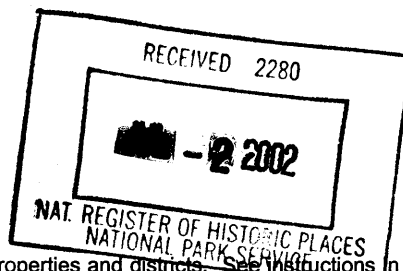


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



828

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 THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY

other names/site number Cuban American Corporation Cigar Factory

2. Location

street & number 255 North Third Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Bartow N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Polk code 105 zip code 33830

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.)  
Just Snyder, Matthews 6/26/2002  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historic 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
8/9/02

**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**

"Historic Architectural Resources of Bartow"

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRIAL: factory

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Mission  
Spanish Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STUCCO  
walls STUCCO  
roof ASPHALT  
other TILE

**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)

INDUSTRY \_\_\_\_\_

ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1925-1952  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1925  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

N.A.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Odell, William H./Seward, William L.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository  
\_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately one

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	4	1	7	9	8	0	3	0	8	6	0	0	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 Johnston, Sidney/Robert O. Jones, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date June 2002

street & number 500 S. Bronough St telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL 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 Polk County

street & number Drawer BC 01; Post Office Box 9005 telephone 863-534-6444

city or town Bartow state Florida zip code 33831-9005

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet**

**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Section Number   7   Page   1  

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**SUMMARY**

The Thompson & Company Cigar Factory is located at 255 North Third Avenue in Bartow, Polk County, Florida. The one-and-one-half-story masonry building has Mission Revival styling. It has a rectangular plan, shaped parapets, a hip-and-clipped-gable roof system, a hip-roof monitor, buttresses with sloped caps, textured stucco exterior wall fabric, and six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Projecting purlins and carved rafter ends adorn the eaves. Assembled with concrete blocks manufactured locally, the building has a continuous foundation and contains approximately fourteen thousand square feet of interior floor space. Currently vacant and most recently used as a storage facility, the building has a high level of craftsmanship, and retains its historic character and physical integrity to a high degree.

**SETTING**

Polk County is in south-central Florida, and Bartow serves as the seat of county government. The population of the county is nearly 500,000, and Bartow is the third largest municipality with approximately 15,000 residents. Located forty miles east of Tampa and sixty miles southwest of Orlando, Bartow lies in the heart of Florida's citrus and phosphate region. Bartow's primary thoroughfares include State Road 60 (east/west) and U.S. Highway 17/98 (north/south). The city historically served as a rail center for the Atlantic Coast Line and Seaboard Air Line railroads, but most of the tracks have been dismantled in the city. A survey conducted in 1991 identified 551 historic buildings in Bartow. The Thompson & Company Cigar Factory is the only building left standing in the city that had a historic industrial use.

The cigar factory faces east onto Third Avenue, occupying block one of Burrow's Addition to Bartow. The block is bounded by Church Street on the north, Davidson Street on the south, and Second Avenue on the west. The building is close to Third Avenue, but the ample, flat lot provides an open space on the other sides. Immediately to the north stands a steel building of recent vintage used by Polk County's Emergency Management Service, and farther north lies undeveloped property. A residential neighborhood radiates to the east, and one block to the south lie several commercial buildings that face onto Main Street. Farther south is the historically African-American neighborhood of East Bartow, which includes the Lawrence Bernard Brown House (NR 2000). To the west lies the Northeast Bartow Historic District (NR 1992), and about ten blocks to the west lies the center of Bartow's downtown historic district (NR 1992). Immediately west of the cigar factory is the dismantled roadbed of the former mainline of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Exterior**

The rectangular one-story building has a stucco exterior, and a massive additional second story monitor rises at the center of the building (Photo #1). The monitor has a hip roof, and a broad hip roof covers the surrounding one-story portion of the building. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and exposed rafter ends

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THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Section Number 7 Page 2

are within the eaves. The windows are filled with single 6/6 double-hung wooden sashes. Windows and pilasters are evenly arranged around the building.

