

**DOBY HOUSE
1405 W. Azeele Street
Tampa, Florida**



**CITY OF TAMPA
CITY COUNCIL
January 23, 2025**



**LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
DESIGNATION REPORT**

DOBY HOUSE
1405 W. Azeele Street
Tampa, Florida

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
DESIGNATION REPORT

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

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

Name of Property: DOBY HOUSE

Historic Name of Property: _____

Street Address: 1405 W. AZEELE STREET

City: TAMPA Neighborhood: HYDE PARK SPANISHTOWN CREEK

County: HILLSBOROUGH State: FLORIDA Zip Code: 33606

Acreage: 0.08 MOL Folio Number: 184624.0000 FMSF No: _____

Property Owner: TARA NELAN

Owner's Address: 1405 W. AZEELE STREET

City, State, Zip Code: TAMPA, FLORIDA 33606

DOBY HOUSE
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RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

Ownership	Resources	Contributing	Non-Contributing
<u>X</u> Private	Buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u> </u> Public - Local	Sites	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u> </u> Public - State	Structures	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u> </u> Public - Federal	Objects	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Historic Function: RESIDENCE

Current Function: RESIDENCE

Architectural Classification: FRAME VERNACULAR

Materials: Foundation: PIER
Walls: STUCCO
Roof: SHINGLE

Areas of Significance: A: COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
B: ETHNIC HERITAGE (BLACK)

Period of Significance: c.1912-1933

Significant Dates: c.1912, DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

Significant Person(s): RICHARD C. DOBY

Cultural Affiliation: _____

Architect/Builder: _____

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CRITERIA EVALUATION

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

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Report Prepared by: Historic Preservation Commission

Dennis W. Fernandez, Manager

Elaine Lund, Historic Preservation Specialist

Organization: City of Tampa

2555 E. Hanna Avenue

Tampa, Florida 33610

Telephone Number: 813.274.3100

Date of Presentation to HPC September 17, 2024

Date of Presentation to City Council January 23, 2025

All research material located in the offices of:

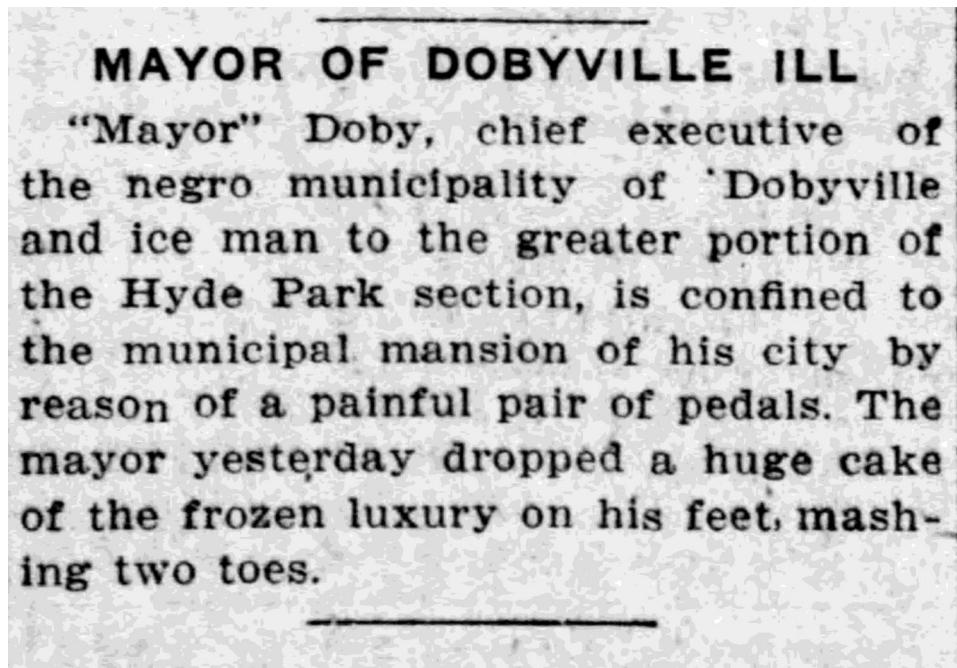
Architectural Review & Historic Preservation
City of Tampa
2555 E. Hanna Avenue
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DESIGNATION SUMMARY

Constructed c.1912, the building at 1405 W. Azeele Street was once the home of Richard Curtis Doby (c.1864-1948) and his family. Doby was well-known in Tampa during the early part of the twentieth century as a successful Black American entrepreneur. In addition to owning his own businesses, he also bought and sold real estate, with enough holdings to donate land to serve the Black American community. The Doby House is located in an area that was once known as Dobyville, a neighborhood that was home to those who worked in Hyde Park. The house is a modest wood frame structure, much like the other houses that were constructed throughout the neighborhood. The Doby House is locally significant under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning & Development, and Criterion B, in the area of Ethnic Heritage.



The Tampa Tribune, 7 August 1908

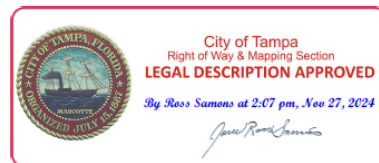
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LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The West 47 feet of Lot 5, Block 9, West Side Park, according to plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 1, Page 35, of the Public Records of Hillsborough County, Florida.



