

1216 EAST TWELFTH AVENUE (BOARDING HOUSE)
Ybor City
Tampa
Hillsborough County
Florida

HABS FL-556
FL-556

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FL-556

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

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Location: 1216 East Twelfth Avenue, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida.

Significance: This building's architectural and historical significance is derived from its contribution to the Ybor City National Register 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 company town was planned by Gavino Gutierrez to include cigar factories, workers housing, public spaces, and commercial buildings. This district is significant for its importance to Tampa's architectural heritage, as it contains many of the City's best remaining examples of late-nineteenth century and early-twentieth century domestic, religious, commercial, and industrial buildings. This house represents cigar factory worker housing within the larger context of the cigar manufacturing company town.

Description: Constructed ca. 1910, this rectangular, two-story Frame Vernacular former private residence has a wood frame structural system and rests on brick piers. The gable roof is surfaced with 5-V crimp sheet metal, and the exterior is sheathed in wood siding. A full-width integral porch is featured on the front (south) façade. The porch is supported by fluted square columns atop brick piers, with a wood slat railing that rests on a poured concrete landing. Fenestration consists of wood double-hung sash windows with one-over-one and two-over-two light configurations, as well as replacement metal single-hung sash windows with one-over-one and two-over-two light configurations. Exterior ornamentation includes cornerboards, exposed rafter tails, gable vents, and porch elements. The main entrance features a paneled door with a transom window. A second entrance on the front porch provides access to the second story of the building. Alterations to the exterior of the building include replaced doors, some replaced windows and openings altered, and the enclosure of the second story of the originally two-story front porch.

In recent years, the interior of the building was renovated to accommodate fifteen individual boarding rooms. The first floor consists of a central hallway with three tenant rooms on each side and a kitchen, bathroom, and another tenant room stretching the width of the rear of the building. The second floor which is only accessed from the exterior of the building through the entrance off the front porch, and another exterior staircase off the rear, consists of a central hallway with four tenant rooms on each side, and a kitchen and bathroom across the width of the rear of the building. To accomplish the conversion to a boarding house, walls were added and doorways filled in. The wall and floor treatments were replaced during this process and the bathroom and kitchens have also been renovated. The historic appearance and layout of this building's interior are no longer discernable and very little historic physical integrity is retained.

History: Ybor City was platted in the 1890s and was completely built out by the mid-1920s. This residence was built ca. 1910 in the Morey Heights Subdivision. The house is located on the north side of East Twelfth Avenue, within the larger area of Ybor City that contained residences, factories, and commercial buildings. This house first appears in the Tampa City Directory of 1910, and it was occupied by John Wirth. Mr. Wirth was employed as a cigar maker. In the years following 1910, occupancy of the house turned over quickly, with numerous cigar makers living there. Sanborn Maps show that the building housed multiple apartment units by the 1930s. The building continued to function as multiple apartment units until it was purchased by the Florida Department of Transportation in 2007.

Sources:

Polk, R.L. & Co. *Polk's Tampa (Hillsborough County, FLA.) City Directory*. R.L. Polk & Co.: Jacksonville, various years.