The east, main facade has three shaped parapets accented with heavy coping, diamond-shape tiles, and rectangular panels cast in relief (Photo #2). The central parapet is semi-circular and has stepped sides. Smaller corner parapets are curvilinear and have stepped sides. A pair of pilasters are in the wall beneath the corner parapets. The wall surfacing beneath the northernmost parapet has a large blind-arched panel. The eaves line projects between the parapets, revealing carved wood rafter ends that contrast with the stucco walls. Set back from the parapets and facade approximately twenty-five feet, the hip-roof monitor's second story has a narrow profile with broad eaves and a continuous ribbon of 6/6 pivot window sashes.

The main entrance is centrally located in the facade, and consists of a pair of paneled wood doors. The entrance is located on a loading dock/porch that projects from the central bay. A concrete staircase extends from the south side of the dock. A smaller secondary entrance with a six-light and paneled wood door is at the southeast corner (Photo #3). Seven poured concrete steps with cheeks extend from the smaller entrance. Protecting both entrances are canopies of wood and pressed metal panels, supported by cables and escutcheon plates. Pairs of individual windows flank the central entrance.

The north elevation has the broad view of the factory and profile of the monitor's, second story (Photos #4,5). A ribbon of twenty-nine pivot windows along the monitor provide ventilation and light to the interior. The primary walls of the elevation contain sixteen windows with pilasters between every two windows. A small wood-frame, shed-roof addition projects from the elevation approximately forty feet west of the northeast corner.

The rear, west elevation (Photos #5&6) has the narrow profile of the monitor that terminates at the west elevation wall, in contrast to its setback from the east facade. Beneath the monitor is a broad clipped-gable roof and six projecting square purlins. Two full-height pilasters flank the central loading dock with a large sliding wooden door. A small gable-roof storage shed with horizontal siding occupies part of the loading dock, but is not connected to the building wall. Two individual windows are within the wall to the north and south side of the central loading area.

The south elevation closely resembles the north elevation except that there are three doors occupying spaces where windows are located on the north (Photo #7). There are two access ramps, and concrete steps leading to side doors. Two metal awning windows occupy the openings at the southeast corner.

### Interior

The building contains approximately fourteen thousand square feet of space, roughly divided between 11,500 feet on the main first floor, and 2,500 feet on the second floor. Plaster covers the masonry walls, and the floor is finished with pine planks. The interior spaces of the building consist of a variety of wood-frame walls, some finished with beaded boards, and some exposed framing. Most of the building historically was a large open work space with several wall enclosures along the east end. A system of posts and tie beams support the second floor in the monitor, suspended above the first floor (Photo #8). The exposed roof systems consists of

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**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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purlins, struts, and braces. Several original walls finished with beaded boards and windows occupy the east end of the building (Photo #9). Inside the main entrance rises a straight staircase to the monitor. An office with modern paneling occupies the northeast corner (Photo #10). Unfinished temporary walls have been installed throughout the remainder of the building (Photo #11). Straight staircases at east and west ends of the building provide access into the monitor (Photo #12). Finished with beaded boards and windows, the second floor extends from the west elevation forward approximately 125 feet. Ventilators pierce the roof ridge.

**ALTERATIONS**

In about 1975, a small shed-roof, wood-frame addition that projects from the north elevation was added. At the same time two access ramps were added to the south elevation, and two windows were replaced with metal awning windows at the northeast corner. In the 1960s, several interior walls were removed, and several temporary walls installed about 1980.

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**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**SUMMARY**

The Thompson & Company Cigar Factory in Bartow, Polk County, Florida, is nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C at the local level in the areas of Industry and Architecture. The building possesses significance as the only historic cigar factory in Bartow, and is the only historic industrial building in Bartow. Tied closely to the Florida's cigar industry, the factory was completed in 1925 for the Cuban American Cigar Corporation. The company was a subsidiary of Thompson & Company, Inc. of Tampa. The Bartow factory complemented Thompson's cigar plant and retail business in Ybor City. The Bartow factory, an early example of a fully-mechanized cigar factory in Florida, was developed in Bartow, in part, to avoid labor unrest in Tampa associated with unionization and, in part, to overcome resistance to mechanization by workers in the industry. Laborers manufactured millions of cigars in the building between 1925 and 1961, when it closed. William H. Odell of Detroit, Michigan, executed the plans for the factory, and Bartow contractor William L. Seward supervised its construction. The factory displays Mission Revival influences. The design of the building is consistent with national and statewide trends in architecture. The building contributes to the Historic Architectural Resources of Bartow Multiple Property Submission under the Florida Land Boom of the 1920s and Great Depression of the 1930s historic associated contexts and the F.2 property type.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

