allowed for new and advanced positions such as department heads for each of the subject components. The first library director, Cecil Beach, stated that these specializations would provided a better librarian service to customer's interested in specific subjects. This approach was a departure from the classic general organization of the existing library system.

In proposing the new library, William Frieze, Director of Libraries wrote a document to justify the need to a new library building and outlined how a new building would benefit the community. Written around 1960, Frieze stated that "The public library is an organization, not a building". Further, he explained that the overall



**Library director Cecil P. Beach makes remarks during the dedication ceremonies for the April 21, 1968 (Courtesy, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library)**



**Invitation to the dedication of the new Tampa Public Library (Courtesy, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library)**

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design should showcase the purpose of the library and each of the services offered given that “the physical facilities should fit the program of the library service”. He goes on to list the recommendations and requirements of a building, detailing requirements for efficiency, flexibility, lighting, and accessibility and space for the entire range of the library’s programs. In describing the intended functions of the library, Mr. Frieze writes:

Its function is to help people get along in the world, to help school children get better grades, to help businessmen make more money, to help preachers write better sermons, to help newspapermen distinguish Marquis James from Marquis Childs and Don Marquis from both. Its function is the function of an open door. The public library is a way of escape from the narrow area of our individual lives into the field, finite, no doubt, but unbounded, of the wisdom and experience of all mankind. It is not the only way of escape, but for the majority of us it is by far the widest and the easiest to pass through, thus the one that we must be most careful to keep open and free from impediments.

In face, the new public would serve “all mankind”. The new Tampa Public Library was the first fully integrated library, serving all of Tampa’s citizens, regardless of race. It served as an important cultural center for Tampa offering resources and programs targeted to all races, genders, and ages. For example, to encourage teens to visit the library, the Youth Services Department sponsored Friday night rock concerts. This summer of 1969 series features local bands and DJs. They were held in the bookmobile tunnel attracting up to 1,500 local teens per concert.



Local teens enjoyed the library summer rock concerts series. The library opened as Tampa’s first integrated library, therefore the library and such programs were opened to all of Tampa’s citizens (Courtesy, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library)

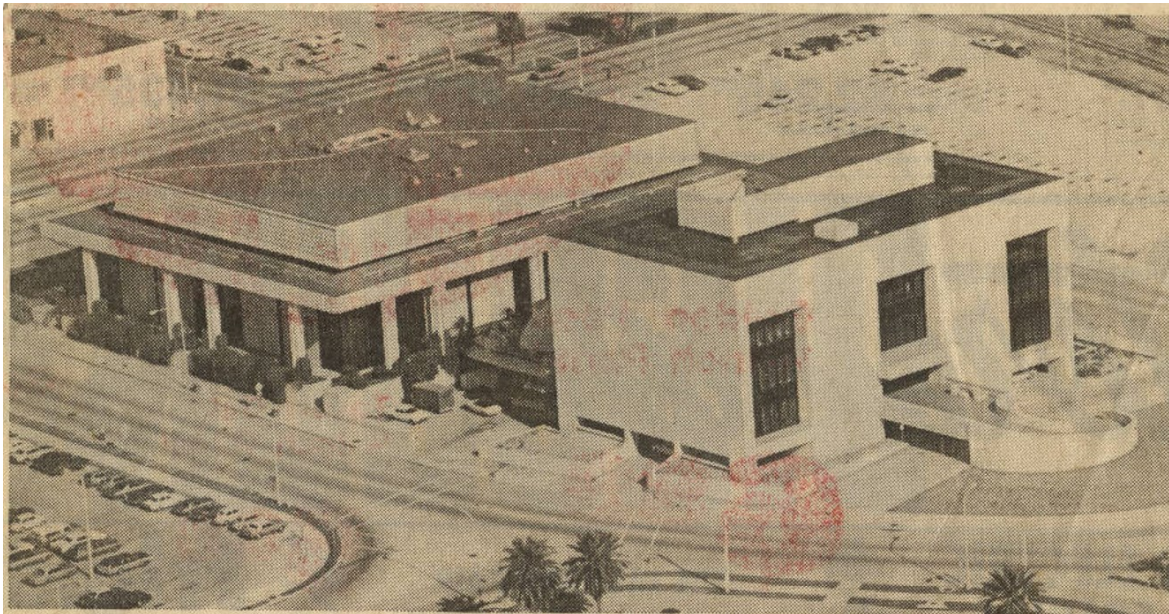


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In 1976, Tampa's public library system ranked first nationally among large cities for increased usage. The usage statistic included the usage of library amenities and programs including films, story-hours, puppet shows, class visits, art reproductions, and the borrowing of books and records. The national survey, which included New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, proved that the library system in Tampa-Hillsborough County was one of the fastest growing library systems. That year, the 4-story expansion annex opened providing an additional 64,000sqft of space for shelving and tables and technology collections.

The annex cost \$2.5 million to construct and was connected by a plexiglass tunnel to the main library. This addition was designed by McElvy, Jennewein, Stefany, and Howard, one of the two firms who designed the original library structure. The annex shared a similar design form. More vertical in orientation, the annex had recessed windows facing east and west to compliment the large windows recessed behind the colonnade of the main library building. It was also similarly constructed in cement and shared the broad, sturdy appearance as the main structure.

In 1984, House Bill No. 1022, created a Public Library Board within Hillsborough County, which absorbed the City of Tampa Library System. All city employees with the city library system were transferred to County positions and repealed Chapter 69-2655 which established the City of Tampa public library. Within this new Tampa-Hillsborough County



**The Annex under construction. Tampa Bay Times, April 16, 1976.**

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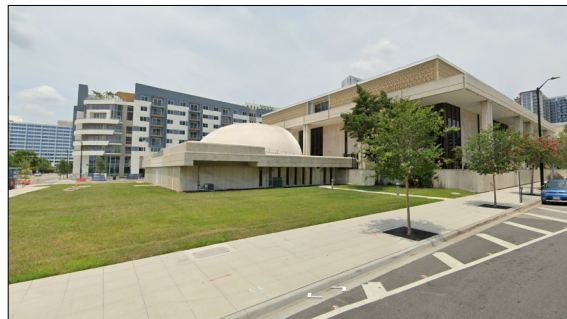
Public Library Board House Bill, it also states “that the main library located at 900 N. Ashley Street shall remain the main library of the Public Library System”. The bill also provides that the County leases the library building from the City of Tampa for \$1.00 a year (per building) and that the County must “preserve, repair, and maintain the library buildings...including landscaping”.

By the 2010s, with multiple branches throughout the county and more digital resources, the need for the annex was no longer imperative. In 2016, library staff moved to the original 1917 Free Library, owned by the City. The fourth floor of the main library, which was used as staff offices was then converted to hold the history and genealogy collections. The annex was demolished in 2020 to make way for a new mixed use tower along the river front.

In 2017, the main library underwent an improvement project to improve the entrance, add architectural exterior lighting, update signage, install outdoor seating, improve the landscaping, and maintain the fountains. The John F. Germany Library continues to strive to promote educational and cultural significant programs to its Tampa patrons including offering story times, archival research, book sales, festivals, and learning courses. The Hive, the name inspired by the honeycomb architectural feature, offers makerspaces with modern technology tools for patrons to record music in a recording studio, create figures with 3D printers, design a dress with sewing machines, teach tech basics to elder adults, and offer STEM events to young students. The library’s central location is important as its offerings are central to the daily lives of many Tampa citizens.



**Tunnel connecting annex and library (Google Maps 2019)**



**Image after annex demolished (Google Maps 2022)**



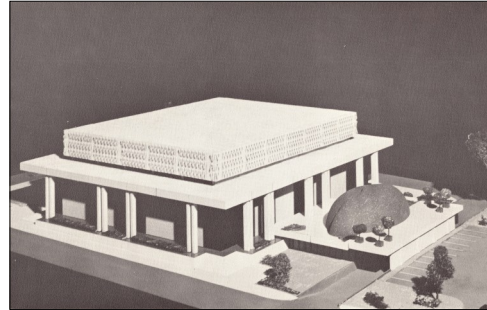
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**Architects**

The new library, designed by McLane, Ranon, McIntosh & Bernardo and McElvy & Jennewein, was referred to as the "Taj Mahal" and was "built to last forever". The original 100,000sqft building had a book capacity of 500,000 volumes. The building features stylistic details considered modern and in-vogue for the 1960s. In addition to the relevance of the library's physical design, the Mid-Century Modern design of the library also incorporated the sentiment and emotional aspects of 1960s design theories.

Frank McLane, Jr, described his designs as "warm and masculine" in character. In a 1968 Florida Architect "philosophy" opinion article, Mr. McLane wrote that "meaningful design...is simply man building the best he knows how in an honest manner and honest expression in order to shelter the particular needs of his own time with materials, methods, and best knowledge of his own time.." and intended to "avoid the scornful sterility and coldness of what is considered merely fine modern design". The Tampa Public Library, while built with heavy concrete and a broad horizontal orientation, also provides a sense of warmth and welcomes patrons with open stairs and floor plans. The structure is intentional in its relatively simple styling and an honest expression on the exterior as to what purpose lies in the interior use.

