

1822 East Fourteenth Street (House)
Ybor City (Tampa)
Hillsborough County
Florida

HABS No. FL-326

HABS
FLA,
29-TAMP,
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

CUETO HOUSE
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Ybor City
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ADDENDUM TO:
1822 EAST FOURTEENTH STREET (HOUSE)
Ybor City
Tampa
Hillsborough County
Florida

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
100 Alabama St. NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CUETO HOUSE (1822 East Fourteenth Street (House))

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Addendum to
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Location: 1822 East Fourteenth Avenue, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida

Significance: This building's architectural and historical significance is derived from its contribution to the Ybor City National Historic Landmark District. Ybor City is a section of Tampa founded and built by Vicente M. Ybor and Ignacio Haya as a cigar manufacturing center and town. This boarding house represents cigar factory worker housing within the larger context of the cigar manufacturing company town. This company town was planned by Gavino Gutierrez to include cigar factories, workers housing, public spaces, and commercial buildings.

Description: Built ca.1909, this two-story Masonry Vernacular boarding house is sited close to the sidewalk. The rectangular building has a masonry structural system that rests on a continuous brick foundation with an infill of poured concrete at the porch. The flat roof is clad in built-up materials and the exterior is sheathed in brick. Wood French doors with a transom above serve as the main entrance off the front porch. French doors with transom are featured on the second floor as well, which allow access to and from the second floor balcony. Fenestration consists of wood double-hung sash windows with a two-over-two light configuration. The building features a full-width attached porch on the first and second floor of the front elevation with three bays, and it is supported by metal poles. The second floor balcony has a decorative metal balustrade, and at one time featured a fabric awning above. A metal fire escape is attached to the second floor balcony on the west elevation. A small historic one-story brick shed-roofed kitchen is attached to the rear of the building at the northwest corner. Another historic, ca.1935, one-story shed-roofed addition is attached to the rear northeast corner as well. This addition is built from concrete block and features metal casement windows with three lights a piece. A wood handicap access ramp leads up to a rear entry between these two additions. Exterior ornamentation includes a shaped parapet, corbelled brick cornice, and segmental-arched windows accented by a raised brick course. The interior of this boarding house has eight living units and one common use bathroom on each floor. The second floor central hallway is illuminated by a skylight. A small historic, ca.1940, one-story gabled wood-frame shed is located to the north of this building.

History: This historic boarding house was built ca.1909 within the larger area of Ybor City that contained residences, factories, and commercial buildings. The bricks used in constructing this building were shipped from a brickyard in Atlanta, and this rare clay brick is pockmarked with seeds throughout. The building was built shortly after a great fire in 1908 burned down over 250 buildings in Ybor City. According to Tampa City Directories the original property owner, Ramon Cueto, is first listed as a property owner

of 1822 East Fourteenth Avenue in 1910, and his occupation is listed as a cigar maker. Not until 1917 does the City Directories list the address as an actual boarding house. In 1918, ownership changed to Lucas Fernandez, whose occupation is listed as a cook.

Lucas Fernandez, originally from Santander, Spain, worked as a cook at Los Novedados Restaurant on 7th Avenue in Ybor City. Ramona Fernandez, wife to Lucas, was known as "La Gallega," which translates as "the woman from Galicia," the province in Spain where Ramona was born. She was also called the "Matriarch of Ybor City." Over time the boarding house would be known as "La Gallega." Mrs. Fernandez was responsible for helping immigrant workers from Spain and Cuba by providing accommodations in the boarding house and helping them find jobs in Ybor City. The Fernandez family lived downstairs and boarders lived upstairs. The boarders were generally young single men from the provinces of Galicia and Asturias in Spain. Ramona had a no-nonsense personality, but was a compassionate and kind caretaker. When workers would strike or times were tough, especially during the Great Depression, Ramona would never refuse food or shelter to those in need. The Fernandez family had one of the only working telephones in the area at that time, and Ramona did not put locks on the front and rear doors. This allowed tenants to come and go and use the telephone. Locks were only placed on the interior doors. Ramona was the head proprietor until her death in 1937, when at that time her daughter, Isolina, took over the business. Over time Isolina became known as "La Gallega" just as her mother before had. Isolina continued to run the boarding house until her death in 1992. Her daughter, Sylvia Sierra, continued to run the boarding house until it closed in 2002.