In the 1920s, much of the state of Florida, as well as Polk County's seat, Bartow, experienced a construction boom. Construction activity neared its zenith in 1925, when building permits amounted to nearly \$3,000 daily. Spurred by a surging economy, the local chamber of commerce promoted civic improvements, and sponsored fund drives for beautification of school grounds, and to develop a factory, golf course, and hospital. Buoyed by community's developmental success, the chamber collected approximately \$6,000 to encourage cigar businessman Thompson to build a factory in Bartow.

Mark A. Thompson initiated plans for the factory through the Cuban American Corporation, which he had helped organize in Tampa about 1923. A native of Chicago, Thompson moved to Miami, where he worked in a mail-order coffee business. In 1915, intrigued with the cigar industry, he organized Thompson & Company as a mail-order cigar business. Three years later Thompson relocated to Tampa, where he grew the business into a successful enterprise. He relocated the operation several times until 1923, when the company constructed a two-story building at 200 Edison Avenue. One of dozens of cigar factories in Ybor City, the building contained areas for hand-rolling cigars, a cigar vault, a print shop for labels, and shipping. About 1924, Thompson helped organize a subsidiary business, the Cuban American Cigar Corporation. Early directors and officers of both Thompson & Company and the Cuban American Corporation included Samuel G. Thompson, Maurice Eckland, Anna V. Stewart, and Eugene Pizzetta. Eckland and Pizzetta started their careers in the cigar industry in 1919, and eventually became top company officers in the Thompson organization.<sup>1</sup> A pioneer in the

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<sup>1</sup>Tampa Morning Tribune, 10 April 1935; James Covington, *The Story of Southwestern Florida*, 2 vols., (New York: Lewis



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**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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cigar mail order business, Thompson & Company shipped its products to customers on approval. Manufactured with Havana tobacco, trademark products included Empress of Cuba, Royal Palm, and Thompson's Tampa. The company established its customer base throughout the United States, and in Canada, Norway, Russia, and South and Central America.

Labor challenges had confronted cigar factory owners almost since the inception of the industry in Tampa in the 1880s. Strikes in 1892, 1901, and 1910 had curtailed production levels, and a ten-month strike in 1920 was especially difficult for owners, some of whom lost markets and suffered substantial inventory losses. Others, such as F. Lozano, Son & Company, closed their operations and sold out. In addition to strikes, some manufacturers, such as Thompson & Company, experienced resistance from labor as they modernized their plants. In 1924, Tampa businessman Eli Witt installed the first cigar rolling machinery in his Havatampa plant, which became a highly regarded and efficient cigar business. But, for a variety of reasons, most owners were slow to follow Witt's lead. Most workers were uncomfortable using machines and insisted on making cigars in the time-tested, hand-rolled tradition. In addition, many manufacturers did not want to bear the expense of upgrading their equipment and retraining employees. A few progressive owners who installed new equipment were confronted by the force of tradition and resentment from workers to innovation, and made only modest gains using new equipment and retraining employees. Not until the 1930s did machines become common in Tampa's cigar factories. A few owners, including Thompson & Company, sought relief from both unions and resistance to technological change by moving out of Tampa to open new operations. Because of its close proximity to Tampa, Polk County was attractive to some cigar manufacturers. By 1939, cigar factories operated in Bartow, Lakeland, and Winter Haven. By then, earlier operations had only recently closed in Fort Meade, Frostproof, Lake Wales, and Loughman.<sup>2</sup>

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

In 1925, following the opening of the factory in Ybor City, and formation of the Cuban American Corporation, Thompson expanded the company's operations into Bartow. To encourage his commercial investment, the Bartow Chamber of Commerce collected approximately \$6,000 to encourage Thompson to build in the city. Thompson's motivations were in part, to avoid recurrent labor unrest and unionization in Tampa, and to overcome resistance to mechanization within the industry, both by laborers and even other manufacturers. Thompson selected in a site East Bartow beside the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad tracks. The lot Thompson chose had been divided into residential lots by F. E. Burrows in 1915, but remained undeveloped. In

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Historical Publishing Company, 1957), 2: 119-120; W. T. Cash, *The Story of Florida*, 4 vols., (New York: American Historical Society, 1935), 4: 437-438.

