

# *If Our Hotel Could Talk*







TAMPA PRESERVATION, INC.

Tampa Preservation, Incorporated (T.P.I.) is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of historic structures and the education of the citizens of Tampa about their unique heritage.

This is a part of the "Saving Yesterday For Tomorrow" program.

This multi-media heritage education curriculum, developed for Hillsborough County Schools has been designed to promote children's understanding and appreciation of the rich architectural and historical heritage of Tampa and to encourage their sense of responsibility toward its preservation in the future.

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The Henry B. Plant Museum interprets the lifestyle of the early Florida tourist at the Tampa Bay Hotel and celebrates how the vision of one man, Henry Bradley Plant, changed Florida forever.

Henry B. Plant Museum

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[www.plantmuseum.com](http://www.plantmuseum.com)

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Henry B. Plant Museum

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# *If Our Hotel Could Talk.*

*Second in the "Saving Yesterday For Tomorrow" Series*

*By Robin Robson Gonzalez  
Tampa Preservation, Inc.*

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This book is dedicated to Henry B. Plant, whose hard work and dreams left Tampa with a real treasure.







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# Welcome!


The Henry B. Plant Museum and The University of Tampa say "Welcome." *If Our Hotel Could Talk* has been written for *you*. We want you to know about our building. More importantly, we want you to know what this building has meant to our community<sup>V</sup> for over one hundred years. These walls and grounds<sup>V</sup> have a lot to tell. We hope you enjoy reading the story.

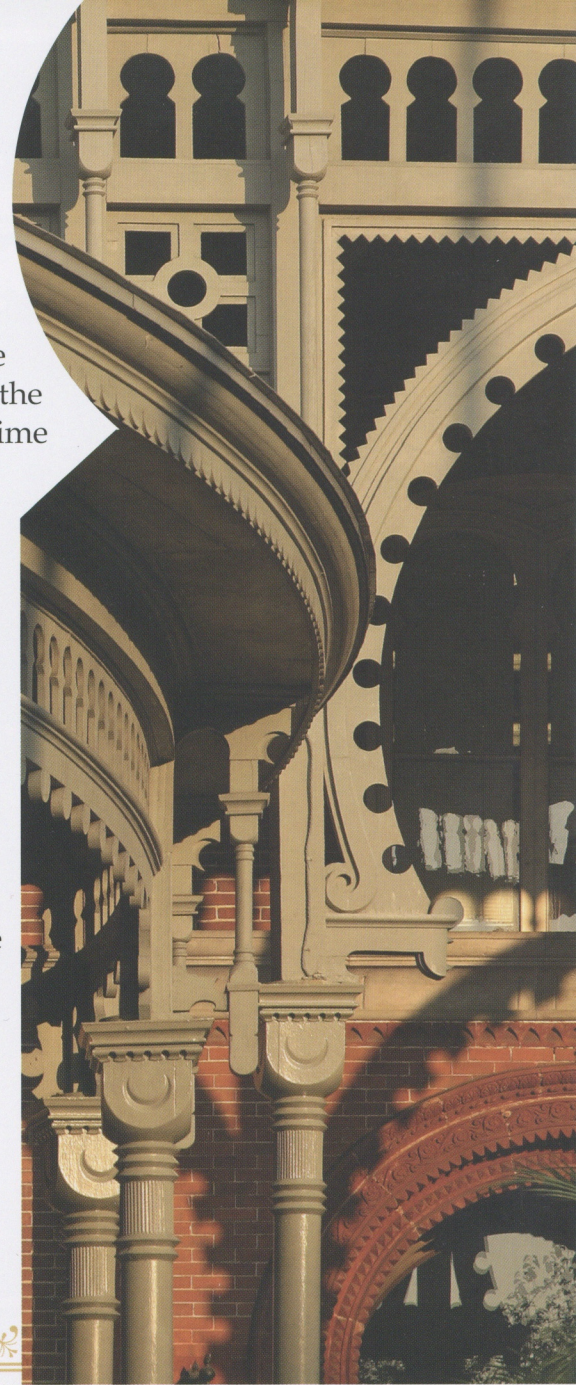
You will be studying our "hotel"<sup>V</sup> to help you understand the history of Tampa,<sup>M</sup> Florida<sup>M</sup> and the United States of America.<sup>M</sup> Just as in *If Our House Could Talk*, you will be acting as an investigator, a scientist, an architect,<sup>V</sup> a mathematician, a writer and an artist, as well as a historian and preservationist.<sup>V</sup> Look for the <sup>M</sup>, <sup>TL</sup> and <sup>V</sup> sym-

bols as you read. Each time you see a symbol, stop and go to the Map,<sup>M</sup> Time Line<sup>TL</sup> or Vocabulary<sup>V</sup> pages at the end of the

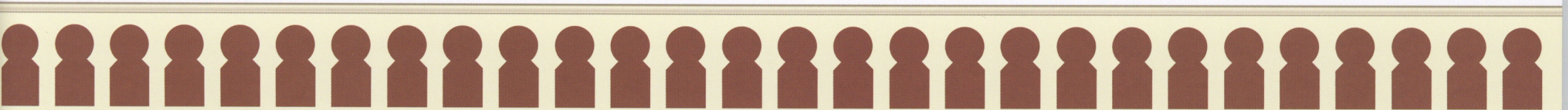
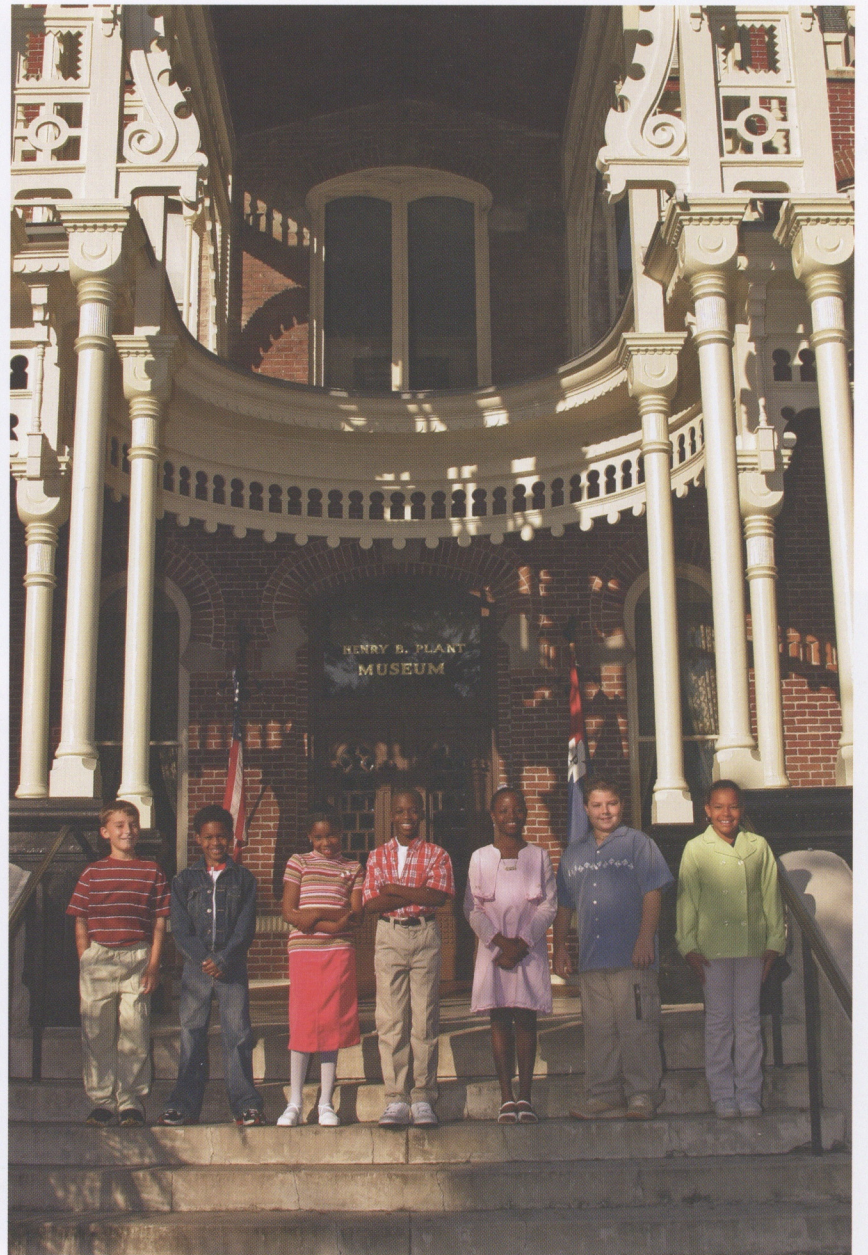
book to help you understand and record your clues. Buildings hold the stories of the past, present and even the future. You just have to take a little time to listen to them.

We welcome you to our museum<sup>V</sup> and university.<sup>V</sup> Even though our building is no longer used as a hotel, this is where the story begins. We must take you back to where it all started – the Tampa Bay Hotel.

The Hotel  will tell you the rest of the story. After all, its construction began in 1888<sup>TL</sup> and it opened for guests on January 31, 1891.<sup>TL</sup> Do the math and you will find it is much older than any of us. Read and enjoy!





















# Check-In Time

I know you have heard of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers<sup>TL</sup> and the Tampa Bay Lightning,<sup>TL</sup> but let me tell you, I had the “Tampa Bay” name long before they did. I am the Tampa Bay Hotel and it is Check-In Time! Did you just arrive on the hotel train? Let’s go into my lobby<sup>V</sup> where you can check-in, sit in my parlor and listen to my story.

