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(Rev. 10-90)

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 Perry Harvey Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl

other names/site number Bro Bowl/ HI12147

2. Location

street & number 900 East Scott Street n/a  not for publication

city or town Tampa n/a  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Hillsborough code 057 zip code 33602

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.)

Robert F. Bendus 8/20/13  
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) \_\_\_\_\_

Jan Kelly Signature of the Keeper  
10/7/2013 Date of Action

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



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

October 24, 2013

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically entered in the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 2013

This is due to the fact that there was a lapse in appropriations by Congress and our offices were closed from October 1-16, 2013. "Nominations will be included in the National Register within 45 days of receipt by the Keeper or designee unless the Keeper disapproves a nomination" (30CFR60.(r). If the 45<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day.

The documentation is technically sufficient, professionally correct and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation. Thus, this property is automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**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	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	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.)

n/a

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: sports facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: sports facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

n/a

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

roof n/a

other n/a

**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 67) 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)

Entertainment/RecreationArchitectureEngineering**Period of Significance**1978**Significant Dates**1978**Significant Person**n/a**Cultural Affiliation**n/a**Architect/Builder**The IPDS Ltd. Planning/Design Group, ArchitectAngle & Scmid. Contrator, Builder**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	3 5 6 8 1 1	3 0 9 3 0 8 2
	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 Shannon Bruffett and Barbara E. Mattick/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Survey & Registration

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date August, 2013

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 City of Tampa

street & number 306 East Jackson Street telephone 813-874-8211

city or town Tampa state Florida zip code 33602

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

Section number 7 Page 1

PERRY HARVEY SR. PARK SKATEBOARD BOWL  
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DESCRIPTION

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**SUMMARY**

The Perry Harvey Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl, also known as the “Bro Bowl,” was constructed in 1978, as an element of a municipal park located at 900 East Scott Street, in the heart of the Historic Central Avenue area of Downtown Tampa, Florida. It is a concrete skateboard bowl that was built by the City of Tampa as a recreational facility for inner city youth. Covering less than an acre, it consists of a steep downhill course which leads to a curved dish at the bottom of the hill. It varies in depth from approximately one to six feet. It is part downhill slalom, part “swimming pool,” and part ditch. The structure is in good condition due to the maintenance performed by the city, as well as the upkeep of the local skateboarders who frequent it and have voluntarily invested both time and money to its upkeep. There are several other historical sites surrounding the park.

**SETTING**

The Bro Bowl is located at the western edge of Harvey Perry Sr. Park, which is defined by North Orange Avenue on the west, Scott Street on the north, Central Avenue on the east, and East Harrison Street on the south. The bowl is located on the east side of Orange Avenue between E. Laurel Street and Emery Street, which run into North Orange Avenue. The bowl is surrounded by other features of the Perry Harvey Sr. Park, including a playground, a recreation building, sidewalks, and basketball courts. Open grass fields, mature oak trees, and various landscaping fill the remaining space. The trees provide shade over much of the bowl. These features provide a natural setting in an otherwise urban environment.

The site where Perry Harvey Sr. Park and the Bro Bowl were constructed was the former location of the African-American business and entertainment district, known as Central Avenue. The surrounding area, commonly referred to as “The Scrub,” was demolished in the 1950s to facilitate the construction of a new housing project entitled Central Park Village in 1954. After enjoying great successes from the turn of the century through the 1950s, Central Avenue began to fall into decay. With the construction of Interstate 4 and the addition of the Jefferson Street extension to Interstate 275 in 1968, the African-American business district was severed economically from the rest of the City. In addition, riots that took place along Central Avenue in 1967 after the shooting death of Martin Chambers (a young black man) by police, caused further damage to the area, and helped to ensure its demise. In 1974, the entire area and all remaining structures were razed in an effort toward urban renewal by the Tampa Metropolitan Agency. On December 11, 1975, the Tampa City Council decided that the location of the former Central Avenue business district would be utilized to construct a municipal park.

Perry Harvey Sr. Park is surrounded by historic sites that have shaped the City of Tampa. To the west of Orange Avenue stands Greater Bethel Baptist Missionary Church, which was established in the late 1800s and was recognized by the City of Tampa for its historical significance in 2004. Across the street from the church lies

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Oaklawn Cemetery, the final resting place of several of Tampa's founding fathers, including Vincente Martinez Ybor. It was Tampa's first public burial ground, and was considered the final resting place for white and slave, rich and poor. Another historic structure, Tampa's Union Station, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, is located southeast of Perry Harvey Sr. Park. To the east is the Encore development site, which once contained Meacham Elementary School, which was constructed during segregation as a means of education for the youth of the area in 1926. Although the school was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005, it was razed in 2007 in order to facilitate the new development. Another historic structure, St. James Church, lies mere yards from Perry Harvey Sr. Park, within the Encore development as well, and is planned to house an African-American history museum.

### DESCRIPTION

The Bro Bowl utilizes gravity and inertia as a means of propulsion. It begins at a large, concrete pad that sits atop a steep hill, connected to two adjoining sidewalks. These sidewalks lead to other features of the park and city streets. On the opposite side, a concrete path, known as a "snake run," leads down to the skateboard dish, or "bowl." This section divides into two parts at the top of the hill, allowing two separate approaches to the bowl. One approach is more elevated and is the average width of a sidewalk and the other resembles a slalom embankment or ditch (Photos 1-8).

### Evaluation of Integrity

The approximately 6500-square-foot bowl retains its historic integrity to a remarkable degree, satisfying every aspect used to evaluate integrity: it remains in its original location in Perry Harvey Sr. Park; its setting is still the former area of Central Avenue as impacted by urban renewal efforts; it retains its original materials (concrete), design and workmanship (conforming to its construction blueprints); its association as a city-owned recreational facility within Perry Harvey Sr. Park is still in place; and its feeling remains as the bowl continues to provide an opportunity to experience 1970s-era skateboarding.

### Alterations

The Bro Bowl has undergone only minor changes since it was built. In October 1988, the City of Tampa conducted a safety inspection of the bowl. All of the hazards they identified were related to routine maintenance: cleanup, repair of cracks, new signage, and replacement of storm water drain grating (Michael J. Mc Nab, Chief, Risk Management to Joseph Abrahams, Administrator, City of Tampa, October 27, 1988). In 1992, a sidewalk and curb were built around the Bowl, which helped to preserve the structure. The City of Tampa ceased painting the Bowl in 2006, at which point local skateboarders continued its upkeep by painting and repairing it at their own expense and through their own efforts. The latest City of Tampa Parks and

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Recreation regulations have embraced the nature of the Bowl's setting, and allow graffiti, as long as it is non-offensive.



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PERRY HARVEY SR. PARK SKATEBOARD BOWL  
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SIGNIFICANCE

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**SUMMARY**

The Perry Harvey Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl, affectionately known as The Bro Bowl, was constructed in 1978. It is significant at the **local and statewide levels** under **Criterion A**, in the area of **Entertainment/Recreation**, and under **Criterion C** in the areas of **Architecture** and **Engineering**. The bowl was the vision of city parks and recreation employee, Joel Jackson, beginning in 1975. It is one of four remaining skateboard bowls known to exist in the United States from the second wave in the development of the sport of skateboarding. The 35-year-old structure meets **Criterion Consideration G** as a resource that is less than 50 years old because, of its rarity and because of the four remaining bowls built in the 1970s, it retains the highest level of integrity, and is the best remaining bowl that reflects the “Golden Age” or “skatepark era” of the sport’s development.

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

**The Development of Skateboarding**

As construction of Perry Harvey Sr. Park began, skateboarding began to develop its own identity, moving away from its previous stereotypes. From its birth in the 1950s when metal roller skates were first nailed to wooden planks, to the 1960s when riders imitated surfers of the period, skateboarding as a culture and a sport continued to develop. Technological advances during the 1970s gave skateboarders more control and allowed them to experience new terrain. Rather than being content with mere “sidewalk surfing,” skaters began riding concrete ditches, highway embankments, dry reservoirs, and empty swimming pools.

The 1970s were, indeed, a special time for the sport of skateboarding. Throughout the decade, the sport evolved into its modern form. Numerous technological innovations and maneuvers were created during this period, as skateboarding continued to progress. The explosion began in 1973, when Frank Nasworthy introduced the urethane wheel to replace the originally-used clay and metal roller skate wheels. The urethane wheels broadened the types of terrain that skateboarders could ride. By 1975 the sport began to develop its own identity, as several maneuvers were being done for the first time in places they had never been attempted before. Up to this point, skaters were confined to primarily riding flat ground and hills. Ultimately, they began to seek transitioned walls and curved surfaces. Due to this, another innovation, the “skateboard park,” a facility specifically designed for skateboarders, was developed. The first skateparks were revolutionary in their purpose and architectural wonders as well.

As the sport’s popularity increased, so did the industry surrounding it. By the mid-1970s scores of new manufacturers began to appear primarily in the United States, but also around the globe, producing a variety of equipment that became the worldwide standard. By 1976, the concept of a specialized facility intended for skateboarding became a reality when the first skatepark of the era opened in Port Orange, Florida. One month later, Carlsbad Skatepark opened in California. Both parks ignited a wildfire, and within just a few months

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several more were built. By 1978, skateparks were constructed around the world, during what many consider the “Golden Age” of skateboarding or the “skatepark era.”

**Central Avenue, Tampa, Florida**

Following the Civil War, former slaves began to settle in the northeast section of what would later become the downtown metropolis of Tampa, Florida. Shortly thereafter, the arrival of Spanish-speaking Afro-Cubans brought a new cultural facet to the existing black community. Tampa also became even more ethnically diverse during this period, with sizable numbers of Italian, Spanish, and Cuban newcomers. The black community located nearest to downtown Tampa at the beginning of the 20th century was known as the “Scrub,” which got its name from the scrub palmettos that covered the area. When Ybor City was established in 1886, the black community found itself sandwiched between white Tampa on one side and the Latin village of Ybor City on the other. In time, Tampa and Ybor City began to grow in all directions, leaving the “Scrub” isolated and having to fend for itself. In response to social, economic, and religious segregation, the black community in Tampa created a complete, separate physical and social structure. The Central Avenue business district, located on the western edge of the Scrub, was the heartbeat of the black community and provided all the services to its restricted audience necessary for daily life.

Segregation aside, business on Central Avenue was booming. In 1900, black residents comprised almost 28 percent of the city’s population. The Williams Cigar Company opened in 1906 on Scott Street. In 1912, the first black dentist in the area, Dr. G. Coffee, bought property on Central Avenue and Scott Street to build his office. Dr. Jacob White, Sr. also had his office on Central Avenue and Scott Street. Walter Armwood opened the first black-owned Gem Drug Store, in 1913 on Central Avenue in 1913. Clara Frye opened a hospital on Lamar Avenue that served the poor, regardless of race. Established in 1914, *The Tampa Bulletin*, located on Orange Avenue, became one of the leading black-owned newspapers in the country. The year 1914 also saw the organization of the Negro Board of Trade arise from a meeting at the Central Avenue Odd Fellows Hall.

Serving in the military in World War II was viewed within the African American community as having two goals: fighting against fascism and ending discrimination and racism at home. A favorite spot for servicemen was Watts Sanderson’s Central Terrace Beer Garden on Central Avenue. Community members, such as Robert Saunders, future leader of Florida’s NAACP, were part of the war effort, serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps. When the troops returned after World War II, new homes were established in the expanding suburbs. Buildings in downtown Tampa were left vacant, lots were cleared, and newer buildings were built. Urban Renewal threatened and replaced traditional African American neighborhoods.

The 1964 Civil Rights Act officially ended legal discriminatory policies regarding race and gender in all fields. The importance of Central Avenue declined with the end to discrimination in voting, public accommodations,

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and employment, and as more opportunities opened for African Americans. After integration, black residents had new alternatives to shopping, and businesses on Central Avenue began to close. Three days of riots, prompted by the June 11, 1967 shooting death by police of Martin Chambers, a young, unarmed robbery suspect took a heavy toll on Central Avenue, resulting in the damage and destruction by fire of several buildings on the avenue. After the City of Tampa received a 4.7 million dollar federal redevelopment grant in 1973, the buildings on Central Avenue between Kay and Cass streets were razed by 1974. The entire Central Avenue business and entertainment district was demolished and plans to replace it with a municipal park began in 1975. The redevelopment plan was initially viewed as a vast improvement, but was later condemned for its wholesale destruction of Tampa's historic downtown African American business district. Between Urban Renewal and the construction of the Interstate Highway System, Central Avenue was systematically erased from the urban corridor of Tampa.

In the wake of the riots, local African-American leaders formed the "White Hats," African-American patrols to try to prevent further rioting. Other Central Avenue residents went door-to-door to ask what others in Central Avenue felt the City could do improve the Central Avenue area. Their suggestions included recreation facilities for the youth. Out of this suggestion came the concept and development of what would become Perry Harvey Sr. Park.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Original designs for Perry Harvey Sr. Park, to be located between Central and Orange avenues, and Cass and Kay streets, included a playground, basketball courts, a large brick fountain, a skate board rink, and a recreation center. Innovative for its time, it was reported on March 10, 1979 in the *Florida Sentinel Bulletin* as such: "The park, said to be the only one of its kind in this area, is designed after Central Park in New York." The community had originally desired a swimming pool, but when that was deemed unfeasible by City planners, the skate board rink was built as an alternative. The idea for it came from city employee, Joel Jackson. Upon noticing the growth in popularity of the sport of skateboarding and local contests, he began to envision a free, concrete facility for the children and other members of the community to enjoy. The Bro Bowl's design, reminiscent of many mid 70's parks, was reflective of surfing's influence on the sport at the time. When asked where he came up with the design, Jackson responded, "I didn't have anything to copy, the only thing I knew was that it should have a downhill slope like the parking lot at the contest [I once saw], and I saw a picture of kids in California skating in swimming pools."

After designing it mostly himself, Jackson began to submit his concept to Tampa City Council in 1975 and was met with doubts as to its practicality. The timing was not the best. Skateboarding's popularity peaked in 1978, but there were also signs of decline as a number of concrete skateboard parks were beginning to be demolished throughout the country. Despite City leaders' reluctance to support the plan, approval was given and ultimately it was decided that the skateboard facility be constructed in the new, yet-to-be dedicated, Perry Harvey Sr. Park.

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The park was named in honor of the founder of the International Longshoremen's Association. Perry Harvey Sr. was a man who believed in non-violence, and helped to ease tensions during the race riots that took place in the Central Avenue business district in 1967. After peace was restored, one of the community's requests, coming from the youth, was that a park be built for the area. It would be the first municipal park for African-Americans within the urban corridor. The City had hired The IPDS, Ltd., headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland, to draw up the official plans, based on Jackson's original ideas (see blueprints). Construction of the skate board rink, or "bowl" was finished in 1978, and other elements of the park were completed the following year. Completion of the park, with its numerous recreational amenities was highly anticipated. As reported in The Tampa Times on February 6, 1979: "Workers already have poured some of the cement for elaborate skateboard and roller-skating rinks with challenging hills and banked curves to navigate." Tampa Mayor Bill Poe proposed that the new park be named in honor of Perry Harvey Sr., and it was officially dedicated in the fall of 1979.

Due to its location, an unexpected union began to develop, as the suburban kids who were coming to the bowl to skate began to interact with the youth from the adjacent Central Park Village housing project. There were, of course, rivalries between the visiting skaters and the locals who considered the Bowl their playground, but there were also many friendships and positive relationships that developed as well. Although not by design, the skateboard bowl became a tool for integration between several different cultures with different social backgrounds that previously though they had little in common. The mutual enjoyment and love of skateboarding and the bowl brought together both its visitors and the local area residents. The Perry Harvey Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl came to be affectionately known as the "Bro Bowl" due to the new relationships that were developed there. As time progressed the Bro Bowl established itself as a popular skateboard destination in Tampa. People from all over the country, and around the world, came to skateboard there. The Bro Bowl also attracted many others, such as BMX bikers, roller skaters, and other action sports enthusiasts.

Professional skateboarders and members of a now multi-billion dollar skate industry, such as Paul Schmitt, Monty Nolder, Chuck Hults, Andrew Reynolds, Chuck Dinkins, and Cleo Coney, as well as California skaters such as Tony Hawk and Christian Hosoi, have skateboarded here. Some of them have even called it home. Besides these well known professionals, the bowl has also served the surrounding community. Skateboarders, BMX riders, and other enthusiasts have met and socialized here for decades, and continue to do so. As styles and tricks have progressed, the Bro Bowl continues to thrive and adapt. It has been included in the immensely popular Tony Hawk Pro Skater video game, as well as documentaries, magazines, newspapers, and other publications. It has also been the subject of a documentary film, and has appeared as a backdrop in various action sports commercials. Due to this, people from around the globe are familiar with the Bro Bowl. To this day, Perry Harvey Sr. Park's historic and revered skateboard bowl continues to serve as a recreational facility for inner city youth and skateboarders alike, as well as parents who grew up riding it that now bring their children there. It attracts all skill levels from beginners to professionals, and has become a popular destination

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for a variety of visitors to the Tampa Bay area. The Bro Bowl still remains the city's only free, ride-at-your-own-risk facility.

From 1976 to 1982, over 200 skateparks were built in the U.S. alone. Tragically, due to insurance costs and liability concerns, almost all of these parks were closed and/or destroyed within that same period. Ultimately, the Bro Bowl prevailed as one of the few survivors of the era. It is one of only four of the nation's original surviving skateboard parks from the 1970's skatepark era known to exist. Two of these are located within the State of Florida, the publically-owned Bro Bowl in Tampa and the privately-owned, commercial Kona in Jacksonville. The other two are Derby Park in California, and Sandy Hills Skatepark in Maryland. Of these, the Bro Bowl is the most intact and is the best representative architecturally, historically, and culturally of the places where modern skateboarding was formed during the 1970s, and where the roots of American skateboard culture itself were shaped.

**Present Circumstances**

Perry Harvey Sr. Park and the Bro Bowl is now in the shadow of the impending redevelopment project, entitled Encore,"Downtown's Tempo District." It will feature retail space as well as a retirement facility and housing. The streets within the project bear the names of historical figures of the area such as Ray Charles, Hank Ballard, and Blanche Armwood. Despite City plans, the project, begun in 2006, stalled in approximately 2008, as the economic recession struck. At this time plans for Perry Harvey Sr. Park were put on hold, and the Bro Bowl survived.

The next proposed phase of the Encore project now focuses on the area of Central Avenue and Perry Harvey Sr. Park, where the Bro Bowl is presently located on its original site. Although the rich history of Central Avenue is planned to be honored within this project, City officials do not recognize the Bro Bowl as an integral part of the area's history, nor do they recognize its historic significance and the unique role it has had in our state as well as national cultural heritage. It, too, was a part of the area's past, and although more modern, still represents Tampa's dynamic and ever-changing history, as well as another phase of the evolution of the Central Avenue area. After receiving the Federal Choice Housing Grant in 2012, current City of Tampa redevelopment plans call for demolition of the Bro Bowl. Proposals show construction of a modern skate park at the north end of Perry Harvey Sr. Park, adjacent to the interstate, a plan that some deem a suitable replacement. However, there is no guarantee that this new skatepark will be constructed or that it will include features that are architecturally analogous to the Bro Bowl.

