

DOWNTOWN TAMPA: ITS CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE



**THE TAMPA CONNECTION,
IN CONJUNCTION WITH:
TAMPA DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP
AND
CITY OF TAMPA DEPARTMENT OF
ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Project Objectives

- To serve as an economic development tool by promoting taxable spending in downtown Tampa.
- To inform Tampa residents of the cultural and historical reasons to stay or travel downtown.
- To offer visitors who are staying downtown for conventions, meetings, etc. a guide of the cultural and historical offerings in downtown Tampa.

Project Description

Create a comprehensive marketing device that highlights places and items of interest in the downtown core, combining historic and cultural offerings in the downtown area into one easily-accessible document that would be of interest to both residents and visitors alike. There is no one such publication or reference at present, perhaps because the only other entities who sought to attempt such a project were for-profit entities whose interests were not strictly to benefit downtown Tampa as a whole; but rather, to generate advertising revenue or draw customers to particular places. Hence, some type of “take-away” brochure, booklet or other, similar product that illustrates the cultural and historic points of interest such as the Tampa Theatre, the Public Art displays, the Plant Museum, etc. without being otherwise biased does not exist.

Current Project Status

The volunteers with Tampa Connection who accepted this project engaged in various forms of research and provided the Tampa Downtown Partnership and City of Tampa Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs with a list setting forth items of historical or cultural significance in downtown Tampa including names, descriptions (including the cultural or historical significance of each site), admission fees or restrictions and contact information. Interesting facts, intended to be used to garner interest in downtown Tampa, were also provided. The Tampa Downtown Partnership and City of Tampa Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs intend to create a map or similar “take-away” item to display in newspapers, hotel stands, mailings, etc.

Mission Statement

- The Tampa Connection prepares its members to become active volunteers and leaders in the Tampa Bay community by developing programs that address a wide range of important economic issues facing the area and providing its members with opportunities to get involved.
- The City of Tampa Arts and Cultural Affairs Department assists cultural institutions to achieve their mission statement. They are similarly a liaison department to all arts and cultural facilities and activities in the City of Tampa.
- Tampa Downtown Partnership is a non-profit organization focusing on the revitalization of Tampa’s center city area. They provide numerous services to the downtown for both visitors and workers alike.

AREAS OF INTEREST

African Art Gallery and
Museum

4400 square feet of both modern and ancient African Art. Heirloom quality furniture and a large collection of original art paintings and carvings.

America, America

Artist, Barbara Neijna This modernist, red, steel artwork, nestled inside the curve of an outdoor staircase (the entrance to the walkway connecting the John F. Germany Central Library to the Tampa Performing Arts Center) is composed of a series of planes. Two vertical forms, each composed of a rectangle and an acute triangle, stand 12 1/2" apart, suggesting a ritual entryway.

Atlantic Coastline Railroad
Freighthouse

According to an 1916 Atlas, the current art museum sits on top of the old Atlantic Coastline Railroad freighthouse and rail yard and the Curtis Hixon Convention Center.

Babe Ruth's 587 Foot Homerun

The site for Babe Ruth's 587 foot homerun -- the longest homerun during an exhibition game -- while playing for the Boston Red Sox in an exhibition game against the New York Giants, on April 4, 1919, was hit at Tampa's Plant Field which is located on the grounds of the current McKay Auditorium on North "B" Street on the University of Tampa campus. It was witnessed by 4,300 people.

Bank of Tampa - 1883

The First National Bank of Florida originally known as the Bank of Tampa, officially opened in 1883. It rented quarters at Franklin and Washington Streets. Chicken wire covered the windows and the structure was made out of unevenly sawed planking. This was the first bank in Tampa. A team of horses and a wagon were used to haul a 7,000 pound steel safe to the premises. The first day's deposits were \$5,636. They later built the first brick building in Tampa in 1886 which was built at the corner of Franklin and Washington Street. On May 6, 1886, it received the first national charter and became the First National Bank of Tampa. The oldest national bank in the state later became Barnett Bank. It is now part of Bank of America.

