

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name ROBLES, HORACE T. HOUSE

other names/site number Robles Family Home

2. Location

street & number 2604 East Hanna Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Tampa N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL countv Hillsborough code 057 zip code 33610

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara C. Mattick/DSHPO 1/17/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain) _____

for
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper
3/2/06 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Business Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE/Frame Vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood
roof Metal
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1888-1956

Significant Dates

c. 1888

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Arch: Robles, Horace T.; Robles, Joseph P.

Blder: Robles, Horace T.; Robles, Joseph P.

Name of Repository

ROBLES, HORACE T. HOUSE
Name of Property

Hillsborough Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	5	9	3	8	0	3	0	9	8	2	4	0
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
4															

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephanie Ferrell, FAIA/Carl Shiver, Historic Preservationist
organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date January 2006
street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 245-6333
city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Kirstin Miller, Grande Oaks, LLC
street & number 599 West Putnam Avenue telephone (203) 413-0330
city or town Greenwich state Connecticut zip code 06830

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

ROBLES, HORACE T. HOUSE
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Built c.1888, the Horace Theodore Robles House is a two-story, irregular plan, frame vernacular farmhouse. It has a hip and gable main roof and a hipped roof front porch supported by Tuscan columns. The centrally located main entrance is flanked by mullioned sidelights, and the main fenestration consists of a variety of double-hung sash windows. At the rear of the house is a two-story wood frame dependency attached to the main house by a two-level breezeway. In addition to the front porch, there is a one-story shed roofed porch on the east elevation and a two-story hipped roof porch on the west elevation. The second story porch and the second story breezeway both feature drop siding wall balustrades. The original appearance of the house is uncertain, but there are indications that changes were made to the residence around the turn of the 20th century. These may have included the addition of the second story to rear dependency to provide an additional bedroom, the enclosure of a portion of the east porch to install a bathroom, and the renovation of the front porch to give it its classical appearance. The interior of the residence exhibits rooms that are very irregular in plan and size, which suggests that the building may have grown from a simple two- or three-room structure to its present configuration. The original house may have been constructed in the 1870s, but there are no existing records dealing with its date of construction. Today the former residence serves as the business offices for the Grande Oaks Apartments.

SETTING

Tampa is located in the western part of central Florida and lies at the mouth of the Hillsborough River which empties into Old Tampa Bay, an inlet to the Gulf of Mexico. It occupies all of the Hillsborough peninsula, spreading north and west from the north edge of Hillsborough Bay. Tampa is the seat of Hillsborough County and is a major seaport. It is a financial center of the state, and light manufacturing plays an important role in the economy, as do tourism and sports. Cigar manufacturing, which once employed thousands of workers, no longer contributes significantly to the economic life of the city; however, the industry has left its mark on the population with a high percentage of residents of Latin background, the majority of whom are of Cuban origin. Tampa is a city of approximately 300,000 residents and part of a metropolitan area in west Florida having a population of about 2,000,000. The nearby beaches, tourist attractions such as Busch Gardens, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers football team, the Devil Rays baseball team and, the climate bring many thousands of tourists to the area each year, adding to the economic vitality of the area.

The Horace Theodore Robles House is located at 2604 East Hanna Avenue, City of Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida. The house is set back approximately 150 feet from East Hanna Avenue. City permit records show that the house was relocated about 60 feet east of its original site in the early 1960s but still occupies part of the original Robles property. Part of the original parcel was sold for the construction of a church. The house now sits near the entrance to the Grande Oaks Apartments complex, for which it serves as

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the business offices. Modern three-story apartment buildings are located north of the historic house, and there are a clubhouse and swimming pool located immediately to the west.

