

# Cornerstone

Tampa Preservation, Inc.

Winter 2007

## Tampa Preservation, Inc. Officers/ Board Members 2007-2008

### Officers

President  
Nootchie Smith

VP Education  
Robin Gonzalez

VP Fund Raising Research  
Patti Cowart

VP Revolving Fund  
Beth Strong

Secretary  
Ellen Robinson

Treasurer  
Becky Clarke

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Ester Hammer

Grace Kelly

Owen LaFave

Paula Meckley

Jo-Anne Peck

### Newsletter Editor

Jo-Anne Peck

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## TPI AWARDS MAY 2007

Congratulations to all the deserving winners of this year's TPI Banner Awards! Each of the projects showcase Tampa's unique architectural heritage and help ensure they will endure for future generations to enjoy.

### Commercial Awards

#### Adaptive Re-Use

2001 E. Second Avenue, Ybor City

#### Restoration/Rehabilitation

Hillsborough High School, Seminole Heights



*Hillsborough High School is the oldest high school in the county*

### Residential Awards

#### Restoration/Rehabilitation

2551 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ybor City

2553 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ybor City

5405 Branch Avenue, Seminole Heights

1818 Hills Avenue, Hyde Park

1915 W. LaSalle Avenue, West Tampa



### Education Award

Hyde Park Preservation. Video.

*Growing up in Hyde Park: A Time of Innocence*



**Many thanks to this year's Awards Committee for all their hard work:**

Nootchie Smith,

Awards Chair

Becky Clarke

Kenneth Garcia, AIA

Grace Kelly

Gus Paras, AIA

Alexander Ratensky, AIA

Anna Thomas

## NATIONAL REGISTER UPDATE

Congratulations to the Jackson-Robinson family for the listing of their historic boarding house located at 851 Zack Street on the National Register of Historic Places. The building is also listed as part of Tampa's Historic Local Landmark Multiple Properties Designation of African-American Heritage Sites. Watch for more on this property to be reported in a future issue.

## TAMPA FIREFIGHTERS MUSEUM

Hardy applause for the Tampa Firefighters Museum! Restoration, renovation and the new addition will be completed in early November under the guidance of preservation architect Martha Sherman. This organization has persevered despite many setbacks through the leadership of Jim Judy. Several Tampa Preservation, Inc. members have assisted the organization over the years, including Ellen Cheek, Becky Clarke and Nootchie Smith.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Beginning in June of 2006 Tampa Preservation, Inc. spent a year working with the City of Tampa and its legal department along with other preservation groups and organizations to modify the sections of the city code dealing with our unique architectural neighborhoods and buildings. We employed attorney Beth Johnson to assist us with this endeavor. Thanks to those who responded to our plea for money to help pay for this endeavor.

The code needed to be updated and made more user friendly while maintaining its basic integrity of identifying, protecting and preserving our community's architectural heritage and providing economic incentives to secure that end.

It was a long and arduous venture. While the new changes were not all we wanted in the code, we believe that what was adopted by City Council will help the city and the community continue its stewardship of Tampa's architectural legacy.

This year, the Officers and Board of Directors of the organization are reflecting on our past to better define our future. As an organization we have exceeded many of the goals sought when founded in 1973. We believe this exercise will result in making the organization more effective in serving our community as one of guardians of our built inheritance.

**Nootchie Smith**  
TPI President

### Upcoming

Tampa Preservation, Inc. will be at the Tampa Yacht & Country Club Christmas Boutique on **Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>** from 10 am to 3 pm. We will be offering unique gifts featuring images of historic Tampa for sale. Please come support TPI!

## HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOOD

Last spring, two Tampa Preservation, Inc. members, Becky Clarke and Robin Gonzalez, met with members of the Historic Old Northeast Neighborhood Association in St. Petersburg. Impressed by TPI's many publications and educational programs, the neighborhood has decided to create a similar type publication for their own unique National Register Historic District. The neighborhood has a great collection of historic residential architecture, as well as the Sunken Gardens and the Vinoy Hotel. Mayor Rick Baker lives in the neighborhood and is enthusiastic about the proposed publication, "Views from the Vinoy, Souvenir of St. Petersburg." It is great to share our preservation experiences with our neighbors across the bay. If anyone would like to know more about this project or would like to help with funding, please call Robin Reed at (727) 825-0480.



## TAMPA CIGAR FACTORIES MAKE 2007 FLORIDA'S 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC SITES LIST

The plight of Tampa's historic cigar factories has attracted the attention of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. Each year, the Trust identifies 11 historic sites that are threatened by development or demolition.

According to the Trust, "Tampa's cigar industry is an integral part of that city's heritage. Out of the 200 cigar factories once standing in Tampa, only 22 still remain and only 15 are located in designated historic districts. Without the protections offered in designated historic districts, these buildings face a potential threat from encroaching development. Concerns over property rights raised by the buildings' owners have prompted the city to amend the City's historic preservation ordinance. Once the ordinance is revised, the designation of the remaining factories will be considered."

## LOCAL PROJECTS WIN STATE AWARDS

At the Florida Trust's 2007 Annual Statewide Preservation Awards, the Tampa bay area received a significant number of accolades. This stands as a great testament to the dedication of Tampa's citizens to preserve and promote our unique architectural heritage. Congratulations to all our local winners:

### Awards for Outstanding Achievement in the field of Restoration/Rehabilitation

**Hillsborough High School, Seminole Heights, Tampa**  
Recognized for the commitment from the School Board to preserve this important historic resource.

### **Heritage Village, Largo**

Heritage Village is a living history museum in Largo consisting of several relocated historic buildings.

### Award For Outstanding Achievement In The Field of Adaptive Use

#### **Box Factory Lofts, Ybor City, Tampa**

The restoration of the factory building has brought new life back into this historic building, converting the 68,000 square-foot building into fifty-three two-story lofts.

### Infill Design Award

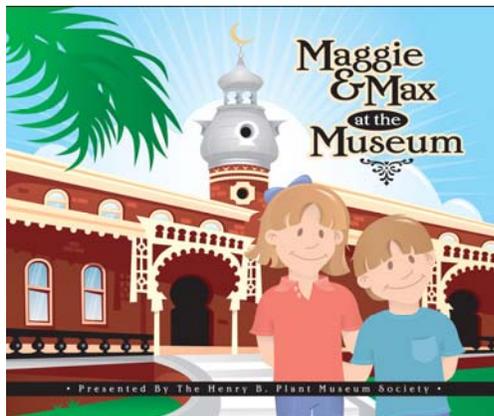
#### **Hyde Park Gateway, Hyde Park, Tampa**

These two single-family houses illustrate how new construction can be integrated into a historic district without compromising the historic character of the neighborhood.

### Achievement In The Field Of Preservation Education/Media

#### **Maggie and Max at the Museum, Henry B. Plant Museum Society**

This historically based book, written by TPI's Robin Gonzalez, tells the story of a big sister and her younger brother's trip to the Henry B. Plant Museum in Tampa.



### Awards for Outstanding Organizational Achievement

#### **Anna Maria Island Historical Society**

The Historical Society recently relocated and restored the historic Belle Haven Cottage, drawing attention to the organization and the Island's historic resources.

#### **Plein Aire Cottage Artists, Indian Rocks Beach**

See article "Art for Preservation" below.

### Award for Meritorious Organizational Achievement

#### **Tampa Architectural Heritage Committee**

The Tampa Bay Chapter of the AIA started the Committee to help preserve the integrity of the area's historical and cultural resources, bringing together preservation advocates, students, professors, and junior architects.

### Individual Distinguished Service Award

#### **Frank Hurley, Jr.**

Recognized for his dedication to the preservation of historic resources in Pass-A-Grill, St. Pete Beach, and Pinellas County.