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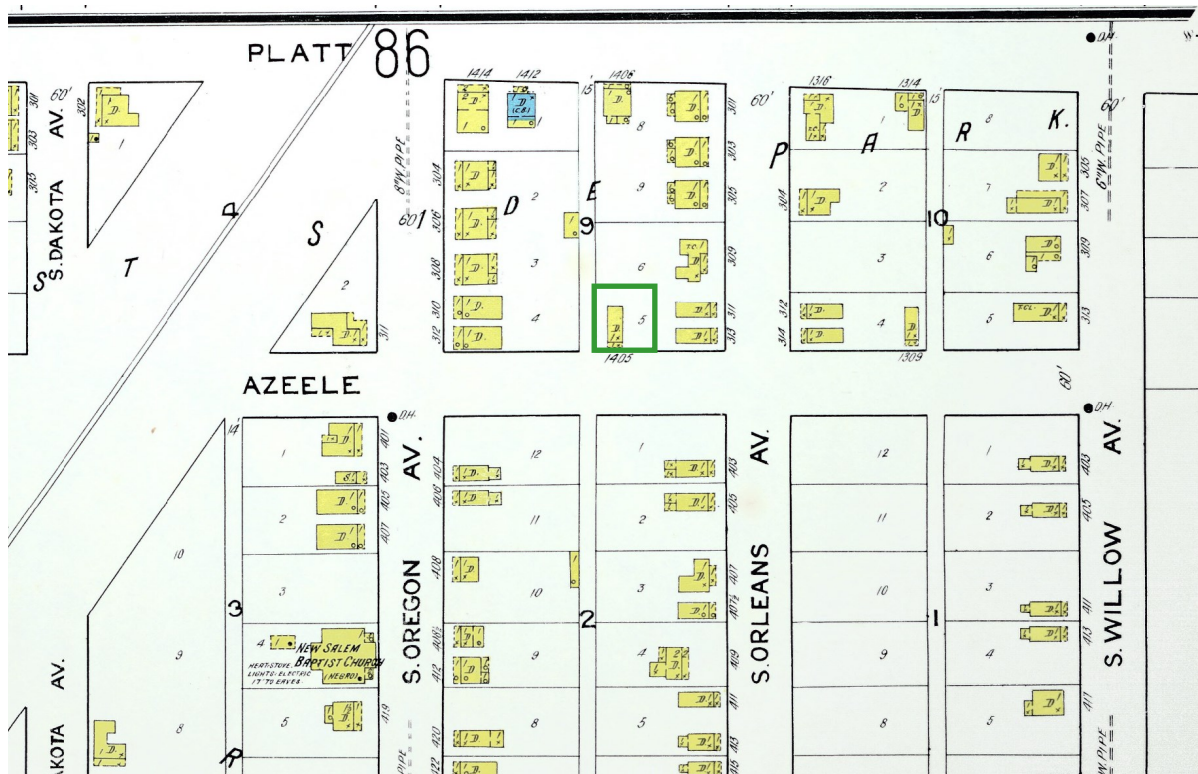
MAPS



AERIAL MAP
2023

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SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY MAP

1915

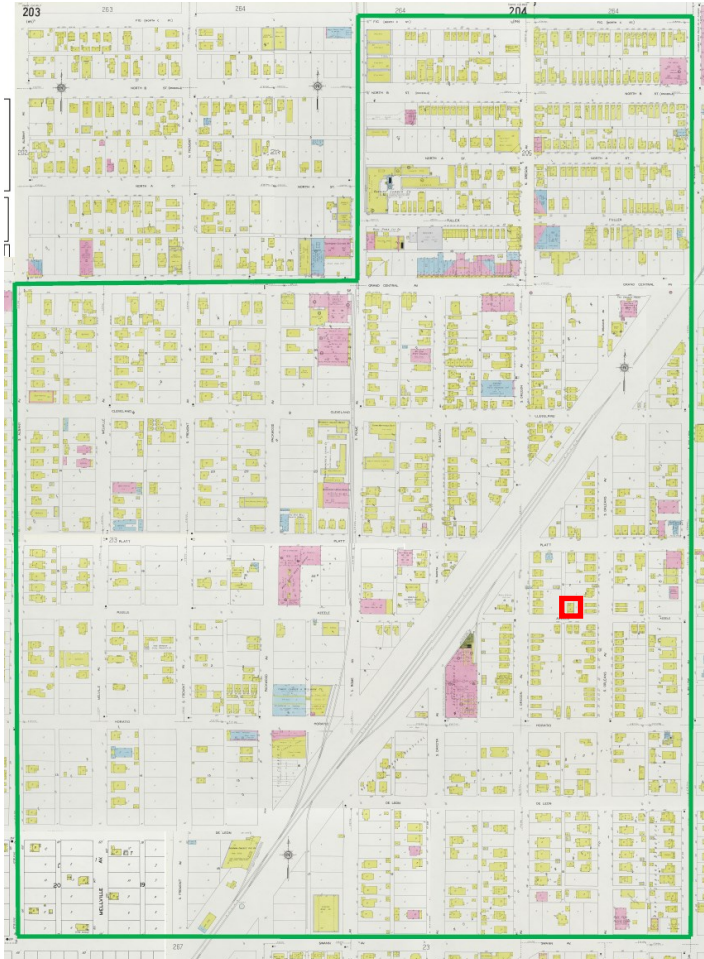
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DESCRIPTION

The Doby House sits on the northside of Azelee Street, between Oregon and Orleans Avenues, in the Hyde Park Historic District. The house is a vestige of the Dobyville neighborhood, which once stretched from Swann Avenue on the south to Fig Street on the north and from Albany Avenue on the west to Willow Avenue on the east. Dobyville was a thriving community in the early twentieth century, home to many of the Black Americans who worked as domestic servants in Hyde Park. Also known as West Hyde Park, the rate of home ownership in Dobyville was higher than in most other Black neighborhoods.



1931 Sanborn Map

The 1927 report, *A Study of Negro Life in Tampa*, noted that the neighborhood had a considerable proportion of good rent quarts, most of which had water and sewer connections and weekly garbage service. In addition to housing, Dobyville was home to schools and churches. Additionally, several factories were found along the Atlantic Coast Line (ACL) Railroad, which ran diagonally through the neighborhood.

-  Dobyville (rough boundaries)
-  Doby House

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The Doby House is located in the West Side Park subdivision, platted in 1890. Richard Doby and his wife, Florence, bought and sold multiple lots in this subdivision and in the Courier City subdivision, also located along the ACL Railroad, as well as in other locations in Tampa and West Tampa. Prior to living at 1405 W. Azeele Street in the 1920s, the Dobys lived in a house at 201 S. Oregon Avenue, which is no longer extant. In addition to profiting from real estate sales, Doby was known to donate land for uses such as the West Hyde Park grammar school (also known as the Dobyville School) and Zion Cemetery, a burial place for Black Americans north of the Tampa city limits.

The c.1912 Doby House, much like the other homes in Dobyville, was constructed as a modest wood frame Vernacular building with a rectangular plan. A shingled cross-gabled roof covers the main body of the house, while a shed roof upheld by round columns shelters the front porch. The house features one-over-one wood sash windows, predominantly paired, with wood surrounds. Alterations include the enclosure of the west side of the front porch, the addition of a small carport on the east side, and the cladding of the building in stucco.



