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3.	CLASSIFICATION					
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Z	(Check One)				TO THE PUBLIC	-
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7. DESCRIPTION								
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CONDITION		(Check Or	ne)			(Che	ck One)
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ybor Factory, completed in 1886, was designed and constructed by C. E. Parcell, at the request of Vincent Martinez Ybor. The building was very impressive at the time of its construction, not only because of its size, but because of the careful planning entailed in its construction. The Tampa Guardian for June 9, 1886 reported that: "The company has provided for emergencies and convenience by constructing two flights of stairways from the first to the third floors, besides which a large elevator goes from the bottom to the top." The factory has been added to consistently over the years, but as originally constructed, the building was rectangular in plan and three stories high. For a long while that made it the tallest structure in Tampa. There are seven windows per floor on the main facade and seventeen windows per floor on the north and south sides. All windows are four light double-hung sash with radiating Windows on the north and south sides have voussoirs. exterior solid panel shutters. At the roofline there is a boxed cornice with frieze and brackets. The building has a flat roof with two chimneys and a large observatory. There are sixteen sash windows in the observatory from which all of Ybor City can be seen. The building has a platform porch with graduated stone steps. There is a very minimal type of portico, supported at the front by thin metal poles, which merely has the effect of an The main entrance consists of double panelled awning. wooden doors.

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/In 1955, the entire Ybor plant was sold to the Hav-A-Tampa Cigar Company. / Today Hav-A-Tampa uses the premises primarily for storage, and as a shipping office for cigars sent to the West Coast. The condition of the building is good although minor repairs are needed.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applical	ble and Known) 1886		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropria	ate)	
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Vincent Martinez Ybor began manufacturing cigars in Havana in 1852, and in 1869 he moved his business to Key West, Florida. In 1885, in anticipation of moving his business to Tampa, Ybor commenced negotiations with the Tampa Board of Trade, / Ybor was interested in purchasing a 40-acre tract of land from John T. Lesley on which to build his factory. He was, however, not willing to meet Lesley's price. Determined to get the cigar industry to Tampa, the board members voted to guarantee Ybor the \$4,000 he needed to meet Lesley's \$9,000 price. The May 5, 1886 edition of the Tampa Guardian stated that "every businessman and property owner in this town and surrounding community whether they are members of the Board of Trade or not should bear their share in liquidating the obligation of the board of Messrs, Ybor and Co.". A final settlement was made in 1886 and a town named Ybor City was platted. A contract for the construction of a brick factory and fifty workmen's homes was awarded to C. E. Parcell, a local contractor. frame building was used by the workers until the three story brick factory was completed. / With the introduction of the cigar industry to Tampa, many immigrants were given jobs, and the town grew and prospered.

The 1890's marked the period of Cuba's struggle for independence. During these years, the Ybor factory served as a meeting place for the patriots, and in 1893, when Jose Marti, leader of the Cuban Revolution visited in Tampa, he delivered a famous speech on the steps of the factory. Later the front portico, where the speech was given, was taken to Havana and enshrined. The present portico is a reproduction of the original

The <u>Tampa Tribune</u> for July 14, 1886 summed up Ybor's introduction of the cigar industry in this way: "The benefits that would inure to Tampa from the establishment of such an industry cannot be too deeply impressed upon our citizens."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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