In 1961, George McElvy and Jim Jennewein merged their individual practices. Based in Tampa, they modeled their firm with a team approach to develop a site. Historically, individual architects maintained private practices and the firm approach included various interdisciplinary fields including architects,



**Architectural Model by McElvy, Jennewein, Stefany & Howard ("McElvy and Jennewein Portfolio Booklet")**



**Tampa Public Library; "McElvy and Jennewein Portfolio Booklet"**



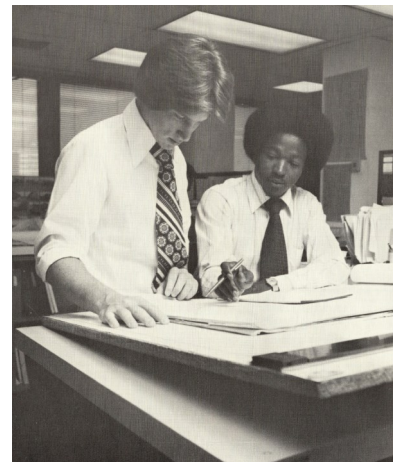
**Tampa Central Library "Data Sheet" from McElvy, Jennewein, Stefany & Howard**

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planners, acoustic experts, engineers, and landscape architects for a comprehensive planning experience. A promotional portfolio states that they maintained relationships with local regulatory bodies to participate “in the development of building codes”. The firm also prided itself to provide tight cost estimates to aid project budgeting.

Their firm strived not only to create buildings that would benefit the community, but also be beneficial members of the community. Their promotional portfolio stated that the “wider community must benefit from everything we do”. The principals of the firm were involved in Tampa’s community participating in Kiwanis Club, Gasparilla Krewe, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, University Club, Tampa Minimum Housing Board, Environmental Education, Inc., the Florida Central Chapter of the Florida Association of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and as members of Florida State Board of Architecture. Another viewpoint offered preservation intentions to “develop new uses for older structures, we help meet society’s changing needs, preserve the best of the past and conserve our clients’ and our communities’ resources”.

McElvy, Jennewein, Stefany & Howard, designed other local libraries: North Tampa Branch Library, Temple Terrace Public Library, and the additions to the Port Tampa Branch Library. Other Projects included local schools including Carrollwood Elementary, Thonotosassa Elementary School, and Angelo L. Greco Junior High School and buildings on the University of Florida, Florida A. & M. and Florida State University campuses. Industrial buildings included Borden’s Dairy plants and offices across the state from Pensacola to Miami, Hav-a-Tampa Cigar Corporation Plant addition, Pepsi Cola Bottling Plant and Jack’s Cookies Office and Warehouse additions. Religious facilities in Tampa included renovations



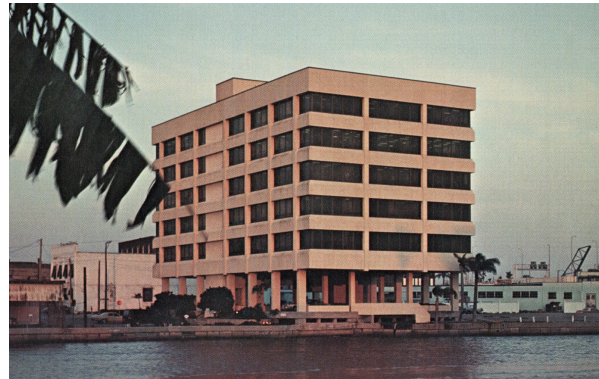
**Employees working at the firm’s offices (Images from: McElvy, Jennewein, Stefany & Howard, “architects and planners” portfolio book, undated)**



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to St. Andrews Episcopal Church, First Methodist Church, and Peninsular Christian Church Sanctuary. Military Facilities included structures at the MacDill Air Force Base, Naval Training Center in Orlando, and the Meteorological Radar Station at the Kennedy Space Center. Their commercial, office, apartments, and single family residential projects are found throughout Tampa. The firm also wrote feasibility and development studies for local banks, hotels, apartments, and the modeling of the Tampa Police Station.

McElvy, Jennewin, Stefany & Howard designed many of these structures in Tampa and throughout Florida in a modern style similar to the styling they employed to the Tampa Public Library. The images below are from an undated project portfolio which exhibits the consistent use of modern styling, overhangs or cantilevered projections, and heavy concrete panels. Similar to the library, the styling typifies the modern architecture movement in physical appearance and in the raw utilitarian feel of each structure.



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**ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE DESCRIPTION**

**Mid-Century Modern Architecture**

Architectural approaches changed after World War II from highly decorative exteriors towards structures that exhibited utility and function. The mid-1960s brought bolder designs to highlight and emphasize the functionality of a structure. Universal designs and materials, which could be constructed across the nation, replaced regionally specific influences and details. Steel, concrete, and glass typified Mid-Century commercial architecture. The style is most associated with large floor-to-ceiling windows and sharp geometric lines. Rooflines of commercial and residential Mid-Century Modern buildings had flat planes or severe angular lines. Interiors were often composed of open spaces and split-levels. Large windows allowed natural light through the building and open floor plans. Nature and the immediate surroundings were also typically considered during design planning and landscaping was integrated into the exterior designs. This style often included interior planters, fountains, or landscaping that flowed from the exterior to the interior. Mid-Century concepts influenced furniture, home décor, art, and fashions.

The John Germany Library is a pristine example of the Mid-Century Modern style in Tampa. Referred today as Mid-Century Modern, notable architectural details include the large concrete pillars, wide arcade, vertical travertine panels, glass multi-story windows, and a wraparound honey-comb exterior feature on the top floor. The broad horizontal form is a typical Mid-Century design. The domed auditorium also expresses details indicative of the Mid-Century Modern movement with a round solid exterior with an overhanging terrace that seemingly floats over the landscaping below. The honeycomb “hive” brise-soleil, which tops the library provides architectural interest while providing a protective sun and heat barrier to the archive collection on the 4th floor. This delicate form breaks up the strong visual impact of the concrete panels below.

There are several styling subtypes within Mid-Century designs. Described as “Brutalist”, this styling concept lacked traditional architectural ornamentation where the structural framing is covered with an exterior fabric, such as wood panel siding or brick then adorned with stylistic features such as columns, brackets, finials or other decoration. Brutalist architecture lacks this decoration in favor of visually obvious materials, such as concrete walls which show molding patterns or imperfections. Brutalist architecture developed first in Europe in the 1950s as part of reconstruction efforts after World War II. Through the 1960s Brutalism became a movement to reject the nostalgia of past architectural styles with highly decorative details to build honest, organic buildings.



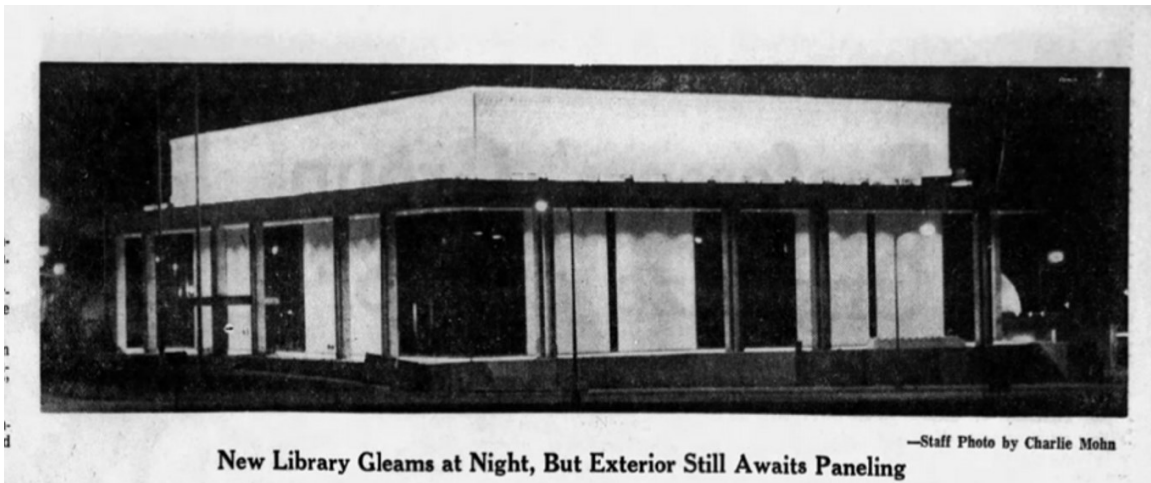
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**Materials**

Similar to other Mid-Century Modern structures in the Brutalist styling, the John F. Germany Library is adorned simply and showcases the construction materials as the stylistic detailing.

**Concrete**

Concrete is the most common material used in Brutalist architecture. Architects that favor concrete express that it allows for endless creativity as it can be poured into molds to create unique shapes and forms. As one of the strongest building materials, it can hold up against extreme weather, which is ideal for structures preserving archival materials. Using poured concrete molds also creates symmetric sections, pillars, and panels for a uniformed look and unlike traditional hand-crafted building features, creating molded features can expedite construction time.