Looking Southwest along the ACL Railroad in Dobyville, c.1957

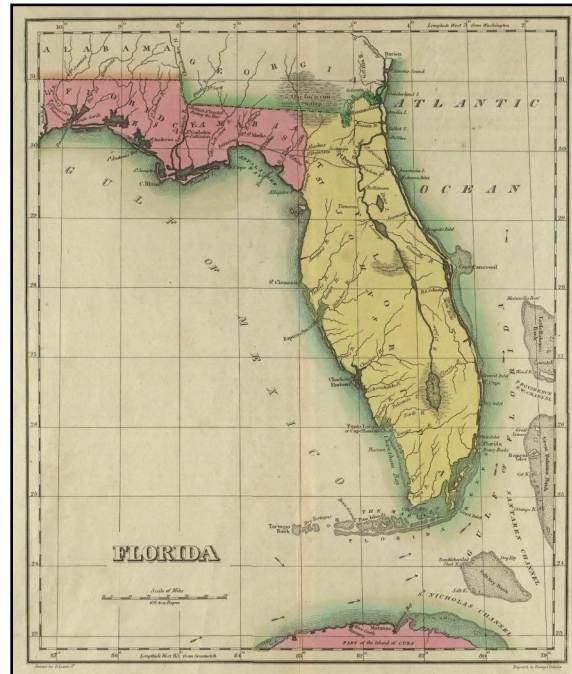
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HISTORIC CONTEXT

Spanish explorers were familiar with the Tampa Bay area as early as the 16th century. Florida officially became a United States territory in 1821, when the U.S. acquired it from Spain under the Adams-Onís Treaty. In 1822, U.S. President James Monroe appointed General Andrew Jackson as Governor of the recently acquired territory. Treaties between the native nations and the U.S. established the boundaries of the Seminole territory, pushing the native people away from the coastlines toward the center of the Florida peninsula. In 1824, the U.S. Army established an outpost at Tampa Bay to monitor the Seminoles and ensure that they stayed in their territory and did not intimidate or harass white settlers. Colonel George Mercer Brooke commanded the fort, which served as the main garrison for the Seminole Wars.

With the establishment of Fort Brooke, the surrounding population securely increased. The fort served as a trading post for both the white and Seminole population. In 1831, a post office was established for Tampa Bay to serve the post and small settlement, the name being shortened to Tampa shortly thereafter. Hillsborough County was created from Alachua County in 1834.



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

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In the early 1800s, Florida provided a refuge for runaway slaves. The 1818 First Seminole War waged by Andrew Jackson hoped to recapture many of these exiles that had taken safety in free-Black settlements such as the Manatee River Settlement.

Within ten years, white settlers were demanding more land - land that was inhabited by American natives and runaway Black slaves. The second Seminole War broke out in 1835 when Major Francis Dade and his men lost in battle, no doubt an attack aided by his Black guide Louis Fatio Pacheco, an enslaved person of Fort Brooke's commanding officer, on the Fort Brooke-Fort King military road. As the fighting escalated, fueled by the large number of runaway slaves, this conflict comprised the greatest slave rebellion in United States history.

The negotiations of 1842 ending the Second Seminole War forced most runaway slaves and Seminoles to migrate to the West or restricted Native American settlements out of what is now Hillsborough County, thereby opening the area to increased white settlement through land grants. A free Black man, Mills Holloman, applied for one of the land grants but was denied due to his color. In 1850, the population for Hillsborough County, which included present-day Pinellas, Polk and Manatee Counties, was 2377; 660 were slaves and 11 were free Blacks.



1824 Map of Fort Brooke

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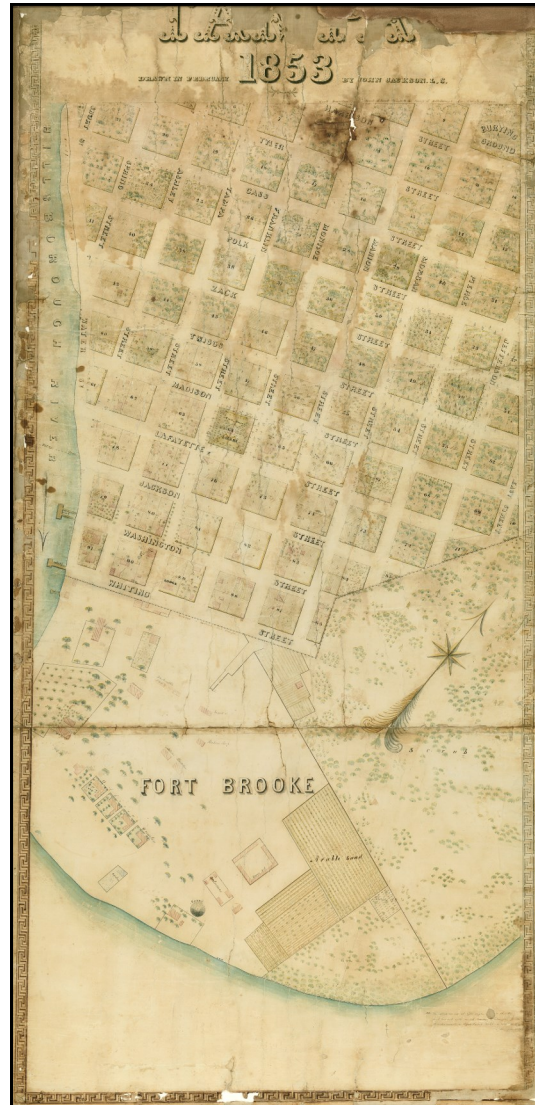
DOBY HOUSE

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Florida achieved statehood in 1845. In 1846, the size of Fort Brooke reduced, making more land available for civilian settlement. Through the 1840s and 1850s, more development occurred in present-day downtown Tampa. The population consisted mainly of military personnel. By 1858 Tampa had about 1,000 inhabitants, the town dotted with houses, churches and businesses.

As the community grew, the Hillsborough Board of County Commissioners established Oaklawn Cemetery, originally known as the Tampa Burial Ground, on April 1, 1850. The Hillsborough County Commission ordered that all that part of the County's land lying North of Harrison Street and East of Morgan Street be set a part for a public graveyard. The northeast section of the cemetery was originally reserved for the burial of black enslaved people. The markers for these graves were wood, none of which remain.