It should be noted that nearly a half of a century has passed since a substantial amount of historical fabric was erased by the City of Tampa's Metropolitan Development Agency, when the Central Avenue area was demolished in the interest of urban renewal. Upon implementation of current plans by City officials and developers, the same mistake is going to be replicated with another structure of historical significance. The Bro

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Bowl embodies the City of Tampa's wide-ranging history and diverse cultures, needs, and interests. Many of the events that have transpired in this area of Tampa have shaped modern culture and the city itself. The new skatepark design proposal, despite considerations to honor the park's history, will never possess the historic integrity of the original Bro Bowl. It is imperative that the historic significance of this structure be recognized, as a unique example of Tampa's and Florida's rich and diverse cultural history.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2 PERRY HARVEY SR. PARK SKATEBOARD BOWL  
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
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Gelfand, H. Michael; Associate Professor of History, Honors, and Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies, James Madison University. Telephone and e-mail interviews. 2012-2013.

Gordon, Betsy; historian, curator, and project manager, Smithsonian Institution. Telephone and e-mail interviews. 2012-2013.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 3

PERRY HARVEY SR. PARK SKATEBOARD BOWL  
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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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

PERRY HARVEY SR. PARK SKATEBOARD BOWL  
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

---

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Begin at the east side of N. Orange Avenue, where E. Laurel Street crosses N. Orange Avenue. Proceed south along the east side of N. Orange Avenue approximately 250 feet to a point aligned with the north edge of Emery Street where it intersects the east side of N. Orange Avenue. Proceed east approximately 90 feet, then proceed north approximately 250 feet to a point that aligns with the Point of Beginning. Proceed west back to the Point of Beginning on the east side of N. Orange Avenue.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary encompasses the structure and immediate surrounding area that comprises the Bro Bowl at Harvey Perry Sr. Park.

Interstate  
275

Bowl = 6,500 sq. ft.  
Area within boundary =  
22,550 sq. ft. =  
approx. 1/2 acre

Scott St.

Perry Harvey  
Sr. Park

Former  
site of  
Meacham  
Elementary  
School

Ray Charles Blvd.

Central Ave.

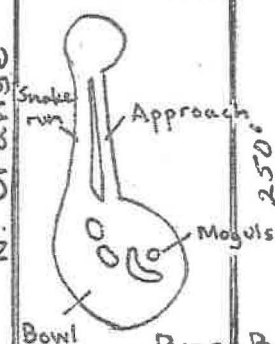
Encore

Development

Ray Charles Blvd.

E. Laurel St.

N. Orange Ave.



250'

90' Bro Bowl

Proposed  
NR boundary

Greater  
Bethel  
Baptist  
Church

Emery St.

Former site  
of Central Park  
Village Housing  
Project

Governor St.

↑  
N  
(not to scale)

Oaklawn Cemetery

N. Jefferson St.

**BRO BOWL**  
Located in Perry Harvey Sr. Park  
900 East Scott Street, Tampa, FL

Hank Ballard St.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number        Photos        Page   1  

PERRY HARVEY SR. PARK SKATEBOARD BOWL  
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PHOTO LIST

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**PHOTOS**

- 1) Perry Harvey Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl (aka Bro Bowl), 900 E. Scott Street
- 2) Tampa, Hillsborough Co., FL
- 3) Shannon Bruffett
- 4) March 30, 2013
- 5) Digital, Florida Master Site File, Tallahassee, FL
- 6) Camera facing S
- 7) 1 of 9

**All information is the same unless noted otherwise.**

- 6) Camera facing N
- 7) 2 of 9

- 6) Camera facing NW
- 7) 3 of 9

- 6) Camera facing S
- 7) 4 of 9
- 3) Paul Schmitt
- 4) 1983-1984
- 6) Camera facing N
- 7) 5 of 9

- 3) Unknown
- 4) 1980
- 6) Camera facing SE
- 7) 6 of 9

- 3) Lance Robson
- 4) November 18, 2007
- 6) Camera facing SE
- 7) 7 of 9

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 2

PERRY HARVEY SR. PARK SKATEBOARD BOWL  
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PHOTO LIST

---

- 3) Lance Robson
- 4) November 20, 2007
- 6) Camera facing NW
- 7) 8 of 9

- 3) Lance Robson
- 4) 2007
- 6) Perry Harvey Sr. Park dedication marker, no camera direction
- 7) 9 of 9

Interstate  
275

PERRY HARVEY SR. PARK SKATEBOARD BOWL  
TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

Scott St.

Perry Harvey  
Sr. Park

Former  
Site of  
Meacham  
Elementary  
School

Ray Charles Blvd.

Encore

Development

Ray Charles Blvd.

E. Laurel St.

N. Orange Ave.

Central Ave.

Governor St.

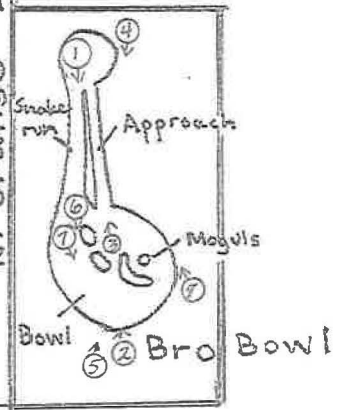
Hank Ballard St.

Oaklawn Cemetery

N. Jefferson St.

Greater  
Bethel  
Baptist  
Church

Fortune St.



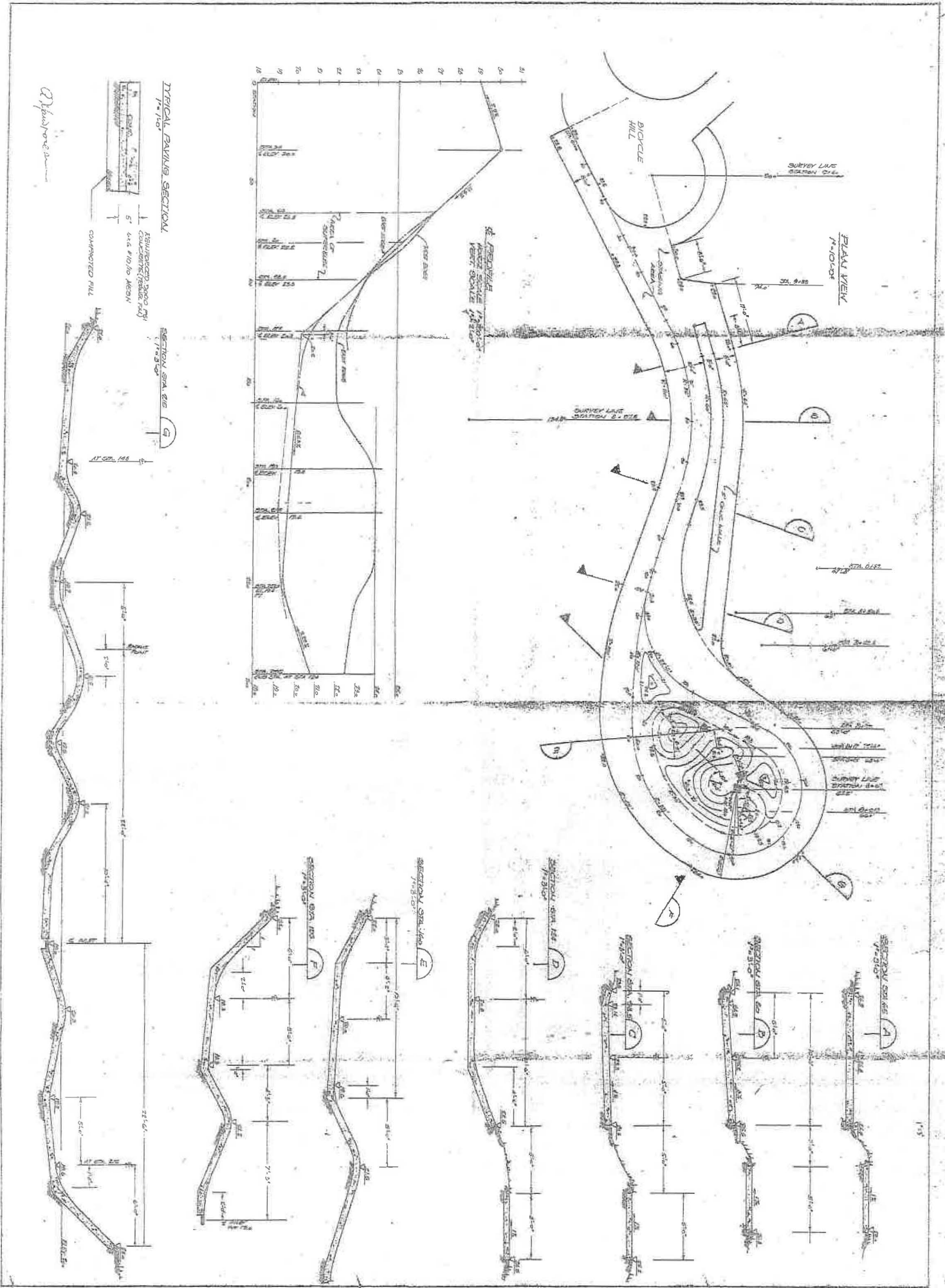
Proposed  
NR boundary

Former site  
of Central Park  
Village Housing  
Project

Photo # + Direction



(not to scale)



**CENTRAL AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN • CITY OF TAMPA**

**A-10 Skate Board Rink**

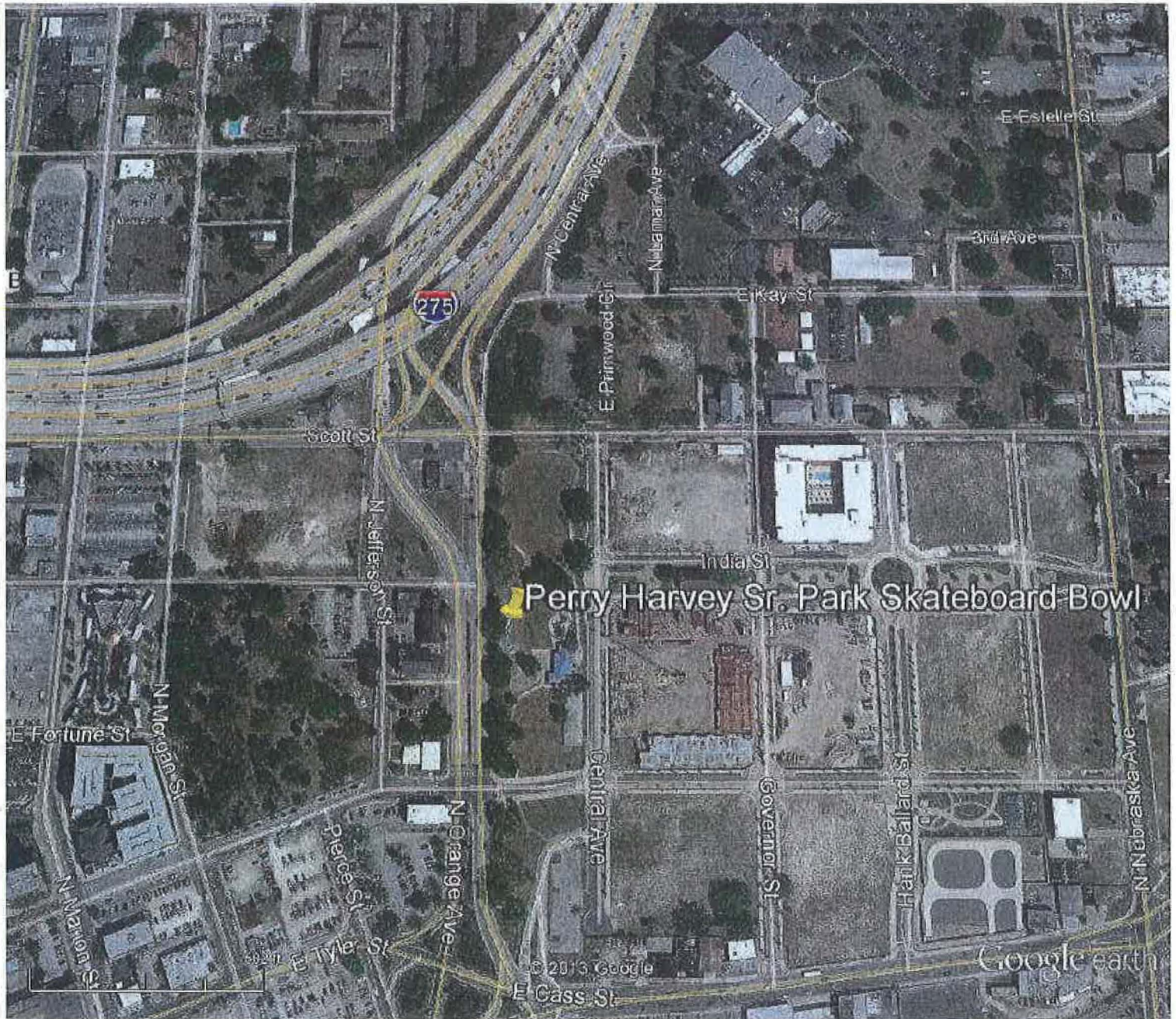
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 800 SILGO AVENUE • SILVER SPRING, MD. • 515 BAY STREET • TAMPA, FL  
 PROJECT OFFICE • 515 BAY STREET • TAMPA, FLORIDA

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
 DATE: 4/78  
 REVISION: 2/79  
 DRAWN BY: JHW  
 CHECKED BY: HWY

PERRY HARVEY SR. PARK SKATEBOARD BOWL  
 TAMPA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

# Perry Harvey Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl

Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida



Google earth



Zone: 17 Easting: 356811 Northing: 3093082

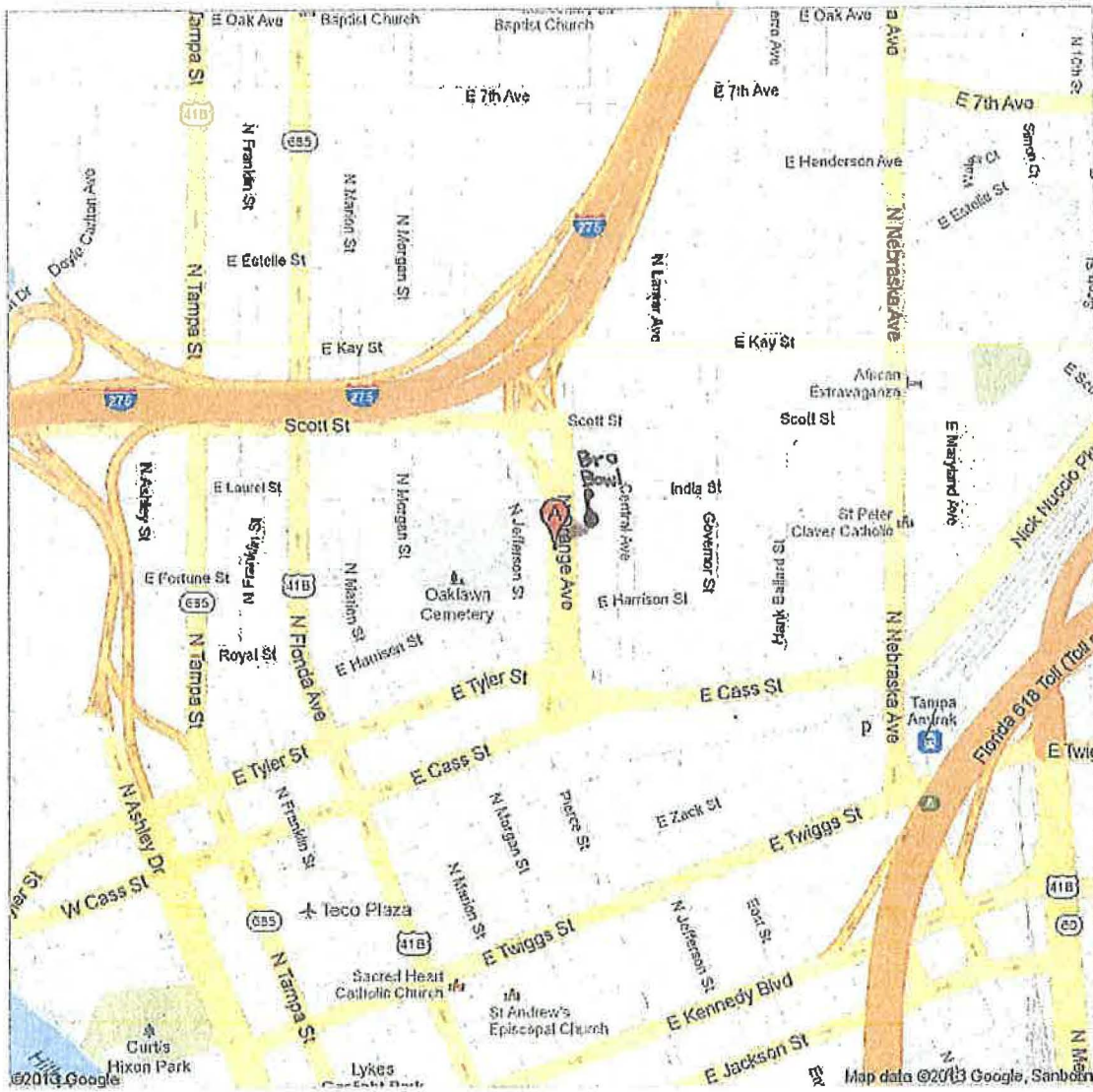




Address 1200 N Orange Ave  
Tampa, FL 33602

Get Google Maps on your phone

Text the word "GMAPS" to 466453





900 E Scott St, Tampa, FL 33602

My Notes

On the go? Use [m.bing.com](http://m.bing.com) to find maps, directions, businesses, and more



2

To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.





To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.



Google

To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.





To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.





















CITY OF TAMPA FLORIDA

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MAYOR

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SANDRA WARSHAW FREEDMAN

JAN PLATT

CHARLES SPICOLA, JR.

PERRY HARVEY, SR. PARK 1979

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CONTRACTOR  
ARCHITECT

National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.







FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
KEN DETZNER  
Secretary of State

RICK SCOTT  
Governor

August 21, 2013

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of Interior  
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is the submission of the nomination and additional materials (nomination form, continuation sheets, site plan, GIS data, color digital images and disk) for the

**Perry Harvey Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida**

This nomination of a 35-year-old skateboard bowl has been very controversial because of its location in the midst of a major federal project being pursued by the City of Tampa in the former Central Avenue African-American area. Although the local review board for Tampa's Certified Local Government recommended that it be listed, by a vote of 4-2, the Mayor's Office is strongly opposed to it. The park project as a whole still must be reviewed through the Section 106 process because of the use of HUD funding, but many fear that the listing of the "Bro Bowl," as it is nicknamed, will derail the whole project. It is our hope that the Section 106 review will result in an agreement that will preserve the bowl and fittingly recognize the history of the Central Avenue area, and in fact, show the role the skateboard bowl played in that history.