The above image from the Tampa Tribune, January 5, 1968, shows the concrete form of the building. Originally, a cast stone was applied to the columns and panels, however was determined inappropriate and new panels and column covers were applied. The image also shows the library without the fourth floor “honeycomb” wrap.

**Roman Classic Travertine**

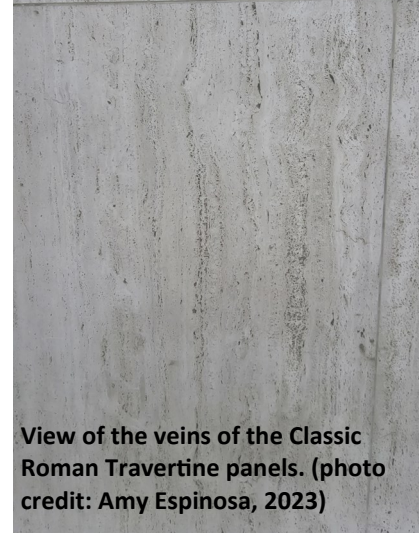
The original cast stone applied exterior was removed and replaced prior to the library’s opening in April 1968. The cast stone was replaced with Roman Travertine, used for over 2,500 years in Italy for governmental and public buildings. Utilized, not only for its durability and strength but for the beauty of the unique marbled veins that run through it. This travertine is quarried in Tivoli, Italy and imported to the United States for use. It has a cream-beige color with brown and reddish veins that run vertically with the panels. The

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insistent use of it on the library, which delayed the opening to ensure the correct exterior panels were used, shows how important this building was to the community and that leadership wanted to ensure that the use of travertine and concrete, two of the most durable, stable and long-lasting building materials, was for the ultimate longevity of the building.

**Landscape Architecture**

Mid-Century Modern architecture typically included landscaping and hardscape elements, occasionally leading into or within the buildings in the form of planters and water features. The new library included fountains with colored lights flanking the entry. Today, the area surrounding the fountains is lush with palms, greenery, and other Florida native flora. Other hardscape includes a brick walk leading to the front entrance, which was updated from a concrete ramp with a low concrete wall.



**View of the veins of the Classic Roman Travertine panels. (photo credit: Amy Espinosa, 2023)**



The fountain pools are made of colorful tiles and part of the original landscape architecture plan from 1968. Colorful lights were also incorporated to illuminate the site at night. The above image from 1999 shows the Main entrance with the concrete walls leading to the entrance and working fountains. (courtesy of the John F. Germany Public Library, Library History Collection)

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**Honeycomb**

The “hive” or honeycomb crown of the structure provides texture and interest to the large panels and window expanses. The hexagon adds a geometric element, common in Mid-Century architecture. Though not modern in overall use, hexagons have been used in engineering and architecture throughout history, including the reconstruction of the Pantheon’s dome in Rome to airplane radomes. Inspired by beehives, they are regarded as the best way to divide a space into equal parts with minimal structural support.

Honeycomb-inspired techniques are utilized in building design for construction strength, low density, reduction in required construction materials, and as sunshades. This hexagonal grid provides protection from the heat and glare of the sun to the archival materials located on the top floor. It also visually marries the auditorium and the library buildings with this common element. It is used to allow natural light into the otherwise darkened, windowless auditorium between the layers of the domed roofs. On the main library it wraps around the entire top floor, inset from the roof of the three-story colonnade. A small walkable space between the honeycomb layer and the exterior of the wide glass windows, creates a brise-soleil popular in the 1960s and 1970s architecture.



The hexagon shaped walls, nicknamed “the hive” or honeycombs, are used as sunshades which marry the library and auditorium. (photo credit: Amy Espinosa, 2023)



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**The Auditorium**

Gus Paras and Angel Oliva Jr., associate architects at McElvy & Jennewein, co-designed the auditorium. Both had attended the University of Florida. Mr. Oliva stated in a 2023 interview that his inspiration for the unique multi-domed shapes was the Tropicana Night Club in Havana, Cuba, which was across from his Jesuit university. With a small but visibly significant area to work with, he wanted the auditorium to have an independent but complimentary design to the library. The rounded shape aimed to offset the broad sharp angles of the main library. The honeycomb feature was utilized to connect the two structures while allowing natural light into the otherwise windowless auditorium. The base of the auditorium was designed by Gus Paras who utilized a design inspired by America's most notable modern architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Described as 'Wrightian', the base has two geometric pyramidal layers and made of Cementous stone. Angel Oliva, Jr. stated in his interview that the auditorium was a "delightful building to work on and everyone was satisfied with the results, who knew?"



(left) Construction of the auditorium and (right) opening dedication on April 21, 1968.



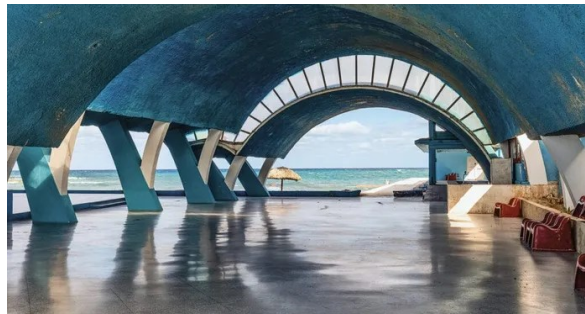
(left) Pyramidal base of the auditorium and (right) the meeting of two staggered domed roof lines with honeycomb screen.

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The Tropicana Night Club in Havana, Cuba served as inspiration for the auditorium's multi-oval designed. It was designed by Max Borges, Jr. and constructed in 1951. Borges, was known for his modernistic designs of the 1950s and '60s in Havana. He worked with Felix Candela, a structural engineer from Mexico who specialized in lightweight concrete parabolic designs, used for the Tropicana Club and Club Nautico in Cuba. Inspired by spiraled seashells, the Tropicana's club has five concrete cylindrical arches arranged off-center nesting in decreasing height. Each concrete shell is connected by panes of glass. Similarly, Club Nautico utilizes the repeating low-vaulted arches with glass panes to connect each independent shell component. Max Borges is likely the most well-known architect of Cuban Modernist architecture, with the Tropicana being his most famous design. After exiling from Cuba in 1959, he lived in Florida then Pennsylvania and Virginia where he continued to design in the Washington, D.C. area. The overall Cuban Modernist movement is defined by the concrete shells he utilized, as well as, the curving ramps, brises-solei's, and airy interiors that often flow to the exterior, which is seen within the library and auditorium's designs. Felix Candela's creative use of concrete also pushed the modern movement forward using forms that had never been seen before in architecture. He designed the Bacardi Bottle Factory in Mexico using arches connected to fenestration. Angel Oliva, Jr. stated admiration and design inspiration from both Candela and Borges' designs, which is evident in the simplified example of the auditorium.



**Tropicana Club, built 1951, Havana, Cuba**



**Club Nautico, built 1953, Playa, Cuba**

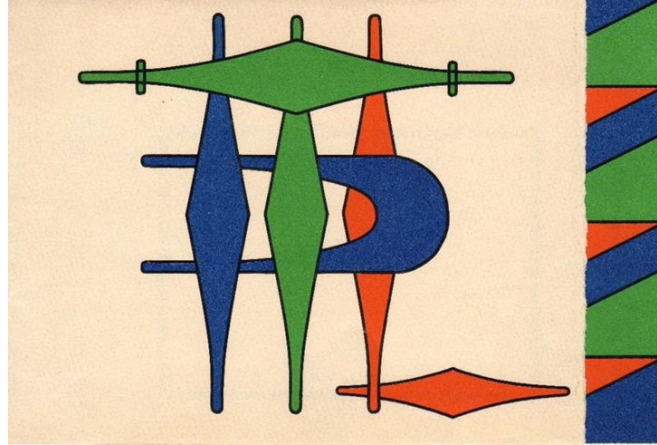


**Bacardi Bottle Factory, built 1960, Tultitlán, Mexico**



# JOHN F. GERMANY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND AUDITORIUM 900 N. ASHLEY DRIVE TAMPA, FLORIDA LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

## 1968 Tampa Public Library Information Brochure with floor plans (Courtesy, Tampa-Hillsborough County Library System)



### Did You Know . . .

- Library service is FREE to citizens of Hillsborough County.
- Books may be borrowed at any of the twelve library agencies in Hillsborough County, and returned to any agency or book drop.
- Books not available at your library may be requested.
- Three bookmobiles serve the Tampa-Hillsborough County area. Schedules available at Information Desk.

### Your Library Has . . .

- A research center for the businessman.
- Telephone directories of major cities in the United States.
- Information service by telephone or in person.
- Magazines and newspapers in bound volumes and on film.
- Guidance for use of materials.
- Special collections on Tampa and Florida.
- 16mm films for programs.
- Framed reproductions of paintings and long-playing records for home use.
- A permanent collection of original works of art.
- A Rare Book Room.
- An auditorium and conference room for use by civic and cultural organizations.