In 1865, with the end of the Civil War, Fort Brooke deactivated and the population of Tampa began to decline. In 1879, a large portion of the land reserved for Fort Brooke was restored to the public domain at a land sale in Gainesville. Colonels Hooker, Sparkman, and Captain John T. Lesley purchased some of the larger lots for themselves and on behalf of others. In 1883, the remainder of the Fort Brooke military reservation opened to civilian settlement, causing a flurry of real estate speculation. The area included all of downtown Tampa south of Whiting street between the Hillsborough River and present-day Ybor Channel. The town of Tampa laid claim. A portion of the Garrison was homesteaded by three Black American homesteaders: Julius Caesar, Frank Jones, and Martha Stilling. A portion of Caesar's property was subdivided and became home to one of Tampa's few owner-occupied Black neighborhoods.



John Jackson's Map of Tampa, 1853

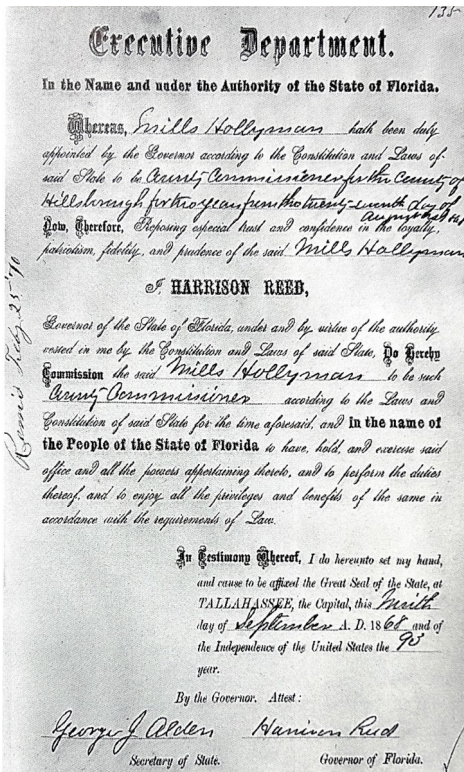
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At the end of the Civil War, postwar economic devastation struck all residents including freed slaves who now attempted to farm on their own or hire out. A freedman's school operated sporadically in 1867 and then permanently in 1870 on Harrison between Morgan and Marion, which was replaced by the Harlem School in 1889. By 1867, Blacks had the right to vote and Hillsborough County's first Black American official, voter registrar Frederick D. Newberry, assisted 87 men in the process. Mills Holloman, who was denied access to the land grants of 1842, was appointed by the Governor to serve as a county commissioner from 1868 to 1872.



The area around South Nebraska Avenue, Caesar Avenue and Cumberland Avenue was the location of one of Tampa's first black neighborhoods. Though small, it presented one of the few owner-occupied Black American areas in the city. The community consisted of a few dozen homes and some small businesses.

Even after the end of Reconstruction in 1877, Tampa area Black Americans lived in an isolated, economically challenged community, but labor was always a marketable force. Unfortunately, the Great Freeze of 1895 took a toll on all farming families, including Black American families such as the Armwoods, who had moved to Hillsborough County in the early 1870s and had been enjoying moderate prosperity farming near Seffner.

Commission of Office for Mills Holloman, 1868

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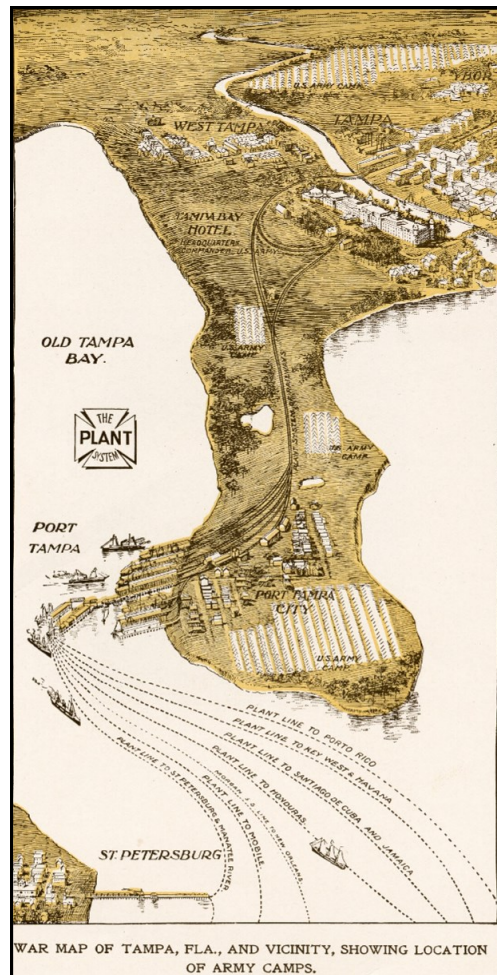
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For Tampa, the end of the 19th century was a time of phenomenal growth. January 1884 saw the completion of Henry Bradley Plant's South Florida Railroad, linking Tampa with Jacksonville, as well as the discovery of phosphate in the vicinity. Plant built the Tampa Bay Hotel on the west bank of the Hillsborough River. In 1888, the first bridge over the Hillsborough River linked the original town of Tampa with the Hyde Park neighborhood and Plant's hotel.

Plant's railroad extended to Port Tampa, connecting his rail and steamship lines. Port Tampa played a major role in the 1898 Spanish-American War, as military forces embarked from there for Cuba. U.S. troops spent many months at camp in West Tampa, Tampa Heights, and Ybor City, waiting for orders to invade Cuba. The war brought many Black soldiers to Tampa for encampment of the 24th and 15th Infantry Regiments and the Ninth Cavalry, known as the Buffalo Soldiers, before their departure to Cuba.

Tampa's role in this war prompted the U.S. Congress to provide funding for the improvement of the city's downtown docking facilities. Another inducement for federal investment in Tampa's harbor occurred when attorney Peter O. Knight convinced the Seaboard Air Line Railway (SAL) to terminate on Seddon Island, directly south of downtown.