**ART FOR PRESERVATION**

At this year's Florida Trust awards, a different kind of project, involving canvas and oil paints instead of bricks and mortar was recognized for its preservation efforts. Encouraged by TPI's Becky Clarke and Robin Gonzalez, the **Plein Aire Cottage Artists** of Indian Rocks Beach submitted an award application to the Trust. The three award-winning artists began painting the historic cottages in the area four years ago. Their work prompted area residents to share stories about the buildings and to alert the artists to the demolition threat to one of the cottages. The artists started a unique grassroots effort that brought together historic preservationists, community activists, and artists to show their support for the historic resources in the town. The Plein Aire Artists have used a creative partnership to draw positive media attention to the importance of preserving Indian Rocks Beach.

## NEW PRESERVATION COMMISSION GUIDE

The National Park Service has announced the web publication of "Law and the Historic Preservation Commission: What Every Member Needs to Know" by James K. Reap and Melvin B. Hill, Jr. The 36-page booklet is available free at [www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/partnership/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/partnership/index.htm) as part of the *Cultural Resources Partnerships Notes* series. Other titles in the series include "Subdivision Regulations and Historic Preservation" and "Zoning and Historic Preservation". This publication provides a "plain English" introduction to the basic legal concepts and issues that preservation commissioners may encounter.



## FLORIDA NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

Secretary of State Kurt S. Browning announced the release of the *Florida Native American Heritage Trail* guidebook this past July. The 36 page booklet is the newest addition to the Florida Heritage Trail series, which includes the *Florida World War II Heritage Trail*, the *Florida Cuban Heritage Trail*, the *Florida Black Heritage Trail*, the *Florida Jewish Heritage Trail*, and the *Florida Women's Heritage Trail*.

The *Florida Native American Heritage Trail* booklet honors Florida's Native American cultures, both past and present, by providing in-depth information for residents and visitors. In text and photos, the booklet describes over 100 sites throughout the state where ancient Florida Native Americans left evidence of their cultures and where contemporary Native Americans thrive and exhibit their cultures. The booklet includes a synopsis of the more than 10,000 years of Native American presence and significance in Florida. Sidebars of special interest topics and biographies of individuals important to Florida's Native American heritage are included.

The Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage, Inc. (formerly Trail of the Lost Tribes), a non-profit organization promoting awareness and preservation of Florida's ancient cultures, produced the *Florida Native American Heritage Trail* booklet with a grant from the Division of Historical Resources. Copies of the publication may be purchased online at [www.floridashistoryshop.com](http://www.floridashistoryshop.com).

## CITY OF TAMPA PRESERVATION NEWS

This summer, after a year of intense discussion between City staff and concerned preservation advocates, City Council approved the first in a series of revisions to Tampa's Historic Preservation Ordinance. The revisions adopted concern the Historic Preservation Commission, which is the board in charge of historic designation of buildings, sites, structures and districts. The revised ordinance can be found on the City's web site.

Tampa Historic Preservation Commission recent historic designations:

- 110 W. Amelia Avenue, 316 Park Avenue, and 210 E. Gladys Street - houses redesignated as contributing structures to the Tampa Heights Historic District after being relocated by FDOT
- 5708 N Central Ave - redesignation as a contributing structure to the Seminole Heights Historic District
- 1601 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 2308 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 1712 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue - houses redesignated as contributing structures to the Barrio Latino Historic District after being relocated by FDOT
- The Balbin Brothers Cigar Factory designated a Local Landmark Structure in West Tampa
- Tolle Parsonage-Coombs Log Cabin at 1822 E Park Circle designated a Local Landmark Structure
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the Metalworks-Dicus building on Willow are pending designation as Local Landmark Structures

The Interstate Historic Preservation Trust Fund Loan Program is now in its second year of operation. The Trust Fund Loan Program is a revolving loan fund that was 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.