<sup>2</sup>Durwood Long, "The Open-Closed Shop Battle in Tampa's Cigar Industry, 1919-1921," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 47 (October 1968), 101-121; Robert Ingalls, "Strikes and Vigilante Violence in Tampa's Cigar Industry," *Tampa Bay History* 7 (Fall/Winter 1985), 116-134; A. Stuart Campbell, *The Cigar Industry of Tampa, Florida* (Gainesville: Bureau of Economic Research, 1939), 5, 67, 128, 134.

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THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Section Number 8 Page 3

February 1925, the city vacated an alley that originally ran east-to-west through the block, which permitted the company to construct its factory near the mid-line of the block.<sup>3</sup>

The cigar company let the construction contract to William L. Seward of Bartow in February 1925. Seward had recently installed a concrete plant in Bartow, where he manufactured "Anchor Hi-Test Hollow Concrete Tile," which he used to assemble the building. Completed in June 1925 at a cost of approximately \$35,000, the distinctive building had shaped parapets, a large hip monitor, and white stucco walls.

In late-1924, Thompson hired architect William H. Odell to draft the plans for the Bartow cigar factory in the Mission Revival genre. A native of Detroit, Michigan, Odell graduated from Detroit's Institute of Technology in the early-1920s and then found employment in several of Detroit's architectural firms, including Giffels & Vallet and Rossetti Associates. He briefly worked in St. Petersburg, Florida, during the mid-1920s, but then returned to Detroit. The Bartow factory was among his early projects. In the 1930s, Odell worked in the U. S. Department of the Treasury's office of the supervising architect, where he developed plans for buildings for the Department of the Interior. After World War II, he organized a partnership with Derrick & Gamber, but then formed his own firm in 1955. Notable works attributed to Odell include the Pontiac State Hospital (1948), Ford Motor Company Engine Testing Building in Dearborn (1952), the Monroe-Randolph Commercial Building (1956) and the Second & Howard Building (1957) in Detroit.<sup>4</sup>

Supervised by Max Cook, employees began operating two cigar-making machines purchased from the American Machinery and Foundry Company of Brooklyn, New York, that month. Eventually the company installed thirty machines in the building. Although a number of men worked at the factory, the company primarily hired girls. Machines acquired in the 1920s cost approximately \$3,500 each, and required supervision by three employees, who could make 600 cigars per hour. No hand-made products were made at the facility until the mid-1930s. The machines manufactured long-filler cigars, "turning out the cigars in as perfect and frequently more perfect condition than can be done by hand." Approximately 150 people worked in the factory, manufacturing nearly 100,000 cigars daily.<sup>5</sup> In 1929, near the height of its production, the company manufactured and sold approximately 20,000,000 cigars and enjoyed sales of \$500,000, in large part because of the success of the Bartow plant. In 1938, the Bartow plant produced 120,000 cigars each day.<sup>6</sup>

The company did not develop a residential quarters for its employees. Instead, most laborers found homes nearby in Bartow. Tobacco strippers Mattie Wilson and Vannie Hart both lived at 710 East Church Street. Claradell Howell, another tobacco stripper, resided on East Main Street. Ernest Hauesler and William R. Ulrickson were roller machine operators who lived on East Church Street and South Dudley Avenue, respectively. Sandy Sterling, one of the relatively few African-Americans employed by the company, lived on

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<sup>3</sup>*Polk County Record*, 30 January, 3, 27 February 1925; Deed Book 253, p. 278, Clerk of Court, Polk County Courthouse, Bartow, FL.

<sup>4</sup>*Polk County Record*, 13 February 1925; *Detroit Free-Press*, 18 September 1972; John Gane, ed., *American Architects Directory* (New York & London: R. R. Bowker Company, 1970), 676.