By 1905, Congress was convinced to authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the main shipping channels into Tampa to a 20-foot depth. In addition, two of the men who had acquired much of the Fort Brooke waterfront property, E.M. Hendry and A.J. Knight, dredged their own 20-foot channel, further extending navigable waters, and opened a shipping terminal at the mouth of the river. Tampa became a major deep water port and a major phosphate shipping port with warehouses lining the railroad spurs that ran along the downtown harbor.



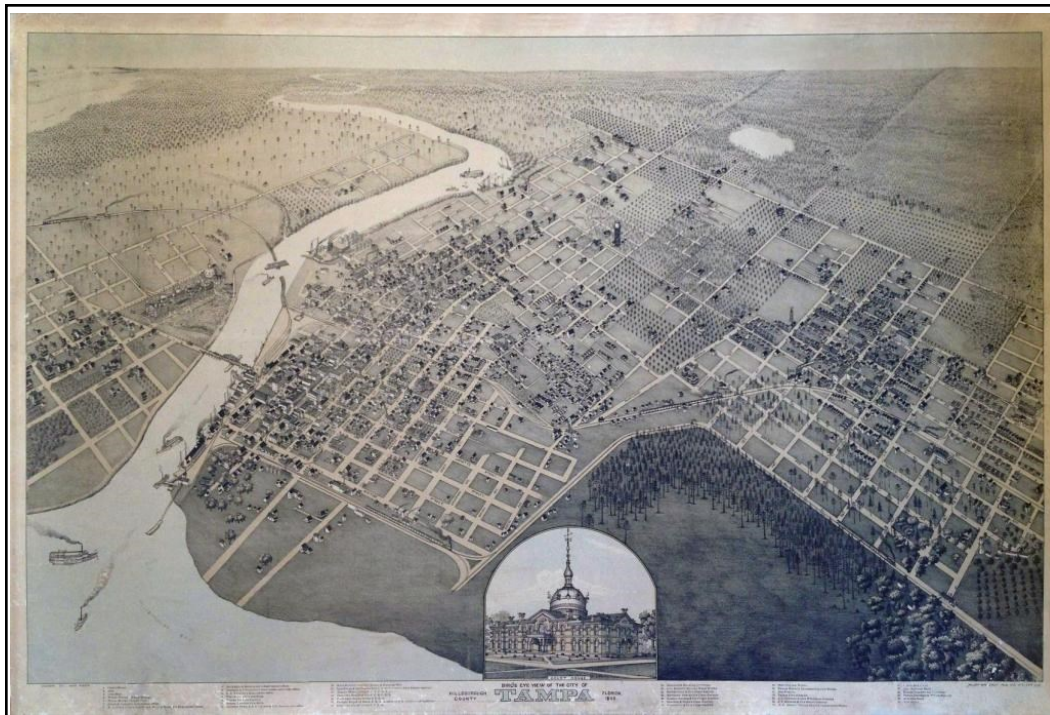
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Growing prosperity saw the spread of residential development from downtown to the new suburbs of Hyde Park and Tampa Heights, areas that had previously been wilderness and farmland. By 1894, West Tampa was established as a second cigar-making city, incorporating in 1895 and remaining independent of Tampa until 1925. Dobyville, an early Black community, was located west of the affluent Hyde Park suburb. Most of the residents living there worked as cooks, servants or nannies for the white families living in Hyde Park. This small community was named after Robert Curtis Doby, a successful black businessman and community leader who had initially purchased the land west of Hyde Park.

During the early twentieth century, Tampa was a thriving community. Downtown, masonry buildings began replacing wooden structures and Tampa's first "skyscrapers" were constructed. The expanding business district spread into the old Fort Brooke area, which was annexed into the city in 1907. This area contained the neighborhood known as The Scrub, a Black neighborhood that began in the latter half of the nineteenth century.



Bird's Eye View of Tampa, 1892

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The Scrub, a Black community, was settled after the Civil War and supplied housing for workers of the nearby lumber mills. At that time, Tampa was a small village with a northern boundary of (now) Kennedy Boulevard. Ybor City grew in the late 1880s to the east, wedging The Scrub between two profoundly different cultures. By the late 1920s, it was the most densely populated Black neighborhood in Tampa. The conditions in The Scrub were modest at best and the deterioration of its structures and quality of living was rapid. This neighborhood was home to three of the staple institutions that were established early in Tampa's history: Mt. Sinai African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (1863), Beulah Baptist Church (1865); and St. Paul's AME Church (1870).



A Street in The Scrub, c.1927

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Racially segregated neighborhoods were spread throughout Tampa. In addition to Dobyville and The Scrub, Black communities evolved in neighborhoods such as the Garrison/Fort Brooke, Robles Pond, College Hill, parts of West Tampa and Ybor City, and around West Palm Avenue. Home ownership rates were low. A small number of Black residents who worked as gardeners, drivers, maids, or in other domestic jobs, lived in the rear of their employers' homes. In addition to residences, the Black neighborhoods also included churches and schools. Public and private schools for Black children were underfunded, resulting in inadequate buildings and overcrowded classrooms.



College Hill- note that streets are only sand beds, electric lights are scarce



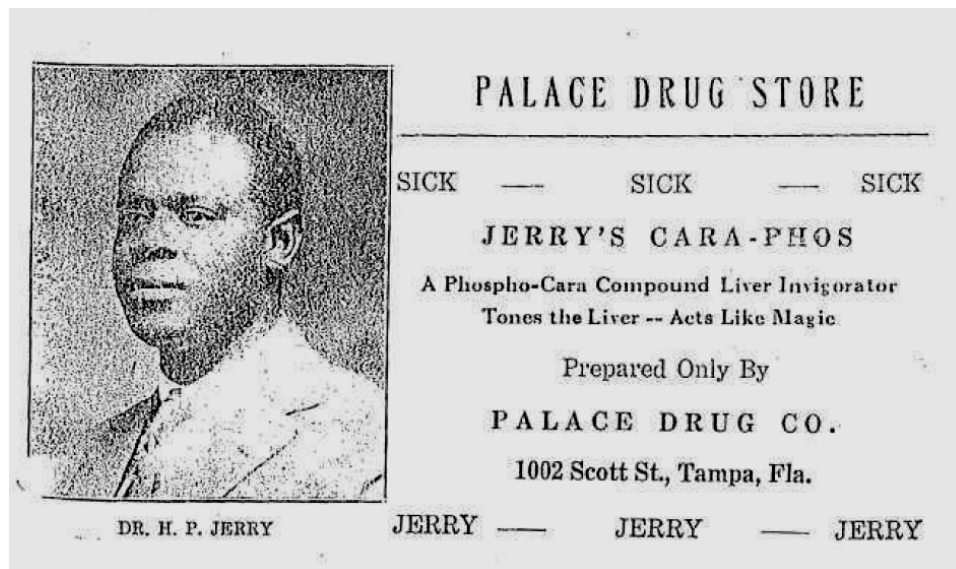
In College Hill many homeowning Negroes are being crowded by the erection of cheap rent quarters on adjoining lots.