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

The Horace Theodore Robles House is a wood frame vernacular residence with an irregular ground plan. The interior of the house features an unusual arrangement of rooms of various sizes and unclear usage, suggesting that the residence grew organically over a period of time, rather than having been wholly constructed at a single period. The "random" accumulation of rooms belies the symmetry of the front gable entry and its full-width porch supported by Tuscan columns and the classical pilasters that decorate the corners of the facade wall at the rear of the main porch. Coupled with the rest of the exterior, the design of the house reflects some influence of the "Free Classic" variation of the Queen Anne style that near the end of the 19th century began to replace the more flamboyant forms typical of the early 1880s

The Robles house has a hipped main roof surfaced with raised seam metal sheeting that also covers all the other roof segments. Before the renovation of the house, the roof areas were covered with composite shingles. The house also features two side porches, a one-story porch on the east elevation that is sheltered by a shed roof and a two-story veranda with a hipped roof protecting the upper deck. There is also a short section of roof that covers the second story walkway connecting the two-story rear extension with the main house. The exterior walls of the house are covered with horizontal drop siding, that is, the top of each board is "scooped" so that a pronounced reveal appears in between each board. With the exception of the mullioned sidelights at the front entrance to the house, all of the windows are 1/1-light double hung sashes. The house rests on a continuous poured concrete foundation. Most of the roof eaves are boxed, but some have exposed rafter tails. A stuccoed concrete chimney that originally stood at the rear of the main section of the house was removed as part of the renovation plan.

Main (South) Facade

The main elevation of the Robles House (Photo 1) faces south on East Hanna Avenue and is located approximately 150 feet from the street. The approximately symmetrical one-story, four-bay front porch features a hipped roof supported by Tuscan columns, and Tuscan pilasters have been applied where the porch roof meets the main wall. The porch has a wooden deck, and the ceiling of the porch roof is surfaced with beadboard. Wood steps flanked by wooden railing provide access to the front porch and the main entranceway. The multi-light wood and glass paneled main door is flanked by four-paned sidelights (Photo 2). East of the main entry is a pair of full-length windows while west of the entry is only one full-length window. On the second story above the entry door is a gable-roofed pavilion bay whose front wall contains a grouping of three 1/1-light double-hung sash windows. The side walls of the of the pavilion each contains a single window. Flanking the

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pavilion on the second story are two sets of paired 1/1-light double-hung sash window. The remaining fenestration throughout the house consists of single and paired 1/1-light double-hung sash windows.

East Elevation

The east elevation (Photos 3-4) of the main body of the house features a one-story, shed roofed porch. The southern third of the porch was enclosed at an unspecified date to accommodate an interior bathroom. A small square window on the east wall of the bathroom addition provides natural light and ventilation to the interior. A door that originally opened from the bathroom onto the porch was removed during the renovation of the building. The porch also has a window that overlooks the wooden deck which is accessed by a single wooden door. Two turned posts support the shed roof, but the porch has no balustrade. Another door connects the porch with the breezeway that connects the main house with the rear dependency. The screened breezeway has a board balustrade and is sheltered by a small section of shed roof. The east elevation of the rear dependency has a 1/1-light double hung sash window on the first story. There is no corresponding window on the second story. The upper story of the east elevation of the main body of the house features a single window on the short east wing and a pair of double windows on the rear (north) portion. The breezeway connecting the front and rear sections of the house has a wall balustrade and is sheltered by a short section of pent roof.

Rear (North) Elevation

The rear elevation (Photo 5) is marked by a single 1/1-light single hung sash window on both stories.

West Elevation

The west elevation (Photo 6) of the rear dependency exhibits a single wood sash window on the first story. The breezeway connection to the rear and front sections of the house has a wooden ramp providing handicap access to the building and is sheltered on the first story by a short shed roof. The upper breezeway is open. The rear section of the main house features a two-story open porch that extends the full width of the rear section. The lower porch has no balustrade and features four evenly spaced Tuscan columns that support the second story veranda. A centrally located doorway on the first story provides access to the house and is flanked by a pair of 1/1-light windows to the north and a single window to the north. At the southern end of the porch one finds another window located in the southern block of the house. The second story veranda is bordered by a wall balustrade atop which one finds turned posts that support a low-pitched hipped roof that is separate from the main roof of the house. Also on the west elevation one finds a short wing that extends from southern block of the house. The west side of this ell features a pair of double hung windows, and the structure is covered by a hipped roof.

