

Cornerstone

Tampa Preservation, Inc.

Spring 2009

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2008-2009**

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HISTORIC HARLEM ACADEMY RECOGNIZED

Hillsborough County Public Schools and the Historic Harlem Academy Alumni dedicated the new Historic Harlem Academy Marker this past February. A reception followed, attended by many Academy alumni and faculty. Tampa Preservation, Inc. was proud to be a sponsor of this historic event.

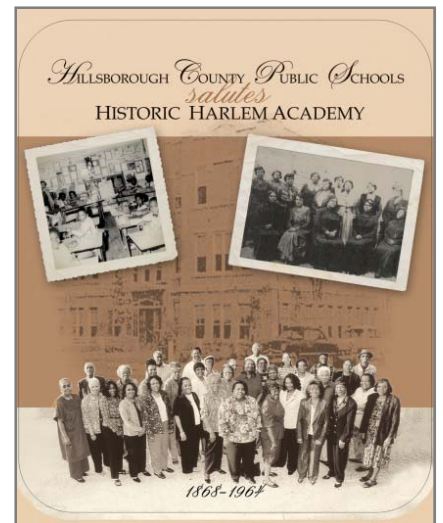


The historic Harlem Academy, known as "The Mother of African-American Schools," was the first public school erected for African-American children in Tampa. The first classes were held in 1868 in the Hillsborough County Courthouse. In the early 1870s, the Freedmen's Bureau financed what became known as School No.2. In 1889, a new building was constructed at the corner of Harrison and Morgan Streets, and the school was officially designated as the Harlem Academy. The goal of Harlem

Academy was to provide a quality education for its students, and to encourage them to learn within and outside the classroom and to continue on to higher education.

In 1892, Harlem Academy was destroyed in a fire. Thomas McKnight and other members of Tampa's African-American community raised funds to rebuild the school. St. Paul AME and other churches provided space, until a new building was completed in 1895. This structure was replaced by a brick building in 1912. Many prominent African-American citizens were involved with the school. Christina A. Meacham and Andrew J. Ferrell, Jr., once principals of Harlem Academy, had schools in Hillsborough County named in their honor.

The Harlem Academy closed in 1964, thus completing its ninety-six year contribution to the education of African-Americans in Tampa. Although the physical structure was later demolished, the heart of Harlem Academy lives on in the teachers, students and staff that graced its classrooms and halls.



**Harlem Academy marker dedication
souvenir provided by TPI**

TAMPA PRESERVATION IS ON FACEBOOK



Hoping to spread the positive word about how historic preservation efforts help the Tampa Bay community, TPI now has its own Fan Page on Facebook. Updates to the TPI blog, as well as upcoming events and news are available on the Fan Page.

As a fun side, TPI has also created a Gift Application for Facebook called Tampa Treats. Through this app you can send historic postcard images of Tampa Bay area landmarks to your friends for fun and a bit of nostalgia. If you enjoy social networking on Facebook, please become a Fan and join in the preservation discussion!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I know all of you are as tired as I am of hearing all the gloom and doom about the economy. It's Spring, the weather is beautiful and we should be happy. Unfortunately, that was hard to do when I ventured to Tallahassee a few weeks ago for Heritage Month activities.

The legislature was in full session and there was nothing *but* gloom and doom. There simply is not going to be enough money to go around to support the many needs of our state. As we spoke to various legislators, they were almost apologetic. They definitely understand the importance and value of preservation, but they simply could not find a way to choose preservation over health and welfare issues. They have to make some very tough decisions this year.

Once again, the 2009 budget will not provide any money for Special Category Grants. At this point in time, we are keeping our fingers crossed that a very minimal amount of funding will be budgeted for the small matching grant programs. This would be a blessing by keeping those line items in the budget. It will be much easier to achieve increased funding next year if they are existing line items, rather than starting from scratch.

I hate to sound so depressing – there were some positive events going on during the week. Secretary of State Kurt Browning spoke at the Legislative reception hosted by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and Florida Association of Museums. His message was positive and uplifting. He is a very strong support of what we do! Not only did he speak to us, he visited with everyone for almost two hours at the reception!

Did you know that Mel Tillis lived in Tampa as a child? I didn't either until he was inducted into the Florida Artist Hall of Fame during the Heritage Awards Ceremony. I have since learned that he attended Mitchell Elementary School for several years!

Well, despite the current economic situation, TPI will keep working to preserve and protect the heritage and historic resources of Tampa. As always, we appreciate your continued support of our efforts and welcome your involvement!