<sup>5</sup>*Polk County Record*, 27 January, 13 February, 2 June 1925.

<sup>6</sup>*Tampa Morning Tribune*, 10 April 1935; Covington, *Southwestern Florida*, 2: 119-120; Cash, *Florida*, 4: 437-438.

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**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Section Number 8 Page 4

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South Fifth Avenue. The company operated the factory between 1925 and 1961, but few long-time workers or family generations have been documented. Machine roller Ulrickson labored at the factory during the 1920s, but had moved on by the mid-1940s. Many young girls eventually left the company, and were replaced by other young employees. Exceptions to this trend included Joseph and Dollie Sanchez, who began their careers in Tampa's cigar industry, but moved to Bartow in the 1930s and remained at the local factory for several decades. Edith Sanchez Glisson began work at the Bartow factory in 1948 and remained until 1961, when the company closed the plant. Max Cook, the first manager, remained only a few years. Indeed, few families, other than some of the management and the owners, made a career of working at the factory, or for the company.<sup>7</sup>

During the Great Depression, Thompson & Company consolidated its holdings. In late-1929, the Cuban American Corporation conveyed the Bartow factory to its parent company. Edwin E. Crusoe, Jr. became factory manager. A native of Key West, Crusoe arrived in Tampa in the 1910s, became a superintendent in the Thompson & Company's Tampa cigar operation, and then moved to Bartow. He supervised the cigar factory after Max Cook left, and managed the Bartow facility for nearly two decades. In January 1936, Thompson & Company closed its Tampa plant, and transferred its hand-rolled cigar operations to Bartow. This consolidation trend typified Tampa's cigar industry during the Great Depression, when eleven firms moved out of the city and five others closed. Although Thompson & Company relocated its hand-rolled cigar department to Bartow, it maintained its sales office and shipping department in Tampa. Thompson died in April 1935, and his wife, Clara Ward Thompson became company president, a position she held until her death in 1951. The company closed the Bartow plant in September 1961, ending its manufacturing operations. Later sold to Robert Franzbalu, the company still sells fine cigars, including Fuentas and Partagas, and maintains a website at [www.thompson.com](http://www.thompson.com).<sup>8</sup> During the 1960s, the former cigar factory served as the headquarters of Bartow's American Legion Post # 3, and then Polk County's "commodities distribution center" between 1969 and 1971. From 1974 to 1989, the county used the building as its social services warehouse.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>R. L. Polk, *Bartow and Polk County Directory* (Jacksonville: Polk Company, 1925), 39, 40, 81; R. L. Polk, *Bartow and Polk County Directory* (Jacksonville: Polk Company, 1928), 52, 55, 57, 73, 76, 80, 235.

<sup>8</sup>Deed Book 453, p. 161, Clerk of Court, Polk County Courthouse; Campbell, *The Cigar Industry of Tampa*, 67, 128; *Polk County Democrat*, 24 August 1959.

<sup>9</sup>Bartow Cigar Factory file, Polk County Historical and Genealogical Library, Bartow, FL.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Thompson & Company Cigar Factory is good example of the Mission Revival style as applied to a commercial, industrial building. In keeping with Mission Revival Style, the building has shaped parapets, pilasters, textured stucco exterior walls, and large wooden double-hung sash windows. The industrial building has a large hip monitor with bands of windows. The monitor is a common feature of industrial design, but in this case is an unusual feature in that it functions to serve as a second floor, and historically was used to store tobacco. The factory is among the largest historic buildings in the city, is the last historic industrial building in the city, and serves as a landmark within the East Bartow neighborhood. The Thompson & Company Cigar Factory was well constructed and retains a high degree of physical integrity. The resource contributes a sense of time, place, and development through its character and associations to Bartow's built historic fabric.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1 **THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY,  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY,  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The building occupies block 1, lots 1-16, less the north 100 feet of lots 1-7 of Burrow's Addition to Bartow. Polk County Property Appraiser number is 253005366500001011. (See attached scaled site plan)

