

918-918 ½ EAST FOURTEENTH AVENUE (HOUSE & ADDITION)
Ybor City
918-920 East Fourteenth Avenue
Tampa
Hillsborough County
Florida

HABS FL-571
HABS FL-571

HABS
FL 571

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

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

918-918½ EAST FOURTEENTH AVENUE (House and Addition)

HABS No. FL-571

Location: 918-920 East Fourteenth Avenue, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida.

Significance: The architectural and historical significance of these buildings is derived from their 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. Historically, the neighborhood was largely populated by area cigar workers, but these homes were occupied by John Pacheco, an insurance salesman, and his family for over forty years.

Description: The main house is a two-story bungalow with a wood frame structural system and rests on a brick pier foundation with lattice infill. The front gable roof is covered with composition shingles and the exterior is sheathed in asbestos. The porch is supported by battered wood columns atop brick piers. It is nearly full width and features a tile floor and stairs, and wood rafters. Fenestration includes wood double-hung sash windows with six-over-one and one-over-one light configurations and wood casement windows with paired six-light configurations. Exterior ornamentation includes rafter tails, rafters within the porch roof, wood window surrounds, wood cornerboards, and decorative lattice in the gable faces.

The rear house is also a two-story bungalow with a wood frame structural system. It was constructed a few years after the main house, originally for use as a rental unit, but soon as additional housing for the family. The front gable roof is covered with composition shingles and the exterior is sheathed in vinyl. The house lacks a porch, and the foundation is not visible due to its non-historic siding. Fenestration includes wood double-hung sash windows with four-over-one light configurations and metal single-hung sash windows with two-over-two light configurations. Exterior ornamentation includes decorative lattice in the gable face, which coordinates with the main house. A one-story wing is located on the east side. Sanborn maps show that it was constructed at some point between 1931 and 1951, and family members share that it was constructed in order to accommodate more of the family (Pacheco et. al. 2010).

The main house has not been greatly modified over the years. The only exterior alteration visible to family who lived in it historically was the removal of a side staircase which allowed more private access for upstairs tenants. On the interior, what was originally the full-width living room has been subdivided to form an extra bedroom on the east. The small room on the northwest that currently serves as the utility room originally housed the family's icebox (Pacheco et. al. 2010).

The rear house has been subjected to far more alterations than the main house, most of which are non-historic. Some windows have been replaced and door openings altered. The siding is replacement. The one-story wing, which is not original but is historic, and two-story main building were originally inaccessible from one another, but the interior has been altered so that the house is a cohesive unit. It appears that many of the modifications were done in order to accommodate more tenants; the house has been subdivided into more separate rooms than were original to it (Pacheco et. al. 2010).

History: Ybor City was platted in the 1890s and was completely built out by the mid-1920s. This main residence was built ca. 1923 and the rear resident was built ca. 1927. The houses are located on the north side of East Fourteenth Avenue, between Nebraska Avenue and North Tenth Street, within the larger area of Ybor City that contained residences, factories, and commercial buildings.

The address for 918 East Fourteenth Avenue first appears in city directory records in 1923. The building at 920 East Fourteenth Avenue was historically known as 918 ½ E 14th Avenue, and it first appears in the directories in 1927 (Polk, R.L. and Co). The main house was occupied by John and Ethel Pacheco from its construction ca. 1923 until 1963 (Polk, R.L. and Co). The rear house alternately served as a rental unit and as housing for the couple's children and grandchildren.

The majority of the family's history contained within the following paragraphs is derived from two sources: personal communications with relations of the original owners (Rose Pacheco, daughter-in-law; Linda Griffith, granddaughter; and Joe Griffith, great-grandson); and the memoir of Ferdie Pacheco, nephew of the original owners and an artist, author, and doctor who is particularly well known within the boxing community.

John Pacheco was of Spanish ancestry (Pacheco et. al. 2010) and was born as Juan Pacheco y Peres on October 14, 1891, in Santa Clara, Cuba (U.S. Department of Labor 1927). In May 1906, when he would have been 14 years old, he immigrated to Tampa (U.S. Department of Labor 1927). His family included his father, Baltazar; stepmother, Pennsylvania; and two brothers, Ralph and J.B. (Pacheco 1994: 37).