Barber Shop and Grocery Store - 1884	Old Sanborn Insurance Company fire maps show that in 1884 on Franklin Street between Jackson and Lafayette Street (now Kennedy Boulevard) was a barber shop adjacent to a grocery store.
Billiards Hall	On Jackson Street between Franklin Street and Monroe (now Florida Avenue) was a billiards hall.
Billy Graham - 1939	Billy Graham started his Christian evangelistic crusade in 1939 on Franklin Street in Tampa, Florida. He was a graduate of the Florida Bible Institute in Temple Terrace.
Bowling Alley - 1889	In 1889, maps show that on the corner of Whiting and Marion Streets, approximately two blocks south of Jackson Street, was a bowling alley.
Burgert Brothers Photographic Collection	The Burgert Brothers Photographic Archives presents a unique pictorial record of the commercial, residential and social growth of Tampa Bay and Florida's West coast from the late 1800s to the early 1960s. Nearly 15,000 images in this collection chronicle the history of the Tampa Bay area as it faced wars, natural disasters, economic booms and busts. The images offer a view of a community at work, from cigar factories, sponge docks and strawberry fields, to grocery stores, service stations and bank lobbies. Many of the photographs also depict a community at leisure, enjoying a day at the beach, participating in local celebrations, attending the Florida State Fair or playing favorite games such as golf, tennis, shuffleboard or checkers.
Centro Asturiano	Centro Asturiano is a yellow brick and stone building described as being in the Renaissance Mediterranean style. The edifice sits on a tall base on which rest Doric columns with two wide sweeping stairs leading to the main floor. The building was designed by the prominent architectural firm of Bonfoey and (M.Leo) Elliot. Newspaper accounts of the time described the building as "the handsomest club building in the state of Florida".

City Hall	Tampa City Hall is a Local Landmark Structure. Each local landmark has a designation report which provides historical information on the landmark.
Courthouses - 1848, 1855, 1891	There were many courthouses in Downtown Tampa, and most of them were located where Tampa Police headquarters is now located.
Cultural Arts District	The new Arts Center will be the crowning touch to the 28 block culture zone -- the final phase of a five-year, mixed-use redevelopment of downtown that has brought in \$6 billion in new construction. This will be the new \$47 million home for the city's 23-year-old Tampa Museum of Art, a 125,000 square foot design by Rafael Viñoly, who recently completed the Tokyo International Forum and Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. Construction on the building, the design of which was unveiled in June 2000, is just beginning. The Tampa Bay History Center will be located right next to Tampa Museum of Art.
Curtis Hixon Park	Curtis Hixon Park opened in 1995 as downtown's largest and most visible park, with about seven acres of riverfront greenspace at the edge of Tampa's high-rise core. A walk in the park is a stroll through the area's history - carved into the leaf-shaped sidewalks are three artists renderings of the Tampa skyline as it looked in the late 1800s, the 1920s and today.
Downtown Partnership School	In Fall 1998, the Tampa Downtown Partnership and the Hillsborough County School District established a kindergarten through third grade elementary school within walking distance to downtown businesses and specifically designated for the children of parents working downtown. Its campus is in the previously unused educational wing of the First Presbyterian Church.

Downtown Tampa Historical Trail

Sights along the way include the Fort Brooke Parking Garage - Fort Brooke was established by Colonel George M. Brooke in 1824 on a site suggested by Major General Andrew Jackson in 1818. It served as the headquarters of the army during the wars with the Seminoles in 1835-42 and 1855-58. During the Civil War, Union gunboats were repulsed on three occasions by cannons mounted here. The fort was eventually captured in May of 1864.