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the Thompson & Company Cigar Factory.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY,  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. 255 North Third Avenue
2. Bartow (Polk County), Florida
3. Sidney Johnston
4. 2001
5. Johnston, DeLand, FL
6. Oblique view depicting the front (east) facade and south elevation, facing northwest
7. Photograph number 1 of 12

Numbers 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

6. View depicting the front (east) facade, facing west
7. Photograph number 2 of 12

6. Detail view depicting the front (east), facing west
7. Photograph number 3 of 12

6. Oblique view depicting the east and north elevations, facing southwest
7. Photograph number 4 of 12

6. Oblique view depicting the north and west elevations, facing southeast
7. Photograph number 5 of 12

6. View depicting the rear (west) elevation, facing east
7. Photograph number 6 of 12

6. View depicting the south elevation, facing north
7. Photograph number 7 of 12

6. View depicting interior from the southeast corner, facing northwest
7. Photograph number 8 of 12

6. View depicting interior, facing northeast
7. Photograph number 9 of 12

6. View depicting northeast corner office, facing southwest
7. Photograph number 10 of 12

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

## **NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY,  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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6. View depicting interior from the northeast corner, facing southeast

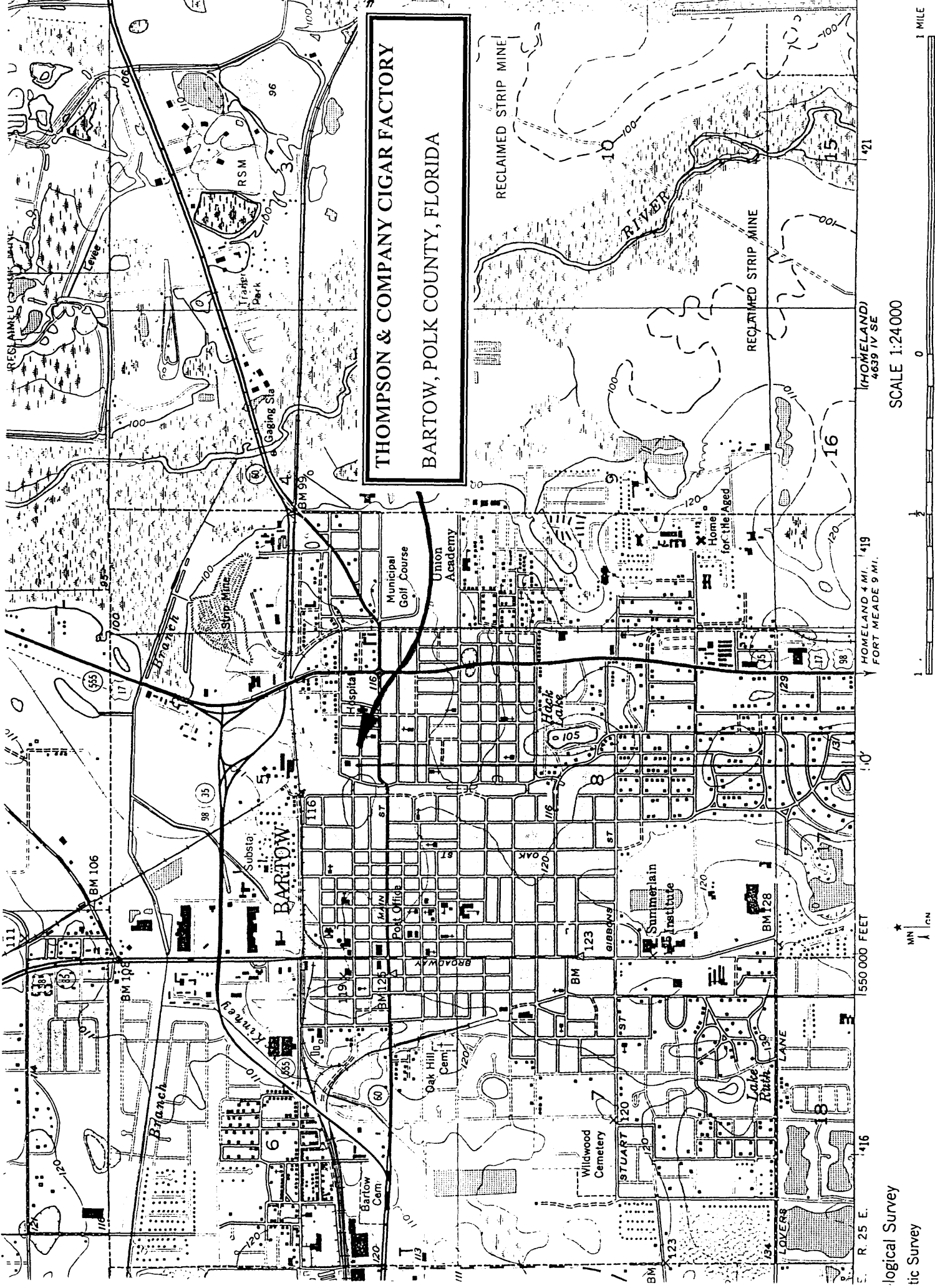
7. Photograph number 11 of 12

6. View depicting interior of the second floor/monitor, facing east

7. Photograph number 12 of 12



**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY**  
**BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**



HOMELAND 4 MI. 1419  
 FORT MEADE 9 MI.

550,000 FEET

SCALE 1:24,000



1  
 1/2  
 0

1/4  
 1/8  
 1/16

1/32  
 1/64

1/128  
 1/256

1/512  
 1/1024

1/2048  
 1/4096

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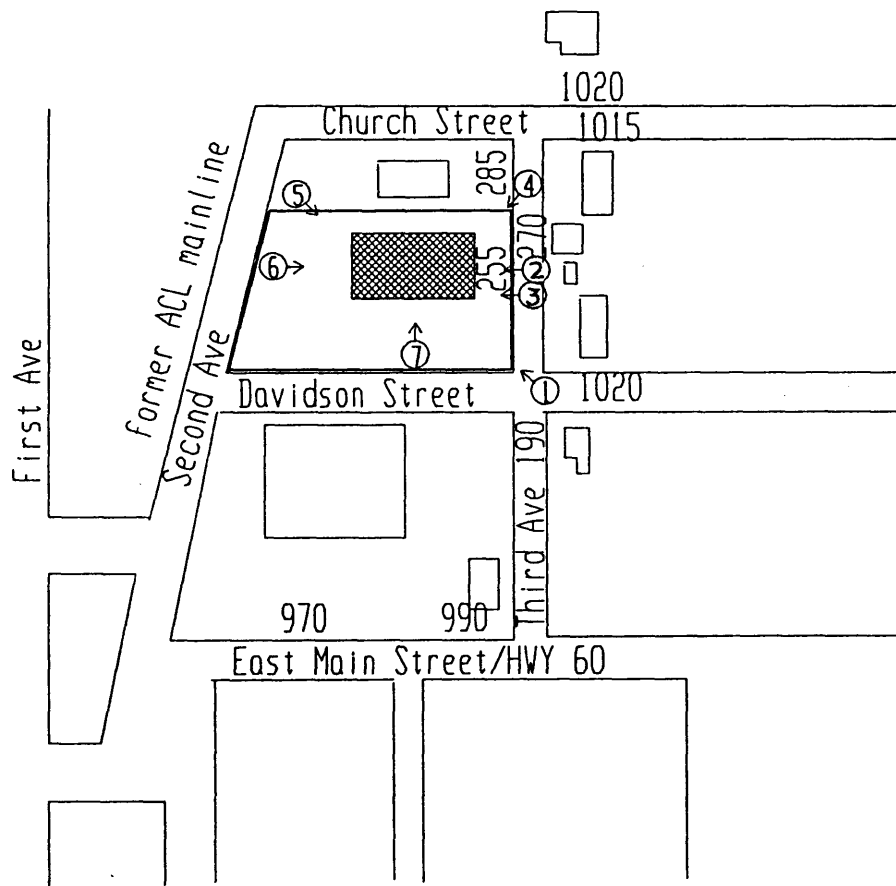
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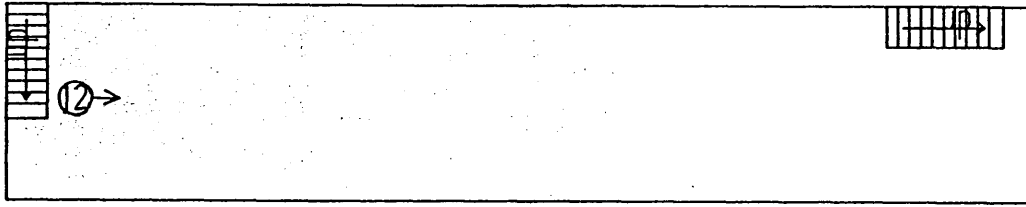
Thompson & Company  
 Cigar Factory  
 Site Plan  
 March 2001

