

2324 WEST LAUREL STREET (House)
West Tampa
Tampa
Hillsborough County
Florida

HABS No. FL-510

HABS
FL-510

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

2324 WEST LAUREL STREET (House)

HABS No. FL-510

Location: 2324 West Laurel Street, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida

Significance: This building's architectural and historical significance is derived from its contribution to the West Tampa National Register Historic District. This ca. 1925 two-story camel-back bungalow appears to have been moved to this location ca. 1963. Some historic features that remain intact include weatherboard siding, wood double-hung sash windows, and a brick chimney. The city of West Tampa was established in 1895 as a community adjacent to, but separate from, the City of Tampa and remained an incorporated city for thirty years. Like Ybor City, West Tampa was originally developed to promote the cigar industry in Tampa. In 1887, a group of Tampa businessmen, led by Tampa lawyer Hugh C. Macfarlane, began to promote the area west of the Hillsborough River as a possible location for a second cigar manufacturing center. They were successful as cigar factories, social clubs, schools, residences, commercial buildings, and other public institutions were constructed. Most of the housing consisted of wood frame vernacular rowhouses and bungalows. This house is a good example of the two-story camel-back bungalow found occasionally in West Tampa.

Description: This two-story irregular plan wood frame residence was constructed ca. 1925 in the Bungalow style. The second floor consists of a smaller rectangular footprint than the first floor, giving this sub-style the name of "camel-back". This house has two separate living units (one downstairs and one upstairs) and has been this way since at least ca. 1963 when it was moved to this location, according to the Tampa City Directories. The house rests on concrete block piers with no infill. There is weatherboard siding on all exterior walls. The two-bay front (north) porch has a concrete foundation and simple wood post porch supports. The west elevation has two sets of exterior stairs; one set is concrete and leads to the second floor entrance door. The other is a fire escape which was added later; the metal stoop remains but the metal stairs were removed and replaced with wooden stairs. The gable and shed roofs are sheathed in composition shingles and roll roofing. One brick chimney is located on the exterior east slope. The windows are wood one-over-one double-hung sash. The front door, which was once bordered with sidelights, has been removed and boarded up. The two first floor front windows are also boarded up. The entrance door to the upstairs unit is wood and glass with one wood panel and six glass panes.

The interior first floor consists of a living room, dining room, and kitchen along the east side of the house. A hall and two bedrooms, with a bathroom and closets between them, occupy the west side of the house. A utility room is located on the south side of the house, accessed from the kitchen. Interior walls and ceilings are plaster. Floors are originally wood, later covered over with carpet. A pointed arched opening, with plastered brackets, separates the living room from the dining room. A brick fireplace highlights the east wall of the living room. Interior doors on the first floor are wood five-panel with simple wood trim and historic hardware with metal knobs and decorative back plates. The bathroom fixtures appear to be historic.

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The second floor consists of two bedrooms, a living room, bathroom, kitchen, and utility room. One bedroom is located north of the stairway and the living room is located south of the stairway. A small hall south of the living room leads to the bathroom, second bedroom, and kitchen. The utility room, located south of the kitchen, may have been a later addition to the structure. Interior walls and ceilings are also plaster, except in the utility room where they are both beaded board. The original bathroom door has been replaced with a flush wood door. Floors are originally wood, later covered over with carpet in the north bedroom and living room, plywood in the south bedroom and kitchen, and vinyl tile in the bathroom and utility room. Baseboards are wood, about seven inches tall with a cavetto base cap. Arched door openings are located between the living room and hall and between the hall and kitchen. Most doors are historic wood two-panel with simple wood trim. The bathroom fixtures appear to be historic.

History: This residence was built ca. 1925, but an exact date of construction could not be verified. It is located on Lot 7, Block 2 in the G.N. Benjamin's Addition to West Tampa, which was platted in May 1892. This lot is not the original location of this structure. The exact original location of this structure is not known but could possibly have been on the north side of Laurel Street, where Interstate 275 which was constructed in the mid-1960s, is now located. According to the Tampa City Directories, this house is first listed at this location in 1963 as two addresses (2324 and 2324 ½), both of which are noted as vacant. The very next year, however, both units were occupied. Love and Rever Hurley lived at 2324 W. Laurel from 1964 into at least the mid-1970s. Love Hurley was an iron worker with Florida Steel. Mrs. Hattie A. Rice lived at 2324 ½ W. Laurel from 1964 until at least the mid-1970s. Her occupation was not listed in the City Directories.