David Falk Memorial Theatre

The 1928 theater, directly across Kennedy Boulevard from the University of Tampa, is named for the only son of a Polish immigrant father. David A. Falk was born in Tampa in 1896. He graduated from Hillsborough High School, attended Washington and Lee University, and served in World War I. When he returned to Tampa, he joined his father in the family business, O. Falk's Department Store, which was downtown on Franklin Street. But it was service on UT's board of trustees from 1948 until his death in 1960 that earned him the commemoration of the David Falk Memorial Theater. This 1,000 seat fully equipped proscenium-style theatre is home to the University of Tampa - Department of Speech, Theatre, and Dance.

First Black Public Library

There is currently a wall next to the Tampa Blue Print Company at 1319 North Florida Avenue that marks where this was.

First Methodist Church - 1846

This church began on July 26, 1846. WOW: Stonewall Jackson, just a soldier at the time and stationed at Fort Meade, reportedly donated \$5 towards its initial construction on Kennedy Boulevard & Morgan Street.

First Paved Sidewalk - 1888

Tampa's first paved sidewalk was built by Archibald Ross, a native of Scotland. He paved the walk around his building at the southeast corner of Franklin and Lafayette Streets with Georgia marble. This sidewalk has now been preserved and is located at City Hall Plaza on the south side of Kennedy Boulevard and Franklin Street.

First professional paid Fire
Department - 1895

On May 10, 1895, City Council passed Ordinance No. 307 which authorized Tampa's first professional, paid, fire department. A.J. Harris, an experienced firefighter from Savannah, moved to Tampa and was named Chief to preside over 22 firefighters in five stations at an annual budget of \$18,000. The headquarters were located on Florida Avenue between Jackson and Lafayette Streets. The Chief's salary was \$1,350. His staff officers were paid \$900 annually and the firefighters and police patrolmen were paid \$600 per year. Paramedic manned station wagons opened for the first time in Tampa in July 1973. The current headquarters are located at Station One at 808 Zack Street in downtown Tampa.

First United Methodist Church -
1846

First United Methodist Church organized on July 26, 1846 with seventeen founding members. The congregation worshiped in a primitive structure built on driftwood. It was called the "Church By The Sea." It was destroyed in the great storm of 1848. A new building was completed in 1853. They named it the "Little White Church." Later, it and all records were destroyed by a fire. Then the congregation built a distinguished sanctuary which served the community for seventy years. It has been replaced by the current neo-gothic structure.

Fort Brooke

Fort Brooke officer's quarters were located near today's northeast corner of Franklin and Brorein Streets. Major General Andrew Jackson, the first provisional Governor of Florida and the seventh President of the United States, recommended this site for military use in 1818 during the first Seminole Indian War. Brigadier General Zachary Taylor, the twelfth President of the United States, commanded Fort Brooke from 1838 to 1840 during the second Seminole Indian War.

Fort Brooke Cemetery

At the Tampa City Center Esplanade at Franklin Street between Jackson and Whiting Streets was located the Fort Brooke Cemetery. It was used by the Army to bury civilians, soldiers and Indians from 1835 to 1942. In 1980, this burial site was discovered by accident during the construction of the city parking complex. 102 soldiers and civilians were re-buried at the Oaklawn Cemetery. 42 Indians were put to rest with essence of burning herbs at the Seminole Indian Shrine at Orient Road.

Fort Brooke Park (also known as Cotanchobee Park)

Downtown's newest park has begun to be built and will be located next to the new Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel. The park is being constructed on the historical site of Fort Brooke, the military fort erected to defend the area from Native American attacks. The local Seminole Indian tribe has contributed \$250,000 toward the construction of a monument to honor those tribe members who lost their lives during the Seminole Indian War.

Four Green Fields

America's only authentic thatched roof Irish pub offers a full kitchen, your favorite Irish drinks, and traditional Irish music.

Franklin Street

Franklin Street is named after Benjamin Franklin.