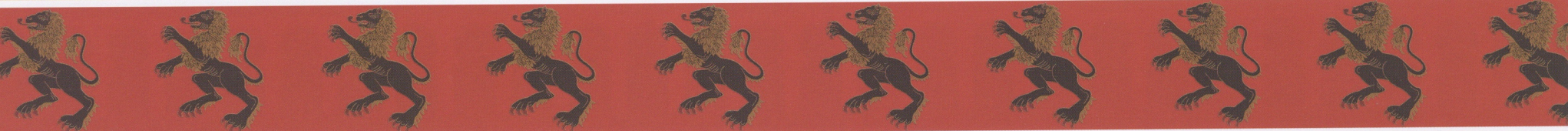


The purpose of this book is for *me* to teach *you* how to be a “Building Watcher.” You can look up , down , and all around . Look for my shapes   , designs   , and patterns . By studying the buildings around you, you will be able to better understand your heritage<sup>V</sup> and history.<sup>V</sup> You will discover that one person *can* make a difference. Finally, you will learn why you should be proud of the community where you live and how you can work for positive changes in your own neighborhood and on your own street.



I have been around for parts of three centuries – the 1800’s, 1900’s and now the 2000’s. Believe me, I have seen some history! Excuse me for bragging, but I am probably the most famous landmark<sup>V</sup> in Tampa. As I “talk,” I will let you look at me inside and out. I might even let you rock on my porch and be my guest. Hopefully, you will enjoy my story and learn about our community at the same time.

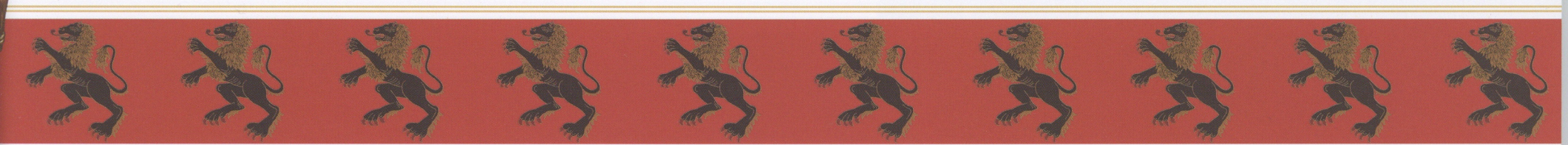
Above all, I would like you to see the important part *you* play now and will continue to play in saving *my* history. Think about your favorite buildings and the part you can play in “Saving Yesterday For Tomorrow.” As you grow up, you will decide the future of these buildings. Take your responsibility seriously. I am depending on you to continue my preservation.







THE PARLOR, TAMPA BAY HOTEL, TAMPA, FLA.







# Meet Henry B. Plant

My story begins with one boy and his dreams. His name was Henry Bradley Plant and he was born on October 27, 1819,<sup>TL</sup> in Branford, Connecticut.<sup>M</sup> His ancestors came to America from England<sup>M</sup> and some even fought in the American Revolution.

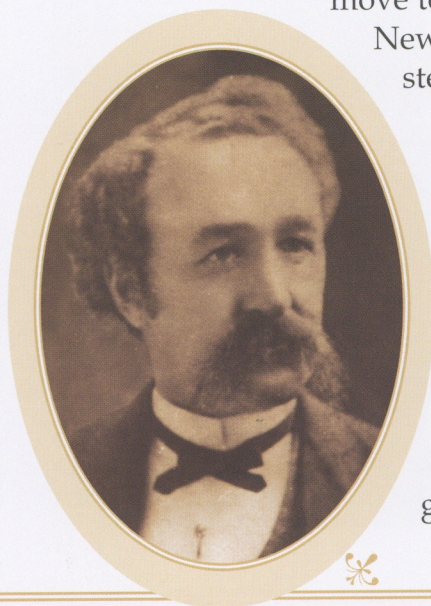
Henry's life got off to a troubling start. After catching typhoid fever at the age of six, he survived, but his father and baby sister did not. A few years later his mother remarried and Henry had to move to the state of New York<sup>M</sup> and then to New Haven, Connecticut, where his stepfather took a job.

School for Henry was not like it is for you. He only had classes three or four months a year. His teachers were not well trained like yours. When the money ran out, the schools closed. It doesn't sound like they planned ahead, does it?

After only reaching about the eighth grade, Henry went to work. When he

was eighteen (in 1836),<sup>TL</sup> he took a job that would change his life. He became a captain's boy for the New Haven Steamboat Company. Does this sound exciting or challenging to you? If your answer is "no," then remember that America's first steam powered train service had only started in 1831.<sup>TL</sup> The airplane had not even been invented. Steamboats were exciting!

America was entering the Industrial Age as the power of steam was being harnessed to make machines do work. Henry really wanted to be a part of all the progress. His family life was changing, too. He married Ellen Elizabeth Blackstone in 1842,<sup>TL</sup> and they had a son, Morton, in 1852.<sup>TL</sup> What did Henry B. Plant and his dreams have to do with *me*? Please keep reading and you will find out.







Henry's Family Home







# Boats and Trains and Moving Things

The power of steam was changing transportation and propelling my story on to Boats & Trains & Moving Things. As Henry worked on steamboats, he became interested in the express business. No, not Federal Express or UPS like you have now. The **express business** was a way for steamboat companies to make extra money carrying mail and packages along with goods.<sup>V</sup>

By the early 1850's Henry had worked his way up in the Adams Express Company and was living in New York City with his family. His wife Ellen became sick with tuberculosis and her doctor suggested a trip to a better climate. About that same time Adams Express was expanding to the South. Their family decided to move to Augusta, Georgia,<sup>M</sup> for her health and his new job.

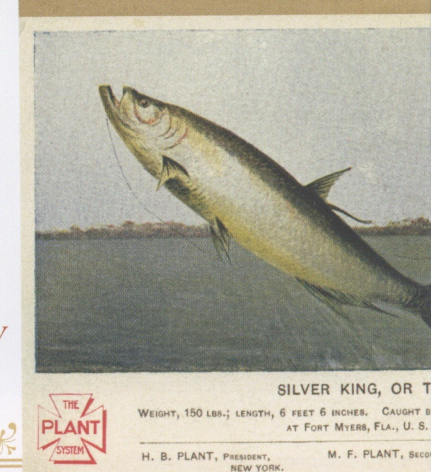
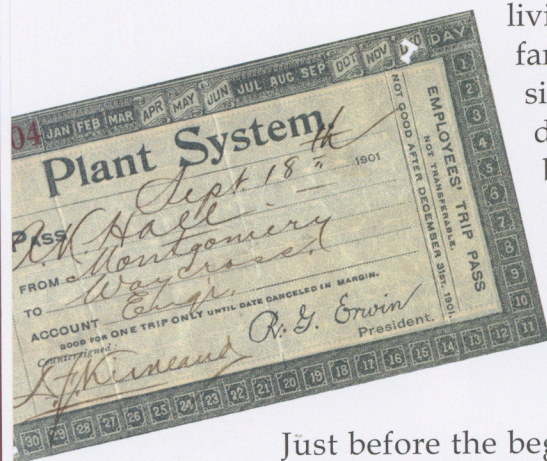
Just before the beginning of the Civil War<sup>V</sup> in 1861,<sup>TL</sup> Henry and a group of investors<sup>V</sup> from the South bought the southern branch of Adams Express. The newly named Southern

Express Company was very busy carrying letters and packages and even carried the Confederate payroll.

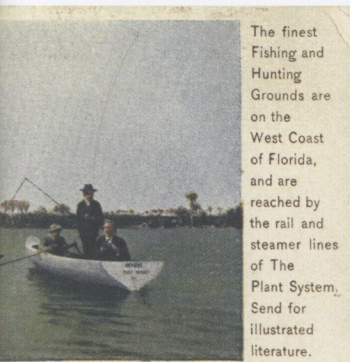
Working hard and learning the express business was leading Henry to the **railroad business**. Sadness and loss came to Henry's life again in 1862<sup>TL</sup> when Ellen died. He and Morton moved back to New York City. More than ten years later, in 1873,<sup>TL</sup> he married Margaret Josephine Loughman. She will pick out beautiful furnishings for *me* - sorry, I am getting ahead of my story.

Being true entrepreneurs,<sup>V</sup> Henry and his investors bought up and put together different railroad companies to connect the South with the North. He expanded into the **steamship business** and finally, the **hotel business**. The Plant System <sup>P</sup> was on its way! Just look at the map and mileage table.

After all, boats and trains were not just moving things. They also carried adventurous<sup>V</sup> tourists who wanted to visit tropical,<sup>V</sup> exotic<sup>V</sup> Florida.







