Tampa Bricks & Mortar

Architectural Review & Historic Preservation

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January 2019 Public Hearings:

Architectural Review Commission— Jan 7th
Jan 9th
6:00 PM

Historic Preservation Commission—Jan 15th
9:00 AM

Barrio Latino Commission— Jan 22nd
9:00 AM

- The Historic Preservation Commission (**HPC**) recommends historic districts and individual landmarks for designation.
- The Architectural Review Commission (**ARC**) oversees the individual landmarks and three historic districts:
  - Hyde Park,
  - Tampa Heights,
  - Seminole Heights.
- The Barrio Latino Commission (**BLC**) oversees the Ybor City Historic District.

2018 Preservation Review

ARHP staff was honored to work on several successful historic preservation projects in 2018.

Three buildings were designated by the City of Tampa as local historic landmarks:

- Old St. Mark Community Aid Center, 7218 S. Sherrill Street, a Spanish-American War-era wood frame church that has long served the African-American community of Port Tampa;
- First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Tampa, 220 E. Madison Street, a mid-century example of high-rise International Style construction in downtown Tampa;
- the c.1842 Stringer-Stalnaker House, also known as the Oldest House in Tampa, now at 2111 W. Cleveland Street, which previously had been moved from its original location to Gary in 1914 to make way for the new City Hall.

Two properties were listed in *National Register of Historic Places*: First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Tampa and the 1913 Lafayette Street (Kennedy Boulevard) Bridge, a double-leaf bascule bridge with graceful arch deck approach spans, inspired by the City Beautiful movement.

The Stringer-Stalnaker House during relocation, 2018

The Architectural Review and Barrio Latino Commissions reviewed over 70 applications at Public Hearings. This included the approval of six historic preservation ad valorem tax exemptions for projects that met the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, representing an investment of over $26 million in Tampa's historic structures. One of the most notable projects to receive this tax exemption was the Armature Works/TECO Trolley Barn, a local historic landmark that has been adapted for reuse from its historic industrial functions to a mixed-use building with a market hall, restaurants, event spaces, and a coworking space.

Roof Forms

The roof form is not only a principal structural component of a building; its dominant appearance helps to define the building's style.

A roof consists of those parts of the top of a building that shelter it from the elements. Roofs are composed from three basic forms: gabled, hipped, and flat. Gabled roofs are formed when two sloping roof planes are supported by triangular extensions of the wall, known as gables, on both ends. In gabled roofs, the junction of roof and wall occurs at varying heights, whereas in hipped and flat roofs, the roof meets the walls in a horizontal plane. Basic hipped roofs consist of four sloping surfaces, while flat roofs have one surface. Many combinations and subtypes of these forms are found in historic architecture.

A ridge is the line where the highest points of the roof planes meet. Ridges may be found on gabled or hipped roofs. Hips are formed at the external angle where the planes of the sloping roof surfaces meet, and valleys are found, conversely, where the planes intersect creating a depression.

Roof-wall junctions are known as eaves or rakes (when along an angled side), may be closed (with no overhang), open, or boxed (with a horizontal soffit).

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Bautista M. Balbontin (1863-1950) was born at Santander, Spain, After attending school in his native country, he came to the U.S. in 1875. He first located in Mobile, AL, where he worked In the retail grocery business.

In 1889, Balbontin came to Tampa and decided to enter the cigar industry, which was just becoming firmly established. He worked as a cigar maker in the R. Marino factory, later known as the Lovera company, for two years.

In 1893 he entered the retail liquor business, and he expanded into the wholesale liquor business in 1902. Balbontin was general manager of the Florida Brewing company from 1905 to 1909.

A recognized leader among the city's Latin-American populace, Balbontin served the public in multiple capacities. In 1893 he was elected tax assessor. In the same year he served as assistant chief of the volunteer fire department. From 1904 to 1908, he was one of the members of the board of public works, which was connected with the purchase of the Tampa Bay hotel by the city and many public improvements. He later engaged in the retail drug business and real estate operations.

Balbontin married Margaret Barela, of Mobile, AL, and they had two sons.

Bautista M. Balbontin, c.1922

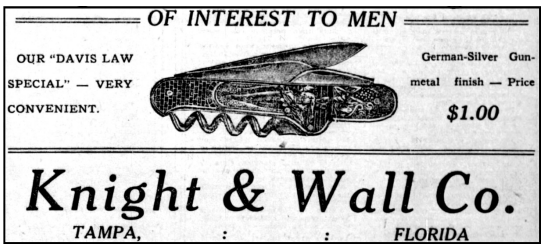
The Tampa Tribune, 1895

The fight to ban alcohol in Florida began in the late 1800s, largely through the efforts of certain Christian groups. In 1915, after years of struggle and debate, Florida legislators passed the Davis Package Law, which allowed alcohol to be sold only in secure containers larger than half a pint and only to males who were not known drunkards. The law ordered all saloons closed from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and on Sundays and election days. Out of the 75 saloons then open in Tampa, more than 50 closed on October 1, 1915, the day the law became effective. The *Tampa Tribune* reported that business in most of the Tampa saloons was better than usual during the prior evening.

Between 1915 and 1918, most of Florida's remaining wet counties voted to become dry and thereby close their saloons. In 1918, Hillsborough County was one of the four wet counties remaining in the state, though local government discouraged the operating of saloons through painfully high licensing fees. The money required to overcome these obstacles divided Tampa's saloons into three categories: expensive establishments like the Tampa Bay Hotel, El Pasajé, and the Balbontin Saloon that attracted well-to-do businessmen and politicians; working-class places like the White Swan for the common man; and "blind tigers," which were unlicensed establishments teeming with bad liquor, gambling and prostitution.

In November 1918, Florida's citizens voted to enact prohibition, and even Hillsborough County went dry on January 1, 1919. The stringent law prohibited the sale of all alcohol other than wine for sacramental purposes or liquor for scientific, mechanical, or prescribed medicinal purposes. No person was permitted to possess more than four quarts.

The Tampa Tribune, 1915



To identify, preserve, and promote historically significant buildings, sites, objects, and districts for the educational, cultural, and economic benefit of the community.