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REVISITING THE HISTORICAL MARKERS OF WEST TAMPA

Arsenio M. Sanchez

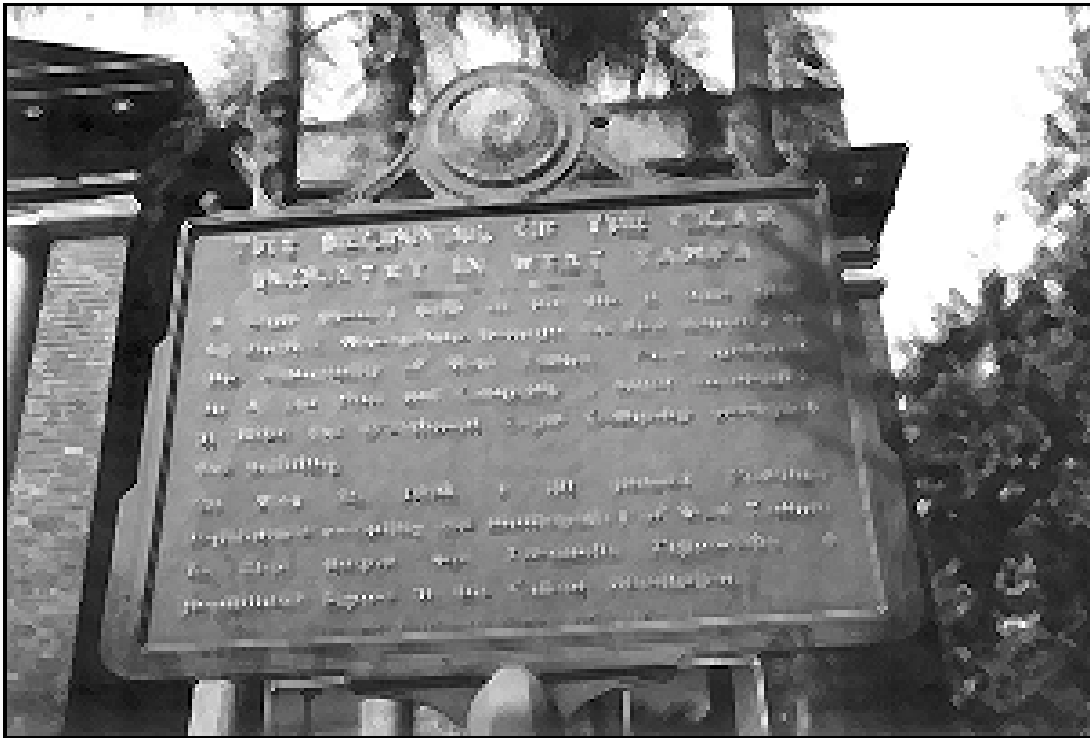
WEST TAMPA CENTENNIAL 1895 - 1995

Hugh C. Macfarlane, an immigrant from Scotland, purchased land in November 1886 and built a cigar factory that started production on June 15, 1892. Macfarlane and other developers offered free land and buildings, bringing in more cigar factories and growth that led to the formation of the City of West Tampa on May 18, 1895. Other immigrants from Cuba, Spain, Italy, Scotland, Ireland, Germany and different parts of the United States made up the population, giving the town its distinctive, vibrant character. After thirty years as a prospering municipality West Tampa was annexed to the City of Tampa on January 1, 1925.

Donated by the Tampa Tribune
Sponsored by the Tampa Historical Society
May 18, 1995



On May 18, 1995, the West Tampa Centennial Society celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of West Tampa. People were invited to the West Tampa Convention Center for refreshments and dancing. Historians Arsenio Sanchez and Armando Mendez unveiled the historic marker presented to West Tampa by the *Tampa Tribune*.



THE BEGINNING OF THE CIGAR INDUSTRY IN WEST TAMPA

A cigar factory built on this site in June 1892 by Hugh C. Macfarlane brought the first industry to the community of West Tampa. First operated by A. Del Pino and Company, it failed financially. In 1894 the O'Halloran Cigar Company occupied the building. On May 18, 1895, a bill passed Florida's legislature creating the municipality of West Tampa. Its first mayor was Fernando Figueredo, a prominent figure in the Cuban revolution.

Sponsored by the Tampa Historical Society - June 15, 1990.

The first public library was dedicated on January 1, 1914 on the site of the O'Halloran Cigar Company factory in West Tampa.