It has been fascinating to see how a sport so young can have already become such a worldwide phenomenon. The changing times are also evidenced by the fact that the sources for information about this sport are more to be found online than in the traditional press, and that expressions of support have been received primarily through the Internet or social media. The "Bro Bowl" is renowned among skateboarders and sports historians throughout the nation and even the world, as is evidenced by the letters of support and more than 2,000 petitions electronically sent to the City of Tampa to urge preservation of the bowl. Petitions came from all but one state in the Union (North Dakota), and from thirteen foreign countries.

This nomination is signed by Robert F. Bendus, our SHPO, rather than by myself. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-6364 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

*Barbara E. Mattick*

Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
for Survey & Registration

Enclosures



DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES  
R. A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250  
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Commemorating 500 years of Florida history [www.vivaflorida.org](http://www.vivaflorida.org)



**HISTORIC 1970s SKATEPARK & TAMPA LANDMARK**

# BRO BOWL

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- [ABOUT +](#)
- [SAVE THE BOWL +](#)
- [NEWS & PRESS +](#)
- [CONTACT](#)

[MENU](#)

## Statements

A number of authorities and well-known figures support the preservation of the Perry Harvey, Sr. Skateboard Bowl, or Bro Bowl, and believe it has significant historical, cultural, and architectural value. Below, you can read a selection of the statements which have been submitted to various Federal, State, and City authorities for the review process, regarding its value, and the need for its protection and preservation.

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| <a href="#">3. Betsy Gordon</a>       | <a href="#">8. Craig Snyder</a>   |
| <a href="#">4. Paul Schmitt</a>       | <a href="#">9. Tony Hawk</a>      |
| <a href="#">5. Phil Chiochio</a>      |                                   |

## 1. Iain Borden

### *Iain Borden Biography*

Iain Borden is an English architectural historian and urban commentator. He is currently Vice-Dean for Communications at

May 1, 2013

Re: Perry Harvey Sr Skatepark aka "Bro Bowl"

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of this skateboard facility, and doing so in my capacity as a tenured professor of architectural history at University College London, UK, as an historian with a particular expertise in the history of skateboarding and skatepark facilities, and as author of *Skateboarding, Space and the City* (Oxford: Berg, 2001), this latter book being to date the only full-length academic study of this subject.

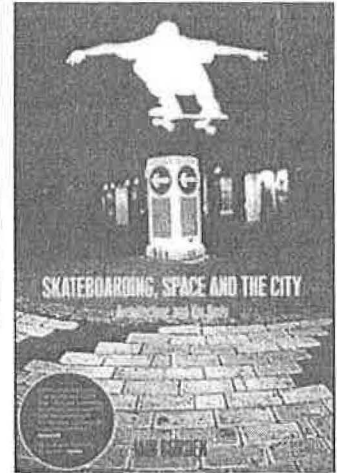
During the late 1970s, hundreds of outdoor, concrete skateparks were constructed across the USA, as well as in the UK, Brazil, France, Germany, Japan and many other countries worldwide. These extraordinary architectural creations represented not only a sudden explosion in interest in skateboarding at this time, but also a unique form of architecture suitable for skateboarding – one which at once re-created surfers' ocean waves in concrete, replicated ditches and domestic swimming pools which skateboarders had previously exploited, and also invented new and hitherto wholly territories such as bowls, snake runs, half-pipes and other concrete shapes. All of these aspects of skatepark design are present either explicitly or implicitly in the design of the Perry Harvey Sr Skatepark.

These original 1970s skateparks also formed the basis for many of today's more recently constructed skateparks (mostly dating from 2000 onwards), for the temporary wooden ramps, halfpipes and other skateboarding structures seen at the X-Games, as well as for snowboarding ramps and pipes.

These skateparks have also played a unique role in the social life of communities, creating a common ground at which young people of different ages, classes, ethnicity and gender can come together, become friends, and discover new parts of their city life.

Nearly all of these skateparks have, however, been subsequently destroyed – and the few remaining examples worldwide therefore deserve, in my view as a professional architectural historian, to be worthy of historic preservation and/or other protection, such

the The Bartlett, University College London, and Professor of Architecture and Urban Culture. He is also the author and co-editor of a number of books including *Skateboarding, Space and the City: Architecture and the Body* (2001).



that this unique part of our urban, architectural and social history can be kept alive and in use. Indeed, this situation has already been recognized in some other countries worldwide. For example, the “Rom” skatepark near London, UK, first built in 1978, and one of only 2 such surviving London skateparks from this era, is currently being actively considered for “listing” (historic preservation status in the UK) by the official body English Heritage.

The Perry Harvey Sr. Skatepark deserves to be understood and recognized in this context – that is, as a near unique part of American architectural history, as one of the founding places of American and indeed global skateboarding, and as an important social and community setting. Indeed, I can think of few pieces of architecture more deserving of preservation, protection and recognition.

Prof Iain Borden

---

Prof Iain Borden BA MA MSc PhD HonFRIBA  
 The Bartlett School of Architecture / UCL  
 Professor of Architecture & Urban Culture  
 Director of Architectural History & Theory  
 i.borden (AT) ucl.ac.uk  
<http://www.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/architecture>  
 [Read Less]

## 2. H. Michael Gelfand

May 26, 2013

Re: Perry Harvey Sr Skatepark aka “Bro Bowl”

To Whom It May Concern:

The public, the City of Tampa, the Florida State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Park Service should support the preservation of the Bro Bowl, its restoration, and its listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Emblematic of the rise of recreation and leisure

### *H. Michael Gelfand Biography*

H. Michael Gelfand is Associate Professor of History, Honors, and Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies at James Madison University in Virginia. He is a historian of social and cultural change in the US and conducts research on surfing and the environment.

He has been involved in a number of historic preservation campaigns, and worked as a historic preservationist for the National Park Service and the U. S. Air Force. He is also the advisor for the JMU Breakdance and Longboarding Clubs.

culture that developed in the United States after World War II, and in particular in the Sun Belt States, the Bro Bowl is linked intrinsically with the development of skateboarding as an activity and as a part of youth and sports cultures. Therefore, the Bro Bowl qualifies under the National Register's Evaluation Criteria Section A for its association "with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." Its relatively young age does also not hinder listing on the National Register because, as the NRHP Evaluation Criteria also note, a proposal for inclusion on the Register can be for "a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance." It is true that there are few skateboard parks of this type that have survived, the Bro Bowl is one of the first to have been constructed, and it was the site of the development of some of the skateboarding moves which observers can now see across the globe.

The New York Times reported in 2006 on the seeming incompatibility between the Bro Bowl skate park and the surrounding African American community. The New York Times quoted the City of Tampa Department of Parks and Recreation's Brad Suder, who then noted that, "We're trying to really respect all groups that have an interest in the park and find a good blend. I don't consider skateboarding to be only a white person's sport, and I don't consider black history to be only for African Americans. You can't celebrate a culture if it's in a vacuum."

Mr. Suder reflects on a reality about which those unfamiliar with skateboarding in the present day are unaware: skateboarding is an activity in which people of all backgrounds, including African Americans, participate. As the advisor to the skateboarding club on the university campus where I am a professor, I can attest that women and men, people from young children to adults, and people of the widest variety of ethnic and cultural groups are skateboarders. The presence of the Bro Bowl inside of the Perry Harvey Sr. Park is a testament to the growth of multicultural appreciation in American society, particularly because the Bro Bowl was, and remains, a free, public skate park open to everyone.

As a former employee of the National Register of



Historic Places, I can attest that countless studies of historic preservation and development have demonstrated that the most financially and environmentally sound approach to dealing with historic resources is restoration, not demolition and replacement, of the resource. This should be the fate of the Bro Bowl. Alan "Ollie" Gelfand's groundbreaking accomplishments and the thirty-five years' worth of skateboarders' enjoyment and stylistic development at the Bro Bowl are absolutely as equally significant as Ray Charles's nearby recordings and the generations of African American citizen activism in the neighborhood. Modifications to the park should include a complete and full restoration of the Bro Bowl so that future generations of the City of Tampa, the State of Florida, and Americans can appreciate how this small section of an unassuming urban park helped contribute to what is now a \$2,500,000,000 recreational culture in the United States.

H. Gelfand

Associate Professor of History, Honors, and  
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies  
James Madison University

[Close]

### 3. Betsy Gordon

May 1, 2013

Re: Perry Harvey Sr Skatepark aka "Bro Bowl"

To Whom It May Concern,

As a skateboard culture historian and curator, I write to support the preservation of Tampa's Bro Bowl. The Bro Bowl's historic significance to Florida is well-documented. It was the first public skatepark built in Florida, enabling Florida and Floridians to significantly participate in and influence skate culture. Florida skaters such as Rodney Mullen, Mike McGill, and Alan Gelfand created some of the most iconic maneuverers in skating, perfecting their craft in Florida skateparks. Florida skater/entrepreneur Paul Schmitt started Schmitt Stix

#### *Betsy Gordon Biography*

Betsy Gordon works for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and is a skateboard culture historian, curator, and speaker. She has also served as consultant for a number of books, exhibits, and other projects centered around skateboarding and its heritage. She is also curator of the popular Smithsonian traveling exhibit *Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America.*

as a response to the demand from Florida skaters for top-of-the-line and innovative skate products.

Today, his company, PS Stix – born and bred in Florida, on the banks of the Bro Bowl— is one of the oldest and most successful skate brands.

Unlike most skateparks built in the 1970's, the Bro Bowl was free and open to all. Located in a predominately African-American community, the Bro Bowl fostered a unique racial and class interaction between the African-American local skaters and the white suburban visitors. The first African-American pro skater from Florida, Cleo Coney, grew up skating at the Bro Bowl.

The Bro Bowl's national influence is also significant. While being the first public skatepark in Florida, it was the second public park on the East Coast, and remains one of only five original, 1970's skateparks in the United States. It has been in continual use since its opening in 1979, providing multiple generations of skaters from around the world to skate and experience one of America's first and most important skate parks.

Demolition of the Bro Bowl would not only remove an irreplaceable historic landmark, it would end over 30 years of multi-racial and inter-generational community congregation and interaction. The Bro Bowl is more than just a concrete playground. It is history and it is legend.

Betsy Gordon

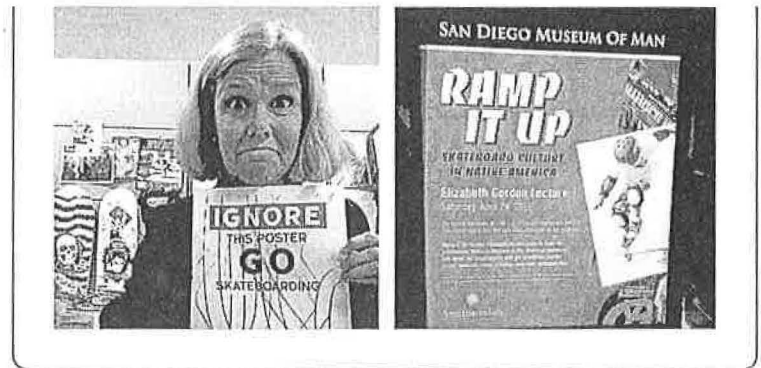
Curator, *Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America* **Smithsonian Institution** National Museum of the American Indian

<http://www.si.edu>  
[Read Less]

## 4. Paul Schmitt

May 2, 2013

Re: Perry Harvey Sr Skatepark aka “Bro Bowl”



### *Paul Schmitt Biography*

Paul Schmitt, a former Tampa native who grew up skating the Bro Bowl, is regarded as one of the most innovative, influential and renowned skateboard manufacturers in the world. His companies, Schmitt Stix and



## To Whom It May Concern:

The Bowl at Harvey park AKA Bro Bowl is very important to skateboarding history. It rose from Tampa, a forward thinking city, in 1978 when surf style skateparks were springing up all over Florida. This design with a hill leading into the park, lets skaters of all abilities the chance to go fast in control down a hill and easily carve around the bowl.

This free public park was accessible to anyone and it was not a pay to play facility like the private skateparks. As the private skateparks closed down the bowl became an anchor for the skateboarding community. People came from all over the Southeastern U.S. came to skate it.

I started my skateboard company Schmitt Stix in Tampa in 1978 and have gone on to produce over 10 million skateboards in my factories over the years. This place in skateboarding history should be preserved and new skate terrain built around it that will satisfy all generations of skaters.

Sincerely, Professor Paul Schmitt Stix

Paul Schmitt President / Owner **PS Stix, Inc.**

<http://psstix.com>

Founder of the Non-Profit

**CreateaSkate.org**

<http://createaskate.org>

[Read Less]

## 5. Phil Chiocchio

May 1, 2013

Re: Perry Harvey Sr Skatepark aka "Bro Bowl"

To whom it may concern and those who make decisions:

Preservation of the Bro Bowl as urban sculpture and it's historical significance might be viewed as an international mecca for Tampa.

PS Stix have manufactured over 10 million skateboard decks since the early 1980s. Sometimes referred to as "The Professor", Schmitt's influence on the skate industry from 1978 to the present is unparalleled. Schmitt is also the founder of CreateaSkate.org, a non-profit that serves schools, institutions, and museums, using the process of skateboard deck manufacturing to teach skills in science, math and other important subjects. In 2002, Schmitt was inducted into the Skateboard Hall of Fame.

*Photo of Paul Schmitt at the Bro Bowl in May 2013 by Chuck Hults.*



### *Phil Chiocchio Biography*

Philip Chiocchio holds a Master of Fine Arts degree and taught at Ringling College of Art and Design for many years. In the 1970's he built a skateboard park and promoted the sport with contests, demonstrations and secured sponsorships from many major corporations in the early years of skateboarding. He was inducted into the Florida Skateboarding Hall of Fame in 2005 and has been featured in *Florida Trend Magazine* and many other publications and films.

Many new construction projects require an “art in public places” element. As an artist and former creator of an early skateboarding facility I suggest one’s eye might see the Bro Bowl in this light. A piece of urban concrete becomes a sculpture garden of shape, light and texture. Many of The Roman Aquaducts, parts of the Great Wall of China, native american burial mounds and other functional evolutions of humanity have been recognized and preserved as historical sculpture to be revered. The Bro Bowl is one of those sites. I would like to ask the developers to think of adding the Bro Bowl as part of their commitment to public art and secure approval from the Tampa arts community

The historical significance is in the fact that modern skateboarding originated when Floridian Frank Nasworthy added urethane wheels to the skateboard in the 1970s. The revolution and varieties of the sport took off. Tampa Florida recognized this and built one of the first cradles of public skateboarding. The Bro Bowl is an icon known to millions around the world. One could conclude modern skateboarding started in Florida. History is too easily bulldozed.

Now there are three generations of skateboarders on the planet. This significant population travels and the Bro Bowl is an historical site, not so much because of it being a place to skate, but to simply arrive and stand there to reflect on one of the major places where the modern sport and mega dollar “Extreme Games” originated. This becomes a powerful moment. It proves that skateboarders were not criminals but forward thinking adventurers who have pushed the envelope of physics and community no matter what station in life they found themselves.

In conclusion, look at the Bro Bowl as an artist with historian’s eyes and preserve this place as an innovative location for the future of humanity. This iconic patch of undulating concrete, built in an old public housing project, transformed many young, now old people. It offers a monumental potential as a magnet for art, history and education.

Frank Gehry - *“In the end, the character of a civilization is encased in its structures.”*

Sincerely,

EDITOR'S NOTE: Chiochio was the designer, builder, and owner of “Sensation Basin” skatepark in Gainesville, Florida (1977-1982). It was one of the more famous parks during the 1970s and was the setting for major contests and skatepark photography, appearing in a number of national publications. Chiochio sponsored a number of influential skaters early on in their career such as Chris Baucom and Rodney Mullen. Chiochio was also a filmmaker and photographer who documented some of skateboarding's Golden Era as well. Some of his film footage was recently used in the Stacy Peralta documentary, *Bones Brigade: An Autobiography*.



Phil Chiocchio  
[Read Less]

## 6. Paul Aho

May 5, 2013

Re: Perry Harvey Sr Skatepark aka "Bro Bowl"

To Whom It May Concern:

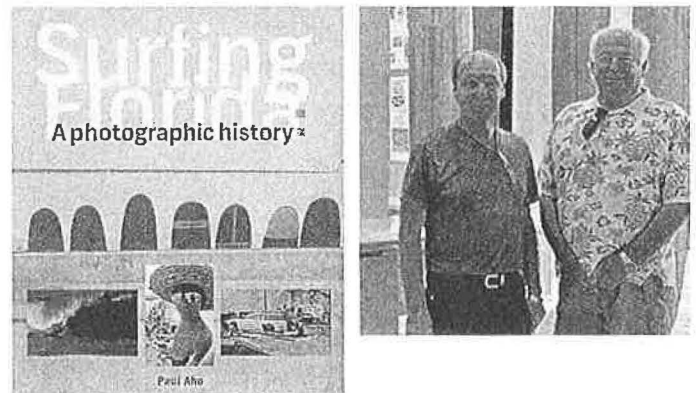
I am pleased to provide this letter of support and context for you and others in reviewing the merits and relevance of a historic site/skateboard park in Tampa, Florida, known commonly as "The Bro Bowl", for historic protection through your agency. As curator of *Surfing Florida: A Photographic History* (a Florida Humanities Council funded exhibition project), and author of a 250-page publication of the same name under production by University Press of Florida, I am comfortable asserting myself as an expert in the field and in recommending this site for protection under the guidelines of the National Register of Historic Places. I am also a former resident of the City of Tampa during the emergence of modern skateboarding and "The Bro Bowl's" development in the 1970s, and am a noted surfer and skateboarder of my generation. Thank you for your consideration of this unique opportunity.

As you have certainly heard from other sources, Tampa and its surrounding communities produced and attracted a community of internationally recognized skateboarders and entrepreneurs who enjoyed or built skate parks in the 1970s, contributing to a then emerging sport that continues to be popular among American youth in particular. As such, Tampa had a good number of excellent skate parks, including Rainbow Wave, developed privately and managed by my wife at the time. Nonetheless, "The Bro Bowl" was, and remains unique, in that it was a free, municipal resource (one of the first in the nation), and that it attracted primarily white populations despite its location within a housing project serving

### *Paul Aho Biography*

Paul Aho is the Dean of the Paducah School of Art & Design at the West Kentucky Community & Technical College. Aho is also a preservationist, activist, photographer, and surfing and skateboarding historian. He is curator of the traveling exhibit, *Surfing Florida: A Photographic History*. He is also the author of the book by same title, due for release by University Press of Florida in late 2013. The Bro Bowl is featured in the exhibit and book, with the exhibit's next stop at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, from August 31, 2013 to January 20, 2014.