Homes in College Hill, c.1927

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Distant enough from downtown Tampa's Franklin Street commercial district, the Black business district in Tampa grew along Central Avenue and its surrounding streets. Capitalizing on the success of the nearby cigar manufacturing areas, the Williams Cigar Company opened in 1906 on Scott Street. The number of Black-owned businesses along Central Avenue grew to over 80 by 1910. In 1912 the first Black dentist, Dr. G. Coffee bought property on Scott and Central to build his office. Walter Armwood opened the first Black-owned drugstore, the Gem Drug Store in 1913 on Central Avenue. Clara Frye opened a hospital on Lamar Avenue for the poor, regardless of race. *The Tampa Bulletin* started in 1914 on Orange Avenue and became one of the leading Black-owned newspapers in the country. 1914 saw the organization of the Negro Board of Trade arise from a meeting at the Central Avenue Odd Fellows Hall.

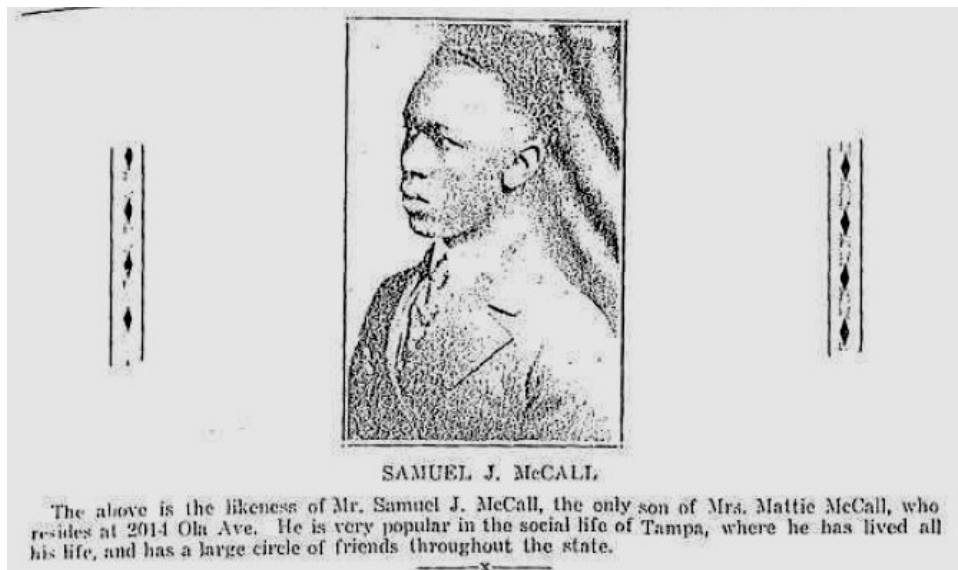


Advertisement from *The Negro Blue Book of Tampa*, 1926

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After World War I ended, prosperity began to spread once again throughout the U.S. and in Florida in particular. It was during this period that many Florida communities experienced a building boom. Like many towns along the coast of Florida, most of Tampa thrived during the Land Boom years of the early 1920s.

On Central Avenue, enterprising entrepreneurs such as Isaac Gardner, Sr. and Garfield Devoe Rogers founded many real estate and business interests during Florida Boom Times of the 1920s. Rogers' business successes were many, including co-founding the Central Life Insurance Company with Mary McLeod Bethune and C. Blythe Andrews in 1922, starting with six employees in a building on Harrison Street. Dr. Jacob White Sr. had his doctor's offices on Central Avenue and Scott Street. While many Black individuals succeeded, it was the sense of community that tied prosperous times. "Today as we enter the second quarter of the twentieth century, we can say very proudly that we came through the past successfully, and are looking to the future full of hope and new inspiration to make our life a life of usefulness, and to discharge our obligation to our fellowmen, and thereby make the world better by our having lived in it," said Samuel J. McCall in 1925. Mr. McCall was an attorney and community activist in Tampa.



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The Tampa Urban League headed by Blanche Armwood and the Harlem Branch of the Tampa Public Library were two very important community organizations of the 1920s. Education was a primary concern, and when government funding fell short, the Tampa Urban League and the Community Chest sponsored The Helping Hand Day Nursery and Kindergarten on Lamar and Kay to provide care for Black children so that their parents could work. During this era, these children would not have been accepted into the segregated childcare centers and schools for white children. By 1922, Blanche Armwood was the supervisor of Negro Schools in Tampa while Christine Meacham was the principal at the Harlem Academy. Churches flourished as well by the 1920s, many which had started out without even so much as any structure at all were now being rebuilt from tents to modest wooden structures to those of brick, claiming their stability, success and permanence to their congregations.



1310 Marion Street, c.1923

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In 1927, *A Study of Negro Life in Tampa* was published by J.H. McGrew, with the cooperation of the Tampa Welfare League, the Tampa Urban League, and the Tampa Young Men's Christian Association. Arthur Raper, Field Representative for the study, developed a comprehensive report of the Black residents of Tampa, including demographics, neighborhood locations, housing and sanitation conditions, health, recreation, education, religion, social agencies, employment and professions, and fraternal organizations. The study included photographic examples of living conditions and daily life in various Black neighborhoods throughout the city. These examples ranged from areas with poorly constructed and ill-kept rental housing like The Scrub and Red Quarters, located between the Lafayette Street Viaduct and Tampa Union Station, to owner-occupied houses in College Hill and along West Palm Avenue, like the Dr. Jacob White, Sr. House, 3321 N. 22nd Street, and the Isaac Gardner, Sr. House, 209 W. Palm Avenue. Overall, the study provided that conditions were inferior and that there were limited resources for Tampa's black residents.