Gateway to Tampa

Artists - Nancy & Jim O'neil It is the solid glass block (in the brochure). It is part of a larger installation that comprises the sidelights of the Residence Inn downtown. These sidelights are solid crystal glass blocks that are imbedded w/ painted glass images of things found in the cultural arts district (music, art, etc.).

Goody Goody

A classic since 1929, this diner has churned out top-notch burgers and shakes, giving folks a taste of the past. Long ago, Goody's was a drive-in. Manager Yvonne Freeman, a Goody veteran of 40 years, remembers the days she "worked the curb" from '47 to '48. Though customers no longer dine behind the wheel, nothing much has changed. There's still the diner-shiny interior, formica tables, aluminum chairs, a counter and freshly painted yellow and green walls. To put a name on the decor, call it American diner classic.

Hillsborough County Courthouse Art Display

Artist Richard Hass - Commissioned by the Paragon Group, this mural depicts a number of views of the Tampa area, as well as the former Hillsborough County Courthouse, which was located at the intersection of Kennedy Boulevard and Florida Avenue. In the lower left corner of the mural, officers and soldiers in the Tampa area in the 1890's are depicted.

Henry Bradley Plant Museum

The Henry Bradley Plant Museum is housed in the 1891 Tampa Bay Hotel and is now a National Historic Landmark. It is a unique museum featuring the original opulent furnishings of the magnificent Victorian railroad resort and depicting the lifestyle of the early Florida tourist. The museum displays a renovated turn-of-the-century Tampa Bay Hotel and the history of Florida, beginning in the Victorian age. . One may also participate in activities, educational exhibits and events about the late Victorian period, the beginnings of Florida's tourist industry, and the early years of the City of Tampa.

Hillsborough County
Courthouse

WOW: The first courthouse was a log cabin, reportedly burned at the outbreak of the Second Seminole War. The 2nd was also wooden, and built on Madison Street in 1855 for less than \$5,000.

Joe Chillura Courthouse Square
Park

Downtown Tampa's newest park, located directly across the street from both the county center and Hillsborough County Courthouse, Joe Chillura Courthouse Square is a 1.3 acre county park covering one city block and featuring tree-lined sidewalks, entry fountains and seating along a circular retaining wall. The park's signature feature is a silver-domed gazebo that creates a symbolic historical link to the ornate courthouse that served the county from 1892 to 1952. The park was made possible through the partnership of the City of Tampa, Hillsborough County and the 13th Judicial Circuit.

John F. Germany Public Library

The 140,000 square foot John F. Germany Public Library serves as the reference hub and resource center for all citizens of Hillsborough County and as the flagship library of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System.

John F. Kennedy - 1960

On the steps of the Hillsborough County Courthouse, John F. Kennedy announced the declaration of his Latin American policy on October 18, 1960 to over ten thousand Tampa residents. President Kennedy last visited Tampa four days before he was shot and killed in Dallas, Texas.

Lightning	Artist, Jonathon Borofsky Borofsky's artwork consists of a nine-foot high steel silhouette surrounded by three angled, yellow lightning bolts. This piece offers viewers a childlike view of lightning. The figure at the center of the sculpture is a human presence, which is not defined as either male or female. Viewers are meant to interact with the artwork, and can walk through the central space created by the bolts themselves.
Lykes Gaslight Square Park	Lykes Gaslight Square is a one-block retreat for downtown workers, and a testament to the strength of true public/private partnerships. The park was made possible by donations from a consortium of private and public organizations. The Tampa Downtown Partnership originally developed , leased and managed the park; it became so successful, however, that the City of Tampa has since purchased it.
Lyndon Baines Johnson - 1960	Lyndon Baines Johnson, the thirty-sixth President of the United States addressed the people of Tampa on the steps of the entrance to the Hillsborough County Courthouse at the Madison and Pierce Street entrance in downtown Tampa on October 12, 1960.
Oaklawn Cemetery	Oaklawn Cemetery was Tampa's first public burial ground. The Alachua County Commissioners deeded the location in the mid 1800s. It was named as the final resting-place for "White and Slave, Rich and Poor". The First Mayor of the City of Tampa Judge Joseph B. Lancaster rests here at Oaklawn.
Old Tampa Book Company Inc.	Antiquarian, out-of-print and used bookstore. Tampa's finest used bookstore is five blocks north of the Convention Center. More than 24,000 nearly new and older books on all subjects are available at bargain prices.