*In the photo, Paul Aho (center) stands with Steve Pezman, publisher of the internationally renowned Surfer's Journal, during the launch of Surfing Florida at the University Galleries at Florida Atlantic University in 2012.*



largely African-American populations – hence its name and its legacy as an engine of multi-culturalism. Additionally, like other parks of the time, and unlike those of more recent times, it was designed with an eye toward skateboarding's origins in surfing, making it not only a go-to destination for the best Florida surfers of the time, but unique among the skateboard parks of today, which now cater to a distinctively-different, urbanized approach to the sport. Few of the former remain.

As a recently relocated resident of Florida for over 55 years, I am pleased to have played a role in a number of historic preservation projects within the state, including the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach and Old School Square in Delray Beach, as well as illustrating the Historic Preservation Guidelines for Delray Beach, and ownership and rehabilitation of a teardown 1926 Mission Style house in West Palm Beach. I was also part of a group in Gulf Stream, Florida, that prevented the town's destruction of an Australian Pine tree "tunnel" dating to the town's origins, that fortunately continues to frame traffic on AIA through the Town of Gulf Stream in South Florida, despite enormous opposition from the town and private parties. As you know, the first two, the Armory Art Center and Old School Square, are nationally registered sites serving new audiences and community needs. I respectfully request you consider "The Bro Bowl" in this larger context, and determine its unique history as a site to be protected through national designation.

While surfers and skateboarders may appear to be marginalized outsiders within mainstream interests, our/their numbers were held to be around 5 million worldwide in the early 2000s, and have grown significantly since that time. Having spent the past three years documenting the emergence of surfing in Florida as early as 1908 (with support from the Florida Division of Historical Resources, RICHES - University of Central Florida, and many other sources), and its remarkable impact on the sport's international dimensions since then (17 of 35 world competition titles are held by Florida surfers), I will close by reaffirming what you already know – that history is not always measured by the number of years that have passed since events occur, and that historic preservation serves many interests and

needs.

Respectfully,  
 Paul Aho, Dean Paducah School of Art & Design,  
 West Kentucky Community & Technical College  
 Curator/Author, *Surfing Florida: A Photographic  
 History*  
 Email: paulaho54 (AT) gmail.com  
 [Read Less]

## 7. Michael Brooke

May 5, 2013

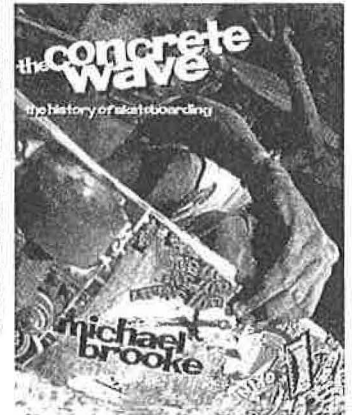
Re: Perry Harvey Sr Skatepark aka "Bro Bowl"  
 To Whom It May Concern:

As the author of several popular skate history books, a skateboard magazine publisher, and skater for almost 38 years, I spend a great deal of time thinking about the legacy of skateboarding. It truly does have a rich cultural significance. It is imperative that we keep significant skate spots like the Bro Bowl in Tampa in the public mind because years from now people will wonder about the history of skateboarding. If there are no authentic places such as this historic 70s-era skatepark to refer back to that truly will be unfortunate.

Michael Brooke

### *Michael Brooke Biography*

Michael Brooke is an internationally known publisher and industry figure. Brooke is the author of *The Concrete Wave: The History of Skateboarding* (Warwick, 1999) and *Skate Legends* (Olmstead Press, 2001). He is also the publisher of *Concrete Wave*, a well-known and internationally distributed skateboarding magazine that covers the full range of the sport and regularly features historical articles and interviews. His company has also published selected historical and skate culture books since the early 2000s through his imprint, "Concrete Wave Editions."



## 8. Craig B. Snyder

### *Craig B. Snyder Biography*

Craig Snyder is a writer, photographer, and historian. He is currently a researcher,

May 11, 2013

Re: Perry Harvey Sr Skatepark aka "Bro Bowl"

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the preservation effort surrounding the Perry Harvey, Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl in Tampa, Florida, (a.k.a. the "Bro Bowl") and so doing in my role as a skateboarding historian, co-founder of the Skateboarding Heritage Foundation, curator and researcher at the University Galleries at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, and author of *A Secret History of the Ollie* (Black Salt Press, 2013), a 900-page illustrated history of skateboarding and its culture that focuses on the 1970s and the skateparks of that era. I am also a former photographer and journalist who helped document skateboard culture during the 1970s, published in a number of magazines. In 2011, I was inducted into the Skateboard Hall of Fame.

The Bro Bowl, as a living representative of American skateboard culture and its heritage, and as one of the last remaining icons and architectural innovations of the 1970s, I feel it is imperative that this Tampa skatepark be designated and protected as a historical landmark or heritage site. Its design is unique and representative of the surfing influence that was so pervasive in skate culture and its evolution during the 1970s. The Bro Bowl was Florida's first public skatepark, and the third known such facility ever constructed on the East Coast, and was and still is the state's only free, non-supervised, ride-at-your own risk facility.

Aside from its national and even international significance, the Bro Bowl also holds cultural and historical importance to the state and the region. Of note, Florida was only second to California in terms of the number of skateparks it constructed during the 1970s, making it one of the most progressive places in the world for the advancement and modernization of skateboarding. Florida produced some of the most influential and innovative names in skateboarding, and largely because they had these skateparks to practice their craft and demonstrate it to others, including the press and media. Many of the maneuvers you see today in skateboarding, surfing, and snowboarding, are based on the foundations set by three Florida skaters from 1970s, all of whom

curator, and administrative assistant with the University Galleries and the College of Arts and Letters at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Snyder is also the author of a forthcoming book on 1970s skateboard culture, *A Secret History of the Ollie* (Black Salt Press, 2013). Snyder documented much of the early Florida scene including the first skateparks. He has served as a staff photographer for *Skate Rider*, was a contributor to *SkateBoarder*, *Wave Rider*, and *National Skateboard Review*, and more recently has served as a consultant to numerous skate and surf-related projects and publications. Snyder's images have been published internationally by ESPN, *Der Spiegel*, *TransWorld Skateboarding*, *Stuff*, and *Concrete Wave*, and appeared in a number of books and films. In 2011, he was inducted into the Skateboard Hall of Fame.



relied on the Florida skateparks and the community these vital centers created. (i.e. Alan Gelfand, Mike McGill, and Rodney Mullen.)

Besides its historically progressive stature, Florida is also the only state in the nation that holds not just one, but two of the last remaining 70s skateparks in the world, and both with the original concrete surface. These are the Bro Bowl and Kona in Jacksonville, a privately owned skatepark that was opened in 1977 and is still owned by the family who took it over in 1978. (Derby in California was resurfaced in recent years, which altered the feel of the park from its original design.) The fact that Tony Hawk has chosen to include both of these Florida parks in his videos and games speaks volumes of their importance to skateboard culture and history.

Regionally, Tampa was one of the most influential areas for skateboarding in the state during the 1970s. The region produced a number of distinguished names in both skating and the skate industry, and was one of the densest regions for skateparks during this era. Some of these parks, like Rainbow Wave in Tampa and Clearwater Skateboard Park in Clearwater, became the centerpieces for the competition scene and garnered national attention. While the Bro Bowl was not one of these parks, its role from the 1980s forward as one of the only survivors turned it into a sacred ground and even a place of pilgrimage. As skateboarding progressed, many skaters returned to the Bro Bowl to revisit their roots as well as practice new moves.

The Bro Bowl not only represents Tampa history and culture, but continues to serve the community to this day in an active capacity. It is a center not just for skateboarding, but family outings and gatherings where skateboarding has been a central leisurely activity for several generations now. It is also landmark in that it was the first public park, and first free park, in the state, and that it was constructed in a low-income area with the idea of providing a healthy outlet for area residents, an alternative to street gangs or even competitive team sports that require more than one person to play.

The Bro Bowl, or Perry Harvey, Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl, for all of the reasons given above, should be saved and preserved so that its legacy and influence

can live on and it can continue to serve in the decades to come. It also holds the potential to be the centerpiece for a “skateboarding heritage cultural center,” an educational facility that could include a museum or gallery, giving a physical home to things like Florida’s Skateboard Hall of Fame and/or the Florida Skate Museum. The Bro Bowl has been and continues to be a gateway in many ways, and it is worthy of preservation for current and future generations.

Craig B. Snyder

[Read Less]

## 9. Tony Hawk

July, 2013

Re: Perry Harvey Sr Skatepark aka “Bro Bowl”

Due to Mr. Hawk's busy schedule, he has been unable to put aside some time to write a statement, however, his interview conducted in July 2012 serves this purpose very well. Please visit the [Home page](#) to read the exclusive Bro Bowl interview with Tony Hawk.

### *Tony Hawk Biography*

Tony Hawk has been skateboarding since the 1970s and he has ridden many of the early sacred concrete parks. He is one of the world's most famous skateboarders and public figures, widely considered to be one of the most successful and influential pioneers in regards to modern vert skateboarding. Hawk launched the [Tony Hawk Foundation](#) in 2002, which has given away more than US \$3.4 million to help build over 400 skateparks around the US. The Foundation supports projects in low-income areas and helps underprivileged kids.



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**CHARLIE MIRANDA** - District 6  
Chairman

**MIKE SUAREZ** - District 1 At-Large

**YVONNE YOLIE CAPIN** - District 3 At-Large



## City Council

**HARRY COHEN** - District 4  
Chair Pro-Tem

**MARY MULHERN** - District 2 At-Large

**FRANK REDDICK** - District 5

**LISA J. MONTELIONE** - District 7

July 19, 2013

Barbara E. Mattick, PhD.  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Survey and Registration  
Division of Historical Resources  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Re: Opposition to the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl a.k.a. "The Bro Bowl" Nomination  
to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Dr. Mattick:

On behalf of the Tampa City Council, by unanimous vote on July 18, 2013, please accept this letter as official opposition to designating the "Bro Bowl" as a historic site at Perry Harvey Sr. Park in Tampa, Florida. Its age and significance to the community do not merit placement in the National Register of Historic Places.

Currently, the City of Tampa plans to spend \$6.5 million dollars to revitalize the park, which will honor the history and culture of the local African-American community. It will include a statue of Perry Harvey Sr., and will feature an interactive History Walk and Leaders Walk. The city plans to install the historic elements where the current bowl is located, and will construct a new \$600,000 skate park north of Scott Street to continue to serve residents.

The City Council of the City of Tampa respectfully requests that the Florida National Register Review Board reject the petition to qualify the skate bowl to remain where it is currently located.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlie Miranda  
Chairman, Tampa City Council



RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

2013 JUL 22 A 10:58

**Bob Buckhorn, Mayor**

July 1, 2013

Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Survey and Registration  
Division of Historical Resources  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Re: Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl *aka The Bro Bowl* Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Dr. Mattick:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl *aka The Bro Bowl*. Recognition of Tampa's historic resources at a national level is a source of pride for our community and brings welcomed attention to the rich and diverse history that is an inseparable part of our city. Past nominations of historic buildings, districts, and sites have been strongly supported by this administration, as they were based on an indisputable satisfaction of the applied criteria and widespread community consensus of the historic value of the nominated property. Unfortunately, the nomination of the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl, constructed in 1978, does not rise to the level of those prior, and I am not in support of its listing.

The area occupied by the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl has a distinctive history of its own within Tampa that predates the current structure by over a century. From the Civil War era until the early 1970s, the Central Avenue area served as an enclave for African-Americans, where residents and business owners persevered through the most of challenging of times to achieve a sense of unity in the midst of division. Prior to being demolished through Urban Renewal, the Central Avenue community contained schools, churches, eateries, hotels, drugstores, theaters and an array of entertainment venues. Ray Charles, James Brown, Cab Calloway, and Ella Fitzgerald are just a few of the legendary musicians who performed there for African American fans who were barred by Jim Crow laws from seeing them in other venues where they were not welcome. The music and experiences left a cultural legacy that still resonates today in the hearts of many within our community.

Such was the inspiration in partnering with the Tampa Housing Authority, Bank of America, and numerous community partners to redevelop the dilapidated Central Park Village public housing project into Encore, a vibrant urban community that celebrates the history of the Central Avenue and its musical roots. The revitalization of the 29-acre site is currently underway with

new apartments, condominiums, offices, a hotel, a school, and an African-American museum that will reflect upon the history of the site. The development's first structure, The Ella, a 152-unit senior apartment building, is complete and nearly at full occupancy.

The culmination of years of planning, community involvement and extensive community engagement process that included the skateboarding community is the reconfiguration of Perry Harvey Sr. Park, built directly on the site of the former Central Avenue business district and directly adjacent to Encore. The redesigned park will serve as a gateway to Encore. The park will feature an interactive History Walk and Leaders Walk that will bring long-awaited recognition to the role that Central Avenue played in the development of Tampa and educate visitors about historic African American leaders in our community. The park will serve as a setting for reflection, relaxation, and celebration for all residents of Tampa, but will have a more personal significance to those who resided near historic Central Avenue.

The Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl obviously evokes strong sentiments from those that support its nomination to the National Register. However, having been constructed in 1978, the relatively brief history of bowl pales in comparison to that of the site that it was constructed upon. The local community overwhelmingly associates this area with historic Central Avenue and continues to work tirelessly to secure the funding and support to make this vision a reality. Yet, the skate bowl's role in the history of the park has not been discarded. A new skate bowl, designed through the cooperative input of its users, will infuse energy into the northern portion of the park and provide an exciting experience for riders of all ages.

The nomination of the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl has the unintended consequence of shifting the historic context of the site from its 150-year association with Central Avenue to period far less significant and overwhelmingly less recognizable by the community. This result was most likely the reason that a 50-year period was established as the benchmark for determining when a property can be appropriately described as "historic." Thirty-five years of recreational skating should not overshadow a history of perseverance at a time when the resurgence of the area is finally within reach.

While I appreciate the efforts of the advocates of the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl nomination and respect the perspective of the Tampa's Historic Preservation Commission, I believe the appropriate history of the site to be celebrated predates the existing skate bowl. For this reason, I strongly request that the State of Florida National Register Review Board not forward the proposed nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for listing.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Buckhorn".

Bob Buckhorn  
Mayor

**Mattick, Barbara**

---

**From:** Amanda B [akb1710@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 4:19 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fwd: Historic landmark designation for Tampa's Bro Bowl

Hi Barbara, can you please that my note of support for the Tampa Bro Bowl historic designation is added to file and shared with nominating committee.

Thank you,

Amanda Brown  
Tampa, FL

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Amanda B**  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013  
**Subject:** Historic landmark designation for Tampa's Bro Bowl  
**To:** [celeste.ivory@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:celeste.ivory@dos.myflorida.com)

Hi Celeste,

I would like formally lodge my support for the historic landmark status application for Tampa's Bro Bowl skateboarding bowl at Perry Harvey park. As a lifelong resident of Tampa and Hillsborough County the Bro Bowl has been a significant feature of Tampa's downtown, especially during the decline of the downtown district in the 80s and early 90's. The Bro Bowl drew kids from the suburbs, public housing projects and from other states. I am not a skateboarder but have visited the bowl many times and have known so many people who have skated on it and talk of it fondly. It is such an amazing site to see so many kids, and adults, skating around on a free skate bowl in view of downtown Tampa.

I have recently heard that this bowl is the last of its kind in the nation. I am also saddened to hear that a few members of my community want it removed saying that it won't culturally fit the cities plans for the redevelopment of the surrounding Perry Harvey park. For people of my generation it is a landmark and we hope it will be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you,

Amanda Brown  
Tampa, FL



## COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

ONE UNIVERSITY WAY, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78224  
PHONE: (210) 784-2201

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July 12, 2013

Ms. Celeste Ivory  
Operations Manager  
Division of Historical Resources  
Florida Department of State

Dear Ms. Ivory,

I write in strong support of the motion to add the Bro Bowl at Perry Harvey Sr. Park in Tampa, Florida, to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Bro Bowl holds a unique place in the Tampa Bay region's history. I know this for two reasons: I skated the Bowl religiously while growing up in south St. Petersburg in the 1980s and early 90s, and, I now work as a professional historian at a university. In other words, I lived some of the history that others have described, and I study, teach, speak and write about history in my professional career. I strongly believe that the rich history of the area's African American residents and that of the area's skateboarders can and should co-exist (as they have co-existed for the past 40 years).

The State of Florida has a one-of-a-kind opportunity before it. Preserving the Bro Bowl as a historic place will allow it to showcase the history of the region's changing urban landscape and race relations, in addition to its history of skateboarding through the late twentieth century. Since the 1970s, the Bro Bowl has been a place where children and teenagers from virtually every racial, ethnic, and economic background meet. My friends and I exemplified this diversity; we were mostly working-class white, Hispanic, and African American youth (many from single-parent headed households) who scraped together our gas money to visit the Bowl almost daily because we loved it so.

The stories of these daily encounters would make for a superb oral history project, and one could easily imagine the ways in which the Bowl could become a living historic monument, where visitors could learn about the region's history even as a part of that history continued to be set in motion before their eyes.

The proposed historic designation for the Bro Bowl would preserve a distinctive piece of Tampa's history for the wider public, and it could make a great addition to the city's plans for redeveloping the area with some imaginative planning. Please give it your most thoughtful consideration.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William S. Bush".

William S. Bush, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of History  
Texas A&M University-San Antonio

## **Mattick, Barbara**

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**From:** djreem@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 12:44 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** In Favor of Bro-Bowl Preservation (Tampa)

Hello

I am absolutely in favor of keeping the bro-bowl (the oldest american skateboard - park) as it is a piece of American History and should never be destroyed.  
Please take this into consideration as it is a very important place in Florida History!

Thank you  
M. Campbell

## Mattick, Barbara

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**From:** Scott Hussey [sdhussey@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 4:21 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please Keep the Bro Bowl

The following was originally sent to Celeste Ivory.

Ms. Ivory,

Salvation does not come from destruction. Please do not destroy the Bro Bowl, a historically significant place, to build something new on a historically significant place that was destroyed by your predecessors. Compromise can be reached in this argument of historical import. Both claims to the area are valid, but only one claim chooses more destruction. Sense of place is earned overtime, please do not continue Tampa's poor treatment of historically import areas to fringe groups in order to build something new.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Scott Hussey

--  
"When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive--to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love."  
- Marcus Aurelius

--  
"When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive--to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love."  
- Marcus Aurelius



## **Mattick, Barbara**

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**From:** Jeanette Leon [jenmurf81@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 9:55 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Cc:** Ivory, Celeste  
**Subject:** Support for Historic Designation for Tampa's Bro Bowl

Dear Ms. Mattick and Ms. Ivory,

I am writing to you in regard to the hearing for National Historic Landmark status that takes place on July 25th. I would like to voice my support for the Bro Bowl as a National Historical Landmark and am asking that you vote as well to preserve this landmark.