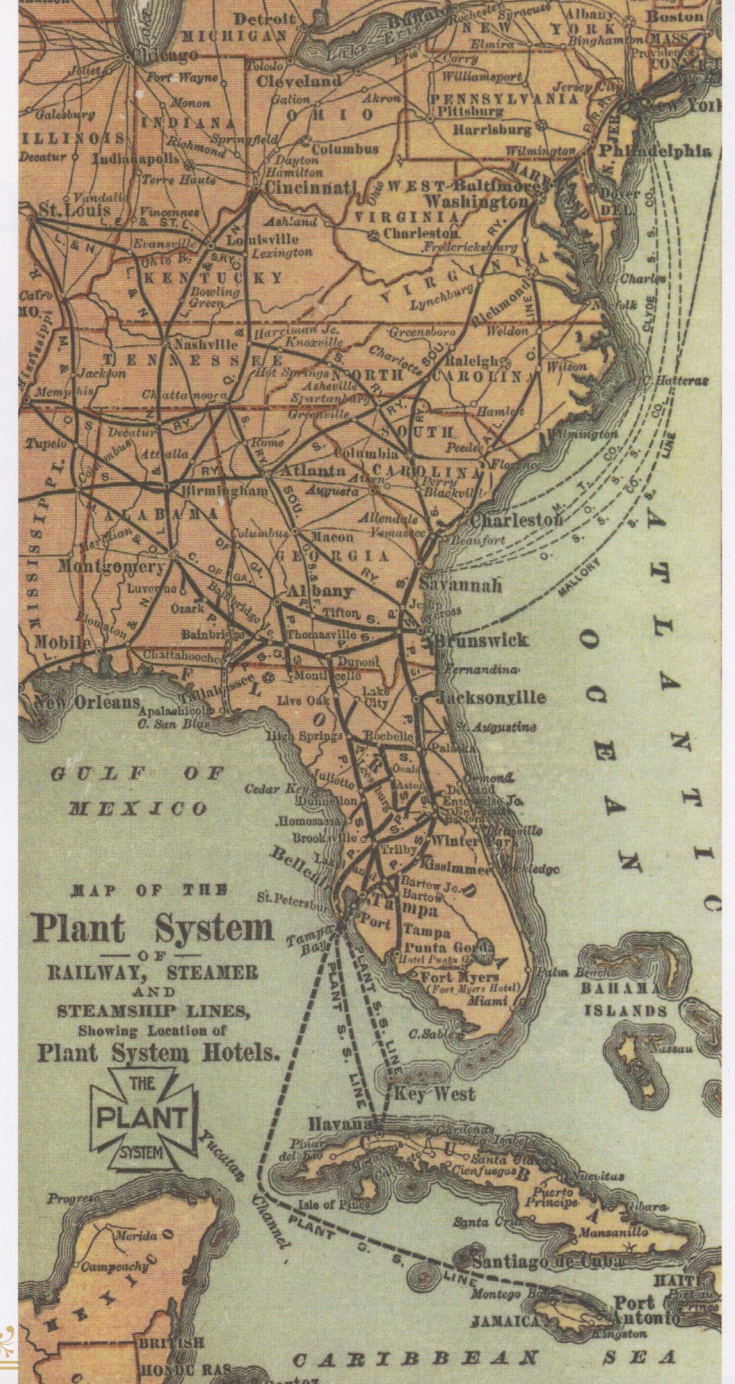
The finest Fishing and Hunting Grounds are on the West Coast of Florida, and are reached by the rail and steamer lines of The Plant System. Send for illustrated literature.

B. PLANT, PRESIDENT PLANT SYSTEM OF RAILWAYS AND STEAMSHIPS, 1897. HOOKED WITH 18-OUNCE ROD.

B. W. WRENN, PASSENGER TRAFFIC MANAGER, SAVANNAH, GA.

## MILEAGE TABLE

RAILWAY LINES:	MILES	CANADA ATLANTIC AND PLANT STEAMSHIP LINE:	MILES
Savannah, Florida & Western R'y .....	562	Boston to Halifax .....	389
Charleston & Savannah R'y .....	133	Boston to Charlottetown .....	646
South Florida Div. of S. F. & W. R'y .....	327		1,035
Brunswick & Western R.R. ....	171	PEOPLE'S LINE STEAMERS:	MILES
Alabama Midland R'y .....	235	Chattahoochee River .....	223
Silver Springs, Ocala & Gulf R'y .....	66	Flint River .....	36
Sanford & St. Petersburg R.R. ....	152	Apalachicola River .....	137
Florida Southern R'y .....	247		396
St. Johns & Lake Eustis R.R. ....	48		
	1,941	RECAPITULATION:	MILES
PLANT STEAMSHIP LINE:	MILES	Railway Lines .....	1,941
Pt. Tampa, Key West & Havana Line .....	360	Steamer Lines .....	2,318
Pt. Tampa & Mobil Line .....	360	TOTAL .....	4,259
Pt. Tampa & Manatee River Line .....	35		
Pt. Tampa to Caloosahatchee River .....	126		
Pt. Tampa to St. Petersburg .....	6		
	887		







# Florida's First Magic Kingdom

Henry had dreamed about building his own luxury destination resort<sup>V</sup> hotel. Just as your family might get in your car for a vacation trip to Disney World, Henry wanted tourists to get on his trains for a vacation trip to his hotel.

He hired architect J. A. Wood from New York in 1888 to draw up *my* plans and oversee my construction. A Victorian building with Moorish elements was chosen. Go to the last two pages of your book and take a look at my style and what it took to build me. Minarets,<sup>V</sup> gingerbread,<sup>V</sup> horseshoe arches, crescent moon finials, chrysanthemum windows, cupolas, terra cotta, wrought iron balconies, domes and much more were all included. Wow!

It took hundreds of skilled craftsmen<sup>V</sup> from Tampa and from other towns to build me. I was beginning to take shape when Henry and Margaret decided to add 16 parlor suites – I'll tell you about those later – and a whole extra floor. Five floors made me the tallest building in Tampa.

While I was under construction in 1889,<sup>TL</sup> Henry and Margaret traveled to the Paris<sup>M</sup> Exposition.<sup>V</sup> They saw all the new inventions they might want for me. They also went shopping all over Europe,<sup>M</sup> sending back furniture, carpets and artwork to fill up my 500 rooms.

Finally, on February 5, 1891,<sup>TL</sup> I celebrated my opening. Two thousand people, invited from all around the world, attended my Opening Ball. The very next day the *New York Times* said I was one of the grandest hotels in the country. I was the first hotel in Florida to be all electric, steam heated – no central heat and air back then – and completely fire-proofed. I even had Florida's first elevator. Golf, tennis, hunting, fishing, biking, swimming and live musical performances were there for my guests to enjoy.

Henry's dream had come true. The first season, from December to April, I had over 4,000 guests. Henry had created his own luxury destination resort – *me*. I was called Plant's Palace and later Florida's First Magic Kingdom. What a great beginning for me, for Henry, and most of all, for Tampa!







TAMPA BAY HOTEL  
TAMPA, FLA.  
J. H. KING, MANAGER

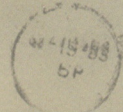
March 17, 1893

My Dear Ruth,

Tampa Bay Hotel is a Poem - a dream of southern splendor and Moorish magnificence. When you look at the sand barriers that surround it - you are reminded of the stories of the Arabian nights, where some powerful genie, waved there wand and lo a Palace appeared. That is just what has happened, a keen far sighted - broad minded Yankee, had the genius - courage and wealth to erect this Moorish Palace to despoil the bazaars of the world of their beautiful rugs, vases, carpets, +c +c and to make this the most comfortable as well as beautiful Hotel I have ever seen.

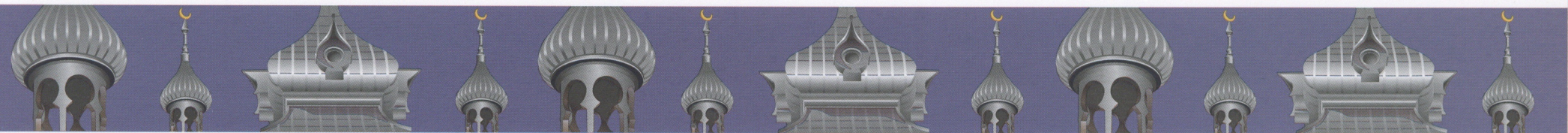
Affectionately,  
Papa

\*This letter has been reproduced in a modern font exactly as Mr. Wallace wrote it.



Ruth M. Wallace  
32 East 57th St  
New York  
N.Y.



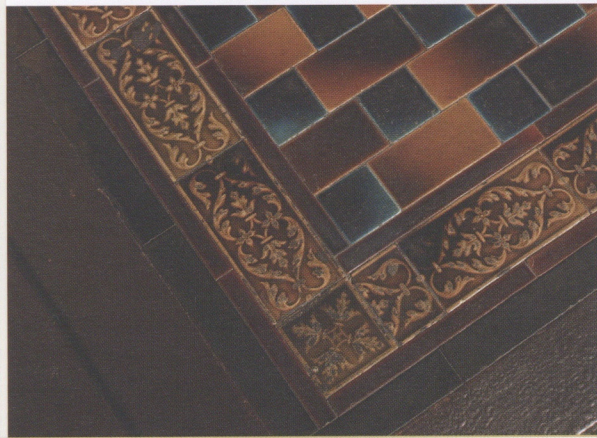






# Tampa's Past

Let's stop and look back at Tampa's Past. It will help you put the pieces of *my* story together. The town of Tampa traces its beginnings to 1824<sup>TL</sup> when Fort Brooke was built on the east side of the Hillsborough River. It was first incorporated<sup>V</sup> as a city in 1855,<sup>TL</sup> just ten years after Florida became the 27th state.<sup>TL</sup> In 1880,<sup>TL</sup> Tampa was just a quiet little fishing village with only 720 people. Old city records show that by 1890,<sup>TL</sup> more than 5,500 people were living here. The population jumped to 15,839 by 1900.<sup>TL</sup> Why was Tampa growing so fast? I think you know the answer already.