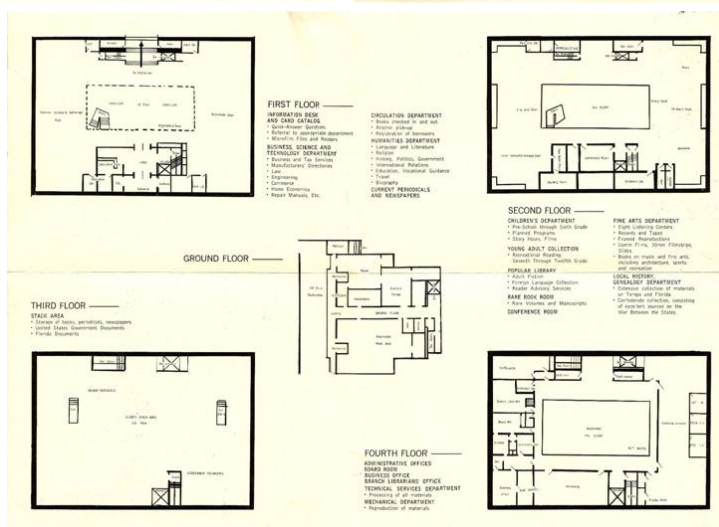
### TAMPA PUBLIC LIBRARY

900 Ashley Street  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
Telephone 223-1761

Monday through Friday 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.  
Saturday 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

MR. CECIL P. BEACH  
Director of Libraries

Headquarters for Tampa-Hillsborough County Library System, the new Tampa Public Library was dedicated April 21, 1968. The building contains 100,000 sq. ft. of floor space, with book capacity of 500,000 volumes. Designed by McLane, Ranan, McIntosh and Bernardo; McElvy and Jennewein at a total cost of \$3,200,000.00, plans include an additional fifth floor which may be added for future expansion.



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**John F. Germany**

On November 1, 1999, The Tampa Public Library was renamed to honor John F. Germany. A long-time civic leader in Tampa, Mr. Germany helped secure funding for the modern library in the 1960s. As a local lawyer he aided in the legislation to establish the University of South Florida in Tampa.

John F. Germany was born in Alabama on January 16, 1923, and raised in Plant City, Florida. After serving as a combat Army tank commander in World War II, he attended the University of Florida followed by receiving his law degree from Harvard Law School. He practiced law in Tampa until he was appointed as a circuit judge. In 1966, he returned to practice law as a partner in Knight, Jones, Whitaker and Germany. The firm merged with another firm, and Mr. Germany became a founding partner to one of the nation's most prestigious law firms, Holland & Knight. Mr. Germany's law career included litigation, public utility regulations, and cases in media, maritime, corporate, agricultural, and international law.



**Portrait of John F. Germany (Courtesy, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library)**

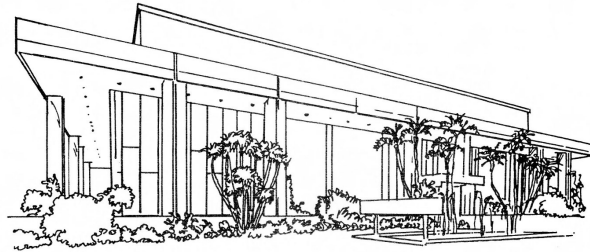
It was while he was still a judge in 1961, when John Germany was elected as president of the Friends of the Library, the group created to lead the development and seek funding sources for a new and larger library hub for the Tampa Bay community.

John Germany served as the president of the University Club, president of The Tampa Club, and trustee of the historic Bok Tower Gardens. He was also a part of the Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla and was King Gasparilla LXXI. Mr. Germany's dedication to community service was recognized by numerous organizations including Stetson University, which granted him an honorary Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. The University of South Florida

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presented him a Medallion for Community Service and dedicated a scenic park on its campus to commemorate him as one of its three founding fathers.

John and his wife, Mary Ellen, had four children. He retired at the age of 90. A life-time lover of books, it was noted his that the last book left on his nightstand was the third volume of a Winston Churchill biography, *The Last Lion*, left open to Page 682. He died at 92, on August 26, 2015.



**JOHN F. GERMANY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
*Dedicated November 1, 1999*  
*Tampa, Florida*

*PROGRAM OF EVENTS FOR LIBRARY DEDICATION*  
**JOHN F. GERMANY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
*MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1999*

<i>MASTER OF CEREMONIES:</i>	C. STEVEN YERRID	
<i>INVOCATION:</i>	FATHER JOHN PETERSON	ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
<i>SPEAKERS:</i>	DICK A. GRECO, JR. CHARLIE MIRANDA JAN PLATT CLAIRE CARDINA SANDRA CAMERON KATHY LONG CHESTERFIELD H. SMITH	MAYOR CHAIRMAN, TAMPA CITY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY CHAIRMAN, LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MR. GERMANY'S ASSISTANT FOR OVER 20 YEARS CHAIRMAN EMERITUS OF HOLLAND & KNIGHT, LLP
	HONORABLE JOHN F. GERMANY	
<i>SIGNAGE COURTESY OF:</i>	UNIVERSAL SIGN CORPORATION	
<i>LUNCH COURTESY OF:</i>	LANIER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	
<i>STRING QUARTET:</i>	DAVID DILLINGHAM QUARTET	

**Program cover and itinerary for the renaming dedication (Courtesy, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library)**



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## Press Release

*Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System*

900 North Ashley Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33602

Phone: 813-273-3652 (J. F. Germany Library)  
Fax: 813-272-6430 (PR & P)

Submission Date: 11-15-99

For more information please call:

Program/Event Contact: Patrice Koerper/Public Relations and Partnerships – 276-2164

Media Contact: Patrice Koerper/Public Relations and Partnerships – 276-2164

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **City and County honor John F. Germany in Library Dedication Ceremony**

TAMPA, Florida - The John F. Germany Public Library, formerly known as the Tampa-Hillsborough County Main Library, will be dedicated at 12:00, noon on Monday, November 1, 1999. The law firm of Holland & Knight and attorney C. Steven Yerrid are hosting the ceremony. Mayor Dick Greco, members of Tampa City Council and the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners, members of the local and federal judiciary and other prominent citizens are expected to attend.

Last month, both Tampa City Council and the Hillsborough County Commission unanimously approved the resolution renaming the downtown public library in honor of John Germany for his lifetime of civic contributions and, more specifically, his outstanding service to the library system. Spurred on by his love of reading books and poetry and his desire to further the culture of our great community, John Germany, former Circuit Court Judge, served as the President of the Friends of the Library in the late 1960's and helped to spearhead the quest to heighten our civic awareness concerning the importance and need for a downtown main library. This quest culminated in the construction of the City of Tampa's Main Library in 1968. It is fitting this special library will be named in his honor.

The dedication ceremony is designed to accept the entire local library system and the dedicated and hard-working people who work each day to keep this civic cornerstone intact. It will be a great opportunity for our community leaders to come together in a public setting to bring to the forefront the value of our precious library assets. In addition, the library's recent \$400,000 renovation is nearly completed - the library's first renovation in two decades.

The John F. Germany Public Library is located in downtown Tampa at 900 N. Ashley Drive.

**Text of a press release announcing the upcoming dedication of the John F. Germany Public Library on Nov. 1, 1999. (Courtesy, Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library )**

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**TAMPA HISTORY**

Spanish explorers were familiar with the Tampa Bay area as early as the 16th century. The U.S. acquired Florida as a territory from Spain under the Adams-Onís Treaty in 1821. Florida achieved statehood in 1845.

In 1822, U.S. President James Monroe appointed General Andrew Jackson as Governor of the territory. Treaties between the native nations and the U.S. established the boundaries of the Seminole territory, pushing the native people away from the coastlines toward the center of the Florida peninsula. In 1824, the U.S Army established an outpost at Tampa Bay to monitor the Seminoles, ensure they stayed in their territory, and did not intimidate white settlers. Colonel George Mercer Brooke commanded the fort, which served as the main garrison for the Seminole Wars.



**Geographical Statistical and Historical Map of Florida, 1822**

The 1818 First Seminole War aimed to recapture runaway enslaved people who had sought refuge in Florida at free-Black settlements such as the Manatee River Settlement or within Native American communities. The Second Seminole War broke out in 1835 when Major Francis Dade and his men were killed in an attack traveling from Fort Brooke to Fort King, near Ocala. As the fighting escalated, fueled by the large number of runaway enslaved people, this conflict comprised the greatest slave rebellion in the United States history. The negotiations of 1842 ending the Second Seminole War forced most runaway enslaved people and Seminoles to migrate West or to restricted Native American settlements in present day Hillsborough County.