The Bro Bowl has been around since the 1970's and is one of the last skate parks of its kind still around today. The Bro Bowl has a huge historical significance in the Tampa Bay area and the nation. People of all ages and back grounds have been coming to the Bro Bowl for years. In addition, several generations have come from all over to skate the Bro Bowl. It is not uncommon to hear people say that they used to skate the Bro Bowl when they were kids and now they bring their kids there to skate. I have a son now as well and hope that one day he and his father can skate here together. There is no other place like it.

This landmark has been threatened to be destroyed if historical landmark status is not granted as developers in the area want to tear it apart and put statues and grass in its place. Please vote to preserve this landmark in order to save it for future generations to enjoy or they may only be able to see insignificant honorable mentions to what it once was.

I hope that you agree with the City of Tampa (from the local hearing last month) that the Bro Bowl should be preserved as a national historical landmark.

Sincerely,  
Jeanette Leon

**Mattick, Barbara**

---

**From:** Angela [angela.harryleecoeiv.pa@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 12:38 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** FW: Supporter for Preserving The Bro Bowl

---

**From:** Angela [mailto:angela.harryleecoeiv.pa@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 12:36 PM  
**To:** 'Barbara.mattick@dosmyflorida.com'  
**Subject:** Supporter for Preserving The Bro Bowl

State of Florida National Register Review Board  
Attn.: "Ms. Barbara Mattick"

Good afternoon Ms. Mattick: 7.17.13

**RE: Preserving The Bro Bowl**

I am writing to you in support of preserving Tampa's Bro Bowl Skate Park located in the Perry Harvey, Sr. Park.

The Bro Bowl is the last surviving unaltered, public concrete skate park in the United States. We are requesting the State of Florida please recognize our beloved Bro Bowl as a Cultural Historic Landmark here in the city of Tampa, Florida.

I am pleased to say that during discussions at last night's protest in Perry Harvey, Sr. Park, supporters for destroying the Bro Bowl verbally communicated to me that plans for the location of the Amphitheatre as well as the location of the Perry Harvey, Sr. statue could in fact be moved slightly to accommodate keeping the Bro Bowl where it is, thus preserving our history while resurrecting the "Scrub". A true community shared by all.

I ask that you please forward this message to all Board members for their review. I will be attending the Hearing on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to discuss this matter further.

I thank you all for your consideration in keeping all History alive!

Respectfully yours,

Angela Lorenzo

**Mattick, Barbara**

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**From:** IDS! - Steve Robbins [srobbins.idsi@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 1:08 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fwd: Save the Bro Bowl - Perry Harvey Park, Tampa

Please below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "IDS! - Steve Robbins" <[srobbins.idsi@gmail.com](mailto:srobbins.idsi@gmail.com)>  
Date: Jul 17, 2013 1:03 PM  
Subject: Save the Bro Bowl - Perry Harvey Park, Tampa  
To: <[celeste.ivory@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:celeste.ivory@dos.myflorida.com)>  
Cc:

Attn: State of Florida National Register Review Board

Save the Historic Skateboard Park of Downtown Tampa nicked named the "Bro Bowl".

I am a 40 year Tampa native that frequents this "living piece of history" with my family. This landmark represents the birth of skateboarding and its culture of diversity and freedom of expression, also because of the rich ethnic history of Perry Harvey Park. If you can recall the original reason the duck pond was saved and converted to a skateboard park then you will start to see the impact this place has on those that visit and enjoyed its nostalgia. The pond was saved by a man that had a vision to provide a recreational necessity to the rise of a new sport called skateboarding. He contributed to the community by offering his abilities to promote and create a FREE skateboard park. This notion of being "FREE" is what makes the Bro Bowl a legend in its own era and today. The Bro Bowl is known worldwide and has birthed not only professional skateboarders but numerous other action sports as well. The staple of today's new popularity of public "action sports" parks in communities across our country are the notion of being FREE and OPEN. These characteristics drive home the very meaning a diverse community. Lastly I'd like for you to understand this landmark is one of three original skateboard parks left in our country from the inception of skateboarding. This 35 year old living piece of history should be considered a historic landmark for the sake of what it represents to our youth.

Diversity is important to a community now more than ever. Please consider this sanctuary as a symbol of the birth of skateboarding.

Tampa Native...Skateboarder...Father,

Stephen Robbins

Tampa Bay, Florida

## Mattick, Barbara

---

**From:** K. Rayne [krayne@mail.usf.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 3:25 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fwd: "Bro Bowl"

Hello,

It seems my message shown below was answered with an auto reply because Celeste is out of town. I hope this reaches the correct people.

Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **K. Rayne** <krayne@mail.usf.edu>  
**Date:** Wed, Jul 17, 2013 at 3:22 PM  
**Subject:** "Bro Bowl"  
**To:** [Celeste.Ivory@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:Celeste.Ivory@dos.myflorida.com)

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the potential demolition of the "Bro Bowl". The Bro Bowl reminds me of my younger years, and it still brings joy to me when I see the local kids enjoying it. Although my skateboard has been assigned to collecting dust duty or for my neighborhood kids to use, I would hate to see the Bro Bowl destroyed.

Is there anything I can do to help prevent it's destruction?

Thank you.

--  
Keven Rayne

--  
Keven Rayne

## Mattick, Barbara

---

**From:** Ivory, Celeste  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 5:52 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fwd: Save the Bro Bowl - Perry Harvey Park, Tampa

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "iDS! - Steve Robbins" <[srobbins.idsi@gmail.com](mailto:srobbins.idsi@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** July 17, 2013, 1:03:06 PM EDT  
**To:** [celeste.ivory@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:celeste.ivory@dos.myflorida.com)  
**Subject:** Save the Bro Bowl - Perry Harvey Park, Tampa

Attn: State of Florida National Register Review Board

Save the Historic Skateboard Park of Downtown Tampa nicked named the "Bro Bowl".

I am a 40 year Tampa native that frequents this "living piece of history" with my family. This landmark represents the birth of skateboarding and its culture of diversity and freedom of expression, also because of the rich ethnic history of Perry Harvey Park. If you can recall the original reason the duck pond was saved and converted to a skateboard park then you will start to see the impact this place has on those that visit and enjoyed its nostalgia. The pond was saved by a man that had a vision to provide a recreational necessity to the rise of a new sport called skateboarding. He contributed to the community by offering his abilities to promote and create a FREE skateboard park. This notion of being "FREE" is what makes the Bro Bowl a legend in its own era and today. The Bro Bowl is known worldwide and has birthed not only professional skateboarders but numerous other action sports as well. The staple of today's new popularity of public "action sports" parks in communities across our country are the notion of being FREE and OPEN. These characteristics drive home the very meaning a diverse community. Lastly I'd like for you to understand this landmark is one of three original skateboard parks left in our country from the inception of skateboarding. This 35 year old living piece of history should be considered a historic landmark for the sake of what it represents to our youth.

Diversity is important to a community now more than ever. Please consider this sanctuary as a symbol of the birth of skateboarding.

Tampa Native...Skateboarder...Father,

Stephen Robbins

Tampa Bay, Florida

@ItsWorkingFL



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## Mattick, Barbara

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**From:** Amanda Searle [avsearle@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 8:25 AM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Bro-Bowl

Barbara, please share my comments at the 5-member review board that is considering adding the Bro-Bowl in Tampa to the State of Florida National Register of Historic Places.

As a Realtor who specializes in historic homes in historic neighborhoods, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to recognize and preserve for future generations the specific places that have added to the rich fabric that weaves our communities together.

I am sure you know by now the history of the Bro-Bowl in skateboarding culture. It also however brought many generations together in one spot to share a common interest that stretched beyond race, ethnicity, and gender. Growing up in Tampa, going to the bro- bowl was one of our favorite things to do and we would meet people from all over the state and sometimes from other states. Some were older and had skated the bowl since they were young. Some were young kids just discovering the bowl and learning how to skate.

It brought us to an area of town that we never would have explored otherwise, and helped spark an interest in older historic buildings and communities that I carry to this day.

Please consider adding the bowl to the Register. It has a rich history in skateboarding culture and in local culture as well. It is a very important part of Tampa's history.

--

### **Amanda Searle, Realtor, Short Sale & Foreclosure Certified**

*Springfield, Riverside, Avondale, San Marco, St. Nicholas, Murray Hill*

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904-710-5702

[avsearle@gmail.com](mailto:avsearle@gmail.com)

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## Mattick, Barbara

---

**From:** Eric Spaulding [ericspaulding@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 3:49 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** "Bro Bowl" skatepark

I grew up skating the bro bowl. I can certify it has contributed to keeping tens of thousands of kids off the streets, keeping them interested in something constructive. Please consider this my recommendation and plea to keep the bro bowl open!

Eric Spaulding  
Clearwater

Sent from my iPhone

Barbara Mattick

Florida Dept of State

Division of Historical Resources

RE: Perry Harvey Senior Park - Tampa FL

Barbara –

I am writing to you in favor of including the skate bowl at Perry Harvey Senior Park in Tampa to the national register.

To my knowledge, Perry Harvey Senior Park was created partially in response to the request by the youth in the area for a safe place to play after several years of unrest following the death of Martin Chambers and subsequent riots in 1967.

The bowl achieved that vision of safety and unity amongst youth so effectively that it is:

- Still being used by hundreds of people in the community every week even 35 years after construction
- Has inspired documentary films to be created and screened nationally
- Has been recommended on the local level by a panel of highly qualified experts
- Received over 2,000 signatures in support of preservation
- Is supported by several legitimate preservation organizations (Skateboarding Heritage Foundation, Surfrider Foundation, Tony Hawk Foundation, and the Florida Skate Museum )

As a young Mexican – American raised by a single mother in the Tampa area, the bowl has provided a sanctuary and cultural exchange over the last 30 years for myself and my community. We have shared positive experiences for decades through this unique and historic site.

I hope through preservation my children and their peers will be able to enjoy the bowl and its history as I have for the last several decades.

**Please send my comments to the board for their consideration.**

Thank you

Edwin Velez

3619 W. San Juan St.

Tampa, FL 33629

Evelez4@juno.com



# CITY OF TAMPA

Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

Councilman Frank Reddick

District 5

July 15, 2013

Dear Ms. Ivory,

Please accept this letter as my official opposition to designating the "Bro Bowl" as an historic site at Perry Harvey Sr. Park in Tampa, Florida. As a member of the Tampa City Council where Perry Harvey Sr. Park is located in my district, I find it appalling that the Florida National Register Review Board will give any consideration to changing the historic value of the park in favor of the "Bro Bowl." I strongly support preserving the history of Central Avenue over this skating area in its current location.

Currently, the City of Tampa have plans to spend \$6.5 million dollars to honor the history and culture of Central Avenue in the park which will include a statue of Perry Harvey, an African American Leaders Row, performance space, a new recreation center and a large water feature. The city also plans to build a new \$600,000 skate park north of Scott Street and install the historic elements of honoring Central Avenue's business owners where the current bowl is located.

I am requesting that the Florida National Register Review Board reject the petition to qualify the skate bowl to remain where it is currently located due to its cultural significance. We in the African-American community would like to preserve our history on Central Avenue and at Perry Harvey Sr. Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Reddick  
Tampa City Councilman  
District 5

# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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July 17, 2013

Celeste Ivory, Operations Manager  
Historical Resources Division  
Florida Department of State  
500 S. Bronough St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

## RE: Redevelopment of Perry Harvey, Sr. Park in Tampa

Dear Ms Ivory:

Perry Harvey, Sr. Park is located on Central Avenue, a significant part of the African American community. The area enjoys a rich history as home to many African-American businesses, schools, churches, eateries, and entertainment venues prior to desegregation. It also served as the hub of the civil rights movement in the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County in the 1960s that began the process of tearing down segregation in the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County. Today, Perry Harvey, Sr. Park serves as a gateway to the new Encore project, a new mixed-use urban community that anchors the revitalization of the area.

The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners has voted to support the planned redevelopment of Perry Harvey, Sr. Park in the City of Tampa. However, the Board opposes the proposed designation of the current skate bowl, referred to by some as the "Bro Bowl," as a structure of cultural significance.

The \$6.5 million Park redevelopment project will further honor and memorialize the many contributions of African American in our community, including creation of an African American Leaders Row. This will require moving the existing skate bowl, constructed in 1978, to a different section of the Park. The City of Tampa will pay \$600,000 to develop a brand new skate bowl on the northern side of the Park that will be three times the size of the current structure. This is clearly a win-win scenario for all involved.

In closing, we urge the Historical Resources Division to recognize the historic and significant nature of Perry Harvey, Sr., Park to the African American community, the City of Tampa, and Hillsborough County, by supporting the planned redevelopment initiative, and by rejecting the designation of the existing skate park as a culturally significant structure. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Hagan  
Chairman

cc: Board of County Commissioners  
Executive Team

KH/bw

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Phone: (813) 272-5660

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# THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice, *Vice Chair*  
Appropriations  
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government  
Ethics and Elections  
Health Policy  
Judiciary  
Transportation

**SELECT COMMITTEE:**  
Select Committee on Indian River Lagoon and Lake Okeechobee Basin

**JOINT COMMITTEE:**  
Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight

**SENATOR ARTHENIA L. JOYNER**

19th District

July 23, 2013

Mr. Robert Bendus, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Director, Division of Historical Resources  
R. A. Gray Building  
500 S. Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Mr. Bendus:

As a longtime resident of Tampa and a State Senator representing the City of Tampa, I want to express my objection to the designation of the "Bro Bowl" skateboard park as a site of national historical significance. This proposal threatens to distort the rich cultural and ethnic history of Central Avenue and the current project to create an historic walk in that location.

This skate bowl park, constructed in 1978, lies within the redevelopment area of the Encore project which will restore the true history of the community. Intended to resurrect the vibrancy unique to Central Ave, a place where the "Twist" was born, the mixed-use project includes building a new and expanded skate park elsewhere within the project.

The skate park is located in the heart of what was once a thriving community built by slaves freed after the Civil War. Movie theaters, restaurants, hotels, drug stores, doctors, and lawyers offices all dotted the black business district until urban renewal and the construction of the interstate highway eviscerated the area. My father owned a nightclub, the Cotton Club, in that business district. I remember as a child the many performers who patronized my father's establishment before appearing at places like the Apollo, where voices such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and James Brown once rose in songs still heard today.

Giving the Bro Bowl an historic designation might be well intended, but it means that the resurrection of an iconic cultural center will stop at the skate park's concrete boundaries - boundaries built on the ashes of this city's rich black history. As you have likely been informed, the city has proposed to relocate the skate bowl to assure this recreational activity is available.

The Bro Bowl is a distraction of Central Avenue's true legacy and the restoration of this historic area. I strongly urge you to oppose this designation request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthenia L. Joyner".

Arthenia L. Joyner

**REPLY TO:**

- 508 W. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Suite C, Tampa, Florida 33603-3415 (813) 233-4277
- 202 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5019 FAX: (813) 233-4280

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**DON GAETZ**  
President of the Senate

**GARRETT RICHTER**  
President Pro Tempore



The Florida House of Representatives  
Representative Betty Reed  
District 61

July 17, 2013

Dear Ms. Ivory,

I join the Mayor of Tampa, his administration and other civic leaders in asking that the skate board facility also known as the Bro Bowl not be added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

If this status is granted, it could jeopardize the redevelopment of the Perry C. Harvey Sr. Park. Right now the park, which is located on Central Avenue, is a part of a redevelopment project funded by the U.S. government to honor the deep and rich history of the African-American community in the City of Tampa that dates as far back as the late nineteenth century.

During its prime Central Ave. was home to many African-American businesses that entertained the likes of Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown and lastly Perry Harvey Sr. who was instrumental in the civil rights movement in Tampa.

I ask that the state panel take into consideration of what this redevelopment means to the local African-American community and the city of Tampa as evidenced by all the support they have received when making your decision.

Sincerely,



State Representative Betty Reed

**District Office**  
2109 East Palm  
Ave., Suite 201  
Tampa, FL 33605  
(813) 241-8024

**Tallahassee  
Office**  
300 House Office  
Building, 402 South  
Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL  
32399-1300  
(850) 850-717-5061

**Committee  
Assignments:**

Rules & Calendar  
Committee

**Ranking Member**  
Education  
Committee

Education  
Appropriations  
Subcommittee

Agriculture &  
Natural Resources  
Subcommittee

Economic  
Development &  
Tourism  
Subcommittee

July 10, 2013

Florida National Register Review Board

Division of Historical Resources

Florida Department of State

500 South Bronough Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Ms. Uguccioni, Mrs. Almy, Dr. Hirsch, Mr. Golzalez and Dr. Lees:

In 2006-2007, I served as chairman of the City of Tampa Perry Harvey Park Citizens Advisory Committee. This 12-member committee was composed of descendants of former business owners on Central Avenue (Tampa's premiere African American business and entertainment district from the 1890s to the 1970s), residents of the immediate area and citizens who were part of the district's heritage. Contrary to information sent to you by Shannon Bruffett of Tampa, this park was named for Perry Harvey Sr., the long-time president of the International Longshoremen's Association Local No. 1402. Mr. Bruffett's application seeking "cultural" designation for the 1978 "Bro Bowl" skate area incorrectly identified Perry Harvey Jr. (the son of the park's namesake) as the man for whom the park is named. His lack of knowledge about the area's history actually proves my point: the overall history of Central Avenue/Perry Harvey Park takes precedent over any single element currently in the park!

The University of South Florida Department of Anthropology conducted historical research in Perry Harvey Park (the former Central Avenue) in 2003 and recovered several items from long-closed businesses there: a coin dated in the 1880s, whole bottles, other glass containers, a hog bone from a former restaurant and various other small items. These articles have been protected and placed on display in a common area at the University of South Florida's Tampa campus for the past ten years. I am attaching a 2003 thesis written by a USF student that outlines the historical significance of the land on which Perry Harvey Park -- including the "Bro Bowl" -- sits. At that time the historical dig was conducted, the "Bro Bowl" had been in the park for only 25 years.

I am requesting that the Florida National Register Review Board deny Mr. Bruffett's petition that seeks to designate the "Bro Bowl" in Tampa, Florida's Perry Harvey Park significantly "cultural", to the extent that it is eligible for designation as either a Florida or national landmark. **Tampa's slaves** were liberated on **May 5-6, 1964**, and most of them settled on the land then known as the "**Scrub**": **Central Avenue and (now) Perry Harvey Park** are in the western section of the "Scrub" (Cantor Brown Jr, 2000). The African American history here includes over 100 Black-owned businesses and entertainment venues: Ella Fitzgerald, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Ray Charles, James Brown, Marvin Gaye and other famous

entertainers performed there. Jackie Robinson, Larry Doby, Roy Campanella and numerous professional baseball players spent time there in the 1950s and 1960s.