Sources:

Florida Master Site File Historical Structure Form

1990 2324 Laurel Street (8HI4103). Form on file at the Florida Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee, FL. October 18, 1990.

Hillsborough County Plat Books

1892 Map of G.N. Benjamin's Addition to West Tampa. Plat Book 1, Page 55. Surveyed May 5, 1892.

R.L. Polk & Co., Publishers

1920 The Tampa City Directory. Tampa, FL: R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers. 1925 – 1975.

Sanborn Map Company

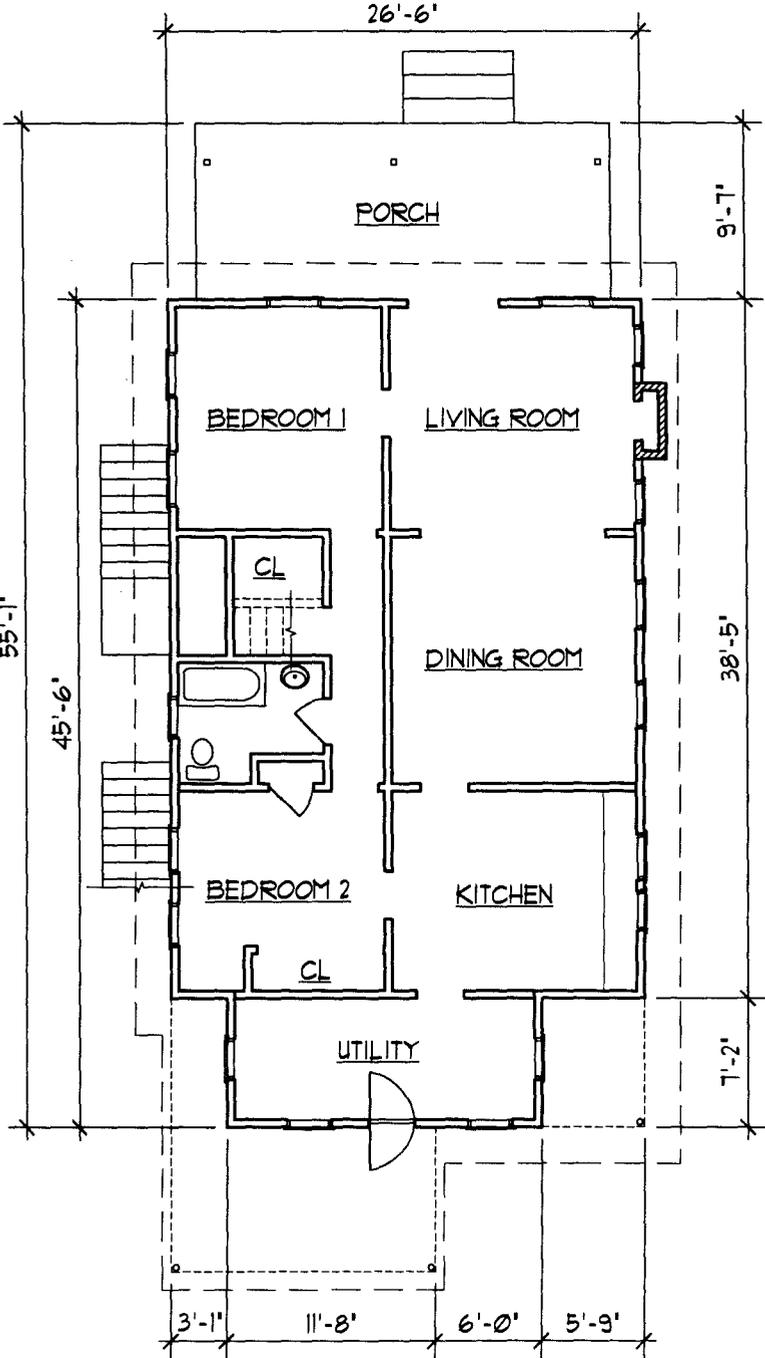
1950 Sanborn Insurance Maps of Tampa. New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company. 1931 base map with 1950 corrections.