Becky Clarke
TPI President



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LOCAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAMS

Owners of historic buildings in Florida considering rehabilitating their property have a variety of programs to choose from. In 1992, the Florida state constitution was amended to allow local governments the option of offering ad valorem tax exemptions on improvements to historic properties. The purpose of providing this exemption was to stimulate revitalization of historic properties and to ease the burden of maintaining these properties. This tax exemption program is available throughout Hillsborough County. Rehabilitation projects in the City of Tampa and the City of Plant City may also qualify for additional exemptions from city taxes.

Properties that qualify for the exemption from the county-wide tax are those designated as local landmarks, those listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or as contributing properties in a local or National Register historic district. In the City of Tampa and the City of Plant City, only locally designated landmarks and contributing structures within locally designated historic districts are considered eligible properties for exemption from city ad valorem taxes.

All applications for this tax exemption are reviewed by the appropriate local reviewing entity. These are the Barrio Latino Commission (BLC) for properties located within the Ybor City Historic District, the Tampa Architectural Review Commission (ARC) for all other qualifying historic properties located within the City of Tampa, the Plant City Historic Review Board (HRB) for historic properties located in the City of Plant City, and the Hillsborough County Historic Resources Review Board (HRRB) for historic properties located in unincorporated Hillsborough County.

Residential and non-residential properties may apply for this program. Improvements must be consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and meet criteria set by the Department of State (Chapter 1A- 38, Florida Administrative Code). A determination that the project is in conformance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* must be made by the local reviewing entity. It is recommended (and required for properties in the City of Plant City) that Parts I (Evaluation of Property Eligibility) and II (Description of Improvements) of the application, with required documentation, be completed and submitted for review before the project is begun. Failure to obtain project approval prior to the initiation of construction leaves the owner at risk of failing to comply with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*.

Part III (Request for Review of Completed Work) is to be submitted upon completion of the improvements. Prior to the review process, the property owner must complete a protective covenant stating that the character of the property and the qualifying improvements to the property will be maintained during the exemption period.

The local reviewing entity then makes its recommendation to the appropriate local governing body(ies), which may approve the exemption by ordinance. The local governing bodies are the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, the Tampa City Council, and the City Commission of the City of Plant City.

The exemption is for 100% of the increase in the assessed value of the improvements to the historic structure that results from rehabilitation. The exemption takes effect on January 1 of the year following the substantial completion of the improvements and is applicable for a 10-year period. It applies only to improvements to real property. When the property is sold, the exemption passes to the new owner.



Historic post card of Palmetto Beach courtesy the Florida Memory Project



"When you strip away the rhetoric, preservation is simply having the good sense to hold on to things that are well designed, that link us with our past in a meaningful way, and that have plenty of good use left in them." - Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

Hillsborough County's Historic Preservation Matching Grant Program is designed to financially assist owners of not-for-profit designated local Landmarks (including private homes) in unincorporated Hillsborough County in performing exterior preservation and restoration activities. This matching grant is intended to encourage property owners of resources listed in the County's Historic Resources Inventory to seek Landmark designation for their property, and to promote the preservation and restoration of Landmarks.

Eligible property owners may submit one grant application per year for each property, requesting a minimum amount of \$1,500 and a maximum amount of \$25,000 per application. The grant awarded cannot exceed one-half of the project's overall costs, and property owners are required to match 100% of the grant awarded in cash or like-kind services (material and/or professionally rendered labor). Grant recipients are required to complete the project within one year of the award agreement date.

Projects qualified for the matching grant include but are not limited to: foundation walls, exterior siding, windows and exterior doors, roof repair or replacement, structural work, removal/disposal of exterior lead paint, and preventative maintenance, including termite damage. Architectural and engineering services for qualified projects may be included as a reasonable part of the overall approved project. Qualified projects must comply with the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*. Contact the County's Historic Preservation Planner in at (813) 272-5920 for more information regarding qualified projects and for an application packet.

Applications received before July 31 and reviewed by the Historic Resources Review Board (HRRB) prior to September 30 may be considered for the following fiscal year, which begins October 1. Applications may be received for consideration during the current fiscal year; however, applicants should be aware that the obligations of the County are subject to the availability of funds appropriated annually for this grant program. The current budget includes \$50,000 for this fiscal year.

Applications should be submitted to the Hillsborough County Historic Preservation Planner for an initial determination of eligibility. Eligible applications are forwarded to the HRRB for review and evaluation. The HRRB recommends successful applications to the Board of County Commissioners for award approval.