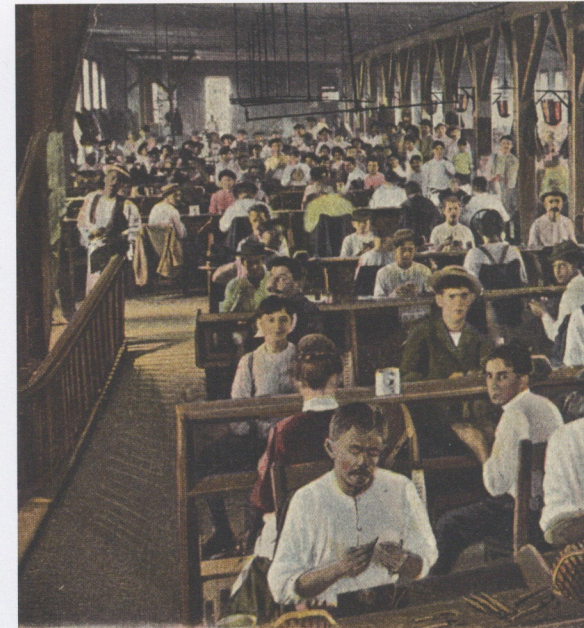


When Henry B. Plant brought the railroad and shipping lines into Tampa in 1884,<sup>TL</sup> it meant that anyone or any goods could get on a train in New York and

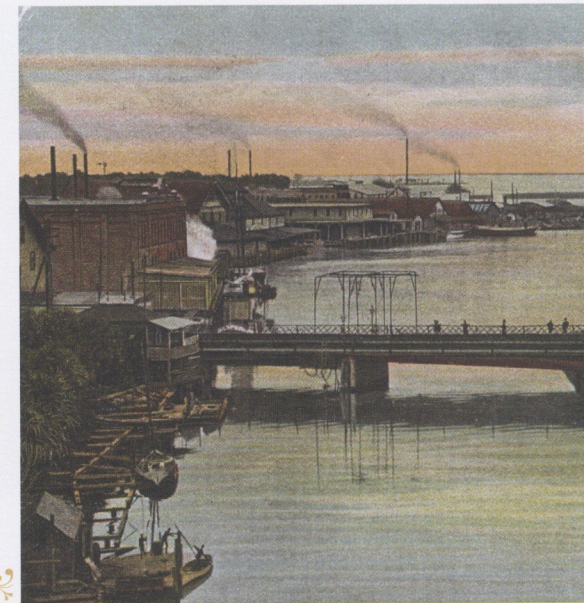
ride all the way to Tampa, Florida. This also meant that Henry's Plant System steamships, like the *Mascotte* and *Olivette*, could travel all over the Caribbean Sea<sup>M</sup> and Gulf of Mexico<sup>M</sup> with goods and passengers.

Are you beginning to picture in your mind how important these improvements in transportation were for Tampa? By improving transportation, Henry made it possible and desirable for many people to come here. Tourists stayed in Henry's first Tampa hotel built on the water, Port Tampa Inn. Their final destination was usually to visit *me*, the Tampa Bay Hotel.

Businessmen also came looking for a chance to succeed. Vicente Martinez Ybor was one of the businessmen who came to Tampa in 1885.<sup>TL</sup> Mr. Ybor and his friend, Ignacio Haya, owned cigar factories in Key West<sup>M</sup> and New York. They were looking for a new place to



TAMPA, Fla. Interior, Model Cigar Factory.







make cigars. They had heard good things about what was going on in Tampa – “Boats & Trains & Moving Things” – and decided to move their businesses here. Ybor City was established. Thousands of workers followed to work in the cigar factories. The population was exploding!

Another businessman, Mr. O. H. Platt of Hyde Park, Illinois,<sup>M</sup> bought twenty acres on the west side of the river in 1886.<sup>TL</sup> He knew that a bridge was being built so people could get to *me* – the Tampa Bay Hotel – and that people would want to live close to the center of town. He started the first subdivision<sup>V</sup> on the west side of the river and named it Hyde Park after his hometown.

Tampa was really changing and *I*, or should I say, Henry, started it all. One person’s hard work and dreams really can change a community! Let’s get back to *my* story.







# The Spanish-American War

A war between the United States and Spain<sup>M</sup> put me front and center in the world's spotlight and headlines. The Spanish-American War only lasted from April until August of 1898,<sup>TL</sup> but it made *me* famous and won Cuba<sup>M</sup> its freedom.

Even before the war began, Henry had his Plant System steamships *Mascotte* and *Olivette* packed to the ceilings with Cuban tobacco to bring back to Tampa. This made it possible for the local cigarmakers to keep making cigars during the war. Henry then used his influence<sup>V</sup>

with his friends in government and business to have Tampa named a port<sup>V</sup> of embarkation. That meant that 30,000 soldiers and 20,000 mules and horses would

ship out of Port Tampa to fight the Spanish in Cuba.

I became the center of operations for military officers, dignitaries<sup>V</sup> and journalists.<sup>V</sup> I like to think I was a lot like your Central Command Headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base. People from all over the world were in Tampa and many were staying with me or at least visiting. For the first time guests filled all of my 500 rooms.

Clara Barton organized the Red Cross hospital workers and nurses in my Casino – more about my Casino later. Writers like Stephen Crane and Richard Harding Davis stayed with me as they wrote about the war. Artist Frederic Remington even drew illustrations that included me while he sketched for *Harpers Weekly*. Edith Roosevelt was also my guest. When her husband







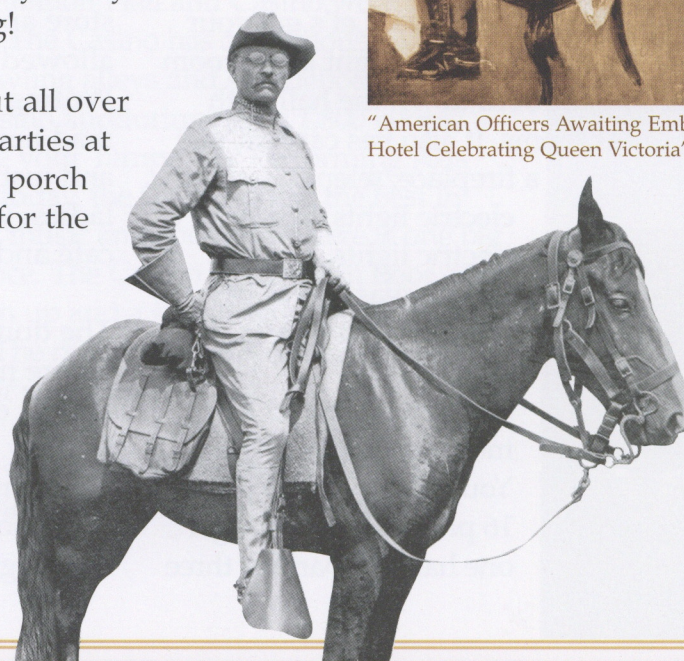
Colonel Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt was not in camp with his "Rough Riders" of the First United States Volunteer Cavalry, he would come to visit her.



Just read this description one journalist wrote: "The Tampa Bay Hotel literally shined with army brass. The big lobby of the hotel exploded in a flash of golden braid, glittering sword hilts, and boots bright with polish." Close your eyes and try to picture it. It was dazzling!

The regular troops were camped out all over hot, dusty Tampa. My guests had parties at night and were seen rocking on my porch during the day. They were waiting for the orders to ship out to Cuba.

In 1977<sup>TL</sup> I was named a National Historic Landmark<sup>V</sup> and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>V</sup> I received this honor for the important part *I* played in the Spanish-American War and in America's history.



"American Officers Awaiting Embarkation For Cuba At Tampa Bay Hotel Celebrating Queen Victoria's Birthday."

- *London Graphic*, June 18, 1898





# Be My Guest

The Spanish-American War officers were not the only ones rocking on my porch. Throughout my "hotel" years from 1891 until 1932,<sup>TL</sup> my visitors – including Babe Ruth, Anna Pavlova, Booker T. Washington and John Philip Sousa – have all enjoyed my veranda.<sup>V</sup> Please sit in the rocker and Be My Guest. After all, my guests have always been what are most important to me.

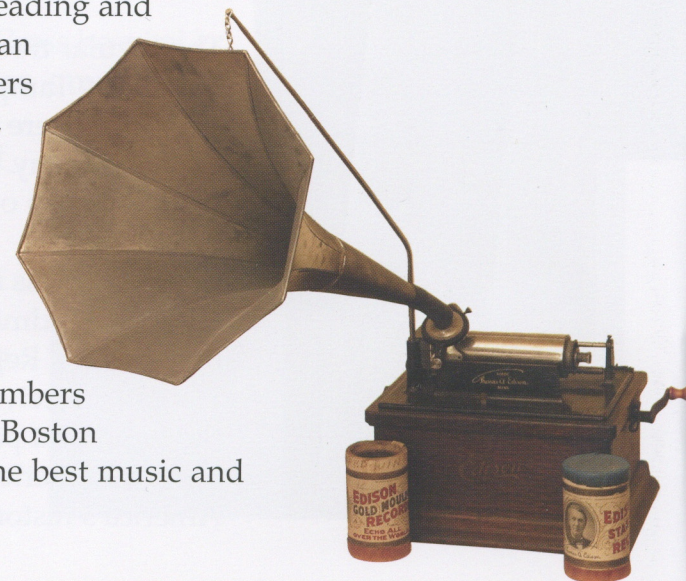
What is it like? You have already seen my hotel train, lobby, parlor and veranda. Let's get your key and go to your room. You might like a room that shares one bathroom down the hall with three other guest rooms. It also has carpets, soft beds, steam heating, a fireplace, telephones and electric lights. Speaking of electric lights, Thomas Edison was one of my most famous guests.

Maybe you would like more space and privacy. You can stay in one of my 16 parlor suites. A larger one has two parlors, three

bedrooms, two bathrooms and private hallways. This might be more comfortable if you are staying a month or two. My staff of over 300 people will take great care of you, too!

Now that you have a room, let's see what else is included. There is a café, billiard room, telegraph office, barber shop, beauty salon, drug store and flower shop. The men – no ladies allowed – have a bar and Reading and Writing Room where they can read newspapers, write letters and just visit. Do not worry, ladies, you have your own café and parlor.