Orange Grove Hotel

The Orange Grove Hotel was located on Madison Street in Downtown Tampa. It was built in 1859 as a residence for Captain William Brinton Hooker, a Georgia native who moved to Florida in 1830 and signed Florida's first Constitution in 1839. In 1843, Hooker settled in Hillsborough County and became the Florida "cattle king" owning over 10,000 head of cattle. During the Civil War, the house was used as confederate officer headquarters. In 1866, it was converted to a hotel with thirty-three rooms. It was named because of the orange trees Hooker had planted on the property. This hotel was Tampa's social center and entertained figures such as Governor Henry Mitchell, Sidney Lanier, Thomas Edison, General William T. Sherman and Henry B. Plant. It boasted telephone service in 1882. The building was demolished in 1945.

Parking at the Courthouse

The concept of the mosaic centers on the history of the site, once the location of the historic and beautiful courthouse, designed by James A. Wood. The mural is comprised of four photographs from local archives that have been digitized into pixels of tiles of individual color. Adjacent to the mural are smaller photographic images that document some of the changes to the site from the 1920s to 2000.

Plant Park

Beautiful Plant Park separates Plant Hall and the Hillsborough River. At the park's entrance is a fountain dedicated to transportation-tycoon, Henry B. Plant, and his contributions to the city. A modern sculpture, entitled "Sticks of Fire" marks the center of the park. The base of the sculpture portrays a fountain that faces the entrance of the park.

Port Boat Tour

Enjoy the *SeaPort Adventure* and see how the Port of Tampa achieves the growth that makes it the greatest economic force in the Tampa Bay area and West Central Florida. The port generates \$10.6 billion a year in revenue and supports 93,000 jobs in the five county area. The Tampa Port Authority leads the way for the international business community of Tampa Bay.

Port of Tampa (Port Authority Headquarters)

The Port of Tampa bustles with maritime activity. Cruise ships, freighters, and sailboats all call this harbor home. Watch the ships at work from a window seat at Channelside, or join them on a complementary catamaran cruise from the Port Authority. Enjoy one of the best assets of the Port of Tampa, the Channelside waterfront.

Post Office - 1831

The 1st post office was established on November 24, 1831.

Riverwalk Project

This project involves the construction of a downtown riverwalk segment from Curtis Hixon Park to Washington Street, eventually connecting to the Convention Center and Garrison Seaport Center.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church - 1898

Groundbreaking on construction took place on February 16, 1898 and the cornerstone was laid on February 4, 1900. The official dedication was held on January 15, 1905. The white marble altar, altar railing, oak pews and entry doors, as well as the distinctive petal-shaped porcelain tile flooring, are all original materials. The stained glass windows of Sacred Heart Church were specifically designed for the church and manufactured by the Mayer Company in Munich, Germany.

Southern Transportation Plaza

Located at the intersection of Ice Palace Drive and Franklin Street, the Hartline's Southern Transportation Plaza serves as the southern terminus for the Teco Line Streetcar. The plaza is an intermodal facility, which will serve as a cabstand and connector to Hartline buses.

Spanish American War - Point of Encampment - 1898

In 1898, Tampa served as the encampment for American troops preparing to leave for Cuba during the Spanish American War.

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal

WOW - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached here, and strategy meetings for the protests of segregated restaurants were held here.