In the late 1970s, the City of Tampa razed the buildings on Central Avenue and converted the area to Perry Harvey Park. This followed three major occurrences: (1) expansion of Interstate 275 in the mid-1960s, which required demolition of several building north and west of Central Avenue's businesses; (2) passage of the federal 1964 Civil Rights Act, which desegregated formerly all-White restaurants, movie theaters, night clubs, etc, and; (3) a major civil disturbance in June 1967, when four buildings and several businesses on Central Avenue were significantly burned. Residents from the nearby Central Park Village played basketball on courts that were built in the park, played football and other games in an open area there and a few of the children there began skating and riding bicycles in the bowl, built there in 1978.

Yet, the historic and cultural value of the park that covers Central Avenue -- including the numerous **African American-owned businesses and entertainment venues** there -- always has been the primary importance of this real estate. The skate bowl has the same relevance to this location that the basketball court and the open play area have to the citizens who have historical and cultural ties to this land! For this reason, I fully support the city's plan to demolish the basketball court, the former recreation building and the skate bowl to redevelop Perry Harvey Park -- with a future focus in this section of the park on a statue of Perry Harvey, an African American Leader's Row and a great lawn to accommodate public performances. The **skate bowl's current location**, in the middle of the park, disrupts this much-anticipated redevelopment!

Finally, I believe the city's current plan to build a \$600,000 skate bowl -- more than three times the size of the current bowl -- in the northern section of Perry Harvey Park should satisfy those who currently use the skate bowl for recreation. This new skate area will have designated parking, will be a short walk from a new recreation center with rest rooms (both features are currently missing), and it will be located next to the future Meacham Middle School physical education area. For these and for the other reasons outlined in this letter, I request that the Florida National Register Review Board find that the 35-year-old "Bro Bowl" in the City of Tampa's Perry Harvey Park is **not eligible** to be listed as a significant cultural or historical site by the State of Florida nor by the federal register because it sits on land that covers historic Central Avenue.

Respectfully yours,

Charles F. (Fred) Hearn, Chairman

Perry Harvey Park Citizens Advisory Committee, 2006-2007

enclosures



## Mattick, Barbara

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**From:** eddie adams jr [eddie@adamsforcongress.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 2:32 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fwd: Designation per meeting of July 25, 2013

Dear Barbara,

Central Avenue may no longer exist near downtown Tampa, but its history can still be told. This area for decades was the hub of business and social activity for many African American residents of Tampa, and it has a rich history of music, food, and culture. Central Avenue was the lifeblood of the African-American community in Tampa for close to 150 years. According to the historical marker, it was the principal business and entertainment district of Tampa's African-American community. Before it was destroyed, it contained schools, churches, lodges, a library, physicians, lawyers, dentists, grocery stores, barbershops, drug stores, insurance companies, newspapers, restaurants, a hotel, 2 movie theaters, bars and nightclubs. Celebrities such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Billie Holiday, Ray Charles, James Brown, B.B. King, Bobby "Blue" Bland, Nate and Cannonball Adderly, all played on Central Avenue when they were just getting started. Ella Fitzgerald, Cab Calloway, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., also passed through here over the years. Tampa, as we all know, is shrouded in history. Often times the tale is told of Ybor City, and its historical relevance. Tourists even come from all over the country to see Ybor, take photos, and stroll down the streets. Local photographers rave about the location as a great place to shoot historical buildings, and more. However, no one seems to talk about the african-american history of Tampa. Very little is left now, but some people still remember. Climbing out of the shadows in what is now a rough neighborhood and a city park, the story of Tampa - and Central Ave - is a great one.

Freed slaves founded and settled on this site in 1865 and built a thriving cultural and commercial hub in the Scrubs. Early white settlers of the Tampa area had settled in the Fort Brooke area, and assigned the "less protected" area amongst the oaks and scrubs to the African Americans. This 39 acre area was known as The Scrub almost immediately, as it was overrun by the Florida shrubs, commonly referred to as scrubs, or scrub brush. Cuban, West Indie refugees, and contraband slaves soon moved into the area. Many came for the fishing and shipping industry, and many of the inhabitants ended up working for cigar factories, or as laborers. Fast forward to 1915 through the 20's, the Scrub, at this time home to approximately 21,000 African Americans, pretty much bordered Central Avenue, the "main drag" for African Americans of the time. With Jim Crow laws ruling the town, most of the black population was forced to live in this small area of Tampa. That area has quite a bit of history.

On Central Ave, between Cass Street and Kay Street, was a booming African-American neighborhood and business district. This is where it all went down. From playing Bolita, a numbers game based out of Tampa, to blues, pool halls, and more - this is where you would go to get your kicks. On central Ave, you had many attractions, and many players. Of course you had theaters, like The Lincoln and Central Theater, that played movies late into the night. The Gem's Drugstore, located once at 1308 Central Ave, played host to almost all of the african-american community at one time. And of course, there was the music.

There was The Cotton Club, owned by the Joyner family. This club was located on Central Ave, and was one of the first clubs to require a coat and tie. It was located right by the Pyramid Hotel (later named Rogers Hotel), which housed the famous Apollo Ballroom on its upper floor. There was Club Chiffon - a local establishment with live music. You also had Charlie Moon's pool hall, which featured live music, as well as Johnny Gray's bar. Another

hot spot was The Blue Room, owned by Watt Sanderson. All of these places featured local musicians, and some national acts as well. It is said that many people including B.B. King, Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, James Brown, Ruth Brown, Asa Harris, and others played up and down Central - it was the place to be. To those that still remember, the history will never die.

Another attraction of Central Ave and the surrounding area was Saunder's Boarding House. Later named The Jackson House, this house was expanded to house traveling blacks who had no where else to stay.

In Fact, Ella Fitzgerald wrote her hit "A Tisket, a Tasket" in the living room of this house. Dr. Martin Luther King even roamed the hallways. In another story, Cab Calloway, after a performance at The Apollo Ballroom, fled to The Jackson House to escape the droves of women who were chasing him.

Of course, times have changed. The whole district was destroyed in the 50's to put in place 275 and I-4, highways running through the city. The Scrub was torn down, and projects were built in its spot.

Of course, now, the projects are gone, too, and a new project is under way on the land. The people of this area were dispersed, and relocated to surrounding areas. There is a park now - the Perry Harvey Park - where most of this rich history took place.

Some things are lost - such as Lemon Meringue Cake Pie that was unique to Central Ave - but many things are worth noting. No one from the area can forget The Greek Stand, a local eatery that was always opened, and always busy. I find it interesting that after hooking up with a local band, Ray Charles made his first recording on Central Avenue. Or that the popular dance "The Twist" was invented on Central Avenue.

Tampa reminds itself every day of the time it committed cultural suicide - that insane period 50 years ago when folks seemed to want to wipe out everything old. Gone in great swipes of bulldozers was much of the evidence of the two great forces that shaped modern Tampa - cigars and race. At least a fair amount of Tampa's cigar history remains. But the obliteration of historic black neighborhoods in the 1960s and '70s was so thorough that University of South Florida anthropology students sometimes go digging in them, as though they were Roman ruins.

A new project named Encore is under way. This project will sit on the exact spot that was once The Scrub. The project is beautiful. It features mixed income housing, a historical museum of the area to be housed in the St. James Church, as well as shops, a grocery, hotels, condos, a park, a middle school, a community center, a town green, an amphitheater and performance stage, a history walk, and much more.

The City of Tampa is planning to build an elaborate 11-acre park filled with landmarks memorializing local black history, and to the north, a new skate park. Hopefully, this project will help renew the area, preserve its history, and strengthen the sense of community. It is definitely a step in the right direction. Hopefully The Scrub like so much other Black History is never forgotten. So I am writing to support the redevelopment of the Perry C. Harvey Sr. Park and The City of Tampa is plans.

--  
Your Humble Servant in God;

-  
Eddie Adams Jr  
Republican Candidate for US House - Dist. 14 / Florida Eddie@AdamsforCongress.org Visit the campaign web site at [www.AdamsforCongress.org](http://www.AdamsforCongress.org)

Communication paid for by the AdamsforCongress organization. Any statements made during e-mail conversations may not reflect the final policy decisions or the opinion/position of Eddie Adams Jr.

--

Your Humble Servant in God;

-

Eddie Adams Jr  
Republican Candidate for US House - Dist. 14 / Florida Eddie@AdamsforCongress.org Visit the campaign web site at [www.AdamsforCongress.org](http://www.AdamsforCongress.org)

Communication paid for by the AdamsforCongress organization. Any statements made during e-mail conversations may not reflect the final policy decisions or the opinion/position of Eddie Adams Jr.

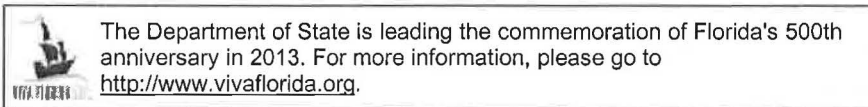
## Mattick, Barbara

---

**From:** Ivory, Celeste  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2013 8:56 AM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** FW: Bro Bowl Tampa, FL - Designation per meeting of July 25, 2013

fyi-

@ItsWorkingFL



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**From:** Daniel Coleman [<mailto:tampadan23@verizon.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2013 9:01 PM  
**To:** Ivory, Celeste  
**Cc:** [jetie.wilds@verizon.net](mailto:jetie.wilds@verizon.net); FRED HEARNS; [frank.reddick@tampagov.net](mailto:frank.reddick@tampagov.net); [eddie@adamsforcongress.org](mailto:eddie@adamsforcongress.org); [anderson@prewittsolutions.com](mailto:anderson@prewittsolutions.com); S. G. GRAY  
**Subject:** Bro Bowl Tampa, FL - Designation per meeting of July 25, 2013

Dear Ms. Ivory,

As a citizen of Tampa, FL, I would like to register my objection to the petition to designate the "Bro Bowl" as an historic site. First, the facility has only been in existence for thirty – five years, which is my opinion, an insufficient period for it to qualify as a significant, historic site for Tampa. Using this criteria, one could designate almost every playground in the city as being historic.

There are a number of additional facts which lessen the case for designating the facility as being historic:

- A) The area where the "Bro Bowl" exists is a successor site to one of the state's major black community historic districts. From the demise of slavery in Tampa in 1864 to the urban renewal projects of the 1970s, the area was the center of the Tampa's black community's institutions with a number of churches, businesses, theatres, etc., were established and operated. Within a few blocks of this Central Avenue district, there were Tampa's major African – American places such as St. Paul AME Church, where Reverend Martin Luther King, and Thurgood Marshall, (eventually a Supreme Court Justice) spoke to the black community to activate it in the Civil Rights struggles of the 1950s and 60s. It was also the training ground and early performance venue for a number of significant entertainers such as Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, etc..
- B) Approval of this site would derail the long planned completion of a major project by the City of Tampa and its Housing Authority to finish the development of the Perry C. Harvey Park. There is to be a monument area dedicated to that historic black community. This project would also feature statues of Mr. Harvey, one of the leading African – American leaders of his time along with tributes to other black leaders. The \$6.5 million dollars needed for the project has already been allocated by the federal government. This would also fund the construction of a new skate bowl park to be built in the area.
- C) I recognize the emotional connection that the skaters have to this facility, but it is scheduled to be replaced by a larger, more up to date skate bowl facility to be built nearby as part of this redevelopment of the Perry C. Harvey Park. On the scales of importance to the greater Tampa community, the redevelopment of this park and the intended plans to honor the historic heart of the African – American community, clearly outweighs in merit that of the "Bro Bowl".

- D) My objection to this designation, thereby blocking the completion of this park, is vigorously opposed by the entirety of the African – American political delegation encompassing those serving on the City Council, Hillsborough County Commission and the state legislature.
- E) Please note this following quote from the March 20, 2013 edition of the Tampa Bay Times newspaper which quoted the City 's present mayor , Bob Buckhorn, on this project :

**The park honors Perry Harvey Sr., a segregation-era civic activist and leader of Tampa's first black union.**

**“What I envision is that it (the park) recognize the culture and history of African-Americans in the community, particularly pioneering African-American families that lived on Central Avenue,” said Mayor Bob Buckhorn.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Daniel E. Coleman  
510 E. Harrison St.# 310  
Tampa, FL 33602  
PH: 617.680.8538

## Mattick, Barbara

---

**From:** Leroy Moore [leroymoore@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 13, 2013 9:38 AM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fwd: Perry Harvey Park Bro Bowl, Tampa, Florida

Ms. Mattock, I understand Ms. Ivory is out and you are receiving her inquiries. Attached is an email I sent to her today. I would like to know under what authority the preservation committee is scheduled to act on this matter in its July 25th planned meeting. Also what are the requirements for the State board to hear issues. My understanding is the local city council must have approved such a request.

Thanks.

...

Please excuse any brevity or typos as this was sent from my mobile device.

Leroy Moore,  
Sent from my iPad2

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Leroy Moore <leroymoore@aol.com>  
**Date:** July 13, 2013, 9:32:46 AM EDT  
**To:** "Celeste.Ivory@DOS.MyFlorida.com" <Celeste.Ivory@DOS.MyFlorida.com>  
**Cc:** Fred Hearn <fhearns@netzero.com>, jetie.wilds@verizon.net  
**Subject:** Perry Harvey Park Bro Bowl, Tampa, Florida

Ms. Ivory, I am in support of the city of Tampa's park design plans which call for the removal of the existing skatebowl (bro bowl) and development of a new skate bowl elsewhere in the same park. The current effort to declare this bro bowl as historic is fraught with serious errors of which I will list just a few below.

1. The Tampa City Council has not acted on the local significance of this structure and is not recommending this action.
2. The organizers of the effort to declare this structure historic is not a member of this local community, has not sought public comment on this effort, has not demonstrated site control nor stakeholder interest in the community to be able to represent the wishes of this community.
3. The Tampa historic preservation committee which passed an measure recommending this action does not have the authority to speak on behalf of the Tampa City Council in fact my understanding is their actions must be approved by the City Council before having any weight representing a position to the State of Florida. This has not happened and therefore a procedural defect exists which should prevent this matter from being discussed or considered by the State.

I therefore employ you to notify the state historic preservation board of this procedural fault and remove this item from the agenda until and only if after the Tampa City Council has acted in support of the local committee's action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leroy Moore, Concerned Citizen  
508 Old Grove Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33548

...

Please excuse any brevity or typos as this was sent from my mobile device.

Leroy Moore,  
Sent from my iPad2

## Mattick, Barbara

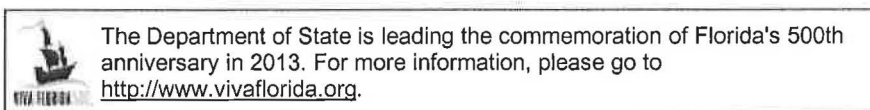
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**From:** Ivory, Celeste  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 12:59 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fwd: Save Central Ave History

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [veronicabraddy@aol.com](mailto:veronicabraddy@aol.com)  
**Date:** July 17, 2013, 11:37:35 AM EDT  
**To:** [celeste.ivory@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:celeste.ivory@dos.myflorida.com)  
**Subject:** **Fwd: Save Central Ave History**

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-----Original Message-----

From: veronicabraddy <[veronicabraddy@aol.com](mailto:veronicabraddy@aol.com)>  
To: celesteivory <[celesteivory@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:celesteivory@dos.myflorida.com)>  
Sent: Wed, Jul 17, 2013 11:09 am  
Subject: Save Central Ave History

I was small a child when I saw central ave burned down due to a riot.. The sky seemed to be red that night. Please relocate the skateboard bowl. Allow us to use the same spot the black owned businesses were established.



**Mattick, Barbara**

---

**From:** Ina Robusky [irobusky@ymail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 16, 2013 4:29 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fw: Save Central Avenue's History

I am forwarding this request to you since Celeste Ivory is out of the office until Monday, July 22, 2013.

**Ina Robusky**

**"Smile and the whole world will smile with you"**

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Ina Robusky <irobusky@ymail.com>  
**To:** "Celeste.Ivory@DOS.MyFlorida.com" <Celeste.Ivory@DOS.MyFlorida.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 16, 2013 4:20 PM  
**Subject:** Save Central Avenue's History

I oppose giving the "Bro Bowl" cultural recognition at its current location because it does not honor the history and the culture of Central Avenue.

**Ina Robusky**

**"Smile and the whole world will smile with you"**

**Mattick, Barbara**

---

**From:** Ivory, Celeste  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2013 4:52 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fwd: Perry Harvey Park - Tampa

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Sean Shaw <[seanmichaelshaw@gmail.com](mailto:seanmichaelshaw@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** July 18, 2013, 12:12:55 PM EDT  
**To:** [Celeste.Ivory@DOS.MyFlorida.com](mailto:Celeste.Ivory@DOS.MyFlorida.com)  
**Subject:** **Perry Harvey Park - Tampa**

Ms. Ivory,


As a resident of Tampa, I am opposed to allowing a skating rink in the Perry C Harvey, Sr. Park. This park holds a special place in the history of african-american culture in Tampa. Allowing a skating rink in this park will detract from that history and I urge the Board to vote no on this matter. Thank you.

--

Sean M. Shaw  
930 E Idlewild Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33604  
813 221 6860 (h)

@ItsWorkingFL



	The Department of State is leading the commemoration of Florida's 500th anniversary in 2013. For more information, please go to <a href="http://www.vivaflorida.org">http://www.vivaflorida.org</a> .
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**Mattick, Barbara**

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**From:** WALTER SMITH [wsmith293@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 11:28 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** Fw: Preservation of the History and Culture of Central Ave., Tampa, Fl.

Dr. Walter L. Smith

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** WALTER SMITH <wsmith293@verizon.net>  
**To:** "[Celeste.Ivory@DOS.MyFlorida.com](mailto:Celeste.Ivory@DOS.MyFlorida.com)" <[Celeste.Ivory@DOS.MyFlorida.com](mailto:Celeste.Ivory@DOS.MyFlorida.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 11:18 PM  
**Subject:** Preservation of the History and Culture of Central Ave., Tampa, Fl.

Dear Ms. Ivory:

I am a native Tampa resident who spent many years on the Central Avenue site from childhood to adulthood. I also observed its modification to accommodate the Interstate program. However, I do not wish to see further modification by the "Bro Bowl" remaining on its present site. I strongly support the proposal to move the "Bro Bowl" north of Scott Street, thereby providing the opportunity to build a program which honors the Culture and History of Central Avenue.

Thanks for the opportunity to present my position and I hope it will receive serious consideration.