Ethel Pacheco, nee Count (Pacheco et. al. 2010), was a Florida native, born on December 18, 1896 in Ocala (U.S. Department of Labor 1927). She had long familial ties to the United States, based on her daughter's membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (n.a. 1999). Prior to marriage, she worked at a local factory, and the couple married when she was only sixteen (Pacheco et. al.). The marriage may have been a case of opposites attracting: Ethel, known as Bonny or Mamita to her family, was known to be very proper and reserved even among those who knew her best (Pacheco 1994:38, Pacheco et. al. 2010). John was more outgoing than his wife: in the words of Ferdie Pacheco, "He was famous in Ybor City. He had a matinee-idol air about him. No photograph could capture his handsomeness; it had to do with

attitude. He was tall and took pride in his physique. In my eyes John was as close to royalty as you could get” (Pacheco 1994:37).

During the 1920 census, prior to the construction of the homes on Fourteenth Avenue, the household included the couple’s two oldest children, along with Pacheco’s father, Baltazar, and his older brother, Rafael “Ralph” (Department of Commerce–Bureau of the Census 1920). John Pacheco was listed as a bank teller. By the 1930 census he was running his own insurance business (Department of Commerce–Bureau of the Census 1930), which was called John Pacheco and Company (Polk, R.L. and Co, Pacheco et. al.). From November 1929 until November 1941, Mr. Pacheco’s name appears on the City of Tampa’s list of city commissioners (City of Tampa 1997), and his family confirms that he was active in local politics (Pacheco 1994:39, Pacheco et. al.). Mrs. Pacheco is listed as a housewife on the 1935 population census (n.a. 1935) and had worked in the home since her marriage (Pacheco et. al.). The couple had three children: Dorothy, born July 8, 1914; Ethel, born September 5, 1915; and John Jr., born March 7, 1921 (U.S. Department of Labor 1927).

The Pachecos were residents of 918 East Fourteenth Avenue from 1923 until 1963. The building at 920 East Fourteenth Avenue was initially used as a rental property, but as the Pacheco children grew up, married, and had children of their own, Dorothy and John Jr. each lived there for periods of time with their families. The remaining tenants changed frequently and tended to be working-class, such as Terencio Nunez, an attendant at Independent Service Co., and his wife Ethella; Genaro Santana, a cigar packer, and his wife Olvida; and Vincent Tipton, a salesman, and his wife Rosaura (Polk, R.L. and Co).

Linda Griffith, daughter of John Jr. and Rose Pacheco, remembers the family complex as always full and busy, and generally a place of great happiness. Everyone in the family ate and socialized together. Christmas in particular was very important to the family. The house was always bustling, and friends and family would come by all day (Pacheco et. al. 2010).

However, around 1960, a great tragedy occurred which Mrs. Griffith remembers vividly. By this time the Pachecos were renting out the upstairs rooms of their home, and at the time the rooms were occupied by a Cuban gentleman and his pregnant wife. Mrs. Griffith was about 16 years old, and she and her parents were no longer living on Fourteenth Avenue. She came over to the house in the morning to sit with her grandmother and learn how to crochet, as was their Saturday custom, but on this morning she arrived to a crowd of people. Her grandmother was outside on the swing, in a daze, repeating to herself, “We thought they were married...” It soon came out that the man was married to someone else, and when he received word that his actual wife was on her way to meet him from Cuba, he shot and killed his girlfriend before turning the gun on himself (Griffith 2010).

The family did not stay in the homes on Fourteenth Avenue for many years after this incident, though it is unknown if it played a part in their departure. Family legend has it that John Pacheco sold the houses without the prior knowledge of his wife, and she did not know of his plans until

he came to her to sign the paperwork (Pacheco et. al. 2010). There were several reasons for the family's departure: the couple was aging and the rest of their family had moved elsewhere within Ybor City, but most importantly, they had learned of the impending arrival of the interstate mere feet from their home (Pacheco et. al. 2010).

The house is first listed as vacant in 1964, and from that time the residents of both the main house and garage apartment changed regularly (Polk, R.L. and Co). C. Blythe Andrews, Sr. and his son, C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. of the Tampa Sentinel Bulletin both owned the homes at one time (Clerk of the Circuit Court 1974), and the Pacheco descendants recall that the homes were sold to an African-American family (Pacheco et. al. 2010). However, the Andrews family is never listed as residents in the city directories. None of the residents in the directories are listed as homeowners after the Pachecos left. Research at this point suggests that the homes were used by the Andrews family as rental properties.