St. Pete Times Forum

Formerly known as The Ice Palace, The St. Pete Times Forum encompasses 660,000 square feet with three decks and seven separate levels. The building is 133 feet 10 inches in height and 493 feet in diameter. It contains 3,400 tons of steel, 30,000 cubic yards of concrete and 70,000 square feet of glass. The innovative design of the St. Pete Times Forum provides for 19,758 seats for NHL games, 20,500 seats for Basketball games and up to 21,500 seats for concerts and center stage events. There is approximately 70,000 square feet of glass in the St. Pete Times Forum. It currently serves as the home to the Tampa Bay Lightning of the NHL and the Tampa Bay Storm of the Arena Football League.

Stats

In 1890, Tampa's population was 5,532 people. In 1915, there were 55,000 people living in the City, 18,000 in the suburbs. In 1890, the bank deposits of all banks in Tampa was \$400,000. By 1915, the aggregate deposits were exceeding \$10,000,000. Tampa was very important as a port city because it was the nearest available port of any importance in the United States to the Panama Canal.

Tampa Bay History Center

Tampa Bay History Center serves and educates the community through the discovery, preservation and interpretation of the rich cultural heritage of the people of "historic" Hillsborough County and the Tampa Bay region and their relation to the United States and the world. Exhibits about Tampa's present & history, with permanent and traveling exhibits.

Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center

The \$57 million (in 1987 dollars), 300,000 square foot, state-of-the-art complex is the largest performing arts center in the Southeastern United States. The Arts Center has fee-based classes in subjects such as ballet and orchestra. Free classes and opportunities include lectures, demonstrations, discussions and artist "talk-backs".

Tampa Convention Center

The Tampa Convention Center is located directly on the waterfront in the heart of downtown, and includes 600,000 feet of meeting space and 2,000 feet of waterfront views. Several small cafés as well as full catering services are available and the convention center is conveniently within walking distance to downtown hotels, restaurants and clubs.

Tampa Firefighters Museum	Permanent and traveling exhibits of Tampa's firefighter history.
Tampa Ice Company	Around the side of the current Radisson Hotel on the Hillsborough River was the Tampa Ice Company which had a 25 ton ice machine that ran night and day.
Tampa Museum of Art	The Tampa Museum's primary purpose is to collect, preserve, display, and interpret works of art reflecting art forms of regional, national and international importance for the public on a regularly scheduled basis. Tampa Museum of Art provides a broad range of art-related experiences for visitors of all ages. The Museum collection includes twentieth-century and contemporary art in addition to a renowned collection of Greek and Roman antiquities.
Tampa Police Department	Tampa's first police force was created in 1886, a year before the city of Tampa was incorporated. Tampa's first police force was quite small, consisting of a Chief, Assistant Chief, Sergeant and three officers. Now the police department employs over 1000 officers and over 300 civilian staff.
Tampa Police Museum & Police Memorial	Since 1895 there have been 25 Tampa Police Officers who have been killed in the line of duty. These honorable names shall never be forgotten as they are wcthed in marble in front of the Tampa Police Museum and Police Department. They are our history. They have made the ultimate sacrifice for the citizens of Tampa.
Tampa Port Authority	The Port of Tampa is Florida's largest seaport, handling nearly half of all seaborne commerce that passes through the state. It is the twelfth largest cargo port in the nation and serves as the home port for several passenger cruise ships. Plans for the port area include the addition of three new cruise terminals, expansion of the Florida Aquarium and a hotel with meeting space.

Tampa Theatre

The Tampa Theatre was the first building in the City of Tampa to have air conditioning when it opened in 1926 (WOW). The building is on the National Registry of Historic Places and is vital part of Tampa's cultural scene. Classic films, foreign films, comedies, dramas, and musicals are aired at the Theatre. Annually, the Theatre hosts approximately 500 film screenings, 12 concert events and 65 performances for Hillsborough County school children. There are 1,446 seats in the Theatre and it is available for weddings, corporate events, and other occasions. One recent patron touted the Theatre as a "catapult for the imagination."