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Interior

The interior of the Horace T. Robles House consists of five rooms on both the first and second floors. At present, none of the rooms on the second floor is in use. The main entrance opens onto a small foyer (Photo 7) that provides access to offices on either side of the stair hall. The stairs lead to a second floor landing (Photo 8) that gives access to the front and rear sections of the house. The rear rooms on the ground floor are accessed via the office to the right (east) of the hall (Photos 9-10). The photos reveal walls and ceilings covered with narrow novelty siding characteristic of late 19th century domestic architecture. The original floors consist of tongue and groove boards.

ALTERATIONS

Other than the relocation of the house approximately 60 feet eastward on the property in 1961 to facilitate the construction of a church the house has undergone few changes in its rehabilitation for use as commercial offices. Whenever possible, original materials were cleaned, repaired and reused. A new continuous concrete foundation was provided for the building, but all of the original exterior and interior features, finishes, and hardware were retained whenever possible. Although the house has the appearance of one that could have been constructed in several stages, there is no documentation for any changes. A small chimney located at back of the rear ell of the main house was removed in the reconstruction, but this element did not serve an interior fireplace of any decorative interest. The enclosure of a portion of the east porch to provide an interior bathroom appears to have taken place more than fifty years ago and was not counted among the alterations made to the house. There were no outbuildings or other above ground resources associated with the house before its relocation, and none was added before the property was purchased for use as an apartment complex. Most of the major trees near the original house were retained in the redevelopment of the property. Furthermore, even though the swimming pool and residents clubhouse might better have been located at a greater distance from the west elevation of the house, they do not seriously adversely impact the historic building.

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Brooke military reservation was opened to civilian settlement, causing a flurry of real estate speculation.³ January 1884 saw the completion of the South Florida Railroad linking Tampa with Jacksonville and the discovery of phosphate in the vicinity. The mining of this essential ingredient used in the production of commercial fertilizer would bring a wave of new settlement to Central Florida and transform Tampa into a major port from which the mineral was shipped all over the world.⁴

However, the arrival of Vicente Martinez Ybor and other major cigar manufacturers to Tampa was far more important to the rapid and spectacular growth of Tampa after 1885. Ybor was a Spanish citizen who had begun manufacturing cigars in Cuba in 1856. At the outbreak of the "Ten Years' War" rebellion against Spanish rule in 1868, Martinez-Ybor was forced to flee Cuba because he was suspected of disloyalty to Spain. He reestablished his cigar operations in Key West, Florida, and persuaded other Cuban and American cigar manufacturers to join him. Labor was readily available among the thousands of refugees who fled the conflict in their homeland and took refuge in Key West.

After more than 15 years in Key West, Ybor decided to seek a more favorable place to operate his business. Shipping traffic between Key West and major ports was irregular and unreliable, hindering access to raw materials and markets. Strife between Spanish and Cuban workers over the fate of Cuba, coupled with workers' concern for better wages and working conditions, also caused constant labor problems, resulting in costly strikes. After examining other locations, Ybor decided in 1885 to relocate to Tampa. His decision was heavily influenced by the availability of transportation and incentives offered by Tampa businessmen who provided him a large tract of land northwest of town on which to build factories and houses for cigar workers. Within a year "Ybor City" had become a separate community standing almost in the shadow of downtown Tampa. Its independence, however, was short-lived. In 1887, Tampa annexed Ybor City, creating a community with a population of 5,000.⁵ Tampa's population increased dramatically over the next several decades, especially after a second cigar-producing center was established at West Tampa on the west side of the Hillsborough River.