Upon completion of the project, an inspection is made based on scope of work outlined in the grant award agreement to ensure compliance with the *Secretary of Interior's Standards*. The Planning & Growth Management Department will authorize one payment disbursing the grant award to the applicant upon project completion. Documentation of project expenses (including the owner's matching portion) will be required prior to grant disbursement.



CITY OF TAMPA INTERSTATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS

The Interstate Historic Preservation Trust Fund Loan and Grant Programs were established from the proceeds generated from the sale of historic buildings impacted by Interstate-4 and Interstate-275 expansions. The purpose of the Trust Fund Loan Program is to enable the owners of historic properties to preserve the character and structure of those historic properties by providing exterior preservation funds for eligible owners and projects. Funds are provided through loans with reasonable terms to all owners. The Trust Fund Loan Program is available for owner-occupied or income-producing historic properties that are located in the Ybor City, Tampa Heights and West Tampa National Register Historic Districts.

The purpose of the Trust Fund Grant Program is to enable the owners of historic properties to preserve the character and structure of those historic properties by providing exterior preservation funds for eligible owners and projects. Funding is offered to eligible property owners in the National Register Historic Districts of Ybor City, Tampa Heights and West Tampa, constructed more than seventy-five (75) years prior to the date of the application and must be the legal homestead of the applicant. Furthermore, applicants must qualify as a Moderate Income household, as determined by the State of Florida's *State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program*, which are households that do not exceed 120% of the Median Family Income for the area. In addition to the Moderate Income household limits, the applicant and their household must also exhibit that a financial need exists by demonstrating that the amount of ready assets possessed by the household is limited to \$40,000.00.

For more information about the programs, contact Dennis Fernandez, City of Tampa Architectural Review & Historic Preservation at (813) 274-8920.

TEMPLE TERRACE BAT TOWER RECONSTRUCTION

Article and photograph provided by Grant Rimby

The Friends of the Temple Terrace Parks and Recreation and the Temple Terrace Preservation Society have partnered on fundraising to rebuild the greatest of Temple Terrace icons: “The Bat Tower”!

The original tower, built on the banks of the Hillsborough River by the original Temple Terrace developers in 1924, was based on plans from Dr. Charles Campbell, an early pioneer of bat studies and Nobel Peace Prize nominee. The tower was intended to be a roost for bats that would eat the mosquitoes that caused malaria. Today, there are three Campbell bat towers still standing (out of an original fourteen world-wide): one in the Florida Keys and two in Texas. The Temple Terrace tower measured 10’ sq. wide at the base and was 40’ tall from ground level to the top of the roof ridge. It was burned in 1979 by arsonists.

The plan is to rebuild a tower based on precise measurements taken from the remains of the tower along with the existing historic Campbell bat tower on Sugarloaf Key, Florida. The interior of the tower will be completely re-configured with assistance of George and Cynthia Marks of The Florida Bat Conservancy so it will be a functional roost (it’s unclear whether bats ever lived in the old tower). A functional roost will allow the City to reduce its use of harmful pesticides, and provide habitat for local native bats. The proposed site for the new tower is based on research by the Mark’s and Temple Terrace Parks Planner Dana Carver and will be in the new 150 acre Riverfront Park. The new tower will be a focal point for the park and will complement a nearby bat tower viewing pavilion designed and constructed by USF architecture students in 2008.

Temple Terrace is currently accepting donations for this worthy project along with pursuing grants and seeking corporate sponsors for equipment, materials and/or labor. Corporate sponsors can receive name recognition at the future tower site depending on the sponsorship level. To make a tax deductible donation send your check made out to The City of Temple Terrace, referenced for the bat tower project, and addressed to Al Latina, Friends of the Temple Terrace Parks and Recreation, 7002 Doreen Street, Tampa, Florida 33617. The donations will be placed in a city account created for the project. If you would like to volunteer to help with this project please contact Al Latina, 988-6794, or alatin1@tampabay.rr.com.