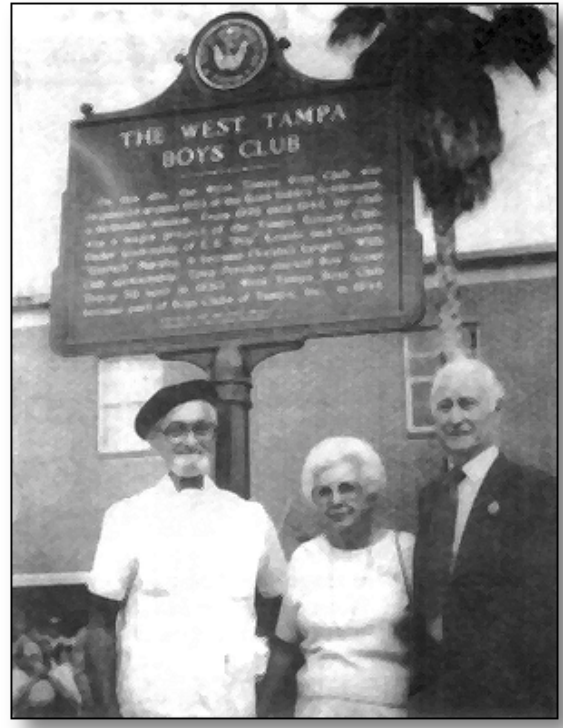
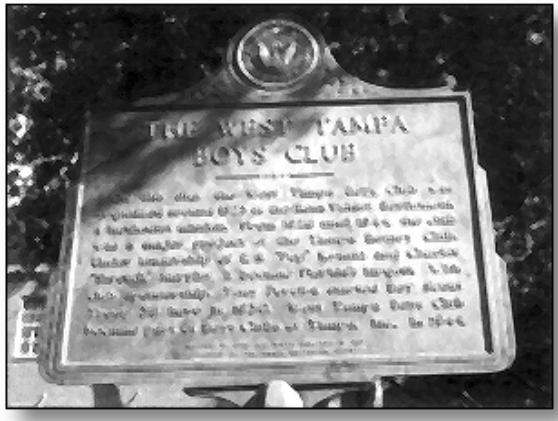
While the Carnegie Foundation donated \$17,500 to erect the Free Public Library building at 1718 North Howard Avenue at Union Street in West Tampa, they did it with the agreement by the city that no less than \$1,750 a year would be spent for maintenance.

THE WEST TAMPA BOYS CLUB

On this site, the West Tampa Boys Club was organized around 1923 at the Rosa Valdez Settlement, a Methodist mission. From 1926 until 1944, the club was a major project of the Tampa Rotary Club. Under leadership of E.S. "Pep" Krantz and Charles "Stretch" Murphy, it became Florida's largest. With club sponsorship, Tony Pereira started Boy Scout Troop 38 here in 1930. West Tampa Boys Club became part of Boys Clubs of

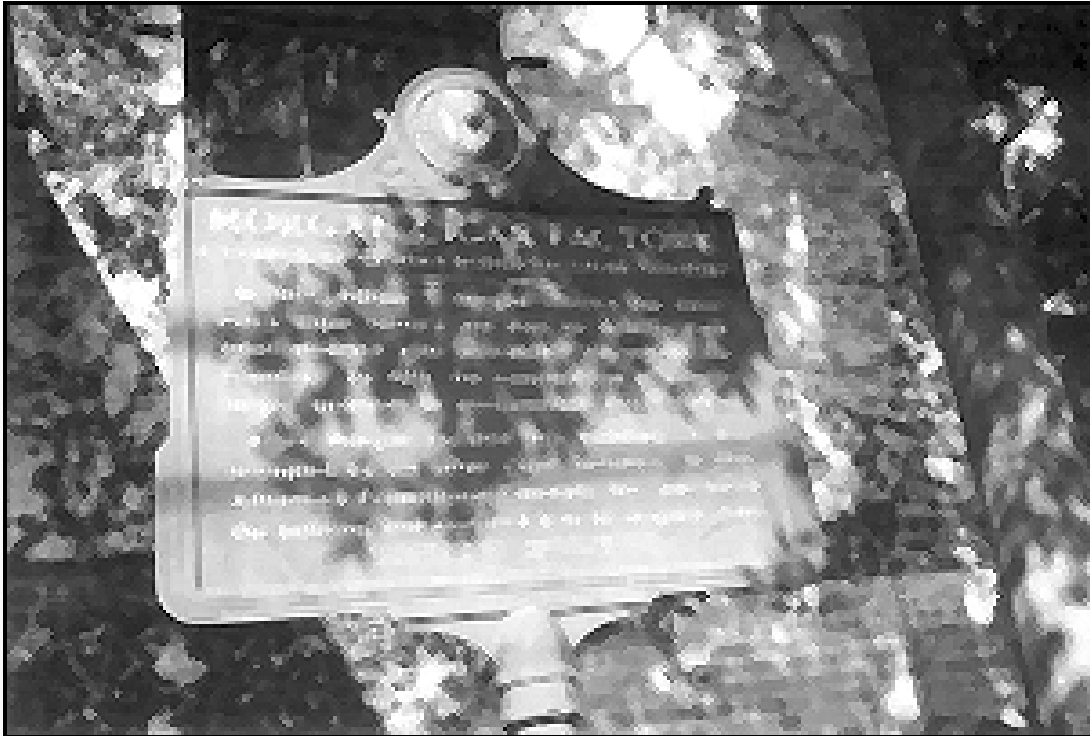
Tampa,
Inc., in 1944.