The domed Music Room is where my orchestra plays almost every night except Sunday. Many orchestra members are from the New York and Boston Symphonies. Nothing but the best music and dancing for my guests!



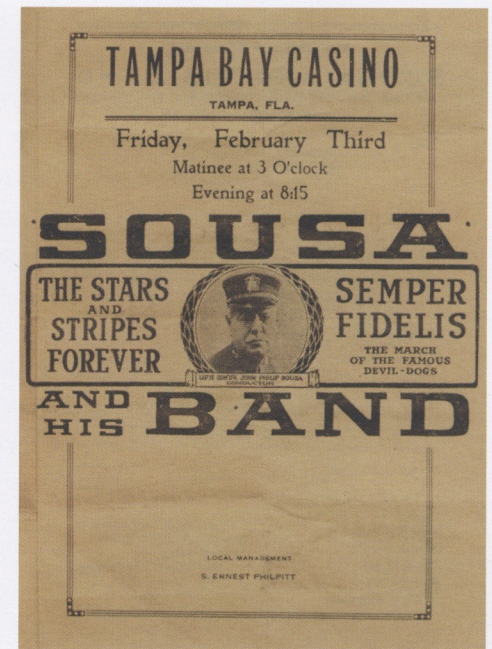
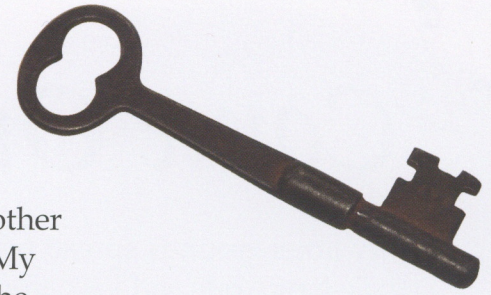




Walking down the hall you will pass other parlors and my solarium – sunroom. My two-story, domed Dining Room is at the end of the l-o-n-g hallway. The eight course dinner my chef has planned will be delicious. Dinner is at 6:00, and you will have to dress up. Sorry, no small children allowed. They will have to eat in another room with their nannies.

My Exhibition Hall and Casino were built in 1896.<sup>TL</sup> The Casino has a clubhouse with two bowling alleys and shuffleboard courts. The Casino auditorium seats 1,800 people. Just like your Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center today, the Casino offers the best in theater, music and speakers. There is one big difference. The Casino auditorium floor can be taken up and a swimming pool is underneath. The dressing rooms can be used for actors *or* swimmers.

This is enough looking inside! Let's see what there is for *you* to do outside.







# Come Out *and* Play

My hotel grounds spread over 150 acres. Take a rickshaw<sup>V</sup> ride and look around. Use your overlay map and pictures to decide what and where you would like to “play.”

The gardens include tropical plants and exotic animals from all over the world. Roses, oleanders, bamboos, papayas and mangoes are just a few plants you might see as well as peacocks and maybe even monkeys. A **Palm Walk** has been created near the river for my guests to enjoy. In case you get tired as you stroll, you will find garden seats where you can sit down and rest.

Outdoor sportsmen will find plenty to do. The **tennis** courts are close by. The **golf** course is a little further away. Henry and Margaret felt tennis and golf would be popular even though they are new sports in America.



**Fishing** and **boating** are at the top of many of my guests’ lists. Sailboats, canoes and even electric launches can be found in my boathouse or at my docks. You can go up and

down the Hillsborough River for fishing or just for fun.

I also have a horse track. Many guests enjoy the excitement of the **horse races**. Later on, the Florida State Fair and car races will take place around the same track. Sorry, I am jumping ahead in my story again!

Finally hunters, both men and women, find my grounds and outlying woods full of wild game. Our **hunting** guide and dogs will take you out for the day. No one ever returns empty-handed.

Don’t miss the bronze hunting dogs Henry and Margaret bought from a French artist! Have your picture taken with them, everyone does.

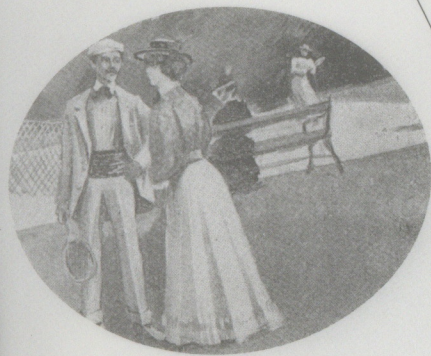
I hope you have enjoyed being my guest both inside and out. Now let’s move on with *my* story.



Garden Seats



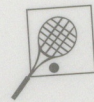




HYDE PARK  
NEIGHBORHOOD



LAFAYETTE STREET / KENNEDY BOULEVARD



TAMPA BAY HOTEL

GARDEN PATHWAYS



CASINO

DOCK

HILLSBOROUGH RIVER

BOATHOUSE

DOG KENNELS



# MAP LEGEND

-  PALM WALK
-  SWIMMING
-  HUNTING
-  HORSE RACING
-  TENNIS
-  GOLF
-  BOATING
-  FISHING

DOWNTOWN TAMPA

BRIDGE









# My Museum – Preserving My History

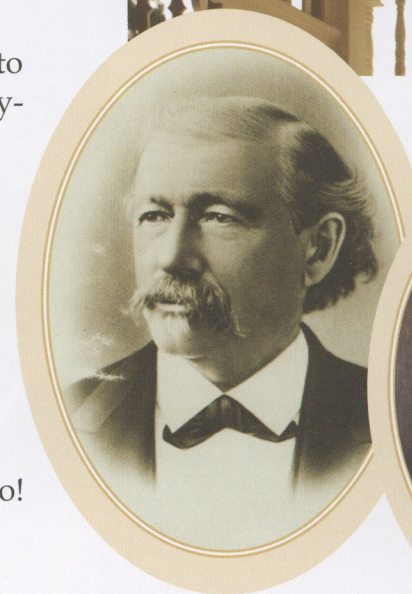
Rough times were ahead for *me*. Seventy-nine year old Henry B. Plant died in 1899<sup>TL</sup> at his home in New York City. The City of Tampa bought me and my grounds in 1905<sup>TL</sup> for \$125,000. What a bargain price! After all, Henry and Margaret had spent \$2,500,000 to build me and another \$500,000 for the furniture, carpets and artwork that filled my rooms and grounds. I stayed open as a resort hotel under different managers, but the hurricane of 1926<sup>TL</sup> and stock market crash<sup>V</sup> of 1929<sup>TL</sup> led to the end of my “hotel” years.

Over time my boathouse was torn down, and my Casino burned down. Some of my furnishings were sold, and some just disappeared. Finally, in 1933,<sup>TL</sup> after a few dark and lonely years, The University of Tampa moved in and made me its home. I could not

have been any luckier. It didn’t matter whether my “guests” were tourists or students. I just wanted to continue to be a part of our community. As a major university, with over 5,000 students, I certainly am!

The most important thing the City of Tampa did to save my history was to establish a museum in 1933. *You* can only plan for my future if you know about my past. That is what the Henry B. Plant Museum is all about – Preserving My History.

My Henry B. Plant Museum is the place to go to experience everything you have read about and seen in this book. The Spanish-American War Exhibit<sup>V</sup> has a full uniform with shiny brass buttons, flashing braid and sword hilt. I hope the boots are polished, too!

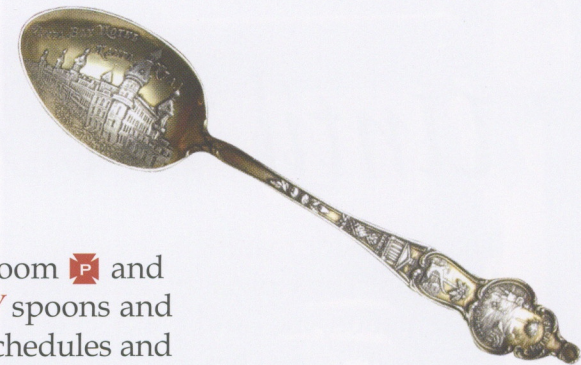






Come into the Plant System Room **F** and see everything from souvenir **V** spoons and plates to flags, portraits, time schedules and even playing cards. You actually feel as though you are in my tropical gardens when you see the garden seats, but you can't sit on them anymore.

My favorite parts of the museum – don't tell the curators **V** and conservator **V** – are my guest rooms. You can walk down the hallways, pretend you have "checked in" and take a trip back in time as if you were a guest in the parlor suite. The only bad part is that you can't stay overnight. The best part is that My Museum is Preserving My History!



Museum conservator repairing a large floor vase.







# Until We Meet Again

Thank you for reading to *my* story. The Henry B. Plant Museum, The University of Tampa, Tampa Preservation, Inc., and *I* hope you have enjoyed it. Tampa has a rich heritage and history that we wanted to share with you. Remember as you get older that no matter where you live, buildings tell the stories of the past, present and even the future. Take time to listen to them.