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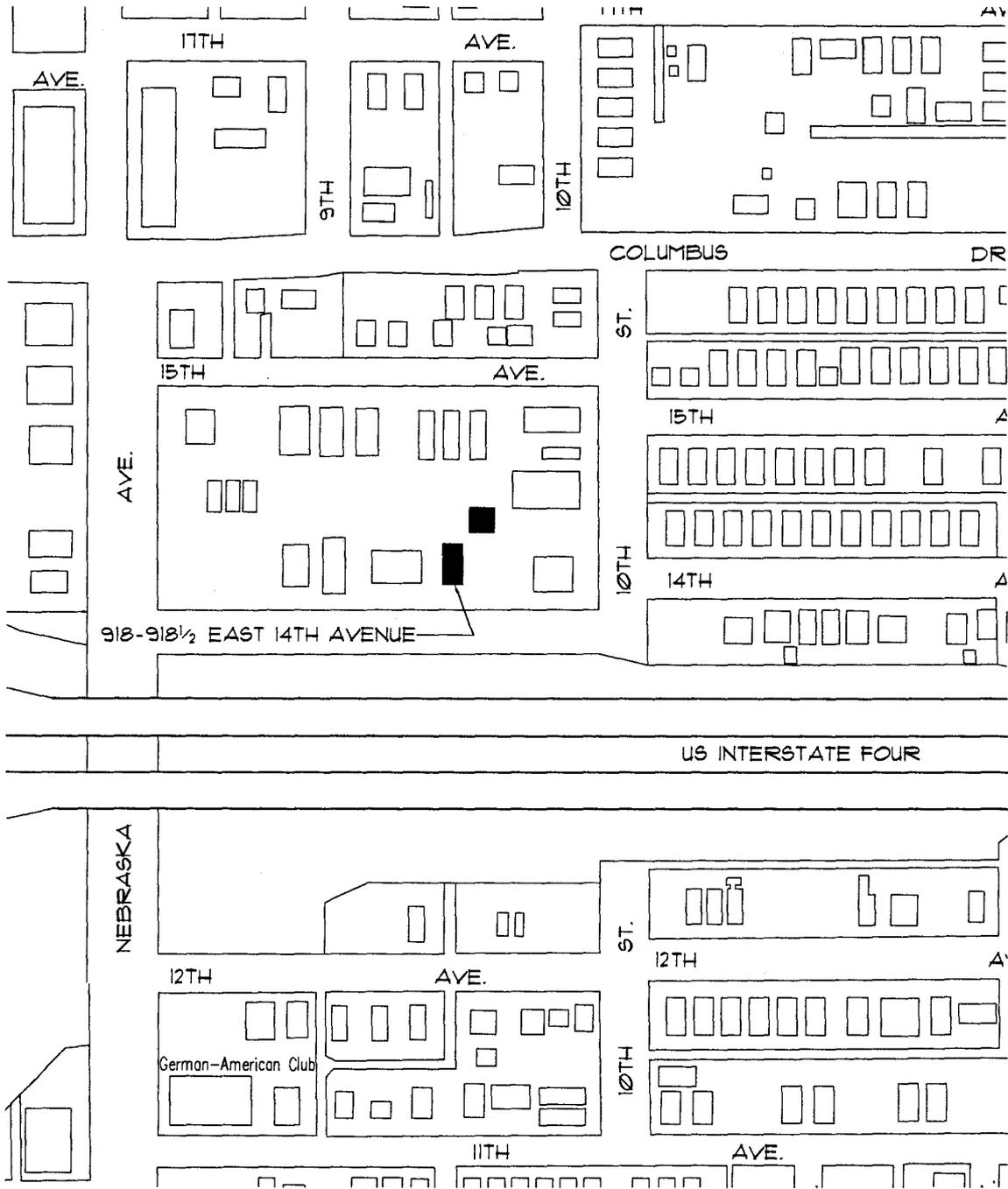
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Historian:

Julia Skowronski, Janus Research, July 19, 2010

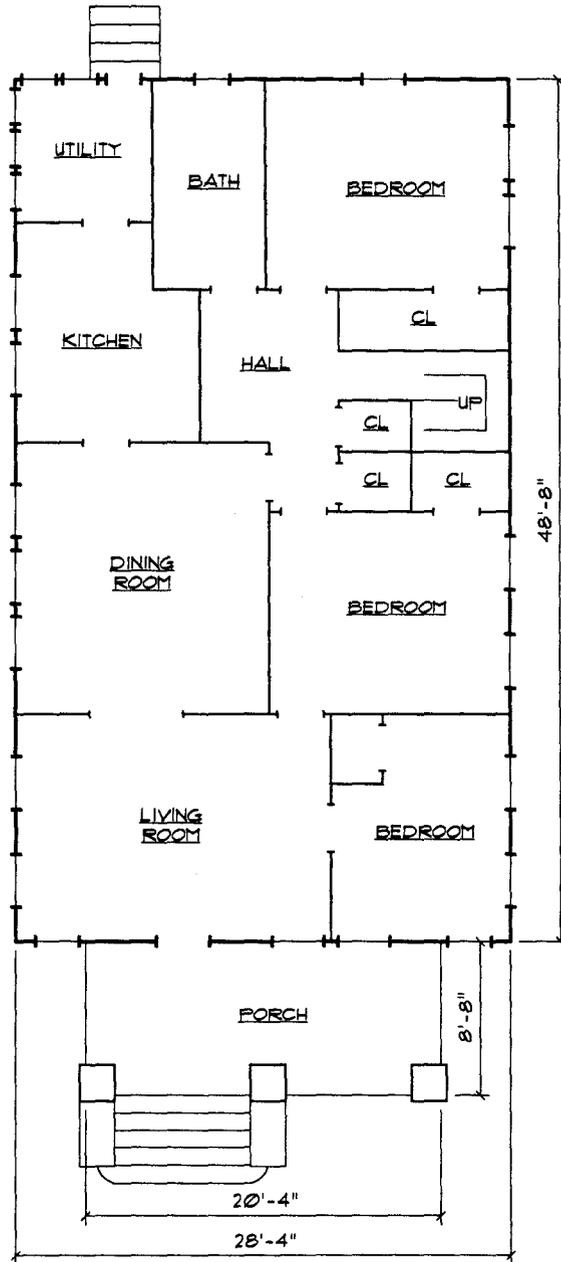
918-918½ EAST FOURTEENTH AVENUE (House and Addition)
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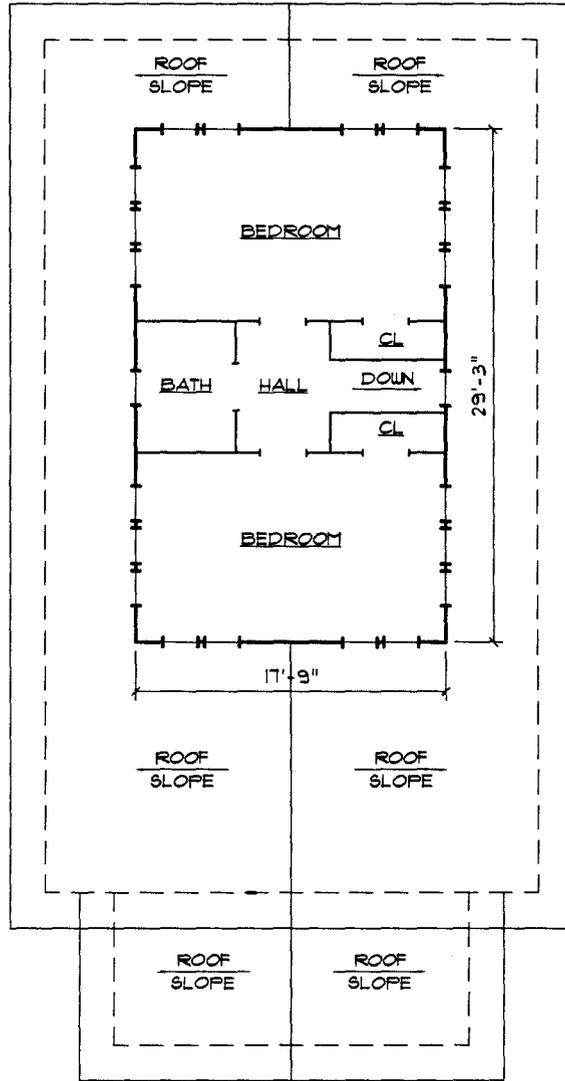
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DATE DRAWN: June 1, 2010 DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck	918-918½ EAST FOURTEENTH AVENUE (House and Addition) YBOR CITY, TAMPA, FL	