For Tampa, the 1890s were a time of phenomenal growth. Henry Bradley Plant, who had brought the railroad to Tampa in the late 1880s, built the Tampa Bay Hotel on the west bank of the Hillsborough River. In 1894, West Tampa was established as a second cigar-making city, incorporating in 1895 and remaining independent until 1925. Growing prosperity saw the spread of residential development from downtown to the new suburbs of Hyde Park and Tampa Heights, areas that had previously been wilderness and farmland. By 1900, streets were being paved, and the downtown business district saw the installation of electric streetlights. Masonry buildings began to replace older wooden structures. Tampa's first "skyscrapers" were constructed

³Karl H Grismer, A History of the City of Tampa and the Tampa Bay Region of Florida (St. Petersburg, FL: St. Petersburg Print Company, 1950), p. 169.

⁴ Hampton Dunn, Yesterday's Tampa (Miami: E.A. Seemann Publishing, Inc., 1972), p. 18.

⁵ Long, pp. 38-39.

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during the 1910s, and the expanding business district spread into the old Fort Brooke area that had been absorbed into the city of Tampa in 1907. Tampa was a major staging area for the training and embarkation of military forces during the Spanish-American War in 1898, prompting the U.S. Congress to provide funding for the improvement of the city's downtown docking facilities. Tampa became a major deepwater port and a major phosphate shipping port with warehouses lining the railroad spurs that ran along the harbor.

The World War I era was particularly important to the development of Florida's port cities and Tampa was no exception. Tampa and Jacksonville were locations chosen by the federal government as supply depots, embarkation points for troops and materials, and the construction of transport ships. The Ybor Channel was widened and deepened so that larger ships could be berthed near downtown, not just at Port Tampa. Thousands of people immigrated to Florida to work in war-related industries. Others saw Florida for the first time when they were stationed here or waiting to embark for foreign shores. There was heavy demand for the state's natural resources, agricultural products and other goods and services. Although the demand for these goods and services dropped when hostilities ceased, the word was out among businessmen and developers that the area was still enough of a frontier that a shrewd investor could make a fortune with a relatively modest amount of capital.

Although accessible by rail from the population centers of the northeast during previous decades, the postwar rise in middle-class private automobile ownership spurred the development of a vast network of paved highways, which provided easy access to the Florida climate from a broader range of geographic areas. Thousands of "tin-can tourists" from the Mid-Atlantic States and the Midwest poured into the Tampa Bay area in the early 1920s, camping in their cars for the winter season. Florida had less than 748 miles of paved state roadways in 1920; that number rose to 3,254 miles of pavement within the state highway system by 1930. Improvements came from the private sector as well. George S. Gandy, who had come to Tampa from Philadelphia in 1903, realized his dream of connecting Tampa and St. Petersburg with the opening of the Gandy Bridge in 1924. This bridge reduced the distance between the two cities from 43 miles to 13 miles and gave Tampa residents direct access to the gulf beaches.

HORACE T. ROBLES

The history of the Horace Theodore Robles House is, in part, the history of the expanded Robles family in Tampa. The founder of the Robles dynasty was Joseph Paul Robles,⁶ who was born in Madrid,⁷ Spain, on September 15, 1817.⁸ In 1832, at age fifteen, he stowed away on a ship bound for the United States, landing at Fernandina, Florida, and making his way to St. Mary's, Georgia, located across the St. Mary's River from

⁶ Anglicized from José Pablo Robles.

⁷ Other sources give the place of birth as Malaga, Spain. Anthony Pizo, Tampa Town, 1824-1886, Cracker Village with a Latin Accent (Miami: Hurricane House Publishers, 1969), p. 68.

⁸ Grismer, p. 324.

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Fernandina.⁹ In 1841, Joseph Robles married Mary Ann Garrison (1827-1886) of Effingham County, Georgia, and shortly thereafter the couple moved to Columbia County, Florida. During the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), Joseph Robles served with distinction and was severely wounded, requiring him to retire from active duty.¹⁰ With an intermediate stop in Hernando County, Joseph and Mary Ann Robles arrived in Hillsborough County in 1851 and established a homestead in an area just north of what is now Columbus Drive between Florida and Nebraska Avenues. He planted a fine orange grove and was one of the first Hillsborough County residents to commercially grow tropical fruits.¹¹