Erected by Jose and Mirta Gonzalez in 1991
Sponsored by the Tampa Historical Society



West Tampa dedicated the historic marker for the West Tampa Boys Club, at what is now the Rose Valdez Learning Center at 1802 North Albany and the corner of Union Street.

The newspaper photograph shows Jose and Mirta Gonzalez, sponsors of the marker, with historian Arsenio Sanchez.



**MORGAN CIGAR FACTORY
A SYMBOL OF TAMPA'S ROMANTIC CIGAR INDUSTRY**

In 1907 William T. Morgan erected this three story cigar factory and soon his Juan De Fuca label attained wide acceptance throughout the country. By 1910, the company had to move to larger quarters to accommodate 1,000 workers.

After Morgan vacated this building, it was occupied by six other cigar factories. In 1991, Advanced Promotional Concepts, Inc., purchased the building and restored it to its original state.

Established by Advanced Promotional Concepts, Inc.
Sponsored by the West Tampa Historical Society, March 11, 1993

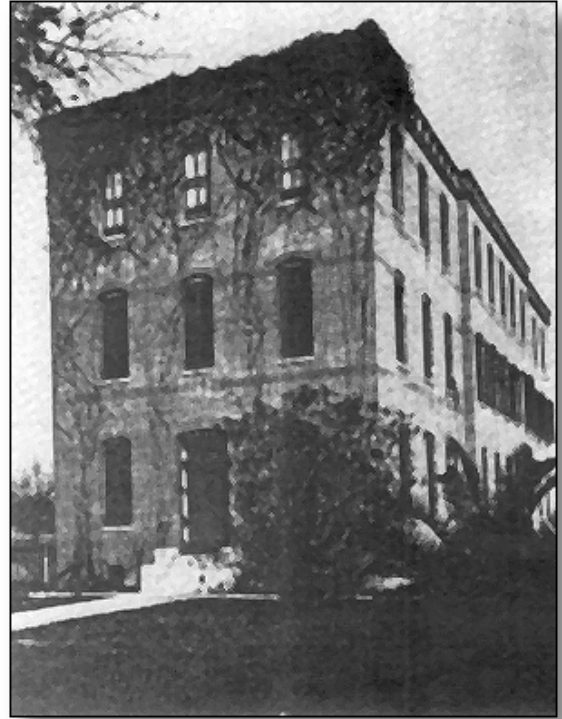
The Morgan Cigar factory, constructed by Colonel WT. Morgan in 1907, produced some of the finest handmade cigars in Tampa. In 1991, the factory was renovated by Barbara Baker, president of Advanced Promotional Concepts, Inc., shown at the marker's dedication.