For additional information contact:  
Dennis Fernandez, Manager  
Historic Preservation  
Telephone: (813) 274-7984

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PRESERVATION NEWS

by Elaine Lund, HC Historic Preservation Program



On July 24, 2007, the HCBCC designated the Oak Grove United Methodist Cemetery as a Hillsborough County Landmark. This cemetery, located near Silver Lake, was established October

13, 1890. The Oak Grove United Methodist Cemetery consists of the original historic portion of the cemetery, flanked by two non-historic areas to the east and the west. Most graves are marked by marble, concrete, and granite headstones, although a few slabs and obelisks are present. Mature trees shade the gravesites. This cemetery contains approximately 1,550 burials on its 4.6 acres. Of these, 29 are burials of WW I veterans and 84 are burials of WW II veterans. Other veterans buried in this cemetery served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

The site served as the location of the Oak Grove United Methodist Church from 1880 until 1920. The first church at this location was a one-room log building, which was replaced in 1889 by a two-story wood frame church. At this time services were performed by pastors from other Tampa-area churches, including First Methodist Church of Tampa Heights, who would travel to Oak Grove about once a month. The cemetery was established on October 13, 1890. However, the first burial, 20-year old Monronay J. Fisher, did not occur until 1895.

The Oak Grove United Methodist Cemetery contains the graves of several early families prominent not only in Oak Grove United Methodist Church, but also in northwest Hillsborough County. The Strickland and Blanton families, who have members buried there, owned large tracts of land within a mile of the cemetery. The Stricklands were charter members of the Oak Grove United Methodist Church, along with the Chapman, Anderson, and Gage families who are also buried in this cemetery. Other prominent families buried in the Oak Grove United Methodist Cemetery include the Copeland family, who were early settlers of Cosme, and the Brown family, who were early settlers of Keystone.

Historic cemeteries have traditionally played an integral role in the social history of our communities. Prominent grave markers chronicle the lives of important persons, such as area settlers, community founders, and social

leaders. Family plots record not only births and deaths, but also document marriages between families.

As a historic landscape, the cemetery is an easily identifiable visual feature of the community and contributes to the distinctive quality of the community. While many people tend to think of a landscape as purely vegetation, the cemetery layout, including grave groupings, driveways, and walkways all contribute to the design of the landscape. Lushly landscaped cemeteries with winding paths, made popular during the "rural" cemetery movement of the Victorian era, were typically established in suburban areas where more land was available.

Historic cemeteries such as this one are subject to a different set of threats than historic buildings. Many smaller, unused historic cemeteries fall into disrepair due to neglect or abandonment. As the American population has become more migratory, descendants are less likely to visit and maintain their ancestors' graves. Ownership of abandoned cemeteries may default to local governments, or these cemeteries may simply be reclaimed by nature. Due to the lack of constant supervision by caretakers, cemeteries are likely to be the targets of vandalism and desecration. Statuary items may be subject to theft. The Oak Grove United Methodist Cemetery has been the target of vandalism in recent years. In November 2006, the church held a Service of Reconsecration and Blessing following the discovery of several apparent animal sacrifices in the cemetery. Oak Grove United Methodist Church will hold a ceremony to recognize the Hillsborough County Landmark designation in November 2007.

Most historic cemeteries are not considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Due to the emotional ties and high amount of reverence that descendants feel for their ancestors' burial places, it can be difficult to objectively evaluate a cemetery's significance. Therefore, cemeteries must meet special requirements to be considered for National Register designation. However, historic cemeteries may be considered locally significant and may be designated by their city or county. Local designation can provide more protection than National Register designation, since local ordinances can require a review of projects that may negatively affect the designated historic Landmark. In unincorporated Hillsborough County, projects by the County and all public utility and transportation entities are also closely reviewed for harmful effects on historic Landmarks.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

_____ \$25.00	Individual	_____ \$100.00	Business	_____ \$500.00	Corporate
_____ \$35.00	Family	_____ \$100.00	Contributing	_____ \$1,000.00	Sustaining
_____ \$50.00	Non-Profit	_____ \$250.00	Supporting		

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