Dr. Charles Campbell’s 1924 Hygiostatic Bat Roost (aka “The Bat Tower”) in Temple Terrace c. 1969

RECENT BLOG POSTS

Tampa Preservation uses blog postings to announce upcoming events and to provide information about Tampa area preservation-related topics. We send our posts to several local Tampa blog feeds as well as announcing on Twitter. If you have an upcoming event or news-worthy item, please forward to tpitampa@aol.com and we will gladly post it. Recent post titles include:

- “This Old Wasteful House”
- Gut Fish, Not Houses: Why and How to Save Your Wood Windows
- Old Seminole Heights Presents 11th Annual Home Tour
- Hyde Park Home Tour
- Historic Harlem Academy Marker Dedication
- New Tampa History Book
- Tampa Preservation is on Facebook
- Nike Hercules Missile Base in Everglades National Park
- What it Means to be “Green” by Bob Yapp

To read these postings, and many more, go to tampapreservation.blogspot.com. We always welcome your comments!

PRESERVATION OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES IN THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Excerpted by permission from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

On Tuesday, February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law, stating that he hopes the stimulus will "ignite our imagination once more, spurring new discoveries and breakthroughs that will make our economy stronger, our nation more secure, and our planet safer for our children." Below you will find an analysis prepared by the National Trust for Historic Preservation of what the 1,071-page piece of legislation means to preservationists.

Investment in America's Public Infrastructure & Historic/Older Buildings

State Stabilization Funding & School Modernization: The stimulus provides \$54 billion for state stabilization, which is divided into three subsections. A \$28 billion category will provide funds that can be used for the modernization, renovation and repair of school districts. Another \$19 billion category is allocated for governors, who will be able to use the funds for school modernization at K-12 and higher education places of learning. The state stabilization fund also includes \$7 billion in grants aimed at helping school districts avoid budget cuts.

National Recovery Zone Bonds: The stimulus provides financial assistance to create two new types of bonds: Recovery Zone Infrastructure Bonds and Recovery Zone Facility Bonds. \$15 billion is allocated for Recovery Zone Infrastructure Bonds, which will be used to finance public infrastructure improvements, job training and education within national recovery zones. \$10 billion is allocated for Recovery Zone Facility Bonds, which will be capital investments targeted towards businesses in national recovery zones.

Sustainability

Greening of Federal Buildings: The stimulus provides \$6 billion for the renovation and repair of federal buildings, of which \$4 billion will go towards converting the General Services Administration's facilities into high performance green buildings.

Energy Efficiency for Housing Programs: The stimulus provides \$250 million in grants and loans for energy retrofits and green investments in assisted housing programs.

Main Street Reinvestment Grants for Strengthening Communities

Neighborhood Stabilization: The stimulus provides \$2 billion to help communities purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed and/or vacant properties in order to create more affordable housing and reduce neighborhood blight.

Investing in Low-Income Housing: The stimulus provides \$2.25 billion to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's partnerships program for capital investments in low-income housing. However, the stimulus reduces the state ceiling for affordable housing tax credits by any amount received in low-income housing grants as a part of Section 1602 of the bill. According to the conference agreement, "a state receiving a grant under this provision is to use these monies to make sub-awards to finance the construction, or acquisition and rehabilitation, of qualified low-income buildings as defined under the low-income housing credit."

Economic Development: The stimulus provides \$1 billion for community development block grants to assist economic development in Main Street communities.

Tax Credits Improvements for Jobs, Housing, Energy Efficiency & Investment

Non-Business Energy Tax Credit: To promote green jobs and energy independence, the stimulus contains a modified version of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's non-business energy tax credit proposal for energy-efficiency in existing homes. The final bill increases the value of the non-business tax credit for homes to 30% for 2009 and 2010. It also modifies the efficiency standards for qualifying properties and sets the per-dwelling maximum at \$1500 per taxpayer. There is also \$5 billion for weatherization assistance for low income households. The National Trust's expanded proposal for the federal rehabilitation tax credit was not included in the final bill but can be viewed online.

New Markets Tax Credits: The stimulus provides a \$1.5 billion annual increase in the new markets tax credit allocation to \$5 billion for 2008 and 2009.

Public Land Investments for Jobs, Energy Delivery & Revitalization

The stimulus provides \$125 million to the Bureau of Land Management for the maintenance, rehabilitation and restoration of "facilities, properties, trails and lands and for abandoned mines and wells," as well as \$180 million for construction and "energy-efficient retrofits of existing facilities." Operation of the National Park Service is funded at \$146 million, with \$15 million allotted for historically black colleges and universities from the Historic Preservation Fund. \$589 million is provided for construction within the National Park Service, which includes "repair and restoration of historical structures within the National Park System." In addition, \$170 million is provided for repairs and upgrades to roads in national parks through the Federal Highway Administration segment of the bill.