As his family grew, the Robles men tilled the land, established a cattle herd, and hunted game on their property to supply additional food for their growing family members. Raising a family that would become well known for its longevity, Joseph and Mary Ann Garrison Robles had ten children. The siblings of Horace Robles, their seventh child (b. 1860), were Michael F. (1842-1865), who died as a prisoner of war in a Union prison camp; John G. (1844-1936); born in Brooksville, Florida, who raised cattle and started a real estate business in Tampa; Joseph Paul (1847-1951), a farmer who lived to be 106;¹² Seaborn Lawrence (1851-1942), who was also a cattleman and owned orange groves;¹³ Green W. Robles (1855-1929), who followed his brothers' agricultural pursuits;¹⁴ and Francis Marion (1858-1933), who was elected county judge in 1901 and was appointed circuit judge by Governor Gilchrist ten years later. In addition to his public service, Francis also kept active on his family farm outside the city limits.¹⁵ Daughter Mary (1862-1928) married a Mister Tanner and kept house.¹⁶ Fannie Alatha (1865-1958) married Arthur Cuscaden and also spent her life as a homemaker.

The Robles family supplied cattle to the Confederacy during the Civil War. Joseph Robles also served in the war, first as a member of the Home Guard and later as a Confederate blockade-runner. At one point, Joseph was captured by the Federal Troops and imprisoned. When the war ended, he was released and returned to his homestead.¹⁷ Long before Vicente Ybor and Henry Plant made their marks on the progress of Tampa, the Robles family was established, growing and prospering.

By the 1870s, Tampa began to attract attention in the North as the prime place for real estate investments. Joseph Robles saw the opportunity for profit from his land holdings but realized the limitations due to lack of easy access because of the lack of roadways connecting the still wild countryside with downtown

⁹ Pizo, p. 68.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Tampa Tribune, Obituary, September 17, 1936.

¹³ St. Petersburg Times, February 14, 1951.

¹⁴ Tampa Tribune, Obituary, December 1, 1942.

¹⁵ Tampa Tribune, Obituary, November 14, 1929.

¹⁶ Tampa Tribune, Obituary, March 7, 1928.

¹⁷ Tampa Tribune, Obituary of Joseph P. Robles, February 13, 1907.

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Tampa. Always the inventive spirit, Joseph Robles spearheaded a group of twenty-six citizens to remedy the situation. On June 18, 1876, Joseph Robles, aided by his son, John, and other men, began felling trees along the route of what is now Florida Avenue. Employing a team of oxen and log cart to remove the trees, they opened Florida Avenue almost one mile past the City limits in just one day. Mr. Robles was then able to sell off much of his original homestead to Northerners for what had become a popular purchase of "orange grove estates."¹⁸

In the 1880s, Joseph acquired tracts of land in what is now Tampa Heights and platted several neighborhoods there. Robles Street still bears the family name in the neighborhood. Another area of the city bearing the family name is the Robles Park Subdivision, which is located on part of the original Robles homestead. Joseph Robles passed away February 13, 1907 at age 89.¹⁹

Horace Theodore Robles (1860-1935) became a dairy farmer and cattle rancher under the "32" Robles brand. He was a horticulturist and a citrus grove farmer, also working the land as part of a farming operation that included the raising of a variety of crops. He also assisted his father in his real estate dealings and the operation of the family sawmill.²⁰ Horace and his father Joseph built the home at 2604 East Hanna Avenue,²¹ using lumber produced by the mill. For a number of years, Horace operated a dairy located near his home, selling the milk, butter, and eggs from wagons that delivered to houses in the residential sections of Tampa. Horace and his wife, Annie, often entertained their neighbors. Being musically inclined, they held dances accompanied by the violin and piano. At times, these get-togethers were called "pound parties", as the guests brought a pound of candy, cake, fruit, etc. to share.²² As the city of Tampa encroached on the homestead, Horace began to sell off parts of his property for development. This practice was continued by his daughter, Edith Maude, who was born in the house on June 11, 1898 and lived there until six months prior to her death in 1997. The property then passed to her niece, Patricia Robles Gatlin, who sold the property to the current owner in March 2000.²³ Horace T. Robles is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.²⁴