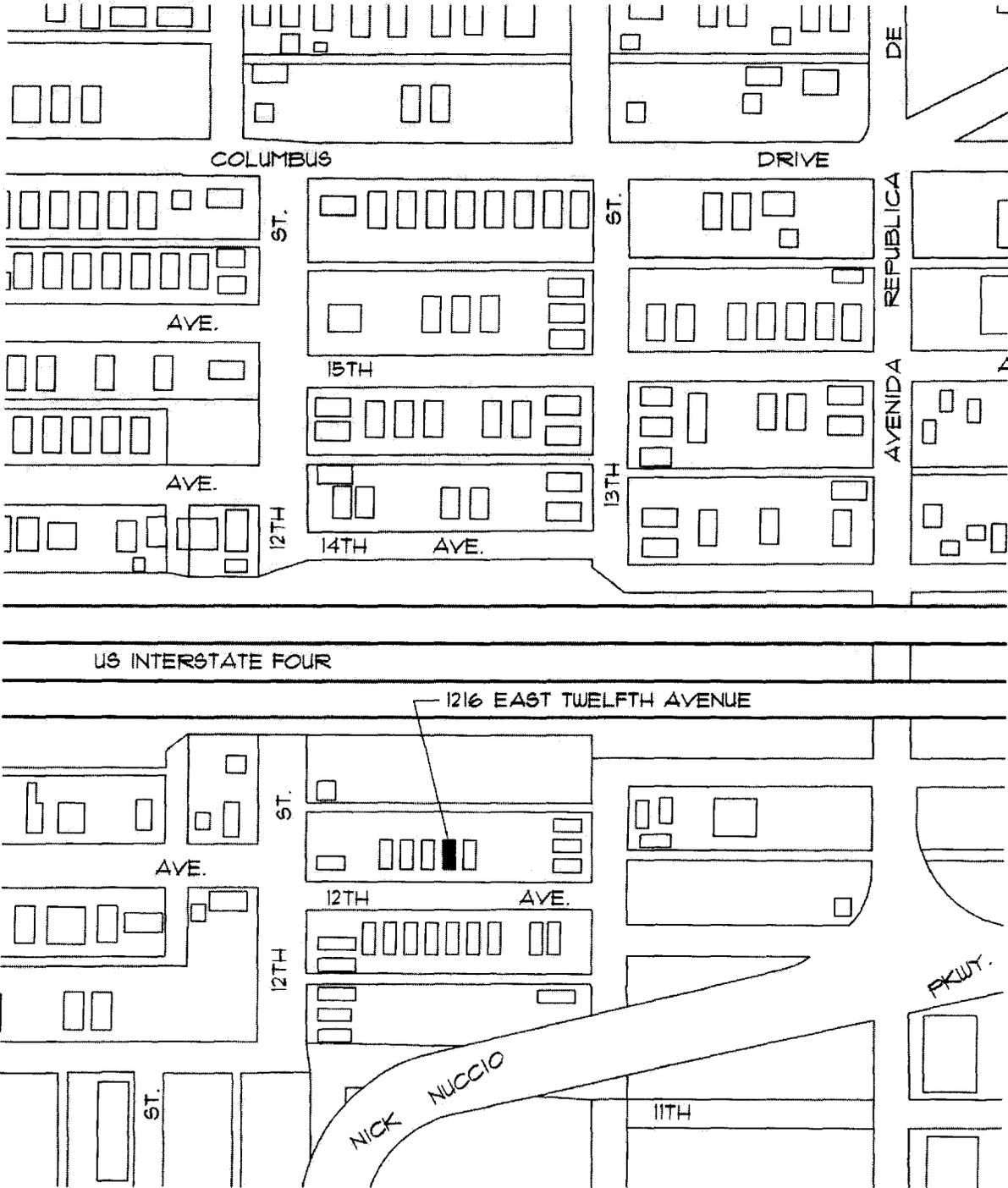
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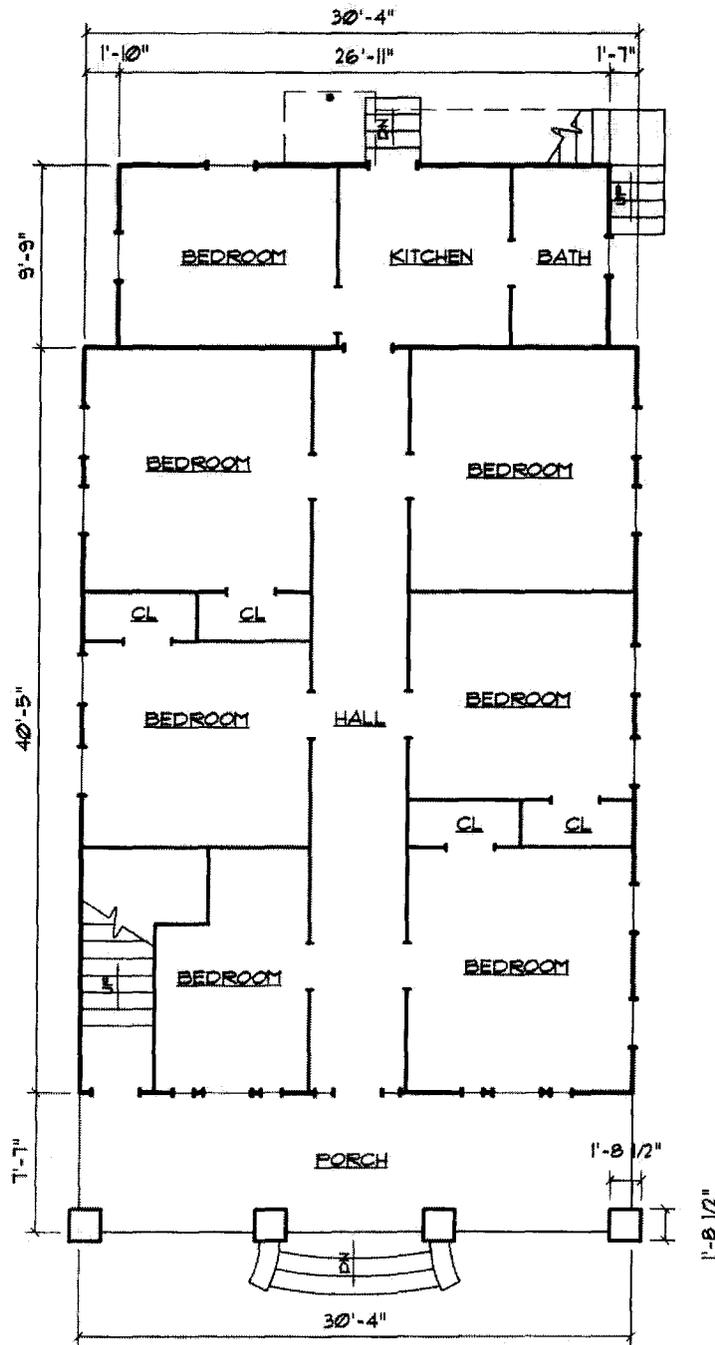
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Historian:

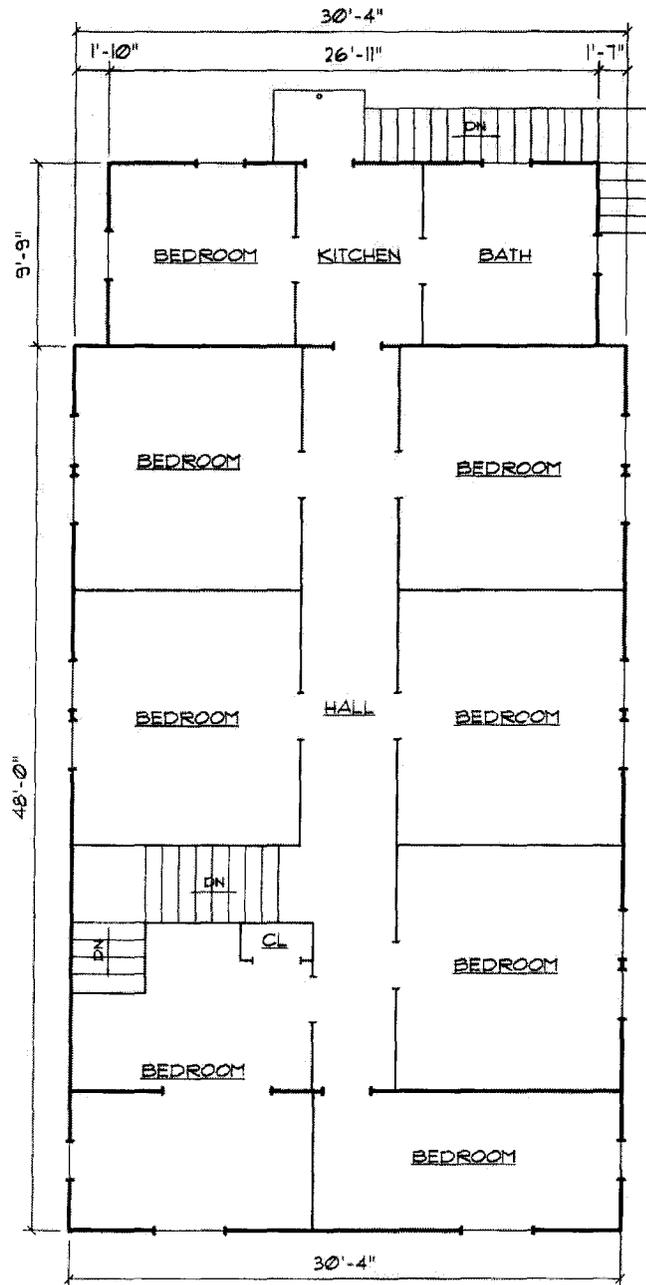
Kim Norton and Robert J. Taylor, Jr., Janus Research, December 10, 2007



LOCATION MAP		NOT TO SCALE	
DATE DRAWN: December 5, 2007 DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck	1216 EAST TWELFTH AVENUE (Boarding House) YBOR CITY, TAMPA, FL		



FIRST FLOOR PLAN SKETCH		SCALE 3/32" = 1'-0"	
DATE DRAWN: December 5, 2007 DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck	1216 EAST TWELFTH AVENUE (Boarding House) YBOR CITY, TAMPA, FL		



SECOND FLOOR PLAN SKETCH		SCALE 3/32" = 1'-0"	
DATE DRAWN: December 5, 2007 DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck	1216 EAST TWELFTH AVENUE (Boarding House) YBOR CITY, TAMPA, FL		