For more information and to see the **National Trust's Stimulus Tracker** go to:

<http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/advocacy-center/platform/stimulus-tracker.html>

ST. PETERSBURG PRESERVATION WALKING TOURS



St. Petersburg Preservation, Inc. (SPPI) offers guided walking tours that take

guests on a detailed tour of downtown St. Petersburg and beyond. Participants see the jewels of St. Petersburg's past while learning about the founding of the city and its historic architecture from tour leaders Kai Warren and Peter Belmont.

SPPI offers three tours: the Downtown Historic Walking Tour, Westward Ho from the Waterfront, and the newest tour addition, North by Old Northeast. This brand new tour takes in the downtown waterfront, a portion of the Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood, including an insider's stop in a restored home, and ends at the Vinoy Hotel.

Cost to participate is just \$5 for the Downtown Walking Tour and \$10 for the Westward Ho Walking Tour, which you can apply toward a SPPI membership if you join that day. Reservations are requested but not required.

For more information on the tours go to www.stpetepreservation.org or call (727) 824-7802.

NOTIFY TPI OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Is your historic neighborhood planning a home tour or other public event? TPI will gladly publicize your event in *Cornerstone*, on our blog and on our website calendar. See www.tampapreservation.com for details or send your event notifications to tpitampa@aol.com.

Check the calendar regularly for updates of seminars, workshops, home tours and other events related to historic preservation and Tampa Bay area history.



SEMINOLE HEIGHTS NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN

Local resident Robin Milkowitz is organizing a neighborhood initiative to create a Community Garden in Seminole Heights. The first of many planned gardens is located on a double lot off Violet Street near the river, where dedicated volunteers are able to grow vegetables, have picnics, teach kids about gardening and create a stronger community. There is also a Seminole Heights community garden social networking website where members can swap ideas, plan events and get to know their neighbors. With more than 100 members already, this initiative further demonstrates how suited our historic districts are for true interactive neighborhood living. To learn more, get involved or make a tool, plant or monetary donation, go to seminoleheightscg.ning.com.

"IT'S NOT GOOD BECAUSE IT'S OLD; IT'S OLD BECAUSE IT'S GOOD."

EVENTS OF NOTE

May 13-16

Florida Trust for Historic Preservation 31st Annual Statewide Conference, Palm Beach County, FL

The Conference includes a multitude of preservation-related tours, workshops, awards and special events, including a reception hosted by Donald Trust at Mar-a-Lago, Marjorie Meriweather Post's elaborate Mediterranean Revival estate on Palm Beach. For registration information, go to www.floridatrust.com or call (850) 224-8128.

June 10-13

Florida Planning & Zoning Association Annual State Conference, Tampa, FL

The Florida Planning and Zoning Association (FPZA) is a statewide nonprofit organization comprised of people dedicated to planning and developing a quality Florida. The event features Tampa area historic tours, workshops and presentations. Contact and registration information can be found at www.fpza.org.

Ongoing

Play In the Park: Ybor City Museum State Park

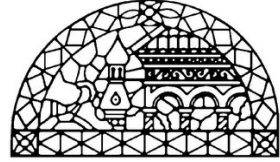
The Ybor City Museum State Park ornamental garden will be transformed into a "game zone" featuring games that were played in the playgrounds, parks, porches, and family rooms, of our past. For those who like a challenge, chess and dominoes will be offered at tables along with marbles and pick-up-sticks. Contact the park at 813-247-6323 for event dates.

TPI MEMBERSHIP

For the past thirty-five years, Tampa Preservation, Inc. has worked to protect the quality of life in our communities, to encourage revitalization in the Tampa Bay area and to broaden understanding of historic preservation as a positive force for responsible economic growth. Your membership and support of this valuable organization enables us to continue successful programs while reaching out to grow in the future years.

TPI needs your support to:

- **Advocate local preservation efforts within the community where you reside.**
- **Encourage elected officials and local residents to support preservation.**
- **Provide financial support, which allows us to continue fulfilling our mission.**



We encourage and welcome support from corporations, organizations and individuals that care about preserving our heritage. If you are already a member, please pass this form along to someone interested in preserving Tampa's unique architectural and cultural heritage.

Please complete this form and return it with your tax-deductible check (made payable to Tampa Preservation, Inc.) to:
 Membership, Tampa Preservation Inc., P.O. Box 18061,
 Tampa, FL 33679-8061

NAME _____
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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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_____ \$35.00	Family	_____ \$100.00	Contributing	_____ \$1,000.00	Sustaining
_____ \$50.00	Non-Profit	_____ \$250.00	Supporting		