Sources:

Charleton, James H. Ybor City Historic District. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, 1990.

Lastra, Frank. "La Gallega's Building" *La Gaceta*, March 10, 1995, pg. 23.

Lastra, Frank. Personal notes taken from Fernandez family interview provided to me by the author.

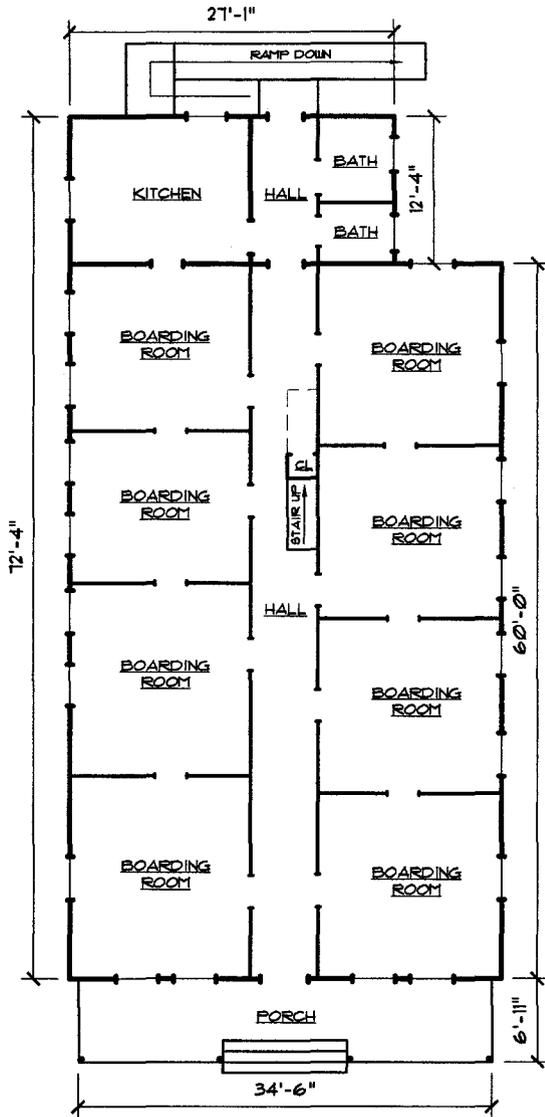
Mormino, Gary R. and Anthony P. Pizzo. *The Immigrant World of Ybor City*. University of Illinois Press, Chicago, 1987.

Polk, R.L. and Company

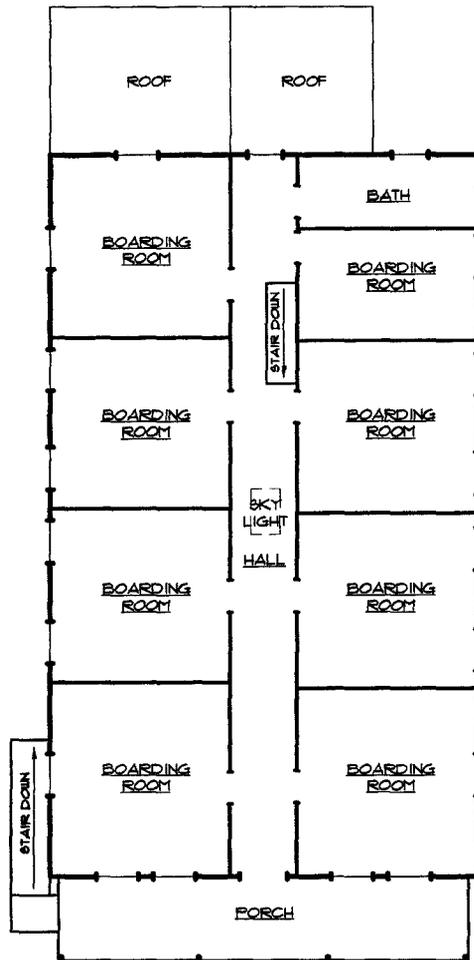
Various Dates *City of Tampa City Directories*. R. L. Polk and Company:
Jacksonville, Florida

Historian:

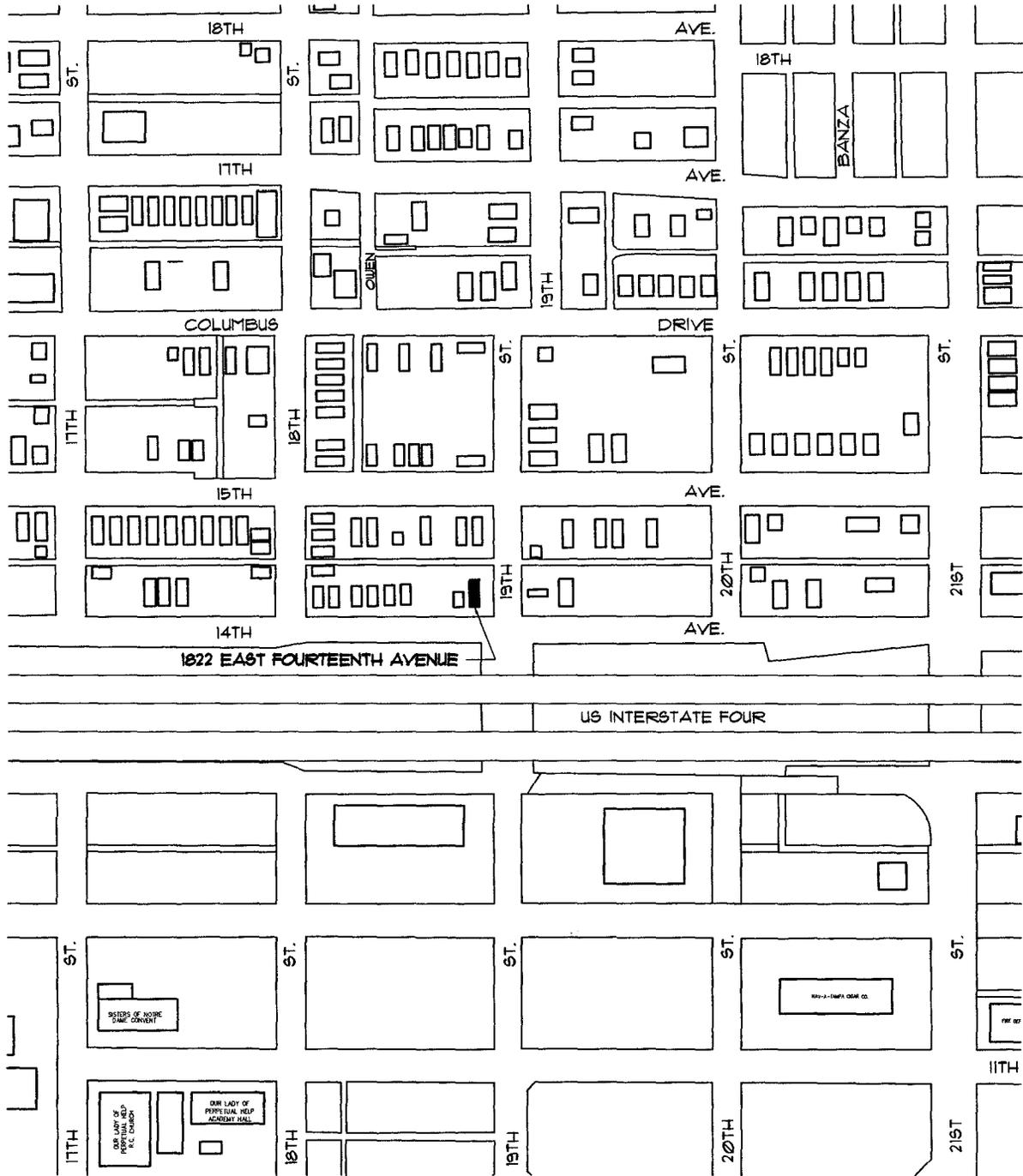
Brian Koepnick, Janus Research, June 18, 2002.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN SKETCH		SCALE 1/16" = 1'-0"
DATE DRAWN: May 24, 2002 DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck	CUETO HOUSE YBOR CITY, TAMPA, FL	



SECOND FLOOR PLAN SKETCH		SCALE 1/16" = 1'-0"
DATE DRAWN: May 24, 2002 DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck	CUETO HOUSE YBOR CITY, TAMPA, FL	



LOCATION MAP		NOT TO SCALE
DATE DRAWN: May 24, 2002 DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck	CUETO HOUSE YBOR CITY, TAMPA, FL	