Tampa Bricks & Mortar

Architectural Review & Historic Preservation

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March 2019 Public Hearings:

Architectural Review Commission— Mar 4th
Mar 6th
6:00 PM

Historic Preservation Commission—Mar 12th
9:00 AM

Barrio Latino Commission— Mar 26th
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.

Good and Faulty Construction—Sill Framing

Radford's Cyclopedia of Construction, published in 1909, consisted of 12 volumes of up-to-date practical information condensed from "the world's best literature" in the construction field. Volume Two covers practical carpentry, house framing, and other elements of wood construction. A portion of the chapter on the Elements of House Framing provides examples of good and faulty construction. The first such example is of the sill, the part of the wall that rests horizontally upon the foundation and upon which are placed the floor joists.

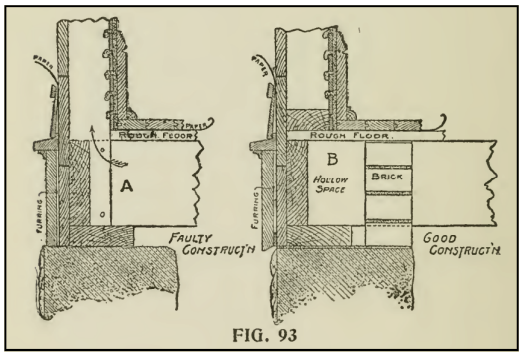

Fig.93, Radford's Cyclopedia of Construction, 1909

In Fig. 93, the sill construction shown as "A" is marked "faulty." The masonry below the sill projects beyond the base board, allowing water to run down the board and intrude under the sill, eventually rotting the sill beam. Additionally, in "A" the air from under the joists is free to circulate into the wall space, providing poor insulation and allowing ample entry for vermin, as well as the more rapid spread of fire.

In "B" the space between the joist and studding is blocked, and bricks (Radford recommended these be stacked just a little shorter than the joist to allow for shrinkage of newly-cut timber) fill in between the floor joists, leaving a hollow space that provides insulation between the wall and the crawlspace or basement.

"B" also illustrates the proper placement of the base board in relation to the masonry and siding. The sill is set in to allow the 7/8 sheathing to be placed neatly in line with the face of the masonry. The base board then sets clear of and slightly below the top edge of the masonry. The back edge of the board is beveled, preventing water from intruding under the sill beam. Further, the sill is embedded in mortar. Building paper is recommended to extend from sill to plate and run under window and door frames.

Foundation Enclosures

Foundations of raised historic buildings were frequently enclosed with open brickwork, iron ventilating grates, or wood lattice. These materials allowed ventilation while discouraging animals from taking shelter under the structure. Such enclosures were often decorative, complementing the style of the building.

An open pier foundation system, including the enclosure screening, should be regularly maintained and repaired if damaged. If still intact, do not replace original foundation enclosures.

If repair or replacement is necessary, use materials, size, shapes, and patterns that are the same as, or match as closely as possible, the originals. Do not replace the historic materials with concrete block, plywood, metal screens, siding, stucco, or other materials not original to the building or appropriate for the building's historic era and design. When restoring the missing original enclosure, the use of photographic evidence, architectural investigation, or historic reference from nearby buildings of the same style may provide information regarding appropriate replacement materials. Inappropriate materials in the foundation enclosure detract from the overall historic appearance of the building.

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Franklin Oliver Adams, Jr. was born on a cotton plantation in Waterproof, Louisiana, in 1881. He received a Bachelors of Science degree from Centenary College in 1901, and after a brief teaching career, Adams went to Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study architecture, receiving that degree in 1907.

In 1914, Adams moved to Tampa and set up his architecture practice here. His notable Tampa buildings include the Municipal Auditorium, Plant High School, First Presbyterian and Palma Ceia Presbyterian Churches, the Roy Jenkins Pool on Davis Islands, and some of the city's public housing complexes. His residential structures included houses in Beach Park and Davis Islands.

Adams' achievements in Tampa extended beyond buildings. As the chair of the Board of Trade's planning and zoning committee, Adams advocated for the establishment of the city's first zoning ordinance. From 1940-1954, he chaired the Tampa Zoning and Planning Board. He also chaired the boards of the Hillsborough Juvenile Home, Tampa Municipal Art Museum, and the Hillsborough County of Better Housing Program. He also served on the Municipal Housing Committee, which studied the low-cost housing needs of the city's African-American population, and the mayor's committee to select a site for a municipal airport.

Nationally, Adams was known for being a member of Hoover's Building Congress and Roosevelt's Construction Appeals Board under the National Recovery Act.

In 1940, Adams was named as a Fellow by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and, in addition to serving on the AIA's board of directors for three years, he was a member of the institute's Jury of Fellows for six years.

Roosevelt Elementary School

The Boom Times of the 1920s brought a flurry of construction to accommodate Tampa's growing population. Mediterranean Revival was a very popular architectural style during this period, as evidenced by many of the era's remaining buildings. Palma Ceia School, as Roosevelt Elementary School was originally called, serviced the educational needs of the rapidly developing Interbay Peninsula, including Palma Ceia Park, a suburban neighborhood developed by the Tampa Bay Land Development Company.

Designed by B.C. Bonfoey (1873-1953), the school demonstrates the Mediterranean Revival characteristics that were hallmarks of Bonfoey's designs, including the second story tripartite window arrangement above the main entrance and the clay pan tiles used as roofing material. The builder was Horton & Smith, as noted on a 1925 Burgert Brothers photograph of the newly constructed school. This elementary school was designed to blend nicely in its surroundings, that of a new upscale neighborhood that had a particular fondness for the Craftsman Bungalow and Mediterranean Revival architectural styles.

Once thought to be one of the locations of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders encampments during the Spanish-American War of 1898, the school changed its name shortly after construction to honor Roosevelt's legacy.

Roosevelt Elementary School was designated as a local historic landmark by City Council in 2004, and it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.