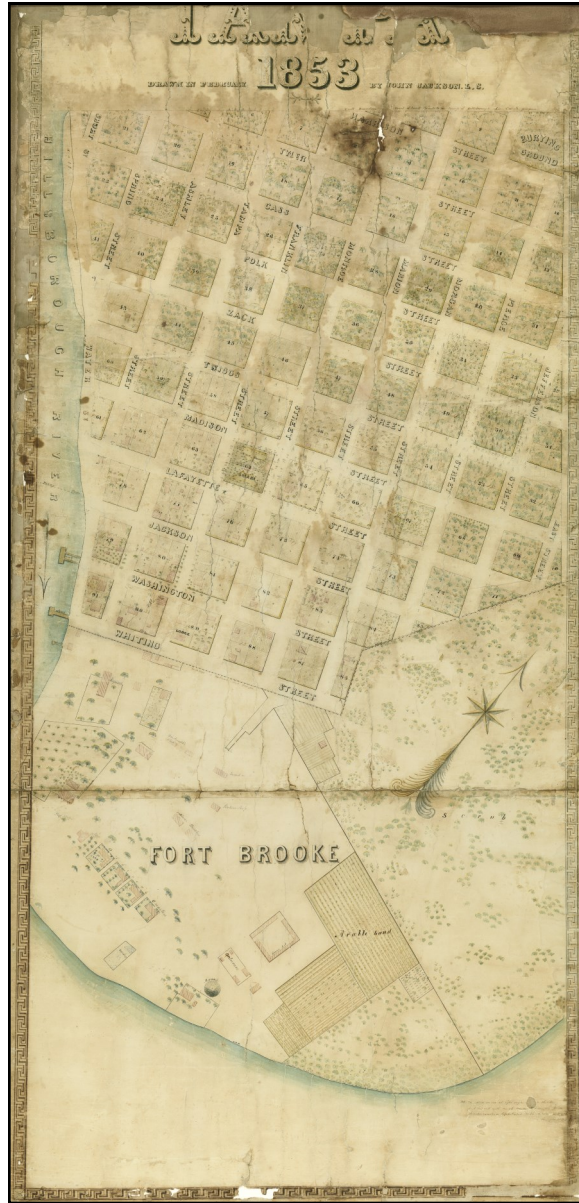
With the establishment of Fort Brooke, the surrounding population increased. The fort served as a trading post for both the white and Seminole population. In 1831, a post office was established for Tampa Bay to serve the small settlement, the name condensed to Tampa shortly thereafter. In 1846, the size of Fort Brooke reduced, making more land available for civilian settlement. Through the 1840s and 1850s, more development occurred in present-day downtown Tampa. The population consisted mainly of military personnel. By

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1858 Tampa had about 1,000 inhabitants, the town dotted with houses, churches, and businesses. At the end of the Civil War in 1865, Fort Brooke deactivated and the population of Tampa began to decline. In 1879, a large portion of the land reserved for Fort Brooke was restored to the public domain at a land sale in Gainesville. Colonels Hooker, Sparkman, and Captain John T. Lesley purchased some of the larger lots for themselves and on behalf of others. A free Black, Mills Holloman applied for land grants but was denied due to his race. Tampa remained a small settlement until 1883, when the remainder of the Fort Brooke military reservation opened to civilian settlement causing a flurry of real estate speculation.

By 1867, Blacks had the right to vote and Hillsborough County's first black official, voter registrar Frederick D. Newberry, assisted 87 men in the process. Mills Holloman, who was denied access to the land grants of 1842, was appointed by the Governor to serve as a county commissioner from 1868 to 1872. After the end of Reconstruction in 1877, Tampa area African-Americans continued to live in an isolated, economically challenged community but labor remained a marketable force.

Henry Bradley Plant completed the South Florida Railroad in January 1884 linking Tampa with Jacksonville. Plant built the Tampa Bay Hotel on the west bank of the Hillsborough River. In 1888, the first bridge over the Hillsborough River linked the original town of Tampa with the Hyde Park neighborhood and Plant's hotel. Plant's railroad extended to Port Tampa, connecting his rail and steamship lines.



**John Jackson's Map of Tampa, 1853**



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**Plant's Tampa Bay Hotel**

Tampa rapidly grew in population and services at the end of the 19th century. Vicente Martinez-Ybor established the cigar manufacturing industry on the eastern Tampa vicinity. The migration of cigar manufacturers to Tampa was a major component of its rapid growth. The market for tobacco exploded during the American Civil War. Ybor was a Spanish citizen who began manufacturing cigars in Cuba in 1856. He fled to Key West at the outbreak of the Cuban Ten-Year War in 1868, where he reestablished his cigar operations.

Ignacio Haya, another Spaniard who settled in New York, founded the Sanchez & Haya Cigar Company with his friend Serafin Sanchez in 1867. Haya befriended Ybor during winter visits to Key West. In 1884, Haya and Ybor met Bernardino Gargol and Gavino Gutierrez in Key West. Gargol and Gutierrez had come from Tampa, which they found unsuitable for the guava business. However, they recommended Tampa as an ideal climate for cigar manufacturing. Ybor and Haya visited Tampa in 1885 and recognized the potential in Tampa's port and recently completed railroad line. They invested in the area after securing a land deal with the Tampa Board of Trade. In 1885, Sanchez & Haya built the first cigar factory, a two-story wood structure in Ybor City at the corner of 7th Avenue and 15th Street. Ybor's first factory, also a wood building, opened soon thereafter on the north side of 7th Avenue, which operated until construction was complete on Ybor's brick factory, a block to the north, in 1886.

Gutierrez drew up a plan for a full-fledged city and by the end of 1886, Ybor City had cigar

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factories in full operation, several hundred worker houses occupied, and many commercial establishments open for business. Ybor purchased a streetcar line to connect Ybor City with Tampa. The town's rapid growth encouraged annexation interest into Tampa, and in June 1887, it became legally part of Tampa, although it maintained its separate identity. Ybor City's growth continued, and by 1890, it had a population of around 6,000, which outnumbered the residents of Tampa.



**View of Ybor City, c.1902**

Across the Hillsborough River, Hugh Macfarlane, a prominent businessman and local government official, founded West Tampa. Macfarlane, a Scotland native, came to Tampa in 1883 to practice law serving as City Attorney in 1887. Having witnessed the rise of the cigar industry in Ybor City and its associated new development, Macfarlane set out to turn 120 acres of swampland west of the Hillsborough River into a new cigar manufacturing center and, eventually, a new town. In 1886, Macfarlane had his land surveyed and divided into individual lots and had streets, public areas, and industrial sites platted. Other businessmen, including George N. Benjamin, John H. Drew, Phillip H. Collins, Alonzo C. Clewis, Matthew Hooper, H. W. Hooper, and L. B. Skinner, joined Macfarlane in his efforts to further develop and link the area west of the Hillsborough River to the City of Tampa. Realizing the importance of providing the commercial area with transportation, the Macfarlane investment group raised the money to build the Fortune Street Bridge, which also

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accommodated streetcar lines. Macfarlane enticed manufacturers to his new town by offering factory sites and three story brick buildings to manufacturers that were willing to locate there and was also able to secure a permanent labor force by offering workers affordable housing. Landowners like Macfarlane and Benjamin began to construct housing that could be rented or purchased by factory employees. Home ownership was encouraged as a means to secure a steady labor force. Therefore, when the first successful cigar factories opened in West Tampa, workers were in ready supply. By 1893, West Tampa was quickly developing into a competitive rival of Ybor City. By 1894, West Tampa was established as a second cigar-making city, incorporating in 1895 with a population over 3,500 and remaining independent of Tampa until 1925. The early success of West Tampa has been attributed to the development and growth of social and religious facilities catering to Latin laborers. In less than a decade, West Tampa was transformed from swampland and citrus groves into Florida's fifth largest city and a major manufacturing center. Due to its importance in the area of cigar manufacturing, hundreds of workers were needed to fill the factories and provide labor, that ranged from preparing the tobacco leaves and hand rolling cigars to managing the businesses. The majority of the industry's work force included Spanish, Italian, and Cuban immigrants. This diverse group of laborers also contributed culturally and socially in a significant and lasting way to the West Tampa community and continues to distinguish the character of the area today.



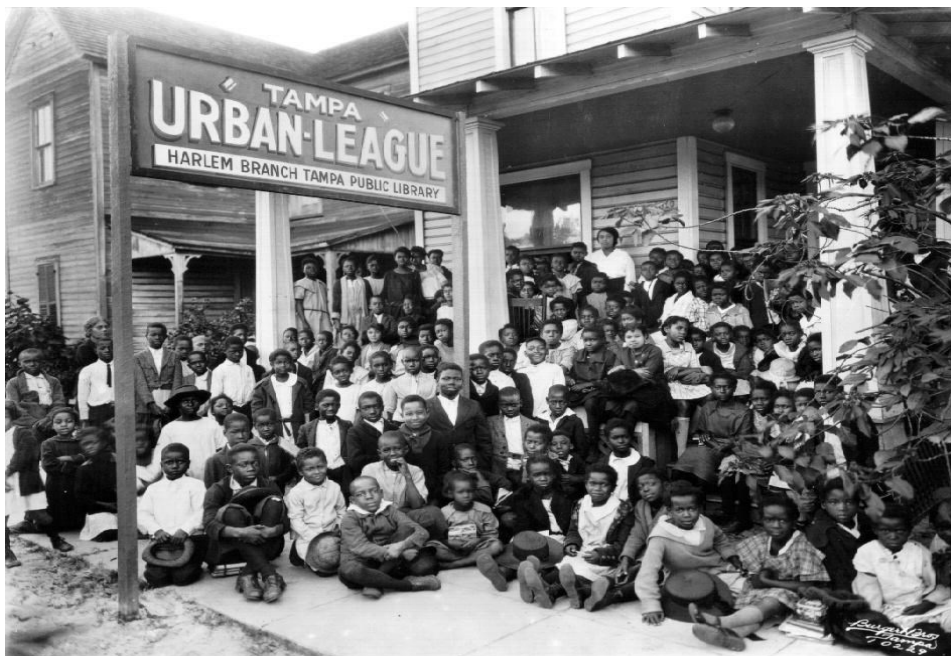
**Main Street in West Tampa, 1890s**



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The Macfarlane Investment Company ardently encouraged the extension of Ybor City's civic organizations and religious groups into West Tampa. Mutual aid societies were brought to the Tampa area by the thousands of Cuban, Spanish, and Italian immigrants who arrived to work in the area's cigar industry. These organizations provided medical, dental, educational, and recreational services to their members.