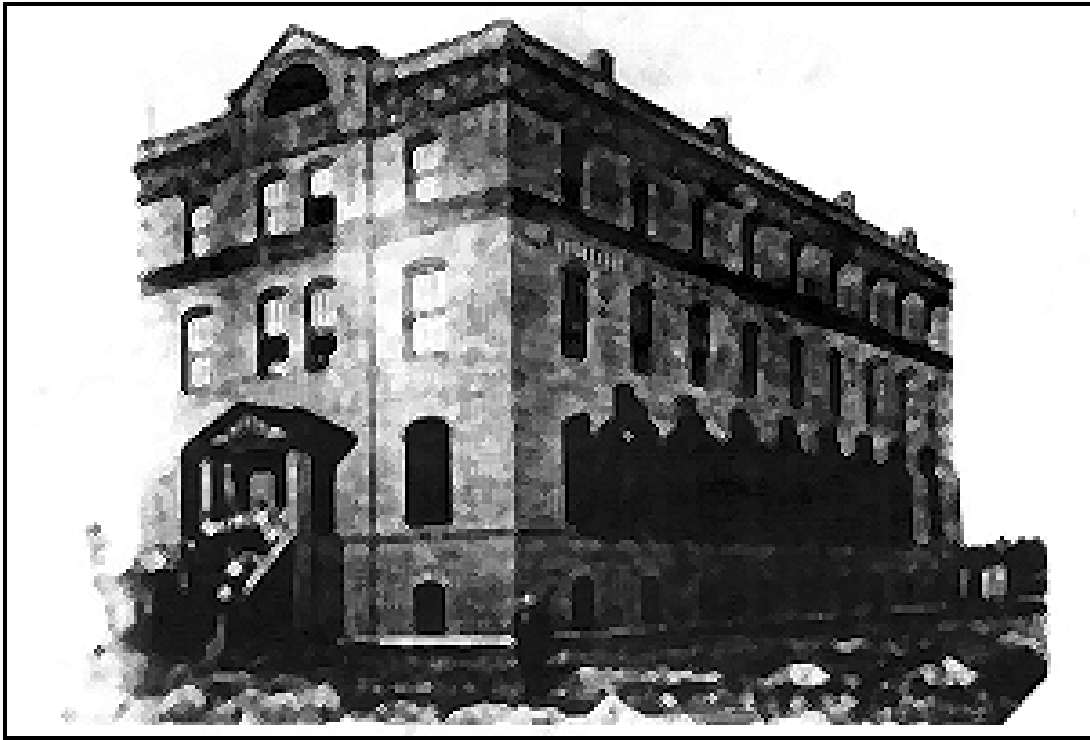


ACADEMY OF HOLY NAMES

On Sept. 14, 1896, Sisters of the Holy Names established The Academy of the Holy Names by order of Bishop John Moore. Sisters Mary Emiline and Mary Hubert were the first teachers in this brick school. On Nov. 29, 1896, Fr. William Tyrrell, S.J., offered the first Catholic mass in West Tampa in the second floor chapel. It is here that the history of St. Joseph Parish begins. In 1930, when the Academy was moved to Bayshore, the Salesian Sisters took charge of the school renaming it St. Joseph School. In 1955, the school moved to Cherry and MacDill.

Donated by
West Tampa Centennial Society, Inc.
Sponsored by Tampa Historical Society
September 14, 1996



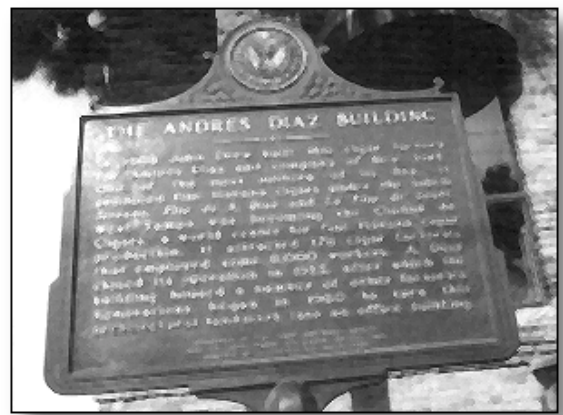


THE ANDRES DIAZ BUILDING

In 1908 John Drew built this cigar factory for Andres Diaz and company of New York. One of the most modern of its day, it produced fine Havana cigars under the labels *Terreno*, *Flor do A. Diaz* and *La Flor de Scott*. West Tampa was becoming the Ciudad de Cigars, a world center for fine Havana cigar production. It attracted 178 cigar factories that employed some 8,000 workers. A. Dial closed its operation in 1925, after which the building housed a number of other factories. Renovations began in 1980 to turn this architectural landmark into an office building.

Sponsored by the Tampa Historical Society and the West Tampa Centennial Society. 1996.
Donated by D. Russell and Karen Stahl

The Andres Diaz cigar factory was constructed by West Tampon developer John Drew. In 1908 the beautiful four story building was completed and Andres Diaz moved his New York operations to the West Tampa site at 3102 North Habana Avenue and Kathleen Street where two hundred people were employed. Andres Diaz owned it until 1925, when it was sold to Francisco Arango and, later, Tampa Cuba Cigar Company.



HUGH C. MACFARLANE
1851-1935

Founder of West Tampa

His was a life of achievements – a great lawyer, pioneer land developer, public servant and a Tampa booster. Had the honor of serving as State's Attorney, Tampa City Attorney, Port Commissioner, and Supt. of Public Works. In 1892, converted 200 acres of an alligator infested wilderness into the City of West Tampa. Donated lands and buildings to cigar manufacturers, constructed the Fortune St. bridge and a street-car line. In 1908, donated 40 acres for the creation of Macfarlane Park.

Macfarlane had "the caninness of a Scot, the resourcefulness of an American and the genuine wit and wisdom of a Florida Cracker."

Erected by the Tampa Historical Society



Hugh C. Macfarlane, the "Father of West Tampa," built the first cigar factory on the corner of Howard Avenue and Union Street in 1892. A native of Scotland, Macfarlane immigrated in 1865 to the United States with his parents. He studied law and practiced in Boston and New Orleans before settling in Tampa in 1883. (*Photograph courtesy of Special Collections, Library, University of South Florida.*)