— boundary  
 [hatched box] contributing resource

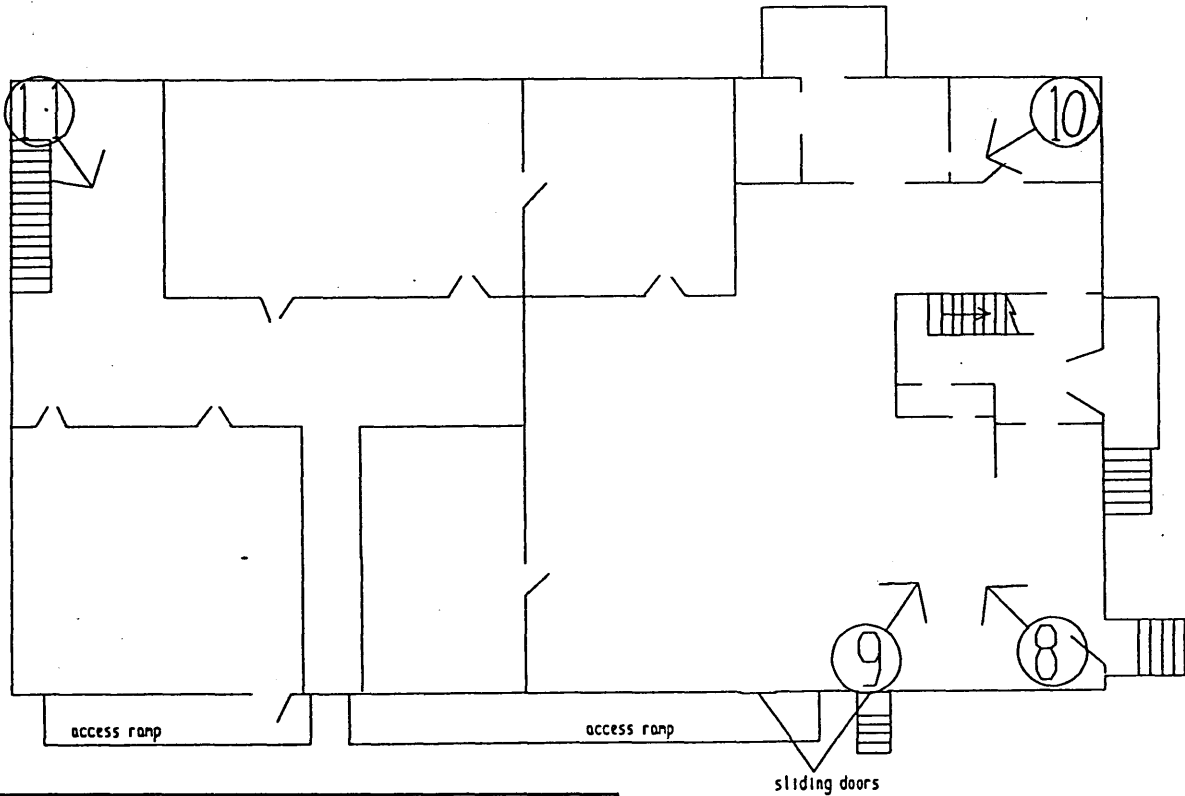
0 50 100  
 SCALE IN FEET

17

**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY**  
**BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**SITE PLAN**



**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY**  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SECOND FLOOR PLAN & PHOTO DIAGRAM



**THOMPSON & COMPANY CIGAR FACTORY**  
BARTOW, POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
FLOOR PLAN & PHOTO DIAGRAM