Man Using a Well Pump in Red Quarters, 1927

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A Study of Negro Life in Tampa stated that College Hill (located within the present-day Belmont Heights Neighborhood) is “the only Negro community in Tampa which is not surrounded by white residents, railroads, industrial establishments or bodies of water. In short, it is the natural overflow for the Negro population in Tampa. With a population of 4094, some of whom are home owners, College Hill bids fair to become in a few years, with the possible exception of Tampa proper, the largest Negro settlement in Tampa.”* The survey noted that in general, the owners of the newest homes resided in College Hill, but that the neighborhood also had its share of rent quarters, although they were generally better quarters than in areas where Black home ownership was less prevalent. Other neighborhoods highlighted in the survey included West Tampa, West Hyde Park (Dobyville), Robles Pond, Ybor City, and the Garrison.



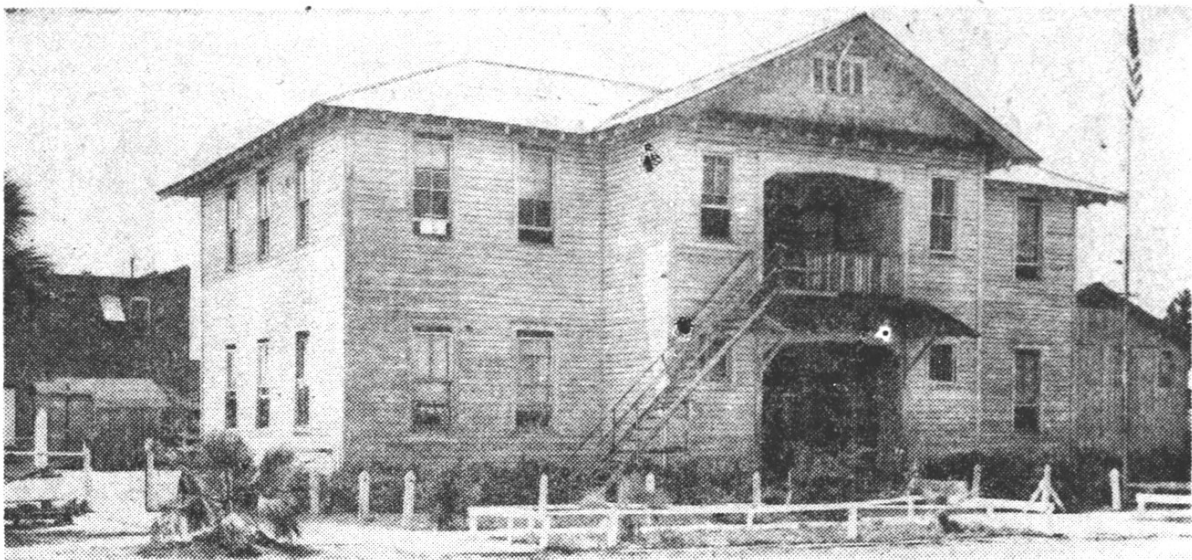
Dr. Jacob White, Sr. House, 1927

*Tampa Proper was defined in this study as including the Central Avenue Section and The Scrubs.

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Dobyville, with a population nearing 3,000 residents in the mid-1920s, was considered one of the finer segregated Black neighborhoods. Dobyville had its own churches and schools to serve its population. Richard C. Doby donated the land at 307 S. Dakota Avenue for the establishment of the West Hyde Park grammar school, later called the Dobyville School. The segregated school for Black students opened c.1907 in a one-room school building. That building was soon replaced with a two-story wood frame structure with two classrooms upstairs and two below. Later, a one-story building with two additional classrooms and a lunch room was added to the school grounds. By 1947, the school was declared inadequate and plans were underway to consolidate it with the Dunbar Negro Elementary School. However, the Dobyville School remained opened until 1966. It was demolished to facilitate the construction of the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway, as were many of the neighborhood's homes and businesses.



Dobyville School, c.1947

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The Great Depression of the early 1930s brought hard times for all, particularly the Black community. Some relief came as the Tampa Urban League sponsored the Tampa Cooperative Unemployment Council, offering sewing shop jobs. Health care improved with a clinic on Marion Street and Tyler Street opening in 1931. The City of Tampa opened the Tampa Negro Hospital on Lamar Avenue in 1930 to help relieve the load assumed by churches, families and health-care organizations such as the Padgett Nursing Home on Palafox Street. Tampa Black business owners continued to provide employment as they could, including the Central Life Insurance Company, the Afro-American Insurance Company on Constant Street and the Pyramid Hotel and Investment Company. Education continued as a focus with the Harlem Academy next door to St. Paul A.M.E. Church and the Lomax School at 38th Avenue and 26th Street being the largest Black school in Hillsborough County. WPA programs from Roosevelt's New Deal in the later 1930s offered job opportunities as well.



Tampa Cooperative Unemployment Council Sewing Room, c.1932

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Serving the military in World War II was viewed as having two goals within the Black American community: the fight against fascism and the end to discrimination and racism at home in the United States. A favorite spot for servicemen was Watts Sanderson's Central Terrace Beer Garden on Central Avenue. After the War, Central Avenue continued to thrive with businesses such as the Central Avenue Sandwich Shop, later El Chico Bar. The Apollo Ballroom at Harrison Street was a popular spot for Black American performers including James Brown, Cab Calloway, Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald with the Chick Webb Band, B.B. King, Cannonball Adderley, who along with his brother hailed from Tampa, and the Ink Spots. During the Jim Crow era, shops, clubs and churches were a refuge from segregation. Several of these traveling entertainers, as well as other Black travelers and railway porters, stayed at The Jackson House on Zack Street. The Central/Pyramid Hotel also offered accommodations for Black American travelers.



Central Hotel, c.1942

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In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, which concluded that racially segregated schools were inherently unequal and therefore a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Hillsborough County public schools were placed under various court desegregation orders beginning in 1962 (these orders remained in effect until 2001). In general, the Civil Rights Movement was slow to reach Tampa. An increase in the black population led to increasingly fractious housing problems, and government-built housing such as Central Park Village offered a meager form of shelter. However, Central Avenue was still a prime area, offering all services to its Black clientele, including restaurants, entertainment, doctor and dentist offices, and barber and beauty shops. The Pyramid Hotel maintained its status as a stellar success, providing a multitude of jobs, and thus served as the anchor for Central Avenue.