Tampa also has a rich Black American history from the freed enslaved people who first settled in the city to the entrepreneurs, educators, and activists that sought to better the lives of Tampa's black population. The Scrub, one of the area's earliest black settlements, began as housing for nearby lumber mill workers in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This neighborhood was home to three of the staple institutions that were established early in Tampa's history: 1863, Mt. Sinai African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (1863), Beulah Baptist Church (1865); and St. Paul's AME Church (1870). The Scrub also had schools, a library, hospital and own its newspapers. An increase in Black population led to increasingly difficult housing problems the conditions in The Scrub and the deterioration of its structures and quality of living was rapid. In 1952, architects Franklin O. Adams and Frank A. Parziale designed Central Park Village, a low-rent housing complex intended to transform The Scrub. Tampa Housing Authority intended this housing project to provide rent within the financial reach of some 1,970 African-Americans who lived in the neighborhood. The original plans included 57 residential buildings and the complex office to replace the majority of the houses in The Scrub.



1310 Marion Street, c. 1923

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On Central Avenue, enterprising black entrepreneurs such as Isaac Gardner, Sr. and Garfield Devoe Rogers founded real estate and business interests during the Florida Boom of the 1920s. Rogers' business successes were many, including co-founding the Central Life Insurance Company with Mary McLeod Bethune and C. Blythe Andrews in 1922, starting with six employees in a building on Harrison Street. Dr. Jacob White Sr. had his doctor's offices on Central Avenue and Scott Street. Samuel J. McCall was an attorney and community activist in Tampa. While some Black individuals succeeded, it was the sense of community that tied prosperous times.

The Tampa Urban League headed by Blanche Armwood and the Harlem Branch of the Tampa Public Library were two very important community organizations of the 1920s. Education was a primary concern, and when government funding fell short, the Tampa Urban League and the Community Chest sponsored The Helping Hand Day Nursery and Kindergarten on Lamar and Kay to provide care for Black children so that their parents could work. By 1922 Blanche Armwood was supervisor of Negro Schools in Tampa while Christina Meacham principalized at the Harlem Academy. Churches flourished as well by the 1920s, many which had started out without even so much as any structure at all were now being rebuilt from tents to modest wooden structures to those of brick, claiming their stability, success and permanence to their congregations.

Port Tampa played a major role in the 1898 Spanish-American War, as military forces embarked from there for Cuba. U.S. troops spent many months at camp in West Tampa, Tampa Heights, and Ybor City, waiting for orders to invade Cuba. Tampa's role in this war prompted the U.S. Congress to provide funding for the improvement of the city's downtown docking facilities.

Henry B. Plant died in New York City in 1899. Plant's 14 railways and 2,012 miles of track were sold to the Atlantic Coast Line (ACL) Railroad in 1902. The ACL, which stretched from Richmond, Virginia, to Punta Gorda, advertised itself as the "Standard Railway of the South." With about 940 miles of track, the Florida Central & Peninsular Railroad (FC&P) was one of Plant's few rivals. The FC&P acquired several rail lines in central Florida, making it a prime carrier of agriculture and phosphate. Mr. Erwin, the succeeding president of the Plant System, invited the Seaboard Air Line Railway (SAL), majority owner of FC&P, to use the Port Tampa terminal jointly. Tampa attorney Peter O. Knight urged the SAL to terminate in Tampa. He purchased Seddon Island and five miles of waterfront property, which SAL subsequently used for its terminals. Following the purchase of the FC&P and the Tampa Northern Railroad, the SAL ran through the south side of Ybor City and along both sides of the Ybor Estuary to its shipping terminals on Seddon Island and Hooker's Point. The new terminals induced the federal government to invest in the City of Tampa's harbor.



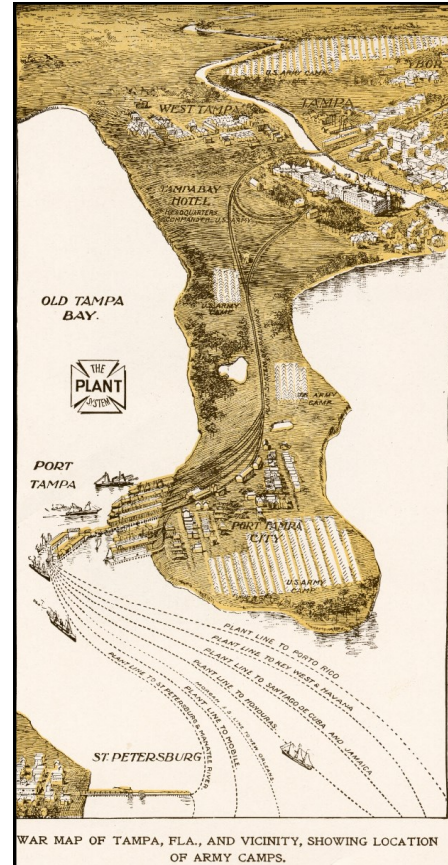
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By 1905, Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the main shipping channels into Tampa to a 20-foot depth and Tampa became a major deep water port. In addition, E.M. Hendry and A.J. Knight, dredged their own 20-foot channel, further extending navigable waters, and opened a shipping terminal at the mouth of the river. The River and Harbor Act of 1910, authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge Tampa's channels to 24 feet and create a new turning basin at the mouth of the Ybor Estuary. This project included a condition that no expenditures were issued until the local municipality agreed to construct public wharves to ensure the channel's use primarily in the interest of general commerce on equal terms to all.

By the early twentieth century, Tampa was a thriving community. Growing prosperity saw the spread of residential development from downtown to the new suburbs of Hyde Park and Tampa Heights, areas that had previously been wilderness and farmland. Downtown, masonry buildings began replacing wooden structures and Tampa's first "skyscrapers" were constructed. The expanding business district spread into the old Fort Brooke area, which was annexed into the city in 1907.

As World War I ended, prosperity spread throughout the U.S. and in Florida in particular. It was during this period that Tampa, like many Florida communities, experienced a building boom. Many of the residential structures that exist in today's historic districts were erected in the 1920s. Like many towns along the west coast of Florida, Tampa thrived during the Land Boom years of the early 1920s.

The Great Depression hit Florida's economy hard, particularly on the heels of the real estate bust. Growth in Tampa overall slowed over the next two decades. The economy was severely damaged as the area's major source of income was based on the manufacture of a luxury item, cigars. As the country's spending focused on the necessities of survival, the worldwide cigar industry was declining. No new factories had been constructed since 1912 and the number of operating manufacturers was on the decline.



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With the advent and widespread use of automated cigar production, many factories chose to move their operations elsewhere, forcing many residents to leave the area in search of work. Also, new immigration restrictions lessened the flow of Spanish, Cuban, and Italian immigrants into the area. By the end of World War II, some cigar factories had closed or moved their operations to the North, and widespread construction of both residential and commercial buildings had, for the most part, ceased.

In 1953, the city annexed over 60 square miles of unincorporated land, including the communities of Sulphur Springs and Palma Ceia. As a result the city's population grew rapidly, increasing by 150,289 residents during the 1950s. The University of South Florida was established in 1956, sparking development in northern Tampa and nearby Temple Terrace. Downtown businesses left along with the residents. Meanwhile, Urban renewal and construction of the Interstate highway system and the Crosstown Expressway changed large swaths of land in Tampa's oldest neighborhoods.

The City of Tampa began to recognize the importance of the historic properties as they represented a distinctive element of the city's culture and heritage. Ybor City was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and became Tampa's first local historic district in 1975. In 1990, Ybor City became a National Historic Landmark, a program that recognizes historic places with exceptional historical value to the Nation. The City continued its preservation measures with three more historic districts: Hyde Park (1988), Seminole Heights (1995) and Tampa Heights (2000), as well as individually landmarking over 50 properties throughout the city. Each of these landmarks serves as a tangible reminder of our City's history from a small outpost fort to the expanding world renowned city of today.