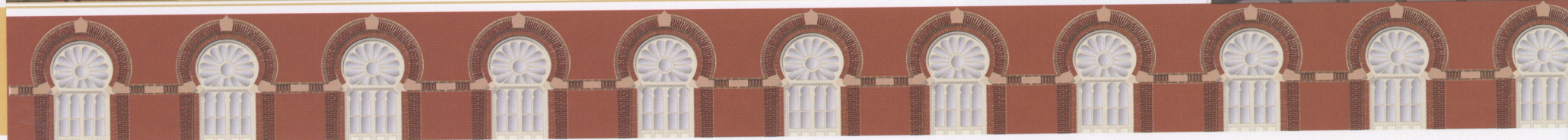
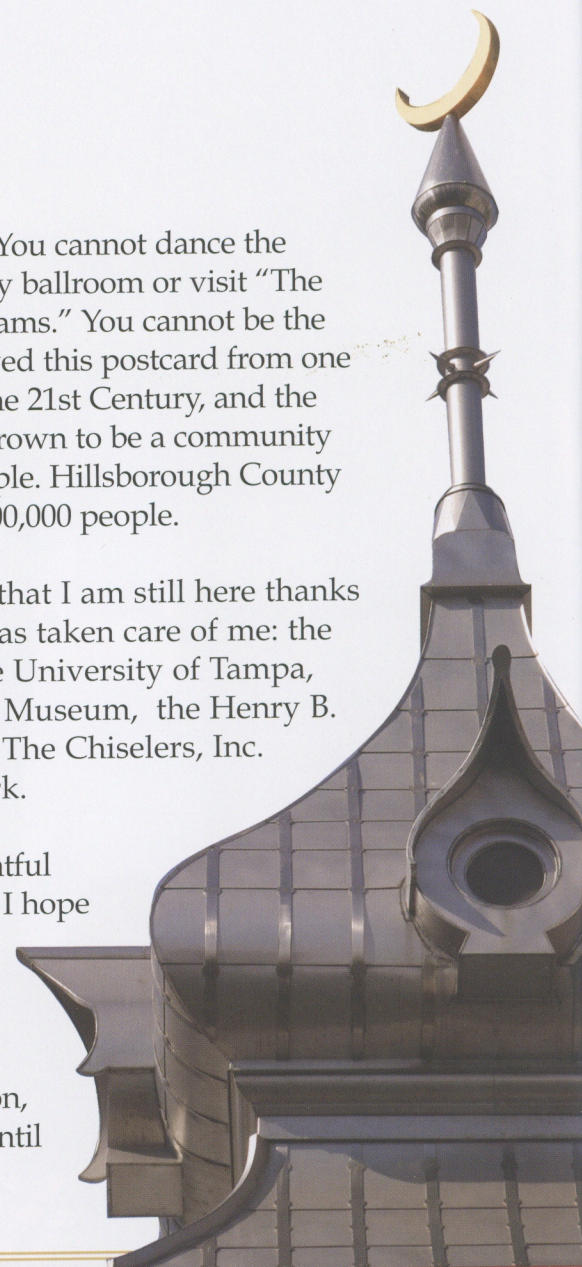


Let's take one last look back. You cannot dance the Tampa Bay Hotel Galop in my ballroom or visit "The Land of Lovely Dreams." You cannot be the little girl who received this postcard from one of my guests. It is the 21st Century, and the city of Tampa has grown to be a community of over 300,000 people. Hillsborough County is home to over 1,000,000 people.

I am happy to say that I am still here thanks to everyone who has taken care of me: the City of Tampa, The University of Tampa, the Henry B. Plant Museum Society, Inc., The Chisellers, Inc. and the Friends of Plant Park.

I am grateful for their thoughtful preservation of my past, and I hope that you have learned a lot from my story. Keep watching and listening. You never know what stories buildings have to tell. Come see *me* soon, and take care of yourself - Until We Meet Again.

You have become a good "Building Watcher." Keep looking up ↑, down ↓, and all around ↻. Don't miss any clues to the past. Look for shapes ●■▲, designs ■□△, patterns ■■■ and styles. Visit *my* Museum, your Library and even City Hall's Department of Historic Preservation. Be proud of the community where you live and the landmarks that make it special. Begin to play your part in "Saving Yesterday For Tomorrow."







## THE LAND OF LOVELY DREAMS



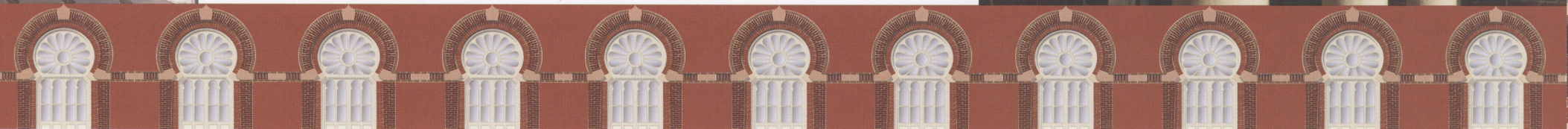
THE TAMPA BAY HOTEL.  
TAMPA, FLA.

WHERE THE KNOTTED  
NORTHERN NERVES  
MAY RELAX AND REST

WHY should one go to Tampa rather than the resorts on the other coast of Florida? Because the climate of the west coast is far more equable, less enervating, more beneficial to nerves and mind than any other. The climate of Tampa is dry and its tropical warmth is tempered agreeably by westerly breezes from the Gulf of Mexico. While the glorious sunshine in the day time reminds one of the close proximity of the tropical Everglades, night brings with it refreshing coolness and fragrant dews, and with them comes, without fail, "Nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep."

Apply to agents of The Seaboard Air Line Railway, The Atlantic Coast Railway, Southern Railway, and their connecting lines. Booklet and Tariff sent on application.

DAVID LAUBER, Manager, Tampa, Florida





# Vocabulary

**adventurous** *adj.* – willing to take risks; daring.

**architect** *n.* – a person who is trained to design plans for buildings and sees that these plans are carried out by the builder

**Civil War** *n.* – the war between the North (the Union) and the South (the Confederacy) in the United States of America between 1861-1865

**community** *n.* – all of the people who live in a particular city or town

**conservator** *n.* – a protector, guardian or custodian

**craftsmen** *n.* – workers in a skilled trade (bricklayers, carpenters, painters, plasterers, electricians, plumbers, etc.)

**curator** *n.* – a person in charge of a museum

**dignitary** *n.* – a person holding a high position or office

**entrepreneur** *n.* – a person who organizes and manages a business assuming the risk for the sake of profit

**exhibit** *n.* – a show or display; an object or objects displayed publicly

**exotic** *adj.* – strange, different or foreign, especially in a fascinating way

**exposition** *n.* – a large show or fair that is open to the public

**gingerbread** *n.* – showy decoration such as fancy carvings in woodwork

**goods** *n.* – articles of trade, merchandise

**grounds** *n.* – the lands surrounding and belonging to a building

**heritage** *n.* – something handed down from one's ancestors or the past; one's culture or tradition

**history** *n.* – the record of everything that has happened in the past

**hotel** *n.* – a building offering travelers lodging and often having restaurants, public rooms, shops, etc.

**incorporate** *v.* – to put different pieces of land together as a whole and establish a city

**influence** *n.* – the power of persons or things to affect others

**investors** *n.* – persons that use or lend money for some business, property, stock, etc. in order to get a profit

**journalist** *n.* – a person who gathers, writes or edits the news for publication in newspapers or magazines or for broadcasting on radio or television

**landmark** *n.* – a building, tree, etc. that helps one to find or recognize a place because it is easily seen or recognized

**lobby** *n.* – an entrance hall or waiting room in a hotel or theater

**minaret** *n.* – a high tower on a mosque

**museum** *n.* – a building or room for preserving and exhibiting artistic, historical or scientific objects

**National Historic Landmark** *n.* – nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating the heritage of the United States

**National Register of Historic Places** *n.* – a nationwide listing of historic buildings and sites (Tampa's Centro Asturiano, Cuban Club, Centro Español, El Pasaje, the Tampa Bay Hotel, and the Leiman-Wilson House are all on the National Register.)

**port** *n.* – a harbor where ships can load and unload goods

**preservationist** *n.* – a person who wants to keep something from harm or damage; to keep in certain condition

**resort** *n.* – a place where many people go, as for a vacation

**rickshaw** *n.* – a small carriage with two wheels, pulled by one or two people

**souvenir** *n.* – something given or kept as a reminder of a place visited

**stock market crash** *n.* – the rapid fall of stock prices that occurred in October 1929, resulting in the loss of huge sums of money by people, businesses and banks, etc.

**subdivision** *n.* – a larger piece of land divided into smaller pieces for sale

**tropical** *adj.* – warm and rainy; like the tropics

**university** *n.* – a school of higher education

**veranda** *n.* – an open porch usually with a roof



# Questions and Activities

1. Be a "Building Watcher" and architect. Look at the pictures on pages 32 and 33 again. Use your dictionary to define finial, minaret, baluster, balcony, dormer, cupola and dome. These elements make the Tampa Bay Hotel special. Choose three that you would like to add to your school building, and draw up plans that include them. You might even build a model.
2. Read the Dedication on page 2 with your teacher and classmates. Discuss what you think it means. Write down your *dreams* and what *work* you need to do to reach them. Discuss whether or not one person can make a difference in your community, your neighborhood or in your school.
3. Henry Plant's father and baby sister died of typhoid fever, and his first wife Ellen died of tuberculosis. Research these diseases, and find out more about them. How did they affect the lives of Americans in the 1800's and 1900's? How do they affect our lives today?
- \*4. Create a Written Document Analysis Worksheet with your classmates, and use it with the letter to Ruth, the postcard on page 25, and the advertisement on page 25.

It should include:

- Type of document
- Unusual physical qualities of the document (handwritten, typed, stamped)
- Date(s) of document
- Author or creator
- Document Information:
  - Who is the document written for?
  - List three important points in the document.
  - What do you think is the purpose of the document?
  - List two things you can tell about life in Tampa at the time it was written.
  - Write a question to the author that is left unanswered in the document.