Sincerely,  
Walter L. Smith

Dr. Walter L. Smith

## Mattick, Barbara

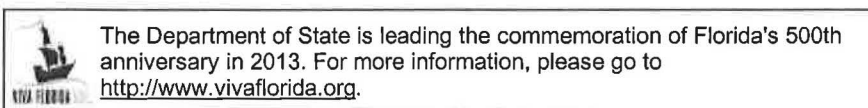
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**From:** Ivory, Celeste  
**Sent:** Monday, July 08, 2013 11:12 AM  
**To:** 'Ellen Uguccioni'; Marion Almy; Hirsch, Adam; 'William Lees'; 'Rick Gonzalez'  
**Cc:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Subject:** FW: FL National Register Review Board

Dear Florida National Register Review Board,

Please see below:

@ItsWorkingFL



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**From:** Cynthia Ozepher Keeton [<mailto:keetonco8@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 05, 2013 6:00 PM  
**To:** Ivory, Celeste  
**Subject:**

Dear Celeste Ivory,  
Please notify the five members of the Florida National Registry Review Board to oppose designation of the BRO" BOWL as a cultural landmark at their July 25, 2013 meeting.  
kind regards,  
Cynthia O. Keeton

Please Sign This Petition

Florida's National Historical Review Board: VOTING TO ALLOW THE TAMPA SKATE  
PARK TO BE MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION

We have an opportunity to celebrate our history and our heritage on the land where Tampa's Slaves settled May 5, 1864. Free African Americans first lived in the "Scrub" area that became Central Avenue 149 years ago. The City of Tampa now plans to spend \$6.5 million to redevelop (formerly Central Avenue) Perry Harvey Sr. Park to honor Black history in Perry Harvey Sr. Park. Supporters of African American History in Perry Harvey Park (formerly Central Avenue) should sign the petition.

Sign Name Print Name Address Phone

Sign Name	Print Name	Address	Phone
<i>Sherran Burt</i>	Sherran Burt	3201 N 34th	952-6678
<i>Stanley G. Galy</i>	Stanley G. Galy	3424 W. L. 26th St	813-832-8347
<i>Nileen Wilkerson</i>	Mylen Wilkerson	3308 N. 34th St	813-261-6707
<i>LAMONTA Miguel</i>	Miguel Wirtz	3201 N. 45th	813-261-6707
<i>Melvin Road</i>	Melvin Road	2424 7th	952-6678
<i>Kim Davis</i>	KIM DAVIS	2218 N SPI 2nd LANE	813-965-6097
<i>Walter E. Hardy</i>	WALTER E. HARDY	2424 E. 7th AVE	813-408-2308
<i>George Rusnak</i>	GEORGE RUSNAK	3201 N. 34th ST	813-298-9930
<i>Reginald Bell</i>	Reginald Bell	3407 E 25th AVE	813-407347
<i>Anthony Angel</i>	Anthony Angel	9237 11th Loop	(813) 572-9831
<i>Alois Kemp</i>	Alois Kemp	34th E. 21st Ave	813-300-9298
<i>Jessie Overstreet</i>	Jessie Overstreet	3406 E. 21st Ave	813-238-6197
<i>Michael R. Reeves</i>	Michael R. Reeves	PO. Box 1172 Tampa FL	(813) 526-4502
<i>Herb Baker</i>	Herb Baker	2101 E. G. 11th St	237-3572
<i>Rodney McMillan</i>	Rodney McMillan	2401 E. 11th St	417-4682
<i>Ralph G. Smith</i>	RALPH SMITH	2413 W. G. 7th St	813-211-0087
<i>Rolando Daniels</i>	ROLANDO DANIELS	11300th F. 12th Ave	(813) 952-0924
<i>Amanda Laine</i>	Amanda Laine	3408 E. 7th St.	(813) 231-9231
<i>D.J. Starling</i>	D.J. Starling	2402 E. E. 11th St	(813) 200-8833
<i>Raoul P. Thomas</i>	Raoul P. Thomas	5804 E. Fowler Ave #C152	813-988 1637
<i>Eddie Adams, Jr.</i>	Eddie Adams, Jr.	9504 Woodg. Ridge Dr	(813) 695-0914
<i>John B. Wilds, Jr.</i>	John B. Wilds, Jr.	12405 Green. dges Dr.	352-956-1290
<i>Albert Daniels Jr.</i>	Albert Daniels Jr.	31409 Bridge Gate Dr	(813) 468-1174
<i>Peter Joseph</i>	PETER JOSEPH	1656 Cross Ricc	(813) 918-8669
<i>James Leon Guller</i>	James Leon Guller	8619 Bayway Cor	414-9542
<i>Michael Hader</i>	Michael Hader	4166 Pine Point	813 728 3238
<i>John Green</i>	John Green	1635 Cresson Ridge Ln	



## Mattick, Barbara

---

**From:** Bruce D. Phillips [chardware@tampabay.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 17, 2013 6:13 PM  
**To:** Mattick, Barbara  
**Cc:** Ivory, Celeste; Peg.Bors@tampagov.net  
**Subject:** Tampa's Perry Harvey Park "Bro Bowl"

**Importance:** High

Dear Dr. Mattick,

I am disgusted with how a small minority group of skaters from the Tampa Bay area are turning the Bro Bowl debate into a nasty brawl!

It's darn near going to incite a race riot!

They are trying to argue a point with a bit of misinformation:

I keep reading in all the news reports that the "proponents" for saving the Bowl are claiming the Bro Bowl is one of **three** left in the United States – **FALSE!**

There **actually at least 4 skateparks** (including the Bro Bowl) from the '70's that still remain operational.

The one public skatepark that is not being mentioned is a park in Baltimore called Lansdowne.

Here's a link to some photo's: <http://www.flickriver.com/photos/jmhouse/sets/72157603669679623/>

So we have:

Derby Park (public) in Santa Cruz, Ca.

Lansdowne (public) in Baltimore

Kona Skatepark (private) in Jacksonville

Bro Bowl (public) in Tampa

The way I see it,,, you have a historical public skatepark on each side of the country, and a historical private skatepark for the whole world to visit.

If these skaters' viewpoint is saving something historical,,, well, there's already enough skateparks preserved for a historical standpoint.

Whatever ends up with the Bro Bowl,,, to me & probably the majority of Tampa's residents,,, it's a visual "eyesore" with all that graffiti!

Sincerely,

An anonymous

history buff AND a skater of 30+ years

KATHY CASTOR  
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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SUITE 300  
TAMPA, FL 33607  
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August 15, 2013

Ms. Carol Shull  
Keeper of the National Register  
1201 Eye Street, N.W.  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Proposed inclusion of the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl into the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Shull:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed inclusion of the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl, also known as the Bro Bowl, into the National Register of Historic Places. While I understand the Florida National Register of Historic Places board has advanced the nomination to you, I believe that its inclusion will complicate plans already underway by the City of Tampa to revitalize and showcase the broader history of the area. For this reason, I cannot support the nomination of the Bro Bowl.

The history of the area and Perry Harvey Sr. Park predates and transcends the Bro Bowl by more than a century. The Park is built around Central Avenue (today Orange Avenue). Central Avenue was the historic center of an African American community that was first settled in 1864 by freed slaves. Central Avenue was the hallmark African American community into the 1900s and through challenging times. Central Avenue provided a sense of unity in the midst of division during the civil rights challenges of the decades between 1900 and the 1960s. The Central Avenue community contained schools, churches, restaurants, theaters, drugstores, and hotels. It was home to more than 100 African American owned and managed businesses, including entertainment venues that hosted the likes of Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Cab Calloway, B.B. King, and James Brown. It is reported that the dance, the Twist, was discovered there. The area was the epicenter of African American life in Tampa and was the hub of the civil rights movement in the area. Following a period of civil unrest sparked by the 1967 police shooting of an unarmed black teenager, the City of Tampa dedicated Perry Harvey Sr. Park, named for a notable segregation-era civil rights activist in Tampa.

The area surrounding Central Avenue has significant historical significance and import to the entire Tampa Bay community. Moreover, it sits at the critical intersection of downtown Tampa, Ybor City, the Channel District and Tampa Heights. As such, the City of Tampa in conjunction with



the Tampa Housing Authority and the local community are in the process of investing \$6.5 million in addition to previous federal investments to revitalize the area surrounding Perry Harvey Sr. Park while also honoring the history and culture of Central Avenue. Our community intends to revitalize the neighborhood into the thriving community that once added so much to the Tampa Bay area.

Perry Harvey Sr. Park will serve as a gateway to 12 city blocks of new apartments, condominiums, offices, a hotel, a school, and an African American history museum that will reflect the importance of the site, reviving and restoring the once vibrant business and community district to its historic purpose. Additionally, an interactive History Walk and Leaders Walk will bring long awaited recognition to the role that Central Avenue played in the development of Tampa and will serve to educate Tampanians and visitors alike about the historic African American leaders in our community. Plans include the preservation of the historic St. James Episcopal Church, which will be used as the African American history museum, as well as the already underway building of Encore, a blend of multifamily, retail, and office space focused around a grand boulevard and revived Perry Harvey Sr. Park.

Construction has already been completed on Ella at Encore, a 160-unit apartment building for seniors. Moreover, construction has begun on Trio, 143 units of housing for families, and Reed, which will provide an additional 158 units of housing for elderly families. Last December, the Tampa Housing Authority received a \$30 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help fund the Encore project. The grant was the largest of those awarded through HUD's Choice Neighborhood Initiative. These dollars match the resources of our community for a revitalized downtown, modern housing and transformation of a downtown gateway. And this is not the first investment into the project by the federal government. In 2010, Encore also received \$38 million from HUD through the federal stimulus bill, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which helped to create jobs in Tampa while keeping the redevelopment vision alive through tough economic times.

While I understand that some in the community support the nomination of the Skateboard Bowl to the National Register, its inclusion would hinder plans that the City of Tampa, in conjunction with a myriad of community partners, has been pursuing for almost a decade now. The Central Avenue project will revitalize one of Tampa's most culturally and historically rich neighborhoods and I cannot support anything that would obstruct plans to bring this area of our community back to its former glory.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my District Director, Chloe Coney, at (813) 871-2817.

Sincerely,



Kathy Castor  
United States Representative  
Florida – District 14

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0911

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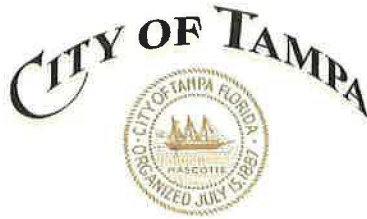
Kathy Castor  
M.C.

Ms. Carol Shull  
Keeper of the National Register  
1201 Eye Street, N.W.  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005



GAPVSP1 20005





**Bob Buckhorn**  
Mayor



September 17, 2013

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service/Cultural Resources  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 2280  
1849 C. Street  
Washington D.C. 20240

Re: Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Sir or Madam:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl *aka The Bro Bowl*. Tampa's historic resources are a tremendous asset to our city and a source of pride for our community. The City of Tampa has a long record of promoting and supporting historic designations for eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places. However, the nomination of the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl, constructed in 1978, does not rise to the level of those prior, and I am not in support of its listing.

From the Civil War era until the early 1970s, the Central Avenue area served as an enclave for African-Americans, where residents and business owners persevered through the most of challenging of times to achieve a sense of unity in the midst of division. Prior to being demolished through Urban Renewal, the Central Avenue community contained schools, churches, eateries, hotels, drugstores, theaters and an array of entertainment venues that hosted legendary musicians who performed there for Black fans who were barred by Jim Crow laws from seeing them in other venues where they were not welcome.

The revitalization of Perry Harvey Sr. Park is the culmination of years of planning and community involvement. The redesigned park, which is situated directly on the site of the former Central Avenue business district, will feature an interactive History Walk and Leaders Walk that will bring long-awaited recognition to the role that Central Avenue played in the development of Tampa, while educating visitors about historic Black leaders in our community. The redesigned park will serve as a gateway for Encore, a 29-acre revitalization project that replaces the dilapidated Central Park Village public housing project with a vibrant urban community that celebrates the history of the area and its musical roots.

While I appreciate the efforts of the advocates of the Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl nomination, I believe the appropriate history of the site to be celebrated predates the comparably recent period of the skate bowl. At a local level, the nomination of the skate bowl has been a controversial proposal that has proven to be insensitive to many of those same Tampa residents that experienced the loss of Central Avenue decades ago. Therefore, I request that the Keeper of the National Register reject the nomination for listing.

Respectfully,

Bob Buckhorn

**CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA**

Planning and Development Department

Historic Preservation & Urban Design

1400 N. Boulevard  
Tampa, Florida 33607



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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service/Cultural Resources  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 2280  
1849 C. Street  
Washington D.C. 20240

20240





October 1, 2013

Carol Shull, Keeper of the National Register

1201 Eye Street, N. W. - 8th Floor

Washington, D. C. 20005

Re: 36 CFR 60.6 (t)

Dear Ms. Shull:

I join the city, county and state elected officials in Tampa, Florida in asking that you deny any and all official historic recognition of the skate bowl in Perry Harvey Park - Tampa, Florida (known commonly as the 'Bro' Bowl) that would allow it to remain where it is.

This structure, built in 1978, sits in the middle of Historic Central Avenue, first settled by Blacks following the May 5-6, 1864 liberation of Tampa's slaves. These free African Americans began opening businesses in this area in the 1890s. During the many years of segregation, this provided Blacks with opportunities for successful careers that the greater society denied them.

From the 1890s to 1974, Central Avenue thrived as a major African American business district. Its night clubs were home to entertainers who often rose to international prominence: Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Cab Calloway, Ray Charles, Hank Ballard (creator of "The Twist" dance craze) and James Brown, among others. Businesses in the district began to close in the mid-1960s, following various events: a 1967 civil disturbance and subsequent fires, the expansion of Interstate 275, an urban renewal initiative (the Maryland Avenue Project) and the integration of formerly all-White businesses located throughout the city. Perry Harvey Park opened in 1979.

The Central Avenue District's incredible 149-year African American history -- which began at the end of the Civil War -- should take precedent over the 35-year-old existence of a skate bowl that now sits on the same ground. Several Central Avenue businesses long occupied the exact spot that the current skate bowl occupies. The University of South Florida uncovered numerous Central Avenue artifacts in this area ten years ago, substantiating the value of this site in our city's history. The City of Tampa has graciously agreed to build a new, larger \$600,000 skate bowl just north of the current bowl and to place a historic marker at its current site. For all these reasons, I request that the application for official cultural recognition of the 1978 skate bowl be denied: it threatens the appropriate celebration of history there that long preceded it.

Respectfully yours,

Charles F. (Fred) Hearn, Chair -- City of Tampa Perry Harvey Park Citizens Advisory Committee

ed Hearn  
017 Villa Creek Dr  
mpa, FL 33647-2596

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Carol Shull  
Keeper of the National Register  
1201 Eye Street N.W.  
8TH Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

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2000535905



13000811



March 29, 2013

Shannon D. Bruffett  
905 West Adalee Street  
Tampa, FL 33603

Mr. J. Paul Loether  
National Historic Landmark Program  
1849 C Street NW (2280)  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

I am writing you with regard to the introduction of a structure located within the City of Tampa, Florida for consideration of addition to the National Register of Historic Places. I have evaluated the structure according to the criteria provided by the National Park Service and consider it to be an excellent candidate for preservation.

The structure which I am speaking of is the skateboard bowl located within Perry Harvey Sr. Park, at 1200 North Orange Avenue, Tampa, Florida, 33602. The park itself is located within the Historic Central Avenue area of Tampa. There are several properties within this area that hold cultural significance and have been recognized as Historic Landmarks.

The skateboard bowl, which has been affectionately titled "The Bro Bowl" by locals, is a concrete structure that was completed in 1978. Although less than fifty years old, the structure has achieved historic significance within its lifetime for many reasons. It is one of only 3 original structures remaining in the country from what many consider the golden age of skateboarding.

The Bro Bowl was originally designed as a recreational facility for inner city youth and was constructed in Perry Harvey Sr. Park, which was adjacent to the Central Park Housing Projects. Shortly after its inception, its purpose began to transform. Although located in the Downtown corridor, kids from throughout the city began to frequent the Bowl. This naturally led to a means of racial desegregation and cultural integration.

Within the last four decades the Bro Bowl has become an iconic symbol for the culture of skateboarding and its ability to unite youths from many different backgrounds. Several professional skateboarders such as Bruce Walker, Paul Schmitt, Cleo Coney, and Tim Payne have developed their skills here. These men have gone on to shape the sport of skateboarding and become key figures within a multi-million dollar industry. The Bowl has also been featured in a documentary, several videos, and the world famous Tony Hawk Pro Skater Video game.

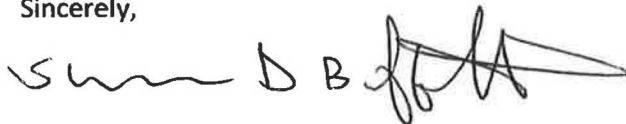
Although recognized by the skateboard world for its cultural significance, City of Tampa officials fail to consider the historical importance of the Bro Bowl. There is a redevelopment project surrounding Perry Harvey Sr. Park, entitled Encore, which embraces the area's African-American history, yet fails to consider the significant impact of the Bro Bowl. The project progresses and the City of Tampa received a federal grant for the area. A proposed redesign for Perry Harvey Sr. Park calls for destruction of the Bro Bowl. Although the City has embraced the culturally historic importance of the area, they equate no historic value to the Bro Bowl.

The Bro Bowl itself is in very good condition for its age, and is regularly enjoyed by skateboarders and bicyclists. It possesses a unique design, in that it is a gravity skate park, which allows riders to maintain speed without other means of propulsion. It embodies characteristics unique to structures constructed in the 1970's, which serve as a monument to the era in which it was built.

Although not established yet as a Historic Place, the Bro Bowl is an important part of the City of Tampa's cultural history. As we progress into the twenty-first century and attempt to recognize the places and events that have shaped us, it is important that all aspects of our history be considered. Such is the purpose of this letter and the plea for the Bro Bowl to be considered for addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

Time is of the essence, as the proposal for the redevelopment of Perry Harvey Sr. Park is due on April 4<sup>th</sup> of this year. Any urgency of your consideration or advice as to preserving this structure would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact myself with information provided below. Your time, consideration, and effort are greatly appreciated. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon D. Bruffett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shannon D. Bruffett

[r3pwr@gmail.com](mailto:r3pwr@gmail.com)

(813) 546-2900

P.S. Please find enclosed photographs, a DVD of a documentary of the Bowl, and map locating the park in which the structure is located.