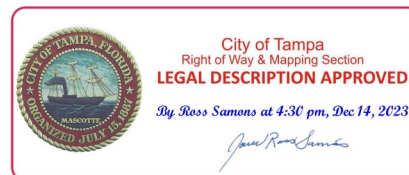
**Aerial View on a Tampa Post Card**

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**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

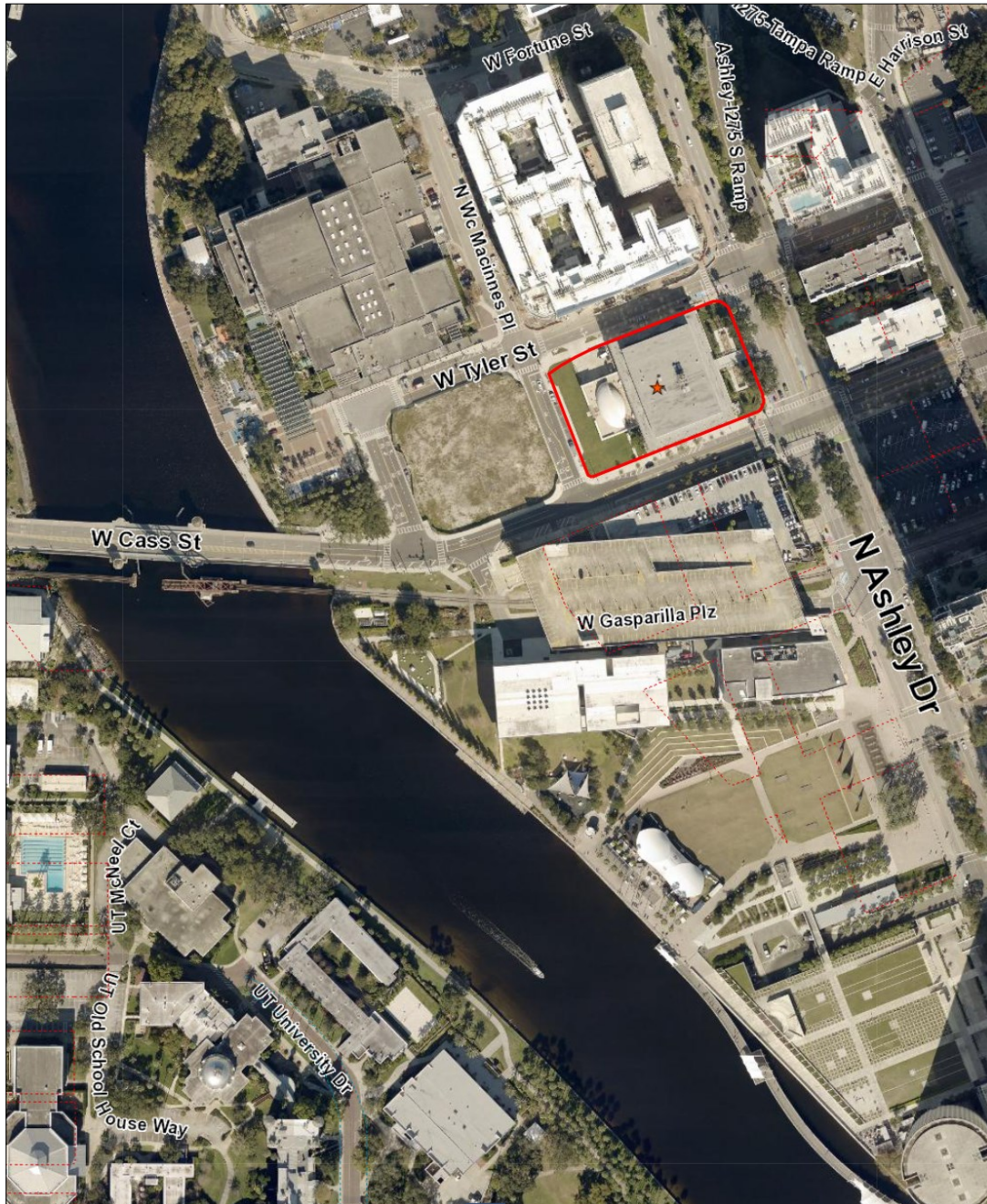
Lot 2, AER IN THE ARTS DISTRICT, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 143, Page 219, of the Public Records of Hillsborough County, Florida.





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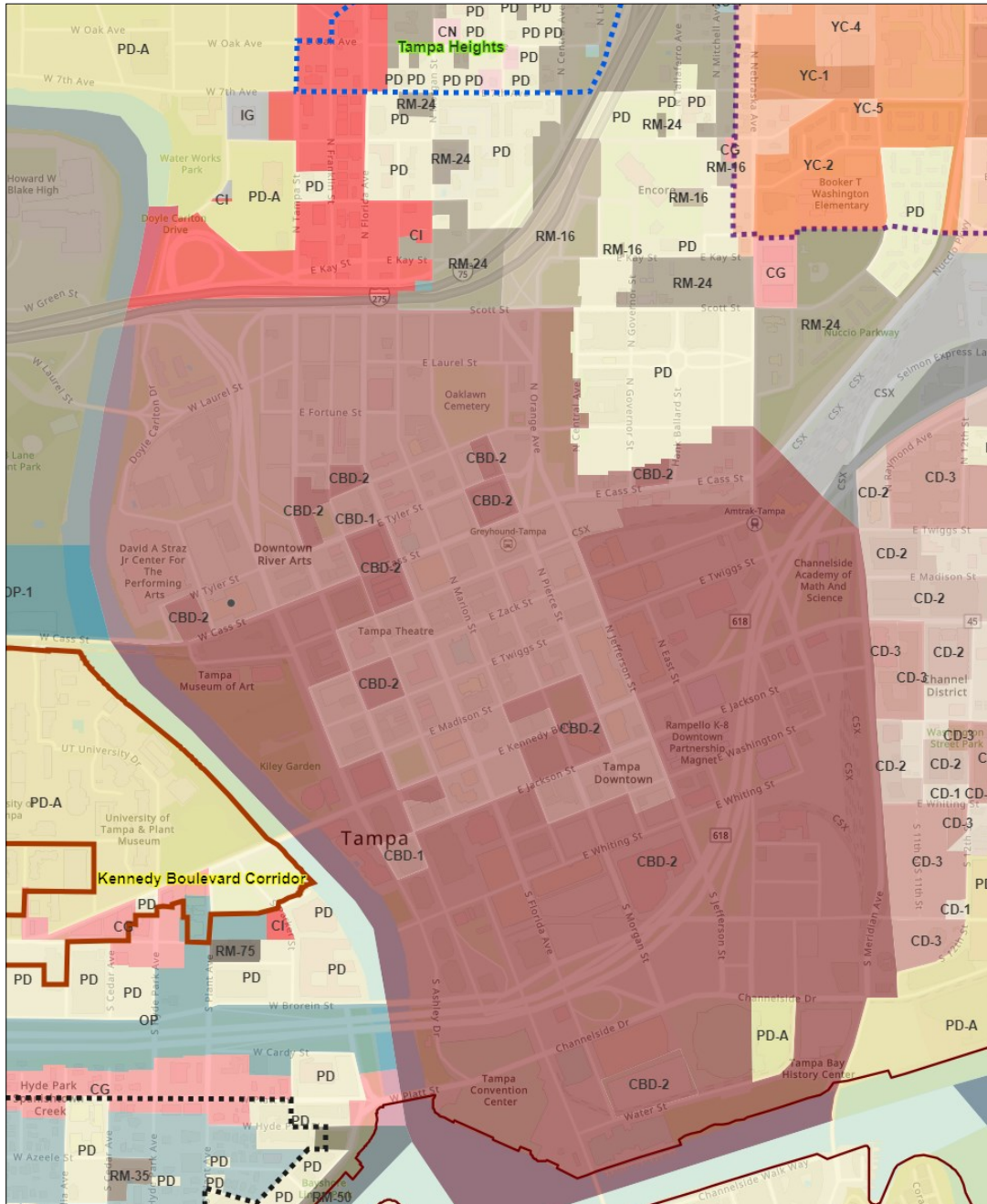
**MAPS**