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Built c. 1888, the Horace Theodore Robles House is a two-story frame vernacular farmhouse that exhibits some influences of the Free Classic variation of the Queen Anne style. The Queen Anne style was popular in Florida from about 1880 through 1910, and Free Classic examples began to employ a variety of classical elements instead of the ornate wood detailing prominent in earlier Queen Anne houses. The houses

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Tampa Tribune, Obituary, February 13, 1907.

²⁰ Florida Master Site File 8HI 8306, Historic Structure Form, February 2002, Stephanie Ferrell, FAIA, Tampa, Florida.

²¹ Named after the wife of one of Joseph Robles sons.

²² Tampa Tribune, Obituary, September 8, 1933.

²³ Florida Master Site File, Summary of Significance.

²⁴ Tampa Tribune, Obituary, March 23, 1935.

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SIGNIFICANCE

often retained at least some of the Victorian details and millwork. The Horace T. Robles house retains the irregular planning of Queen Anne architecture. It also made use of multi-level porches and interior finishes typical of the Victorian era. However, the house is essentially a vernacular residence and appears to have been constructed in stages over the years. The construction of the house reflects the architectural understanding of a lay builder rather than a trained architect or professional contractor. The somewhat primitive congregation of interior spaces on both floors of the house suggests that the residence may well have been built by Horace T. Robles and other members of the family.

A number of residences having Queen Anne characteristics are found in Tampa; however, all but a few of these were constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century. None of the elaborate, full blown examples of the style once found in Tampa's early residential suburbs located near the downtown area has survived intact. Most surviving late nineteenth century residences in the city fall into the "Folk Victorian" category, having some Queen Anne decorative details on porches but lacking towers, turrets, gazebos, or distinctive planning characteristics. The Horace T. Robles house is distinctive for its unusual combination of porches on the main facade and side elevations. The front porch is clearly classical in arrangement, having professionally milled Tuscan columns and pilasters. The side porches combine classical columns and turned posts, the latter of which are characteristic of Queen Anne and Folk Victorian houses. The balustrade walls enclosing the second story veranda on the west elevation and on both sides of the second story breezeway are clearly vernacular and functional, having no Queen Anne or Classical Revival precedents. The irregular planning of the interior of the house is also more the result of the builder's personal approach to creating spaces suitable for his family's needs rather than any dependence on stylistic or historical precedents. The semi-detached rear extension is also distinctive and unusual, not found among any of Tampa's other early residences surveyed so far. The extension probably started existence as a one-story detached kitchen, but was eventually given a second story in order to provide the residence with more bedrooms when the kitchen was moved into the rear wing of the main portion of the house. In exterior appearance and overall interior arrangement, the Horace T. Robles House is unlike any other building yet discovered within the present Tampa city limits.

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ROBLES, HORACE T. HOUSE
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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ROBLES, HORACE T. HOUSE
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

2604 E. Hanna Ave. — Folio #150972.0000

The boundaries of the Horace T. Robles House are those shown on the accompanying site plan which separated the house from the noncontributing resources that have recently been constructed as part of the Grande Oaks Apartment complex. The boundary now encompasses only the house itself, the surrounding land extending to the near curb line of the driveway, and a visual dividing line between the house and the noncontributing swimming pool.

Boundary Justification

All of the historic resources associated with the Horace T. Robles House are found within the above described boundaries. There are no outbuildings or other appurtenances associated with the historic property.

