

2006

President's Message

Maureen J. Patrick
Tampa Historical Society

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging and rewarding of Tampa Historical Society's thirty-five year history.

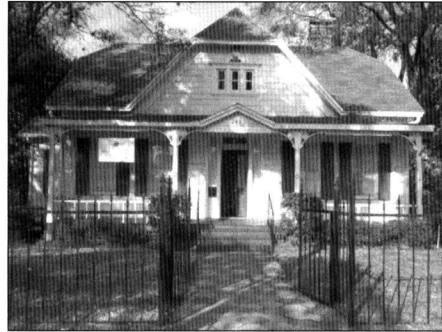


Maureen J. Patrick,
Current President

The c.1890 Peter O. Knight House, our Society headquarters, was awarded Historic Landmark status by the Tampa City Council (acting on a recommendation by the Historic Preservation Commission.) The House has attracted the attention of the media, preservation and restoration specialists, and (perhaps most exciting) individuals with connections to the House and the neighborhood as they were in Tampa's Gaslight Era. Interviews with members of the Knight family, those who lived in nearby houses, and Mary Elizabeth Stuart Jones (who lived in the House as a child) are producing a view of the House not as a dusty artifact but as an eloquent "voice" that tells the story of Hyde Park and early Tampa.

Long-range plans for the House include detailed documentation of its past, then restoration to an acceptable simile of its original furnishings and décor, so that it may be used to "teach Tampa" to new generations of Tampanians.

To facilitate this and other goals, the Society vigorously embarked, this year, on highly visible education programs, as well as membership and fundraising initiatives. Members and the public enjoyed our two annual Oaklawn Cemetery events (the April *Ramble* and the October *Gothic Graveyard Walk*), an Open House, and a fundraising gala: "Feast of the Dark" (October 27.) For those who like to share a love for local



Peter O. Knight House

history in an atmosphere of friends and fun, the Society's calendar is looking very attractive indeed.

Festivity is balanced with serious scholarship at THS. With the help of local curators and historians, the Society's Collection is being recatalogued and conserved, as are the furnishings of the Knight House. *The Sunland Tribune*, back on its traditional publishing schedule, is home to deeply researched articles by eminent historical writers, as well as illustrations of an extraordinary scope and interest.

The Board of Directors, source of energy, talent, resources, and drive for all these achievements, is honored to serve you, the Society's members. New Board Members bring vastly expanded resources – personal, professional, social – to this, Hillsborough County's oldest history organization. Join us (along with friends, colleagues, and neighbors) as we deliver Tampa's past to Tampa's future.

Best regards,

Maureen J. Patrick

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