West Tampa Historic District National Register on Historic Places Registration Form, 1983.

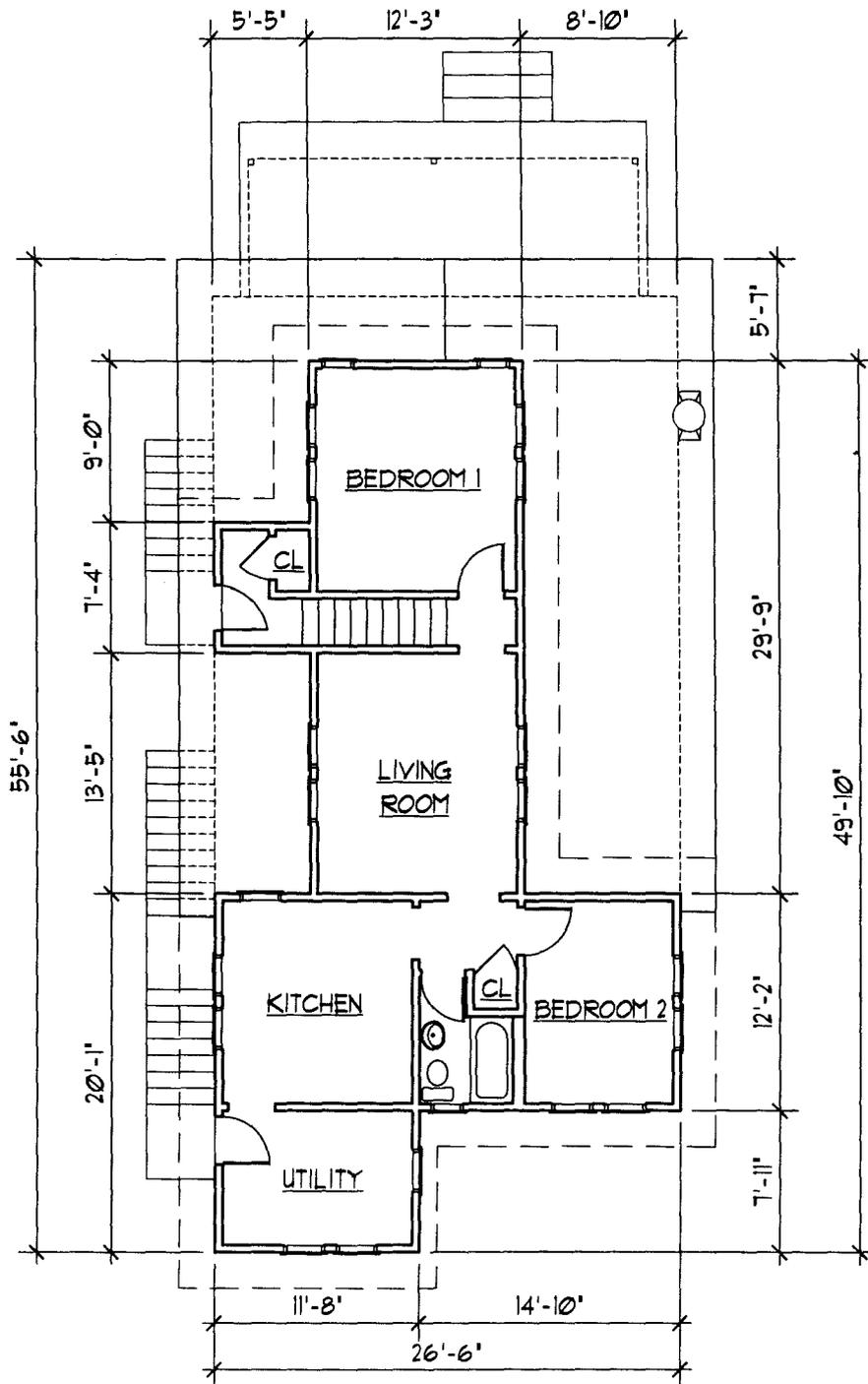
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Historian:

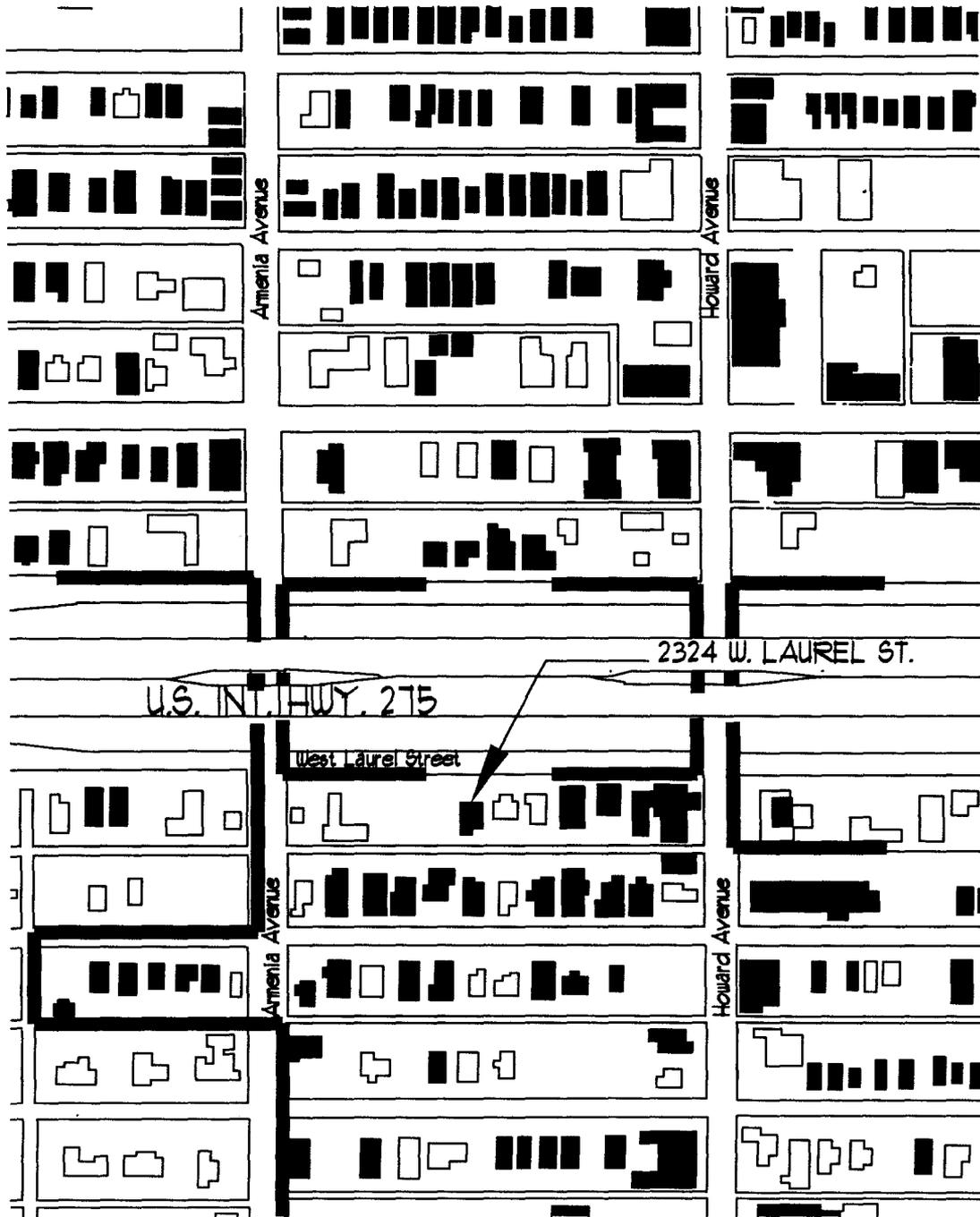
Rebecca Spain Schwarz, AIA, June 6, 2005.



1ST. FLOOR PLAN SKETCH		SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"
DATE DRAWN: June 06, 2005	2324 WEST LAUREL STREET (House)	
DRAWN BY: Josh Gomez	TAMPA, FL	



2ND. FLOOR PLAN SKETCH		SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"
DATE DRAWN: June 06, 2005	2324 WEST LAUREL STREET (House)	N
DRAWN BY: Josh Gomez	TAMPA, FL	



<u>LOCATION MAP</u>		NOT TO SCALE
DATE DRAWN: June 06, 2005 DRAWN BY: Josh Gomez	2324 WEST LAUREL STREET (House) TAMPA, FL	N