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LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Robles, Horace T. House
2. 2604 East Hanna Avenue, Tampa (Hillsborough County), Florida
3. Stephanie Ferrell
4. June 2005
5. Stephanie Ferrell, FAIA
6. Main (South) Facade and West Elevation, Looking Northeast
7. Photo 1 of 10

Items 1 through 5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo 2 of 10

6. East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo 3 of 10

6. East Elevation, Looking Southwest
7. Photo 4 of 10

6. Rear (north) elevation, Looking South
7. Photo 5 of 10

6. Rear (north) and west elevations, Looking Southeast
7. Photo 6 of 10

6. Interior, First Floor, Looking South toward Foyer from Stairs
7. Photo 7 of 10

6. Interior, Second Floor Stair Landing, Looking West
7. Photo 8 of 10

6. Interior, First Floor, Looking North from Leasing Office toward Conference Room
7. Photo 9 of 10

6. Interior, First Floor, Looking North from Leasing Office toward Conference Room
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ATTACHMENTS—SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTO IMAGES (Photo A-I)

1. Robles, Horace T. House
2. 2604 East Hanna Avenue, Tampa (Hillsborough County), Florida
3. Stephanie Ferrell
4. June 2005
5. Stephanie Ferrell, FAIA
6. Entrance Sign, Looking East on Hanna Avenue
7. Photo A

Items 1 through 5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. Main (South) Facade, Looking North
7. Photo B

6. Clubhouse and Robles House, Looking North toward Modern Apartment Building
7. Photo C

6. Clubhouse, Main (South) Facade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest
7. Photo D

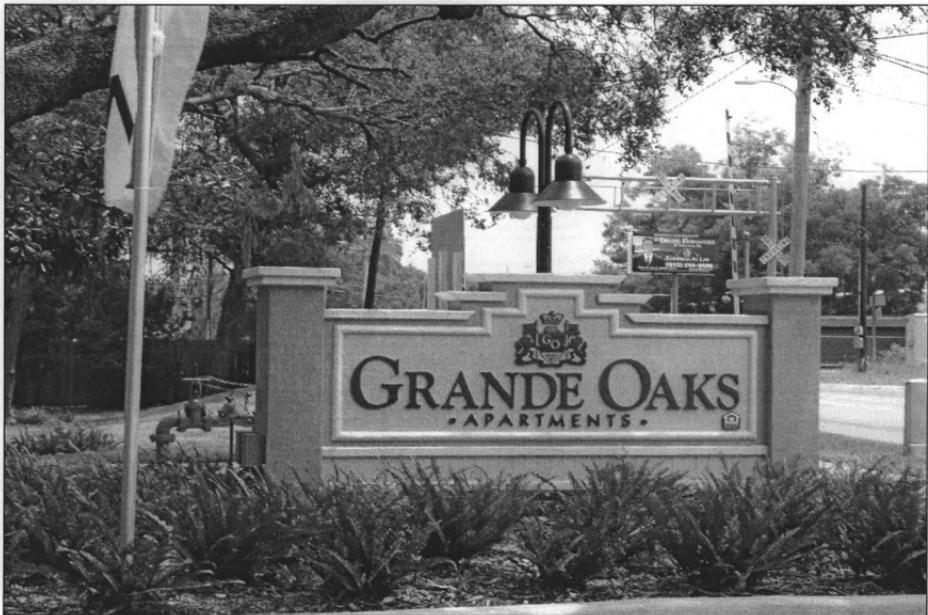
6. Robles House and Clubhouse, Looking Northwest
7. Photo E

6. Clubhouse, East Facade and South Facade, Looking West
7. Photo F

6. Robles House, West Elevation, Looking East
7. Photo G

6. Modern Apartment Building, Main (West) Facade, Looking Northeast
7. Photo H

6. Modern Apartment Building Main (West) Facade, Looking East
7. Photo I



ATTACHMENT A



ATTACHMENT B

SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTO IMAGES—HORACE T. ROBLES HOUSE



ATTACHMENT C



ATTACHMENT D

SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTO IMAGES—HORACE T. ROBLES HOUSE



ATTACHMENT E



ATTACHMENT F

SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTO IMAGES—HORACE T. ROBLES HOUSE



ATTACHMENT G



ATTACHMENT H

SUPPLEMENTARY PHOTO IMAGES—HORACE T. ROBLES HOUSE



ATTACHMENT I