- \*5. Pictures give us a great deal of information. Develop a Picture Analysis Worksheet. Study the pictures on page 13 or 21 for two minutes. Form an overall impression of the pictures and study individual items. Next, divide it into four parts and study each part to see what new details and information you find. List people, objects and activities you see. Based on what you have observed, list three things you can infer from the pictures. What questions do the pictures raise in your mind? List places in the book where you can find answers to your questions.

\* Adapted from U.S. National Archives Lessons.

6. Choose at least three of the hotel's famous guests, and find out more about them. Then list what you would like to do if *you* were a guest. Create your own schedule for a fun-filled weekend. Remember to include activities inside and outside.
7. Discuss with your class how you think the hurricanes of 1926 and the stock market crash of 1929 led to the end of the Tampa Bay Hotel being used as a hotel. Think about our hurricanes and how they affect the tourist industry. Does Florida depend on tourists today?
8. Look at the Time Line on the next two pages. Make your own timeline and put your important dates on it: your birthday, first day of school, high school graduation day, etc. Time Lines help you see what has happened in the past and can help you plan for the future.

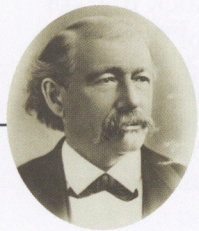




# Time Line

October 27, 1819

Henry B. Plant was born

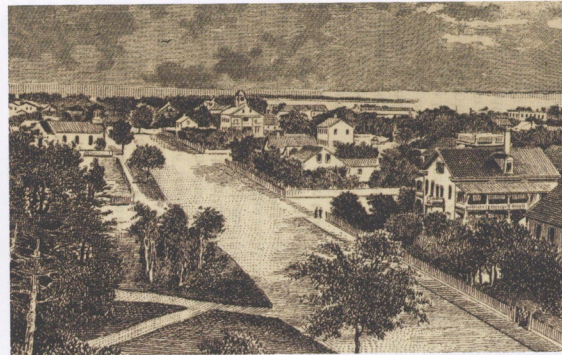


1831

America's first steam powered train service started

1842

Henry Plant married Ellen E. Blackstone



1852

Morton Plant was born

1862

Ellen Plant died

1880

Tampa - 720 people

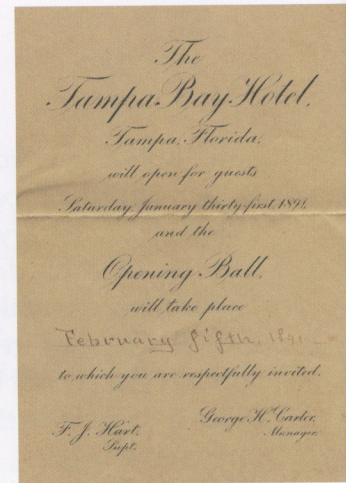


1885

Ybor bought land that became Ybor City

1888

Tampa Bay Hotel construction began



January 31, 1891

Opened for Guests

February 5, 1891

Tampa Bay Hotel Opening Ball

1820

1830

1840

1850

1860

1870

1880

1890

## CIVIL WAR

1824

Fort Brooke



1836

Henry Plant served as a Captain's Boy on steamboat

1845

Florida became 27th state



1855

City of Tampa first incorporated

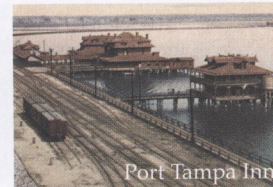


1873

Henry Plant married Margaret J. Loughman

1884

Plant brought ship & rail lines to Tampa



1886

Platt bought land and named it Hyde Park

1889

Henry and Margaret attended Paris Exposition

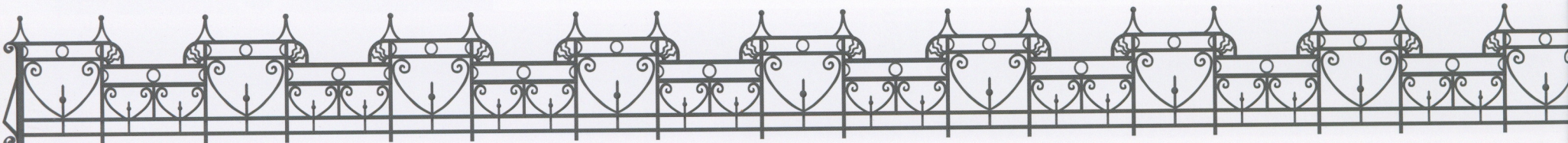


1890

Tampa - over 5,500 people

1896

Casino and Exhibition Hall opened





1899

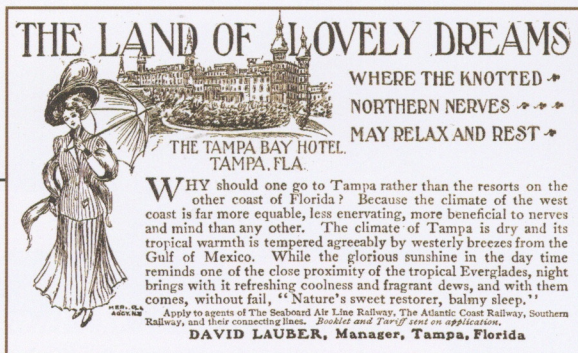
Henry B.  
Plant died

1900

Tampa -  
15,839  
people

1905

City of Tampa bought  
Tampa Bay Hotel for  
\$125,000



1977

I was named  
a National  
Historic  
Landmark

1991

My 100th  
Birthday!

2003

Tampa Bay  
Buccaneers  
won the  
Super Bowl!

2004

Tampa Bay  
Lightning won  
the Stanley  
Cup!

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

## HOTEL YEARS

April - August, 1898

Spanish American War



Embarking at Tampa

1926

Hurricane  
damaged  
Florida

1929

Stock  
Market  
Crash

1933

The  
University  
of Tampa  
moved in



The City of  
Tampa established  
the Museum





# Map





# Books To Read *and* Places To Go

## Books...

**Architect: Builder of the World** Jake Miller, Susan Gal (Illustrator)  
Barron's Educational Series, Inc. 2001

**Building America** Janice Weaver, Bonnie Shemie (Illustrator) Tundra  
Books of Northern New York 2002

**Discovering Hyde Park** Tampa Preservation, Inc.

**Discovering Ybor City** Tampa Preservation, Inc.

**Fun with Architecture** David Eisen, Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Viking Children's Books 1992

**Jean Stallings Educational Series**, Henry B. Plant Museum Store

- *The Nineteenth Century "King of Florida"*
- *"An Elegant Frontier" Florida's Plant System of Hotels*
- *"Bells and Whistles" The Plant Transportation System*
- *A Late Victorian Romp; or The World as Seen from the Tampa Bay Veranda, 1891-1901*
- *A Young Person's Guide to the Museum*

**The Arabian Nights** or Tales Told by Sheherezade During a Thousand and One Nights

## Places...

**City of Tampa Department of Historic Preservation**  
306 E. Jackson St. (City Hall)  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(813) 274-7704

**CUBE & Archisources Website**  
[www.cubekc.org](http://www.cubekc.org)

**Henry B. Plant Museum**  
401 Kennedy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33606  
(813) 254-1891  
[www.plantmuseum.com](http://www.plantmuseum.com)

**National Trust for Historic Preservation**  
[www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)

**Tampa Bay History Center**  
225 S. Franklin St.  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(813) 228-0097  
[www.tampahistorycenter.org](http://www.tampahistorycenter.org)

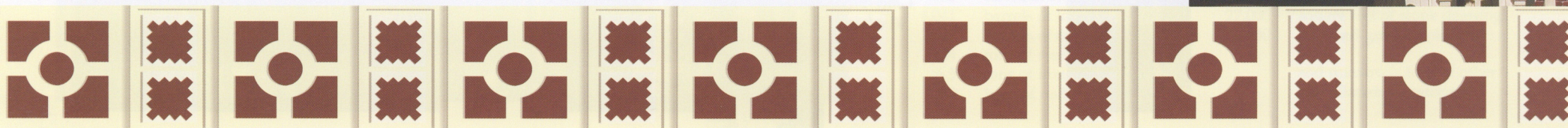
**Tampa - Hillsborough County Main Library, History and Genealogy Dept.**  
900 N. Ashley Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(813) 273-3652

**The Spanish-American War Centennial Website**  
[www.spanamwar.com](http://www.spanamwar.com)

**The History Channel Save Our History Website**  
[www.saveourhistory.com](http://www.saveourhistory.com)

**U.S. National Archives & Records Administration**  
[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)  
(Digital Classroom)