Central Avenue, 1960s

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Unfortunately, the 1960s and 1970s took a heavy toll on Central Avenue. Between Urban Renewal and the construction of the Interstate Highway System, Central Avenue and the last of The Scrub lost its identity, and the tight-knit community eventually dispersed. While the new highways connected the suburbs to downtown Tampa, their construction displaced several Black residents and cut off Central Avenue from the rest of the city. Many residents relocated to West Tampa, Ybor City, Belmont Heights, Progress Village, or public housing complexes.

In 1967, Central Avenue succumbed to violence following the fatal shooting of an unarmed Black 19-year old man, Martin Chambers, by police officer James Calvert. Several buildings were burned and destroyed in the riot that followed. The White Hats, a 100-member Black American youth patrol, was formed to help restore the peace. More business closed after integration as Black residents no longer were limited to the shops on Central Avenue. The business district was razed in 1974.



View Looking South from North of the Interstate Connector, 1960

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With the razing of Central Avenue, the elimination of the City's largest historically Black neighborhood was complete. East Tampa, including the neighborhoods of College Hill, Jackson Heights, and Belmont Heights, had long been the destination for those who were displaced from Tampa's other historically Black neighborhoods, including Dobyville. In the 1970s, the Crosstown Expressway began construction, taking out a 14-block strip that ran through Hyde Park and Dobyville. The first leg of the Crosstown Expressway opened between Willow Avenue and Gandy Boulevard in 1976.



Crosstown Expressway as Seen from Hyde Park

Those two parallel black ribbons in the photo are actually part of the Crosstown Expressway, which is slowly inching its way toward downtown Tampa from Hyde Park. Familiar buildings dominate the background.

Aerial Photo by Morris of Selbypic

The Tampa Tribune, 24 May 1975

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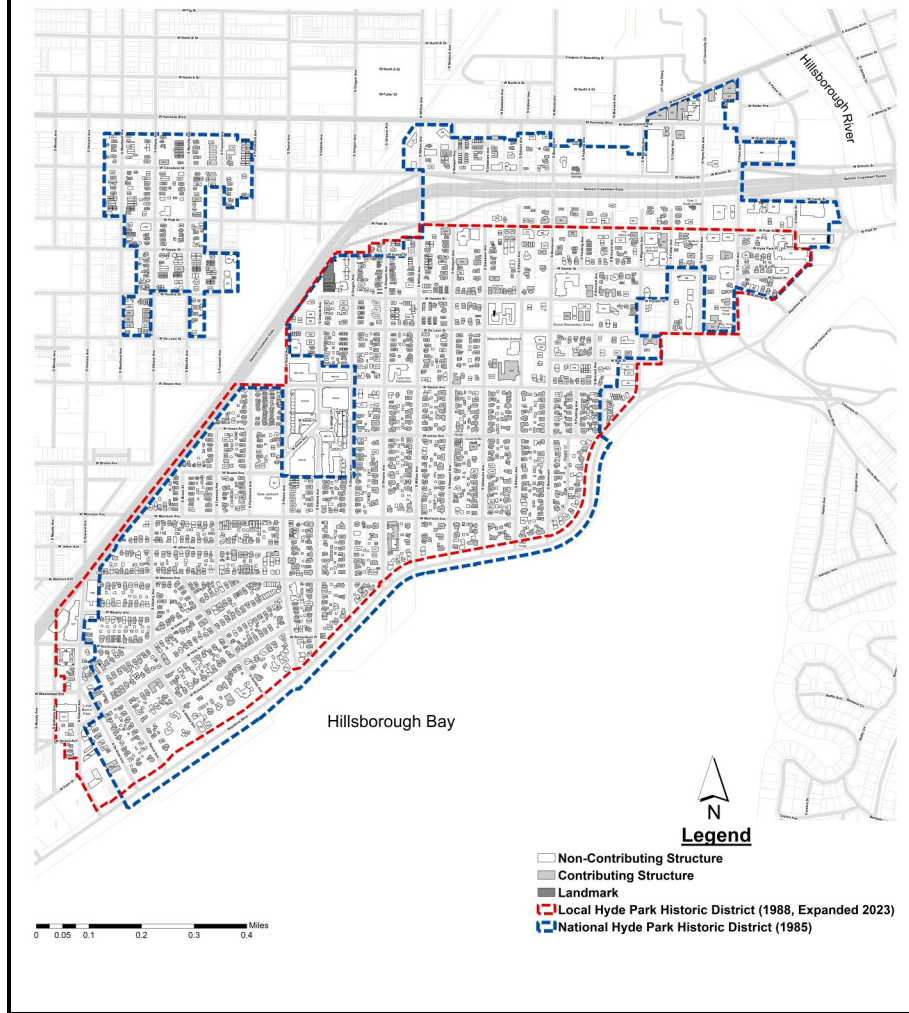
In addition to moving vehicles more quickly through South Tampa, the Crosstown Expressway was also touted as a means to revitalize the Hyde Park area. Other mechanisms, such as the development of the 1976 Hyde Park Plan; the introduction of Neighborhood Housing Services, a non-governmental organization that provided a revolving loan fund for

improvements to properties that could not receive conventional bank loans; and the local designation of the Hyde Park Historic District in 1988. The Historic District was expanded in 2023 to include the portion of Dobyville south of the Crosstown Expressway, extending the protections of the local historic district into the historically Black neighborhood.

HYDE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

Period of Historic Significance: 1886-1933

01-05-2023



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CRITERION A: COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

CRITERION B: ETHNIC HERITAGE-BLACK

The c.1912 Doby House stands as a testament to a once-thriving Black American neighborhood. The house derives significance from its association with Richard Curtis Doby, a prominent businessman and property owner, who owned the property in the 1920s. Doby's contributions to the neighborhood and to the greater Black Tampa community led to the neighborhood being named in his honor. The house at 1405 W. Azeele Street stands as the last extant historic resource associated with Doby. Despite alterations, the original form and character of the Frame Vernacular building is still present. Therefore, this property is significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Community Planning & Development and under Criterion B in the area of Ethnic Heritage. The Doby House meets the criteria under Section 27-257 of the City of Tampa Code of Ordinances and is eligible for Local Historic Landmark Designation.



Doby House, Facing Northwest

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University of South Florida Digital Collections: Florida Map Collection

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