918-918½ EAST FOURTEENTH AVENUE (House and Addition)
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN SKETCH		SCALE 3/32"=1'-0"
DATE DRAWN: June 1, 2010 DRAWN BY: Jo-Anne Peck	918-918½ EAST FOURTEENTH AVENUE (House and Addition) YBOR CITY, TAMPA, FL	
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918-918½ EAST FOURTEENTH AVENUE (House and Addition)
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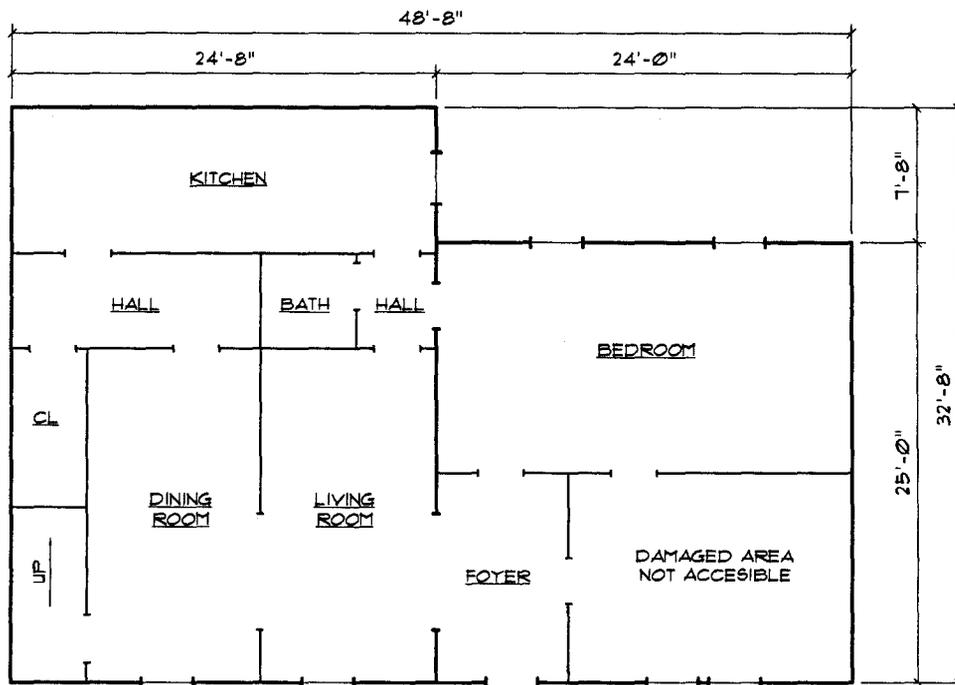
SECOND FLOOR PLAN SKETCH

SCALE 3/32" = 1'-0"

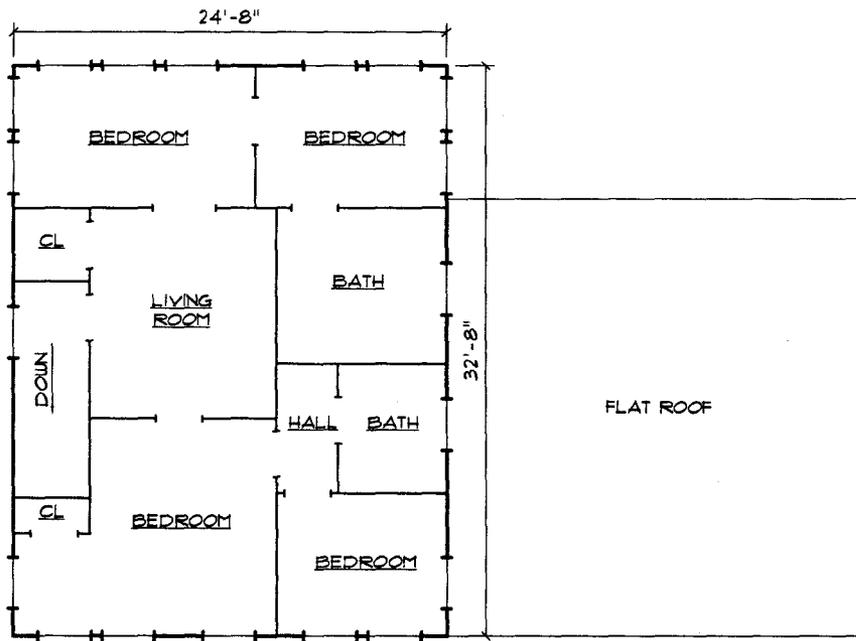
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