**Ybor City State Museum**  
1818 9th Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33605  
(813) 247-6323

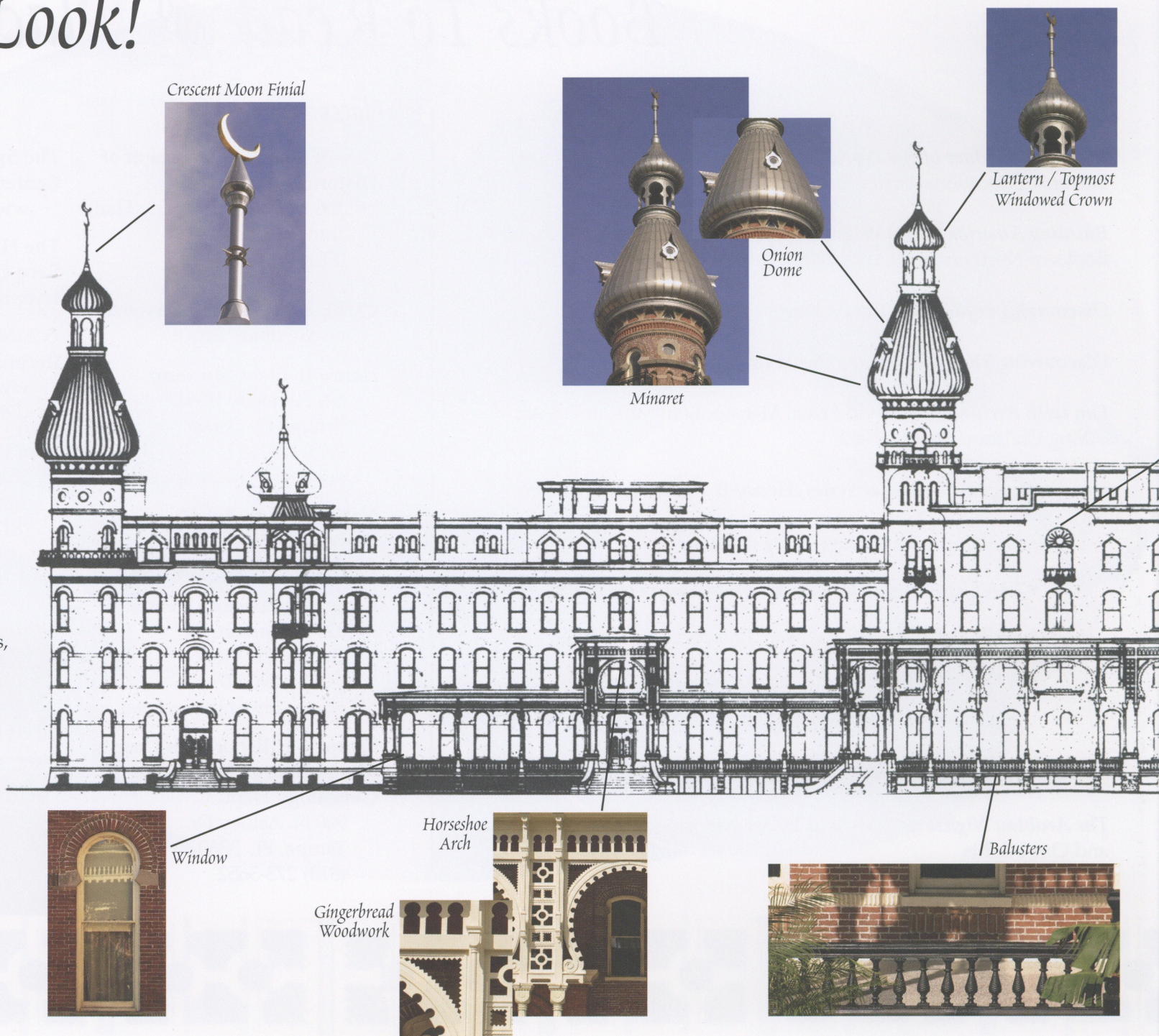




# Take A Look!

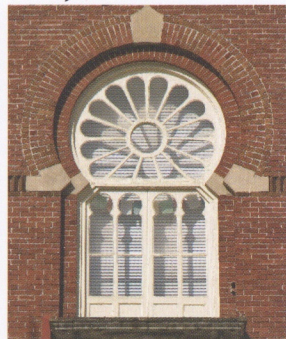
## What Is My Style?

Style is the way a building looks and the way building parts are arranged. I am a Victorian building built during the reign of Queen Victoria of England (1837-1901). The Victorian style included many different exterior decorations including fancy woodwork. I also have Moorish elements – my “extras” as I call them. My minarets, crescent moons, and horseshoe arches are all influenced by the Moorish culture of Northern Africa and Spain.





Chrysanthemum Window



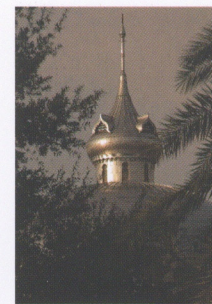
Keyhole Pattern



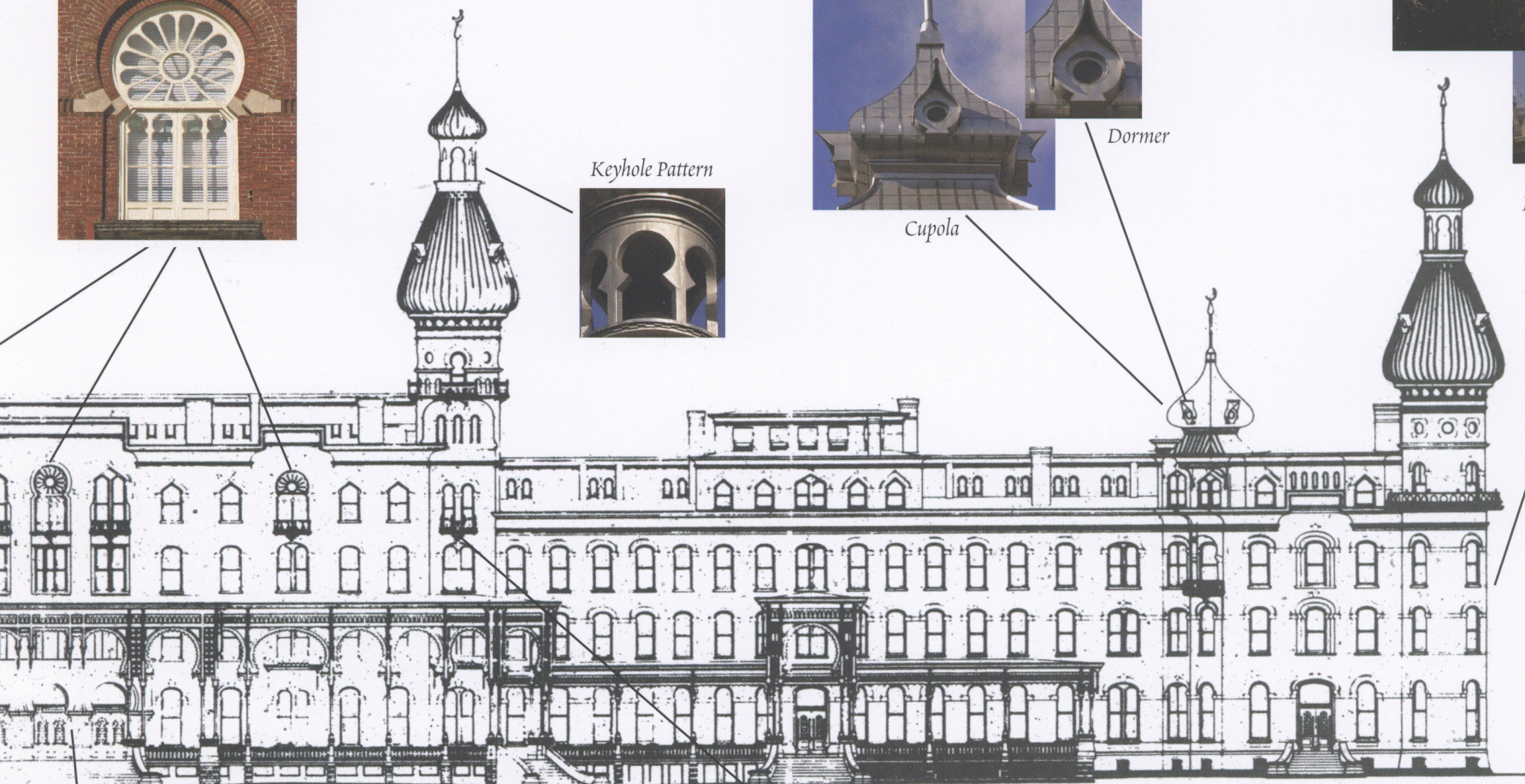
Cupola



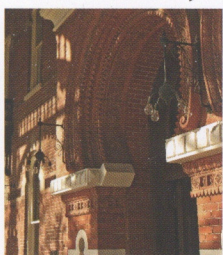
Dormer



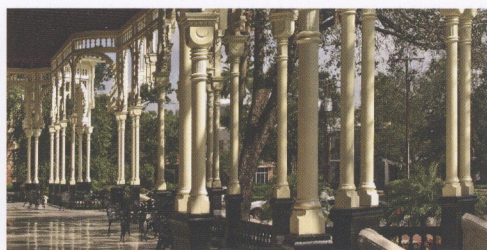
Domes – East side of Building



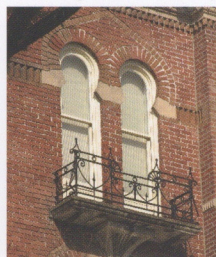
Terra Cotta Entry



Veranda



Wrought Iron Balcony



## What Did It Take To Build Me?

CONSTRUCTION FOREMEN TOTALED THE AMOUNT OF MATERIALS:

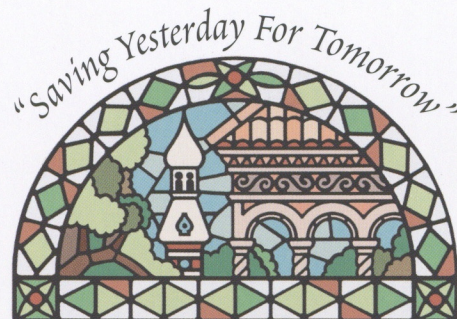
7,576	barrels of shell	5,050	feet of iron cornices
452	carloads of brick	689,500	feet of lumber
4,041	barrels of lime	27,000	square feet of stone dressing
2,949	barrels of cement	30	polished granite columns
2,224	tons of steel		
6.5	tons of iron		
242	kegs of nails		
			and numerous tons of other miscellaneous materials.





## HENRY B. PLANT MUSEUM

1891 TAMPA BAY HOTEL • NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK



TAMPA PRESERVATION, INC.

ISBN 0-9745266-1-4



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