**AERIAL MAP  
2023**

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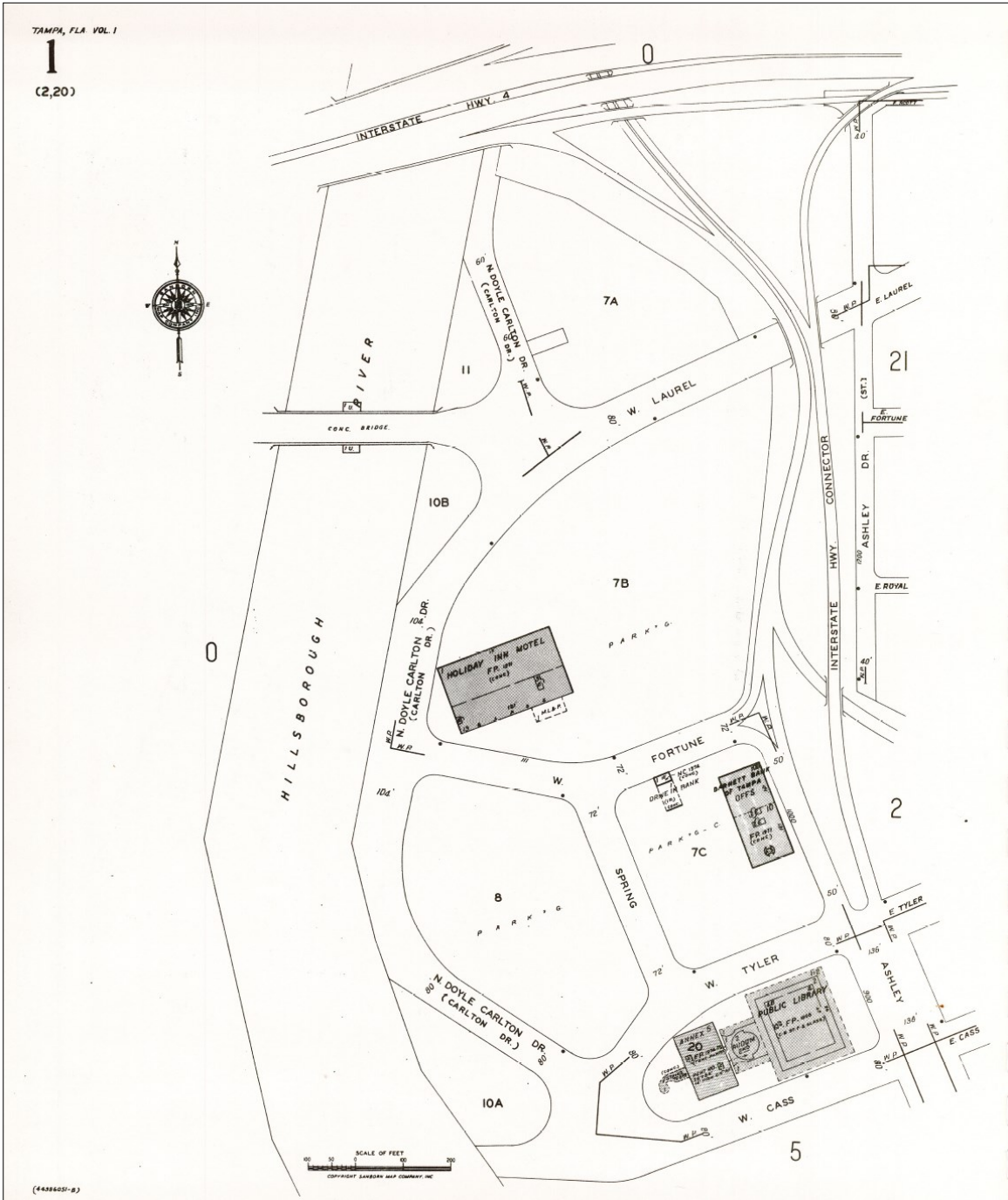
## MAPS




**ZONING MAP  
2023**



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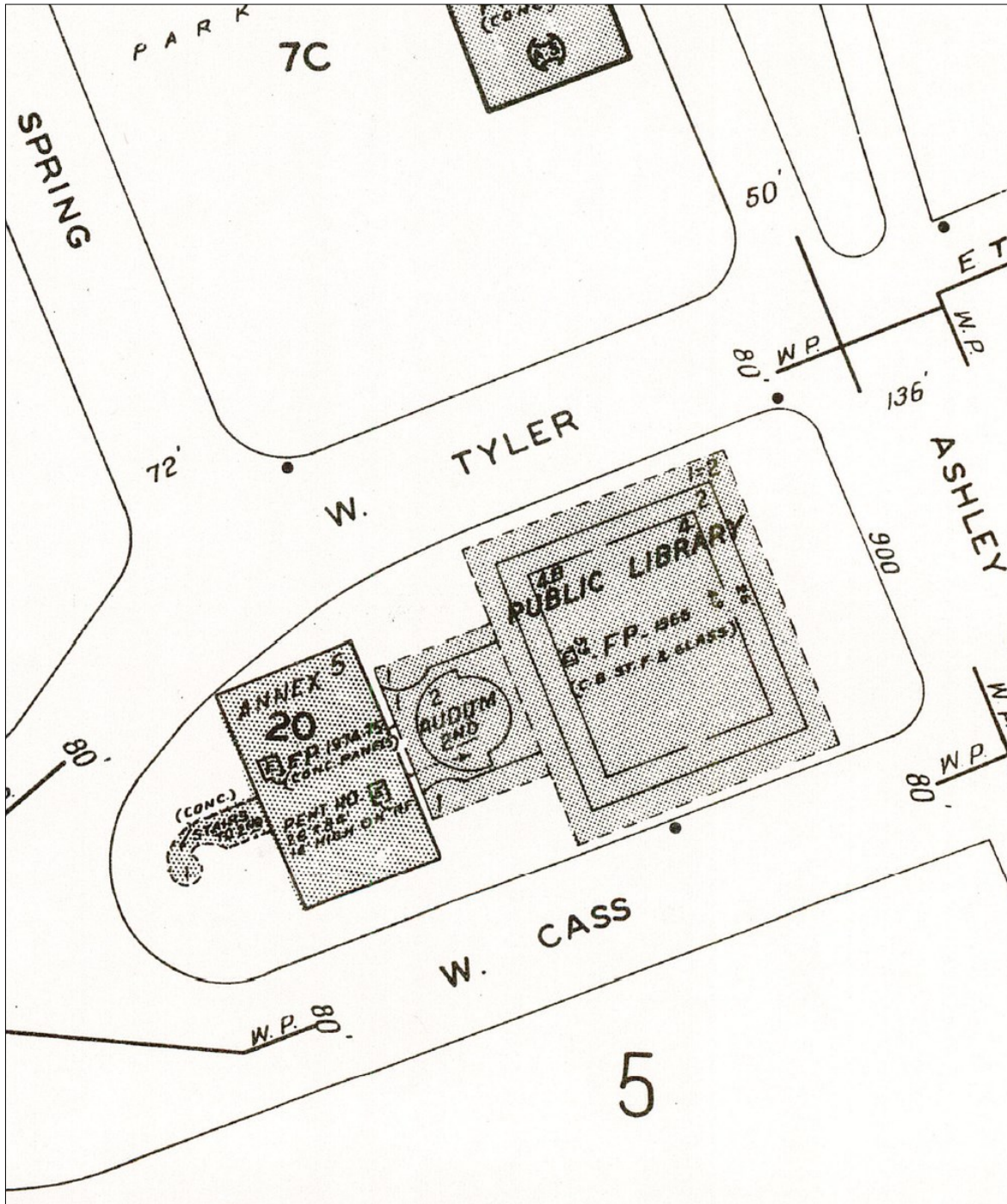


**SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY MAP- FULL SHEET**

**1976**



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**SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY MAP— SITE FOCUS**

**1976**

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*To be considered as a Tampa Historic Local Landmark, a nominated site must meet one of the four Criteria as outlined in Sec. 27-257. These criterium, utilized by the City of Tampa to determine if a nominated site should be granted landmark status, are modeled from the National Register of Historic Places, which is governed by the National Park Service.*

The John F. Germany Library and auditorium met the following Local Landmark Criteria:

**Criteria A.** That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

*For over 100 years, the City of Tampa has prioritized and included a central library in **community planning**. The 1917 original library was located in the most central location within the city boundaries. As the first structure planned as part of the Riverfront Urban Renewal project of the 1960s, the library is physical reminder of how Tampa has placed an importance of incorporating its local culture and history in future land planning. Today, the Riverwalk, which spans the east outline of the Hillsborough River downtown, is a celebrated feature of Tampa's amenities which continues to connect the cultural institutions, sports complexes, offices, restaurants and shopping, as originally envisioned over 60 years ago. The library is also significant as the first library to open as an integrated library post segregation laws or practices.*

**Criteria B.** That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

*The building is associated with **John F. Germany** who is significant to Tampa's history as a civic leader, local judge and attorney and as a dedicated champion to raise money for the library.*

**Criteria C.** That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

*The John F. Germany Library has a high integrity of design and has the distinctive characteristics of **Mid-Century Modern architecture**. The architects designed this and other Tampa structures to reflect the contemporary attitudes of the 1960s Mid-Century Modern movement with simplistic angular and broad lines and geometric accents. Only a modest number of MCM buildings remain today.*

**A Local Landmark Designation would protect these structures from inappropriate additions that alter the historic architecture's integrity or from complete demolition of the structures.**

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*The Weekly Tribune. 19 January 1905 - 24 March 1910.*

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Amy Espinosa: Visible City Project

City of Tampa: Historic Preservation Commission Staff

Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative: Burgert Brothers Photographic Collection

Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative: Library History Collection

Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division: National Child Labor Committee Collection (Lewis Hine Photographs)

State Archives of Florida: Florida Memory Project

University of South Florida Digital Collections: Burgert Brothers Photograph Collection of Tampa Photographs

University of Florida Digital Collections: Tony Pizzo Collection

## **MAPS**

City of Tampa: Development & Growth Management Department Staff

Hillsborough County Clerk of Court, Official Records: Plat Books

Hillsborough County Property Appraiser: Parcel and Aerial Maps

Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative: H&G Maps & Atlases, Sanborn Map Company