Tampa to Jacksonville
Endurance Run

The site of the current Tampa City Center Esplanade at Franklin and Washington Streets marked the starting point for the Tampa to Jacksonville endurance run in 1909. The race, which included about eighteen vehicles, ran round trip over the course of four days from Tampa to Jacksonville and back. Although the race was marred by accidents and numerous breakdowns, it sparked the construction of highways in the state.

The Florida Aquarium

Opened in March 1995, the aquarium tells Florida's unique water story as it follows a drop of water from the underground source to the open sea. General admission is \$15 and camp programs are available during summer and school holidays.

The Hub Bar

Originally a combination package store and cocktail lounge, the Hub catered to society's high end, including judges, attorneys and even Mafia bosses. The bar has one of the best jukeboxes in town and has won awards as the best dive bar in Tampa.

The Old Schoolhouse

Built circa 1858 by General Jesse Carter for his young daughter, Josephine Carter. After Henry Plant bought the property for the Tampa Bay Hotel, the schoolhouse was used as the hotel drugstore. This one-room building is the city's oldest surviving structure.

The S/S American Victory
Mariners Memorial and Museum
Ship

The S/S American Victory was built in California in 1945 and served as a merchant marine vessel during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam conflicts.

The Silver Ring Café

The Silver Ring Cafe started as an Ybor City longshoreman's bar in 1929. In 1947, after the owner smelled his staff's preparation of Cuban sandwiches for their lunch, Cuban sandwiches became a featured menu item. In 1997, the Silver Ring Cafe moved to its current downtown Tampa location, taking the original bar and sign, which decorate its interior. The cafe has won the "Best of the Bay" Cuban sandwich award about 25 times in the last 50 years.

Time Capsule

In 1979, Xi Eta Lambda Chapter of Beta Sigma Pi placed a time capsule located on City Hall Plaza at Kennedy Boulevard and Franklin Street. The time capsule is to be opened in 2079.

Tocobaga Indian Mound

The parking lot on the southwest side of Franklin and Brorein Streets is located at the site of the former Tocobaga Indian Mound (this was once the shore of the bay). It was fifty feet high with a large level space in the top where the residences of Indian chiefs stood. Fort Brooke soldiers in the 1840s used a tree growing at the crest of the mound as a lookout post. In 1882, the mound was razed to fill the Jackson Street ditch which extended from Marion Street to the Hillsborough River. The mound was thousands of year old at the time it was destroyed.

Union Station

Renovated in 1998, Union Station currently offers daily departures.

University of Tampa

A private university, University of Tampa has over 4,200 students and offers more than 60 areas of undergraduate study. The university, formerly Tampa Junior College, moved to its present location on August 2, 1933. Formerly the Tampa Bay Hotel, Plant Hall now serves as the main academic and administrative building for the University.

University of South Florida
Downtown Center

The Downtown Center features 17,000 square feet of classroom and office space, including a 20-seat computer room and a videoconference room. The classrooms are equipped for computer and video presentations, and may be rented for meetings, seminars and training sessions. The facility offers professional, graduate degree programs and noncredit training.

Visual Welcome

Artist, Yaacov Agam This artwork, made from the type of aluminum used in aircraft production, consists of 9 panels, set 30" apart. These panels are painted on both sides with Agam's characteristic kinetic patterns, which change and move as the viewer passes along the length of the sculpture.

WDAE

WDAE - corner of Franklin Street at Zack Street. Florida's first radio station. It was the first station in Florida to be licensed commercially to operate by the FCC. The license was issued May 15, 1922 to the Tampa Daily Times.

Winter Solstice

Artist, Charles Perry This polished stainless steel sculpture (described by the artist as a "two-thirds twist triangular torus mobius") was brought to the site in 600 pieces, which were assembled at a remote location, and moved to the current pool site. The sculpture appears to rest on the reflecting pool's surface. Perry's ribbed sculptures suggest precise spatial mathematics and share qualities with gothic vaulting and modern turbines.

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