# ENCORE!

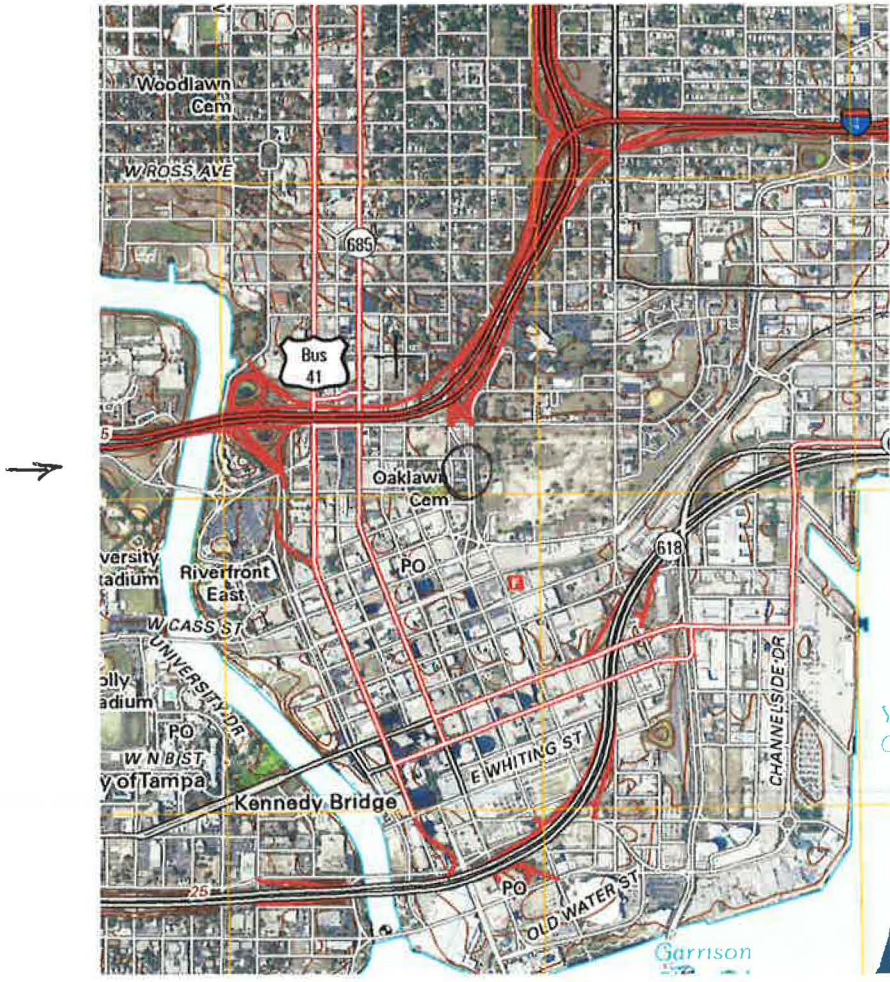
DOWNTOWN'S **TEMPO** DISTRICT

The walkable 40+ acre design blends commerce with community to form a city within a city. A formal town square with pathways, history museum, public artwork and relaxation niches is center stage to vibrant hotels, offices, apartments, retailers and restaurants.

- 1 MIDDLE SCHOOL
- 2 TEMPO (APARTMENTS) + GROUND FLOOR RETAIL
- 3 ELLA (SENIOR APARTMENTS) + GROUND FLOOR RETAIL
- 4 REED (SENIOR APARTMENTS) + GROUND FLOOR RETAIL
- 5 FOR SALE: OFFICE BANK PHARMACY
- 6 MUSEUM
- 7 TRIO (APARTMENTS) + GROUND FLOOR RETAIL
- 8 APARTMENTS + GROUND FLOOR RETAIL
- 9 FOR SALE: HIGH-RISE MULTIFAMILY
- 10 FOR SALE: HOTEL/CONDO
- 11 FOR SALE: HOTEL OFFICE + GROUND FLOOR RETAIL
- 12 FOR SALE: GROCERY
- 13 CHILLER PLANT
- 14 SOLAR PARK
- 15 PERRY HARVEY PARK

Developer makes no warranties or representations as to the accuracy of content. Site plan is a conceptual rendering and may vary in precise detail and scale. Visit [encoretampa.com/disclaimers](http://encoretampa.com/disclaimers) for complete list of disclaimers.

[ENCORETAMPA.COM](http://ENCORETAMPA.COM)



1200 N. Orange Ave  
Tampa, FL 33602



Photo: Paul Schmitt

View to North, 1979



Photo: Unknown

View to Southeast, 1980



Photo: Lance Robson

View to Southeast, 2007





Photo: Lance Robson

View to Northwest, 2007

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Perry Harvey Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl  
other names/site number Bro Bowl (preferred)

## 2. Location

street & number 900 East Scott Street  not for publication  
city or town Tampa  vicinity  
state Florida code FL county Hillsborough code 57 zip code 33602

## 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
   national    statewide    local

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
   entered in the National Register    determined eligible for the National Register  
   determined not eligible for the National Register    removed from the National Register  
   other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

**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.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
	1	buildings
1		sites
1	2	structures
		objects
2	3	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Outdoor recreation \_\_\_\_\_

Sports Facility \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Outdoor recreation \_\_\_\_\_

Sports Facility \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete

walls: concrete

roof: N/A

other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property

County and State

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Architecture
- Art
- Entertainment/ Recreation
- Ethnic Heritage (Black)
- Landscape Architecture
- History

**Period of Significance**

1978-present

**Significant Dates**

- 1978-constructed
- 1992-refurbished/improved
- 2006- park changes

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Paul Schmitt, Tim Payne, Cleo Coney

**Cultural Affiliation**

African-American Heritage

**Architect/Builder**

The IPDS Ltd. Planning/ Design Group, Architect  
Angle & Schmid, Contractor/Builder

**Period of Significance (justification)**

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Name of Property

County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Bro Bowl deserves consideration in the National Register due to its purpose, use, and location. It was built in an area first settled in 1865 by freed slave known as Historic Central Avenue. This area of Tampa made monumental contributions to both National and local culture through the skateboarding, art, and music that took place here. The Bro Bowl has been instrumental in the process of desegregation by uniting diverse cultures through the sport of skateboarding. Many skateboarders who learned and practiced here have had a huge impact on the skateboard industry and their culture as well. The Bro Bowl has overcome poverty, urban squalor, and several other disadvantages to serve inner city youth as a place of recreation for nearly four decades. It possesses a unique design and form that reflect the history and development of the sport of skateboarding. It is one of only four surviving public concrete skateboard parks that were constructed in the 1970's.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

One Saturday in 1975, parks employee Joel Jackson drove by a parking lot and saw a skateboard competition. In those days, the sport was just catching on and the tricks mostly consisted of skating down the sloped lot and weaving in and out of orange cones at speed. "They seemed like they were having a lot of fun," said Jackson, now 64 and retired. "So I thought this is a really neat thing that kids at Perry Harvey Sr. Park might enjoy." A skate park seemed just the thing for Central Park Village and the children who lived there.

Jackson proposed the idea to City Council members, who thought he was crazy. At this time many of the private owned concrete parks were being demolished. He somehow convinced them a skateboard bowl would give the kids something to do. Soon, he was calling a swimming pool company and designing the skate bowl himself. Construction was completed and the Bowl was open to the public. Perry Harvey Sr. Park was dedicated in 1979.

"I didn't have anything to copy," he said. "The only thing I knew was that it should have a downhill slope like the parking lot at the contest, and I saw a picture of kids in California skating in swimming pools. Jackson drove by frequently and was pleased to see kids showing up in droves with their skateboards. The only thing that surprised him was that many of the skaters were not from the surrounding Central Park Village housing projects. Skateboarding, as it turned out, had more of a suburban following. Most of the skaters were white, in a predominantly African-American area.

This is where the Skateboard Bowl began to take on a diverse and unique history. Due to its location it brought two totally different cultures together. Suburban kids were coming to the Bowl to skate, but began to interact with youth from the adjacent Central Park Village housing projects. There were several confrontations between the visiting skaters and the local kids who considered the Bowl their playground. However, there were also many friendships and positive relationships developed as well.

Communication, understanding, and a mutual respect developed between the contrasting cultures as they began to understand each other. Their common enjoyment and love of the Bowl unified them despite different backgrounds. It became affectionately titled the "Bro Bowl" due to the relationships that were developed there. As time progressed The Bro Bowl became established as a popular skateboard destination in Tampa. Skaters from all over the country, and around the world, came to skateboard here.

Professionals such as Paul Schmitt, Monty Nolder, Chuck Hults, Andrew Reynolds, Chuck Dinkins, and Cleo Coney as well as several others have skateboarded here. Besides well known professionals, the

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The structure is located within a city-owned public park. The park is bordered to the west by Orange Avenue, to the north by Scott Street, to the east by Central Avenue, and to the south by Harrison Street.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries were chosen as a specific means of establishing the location of the structure and the park in which it is located.

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Shannon D. Bruffett  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number 905 West Adalee Street telephone (813) 546-2900  
city or town Tampa state FL zip code 33603  
e-mail R3pwr@gmail.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Perry Harvey Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl / Bro Bowl

City or Vicinity: Tampa

County: Hillsborough

State: Florida

Photographers: Paul Schmitt, Lance Robson, Shannon Bruffett, Kyle Stone

Date Photographed: 1979-2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Various views of structure (7)



Name of Property

County and State

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The Perry Harvey Sr. Skateboard Bowl, also known as the "Bro Bowl" was constructed in 1978 in heart of the Historic Central Avenue area of Downtown Tampa, Florida. It is a concrete skateboard park that was constructed by the City of Tampa as a means of providing a recreational facility for inner city youth. It consists of a steep downhill course which leads to a curved dish at the bottom of the hill. It varies in depth from approximately one to six feet. It is part downhill slalom, part ditch, and part swimming pool. It is surrounded by a playground, a recreation building, sidewalks, and basketball courts. The structure is in good condition due to the maintenance performed by the city, as well as the upkeep of the local skateboarders who frequent it. It is one of the oldest surviving concrete skateboard parks in the United States. There are several established National Historic Landmarks surrounding the park in which it is located.

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### **Narrative Description**

The Perry Harvey Sr. Park Skateboard Bowl, affectionately known as The Bro Bowl, was the vision of a city parks and recreation employee beginning in 1975. After noticing the growth in popularity of the sport of skateboarding and local contests he started to envision a concrete facility for the children to enjoy. After designing it mostly himself, he submitted it to the City Council and was met with doubts as to its practicality. Many of the concrete skateboard parks were being demolished throughout the country at the time he made his proposal.

Despite City leaders' hesitation to approve the plan, ultimately it was decided that the skateboard facility be constructed in the new, yet to be dedicated Perry Harvey Sr. Park. The park was constructed on the former site of the African-American business district of Central Avenue, commonly referred to as "The Scrub". The area carried this name since the turn of the century due to its economic circumstance. After enjoying great successes from 1915 thru the 1950's, the area fell into poverty once again after the construction of the new highway system that severed it from the rest of the city in the late 1960's. In 1974 the entire area and all remaining structures were razed in an effort of urban renewal. At this time the Central Park Village housing project was constructed. There was an additional street added to connect downtown to the new interstate at this time, named Orange Avenue that runs perpendicular to the original Central Avenue.

The park was designed to include a playground, basketball and tennis courts, as well as the skateboard park. Construction was completed in 1978 and Perry Harvey Sr. Park was officially dedicated by City officials. It is located presently between Orange Avenue to the east and Central Avenue to the west. It is bordered by Harrison Street to the south and Scott Street to the North. Across Orange Avenue stands Greater Bethel Baptist Missionary Church, which was established in the late 1800's. To the east it is bordered by The Meachem School, which was used as means of educating the underprivileged youth from the area in the 1930's. Both have been established as local historical landmarks by the City of Tampa.

The skateboard bowl itself bears a unique, original design that utilizes gravity and inertia as a means of propelling the skaters and bicyclists. It begins at a large, concrete pad that sits atop a steep hill that is connected to two adjoining sidewalks. These sidewalks lead to other features of the park city streets. On the opposite side a concrete path, known as a snake run, leads down to the skateboard dish, or "bowl". This section divides into two parts at the top of the hill allowing two separate approaches to the bowl. One is more elevated and is the average width of a sidewalk and the other resembles more of a banked slalom or ditch. These two paths were originally divided by a grass section.

At the bottom of the hill where the two paths converge are a series of bumps, known as moguls, which allow riders to gain speed and continue momentum. There are two aligned in the same path followed by another L-shaped bump, as well as another volcano shaped bump beside it. The moguls are encompassed within the bowl itself which has transitioned walls that range from 3 to 6 feet in depth and lead up to the edge, or "lip", where the concrete meets the grassy areas. Originally the bowl was surrounded only by grass, trees, and benches. There was also a playground which contained play equipment, and a brick pyramid shaped structure to the east of the bowl.

Name of Property

County and State

Several running changes have been made to the park since its original construction for both aesthetic and functional purposes. Originally the bowl was bare concrete, but in an effort to discourage graffiti and protect the structure, the City of Tampa began painting in green in the early 1980's. In 1992, the grassy section between the two approaches was filled with concrete and a sidewalk surrounded by a curb was added around the edge of the bowl. Repairs to the structure itself were also performed at this time and the original metal light posts that stood at the edge of the bowl were removed. The playground area was removed and the brick pyramid structure was razed. This was replaced with a playground unit that now stands where the pyramid once was. The wooden benches that were constructed of railroad ties were also removed at this time.

The nearby Central Park Village housing project was razed in 2006 as plans for redevelopment took shape. The city ceased painting the bowl in approximately 2008 and the local skateboarders have continued to maintain and paint the structure annually in the interest of preservation. The latest City of Tampa Parks and Recreation regulations have now accepted the nature of the bowl's setting and now allow graffiti, as long as it is non-offensive. It still remains as the city's original, free, skateboard-at-your-own-risk facility. In addition, it is one of only four of the nation's original surviving skateboard parks from the 1970's concrete era. Two of these are located within the State of Florida, with the other being Kona, in Jacksonville.

Perry Harvey Sr. Park is now bordered to the east by the impending redevelopment project, titled "Encore, Downtown's Tempo District". It is to feature retail space as well as a retirement facility and government subsidized housing. The streets within the project bear the names of historical figures in the area such as Ray Charles, Hank Ballard, and Blanche Armwood. Parks and public spaces have been incorporated within the redevelopment, which also includes the historic Meachem School.

The next proposed phase of the Encore project focuses on the area of Central Avenue and Perry Harvey Sr. Park where the Bro Bowl is presently located. Plans for the park show construction of a replica of the Bro Bowl to be constructed at its north end, adjacent to the Interstate. Proposals suggest an open field for audiences of an outdoor amphitheater where the Bro Bowl now resides. Nearly fifty years ago much of the city's history was erased by the City of Tampa Metropolitan Agency as most of Central Avenue was demolished in the interest of urban renewal. Now, considering recent plans by city officials and developers, the same mistake is going to be repeated. The Bro Bowl is a unique, original structure that embodies the City of Tampa's culturally diverse history. Many events that have transpired here shaped the culture of skateboarding and the city itself. No replica, despite how exacting it may be, will possess the historic integrity of the original Bro Bowl.

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Name of Property

County and State

bowl also has served its community. Local skateboarders have met and socialized there for over three decades, and continue to do so. As styles and tricks have progressed, The Bro Bowl continues to thrive and adapt. It has been included in the immensely popular Tony Hawk Pro Skater video game. Skaters all over the globe are familiar with it. It continues to serve as a recreational facility for inner city youth and skateboarders alike. It attracts all skill levels from beginners to professionals.

The property is associated with an area of historical artistic and cultural development. Recording artists and performers frequented the Central Avenue area when in Tampa. Several people who have made significant contributions to American Culture have played a role in the history of Central Avenue and made contributions here. Presently plans center around a development that recognizes the events that transpired here and the persons associated with them. Names such as Cab Callloway, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Hank Ballard, and several others have recorded and performed in the area where the Bro Bowl is located.

The property is associated with lives of persons who have made significant contribution to American Culture. Musical artists, professional skateboarders, and civil rights leaders have all been elements of the history of Central Park. From performers at the turn of the century to modern skateboarders, the area has been a focal point of cultural expression and social development for well over a century.

Persons such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have helped to fight for civil rights while visiting the area in the 1960's. Ray Charles' very first recording was made here. Hank Ballard discovered The Twist here. The political and musical expression of the people who have had an impact on the history of the United States share experiences of Historic Central Avenue. The style and talents of skateboarders who grew up here, such as Paul Schmitt, Tim Payne, and Cleo Coney, continue to influence skateboard culture and industry. Paul Schmitt has used the concepts that he developed by skateboarding here to become the leading manufacturer of modern skateboards. Tim Payne has formed a company that is presently the industry leader in the construction of concrete skateboard facilities. Cleo Coney became one of the country's first professional African American skateboarders after learning to skate at the Bro Bowl.

The structure itself embodies characteristics of form and materials that are particular to the period in which was constructed. From the downhill slope, to the concrete bumps, to its irregularly transitioned walls, the Bowl possesses a form that reflects a period of skateboarding that spans over three decades. It is easily distinguishable from other modern skate parks in this respect. It is one of only four surviving original public concrete public skate parks in the United States from the 1970's. Two of which are located in the State of Florida. It was the last concrete public skate park constructed in this era, and is unique in its design. It has survived from the infancy of skateboarding to its modern form, and continues to serve as a means of developing the culture and the sport. It is a historical monument to a part of society that has developed since its inception in the 1960's. Few structures have the pedigree the Bowl has established in the last thirty years.

The Bro Bowl yields history to present as well as future generations as a surviving example of a structure that was detrimental to the development of modern skateboarding. It also serves as an icon of cultural adaptation to ethnic diversity. There have been several articles and a documentaries made, which feature the Bro Bowl and Historic Central Avenue. Both have had a significant role in the social and cultural development of the city of Tampa and the country as a whole. The Bro Bowl's survival will continue to enrich the history of the city and the culture of the sport of skateboarding.

The Bro Bowl at Perry Harvey Sr. Park has a colorful history, and has played a significant role in the cultural development of the Historic Central Avenue area of Tampa. It has witnessed the development of modern day skateboarding culture first hand. It was constructed as the sport was in its infancy and has survived nearly 35 years to do so. The Bro Bowl has demonstrated its historic integrity by surviving on the edge of an ever-changing Tampa skyline.

Name of Property

County and State

The adjacent Central Park Village housing project has been demolished and now only The Bro Bowl remains as a symbol to the people who shared many experiences because of it. The Historic Central Avenue area surrounding Perry Harvey Sr. Park is immersed in local and national history that can be traced to the 1800's.

Recently this area has been the focus of a redevelopment plan and the future of The Bro Bowl has been in question. There are other previously registered National Landmarks surrounding the park in which it is located. It possesses an unquestionable amount historic integrity. Developers and city planners may not share this impression based on their recent plans for Perry Harvey Sr. Park. While they have chosen to embrace the cultural impact of other events that have transpired in the Central Avenue area, they have failed to recognize the historical significance of The Bro Bowl. It has transcended generations and will continue to be a positive force in the lives of our youth when its historical worthiness has been deemed thoroughly concrete by becoming a designated as a National Historic Landmark

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Bro Bowl: A History" <http://www.brobowl.org>. Accessed May 20, 2012. "Tampa, Florida: Landmarks." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tampa,Florida#Landmarks>. Accessed May 20, 2012. "Andrew Reynolds" (skateboarder). [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew Reynolds \(skateboarder\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Reynolds_(skateboarder)). Accessed May 20, 2012. "Bro Bowl." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bro Bowl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bro_Bowl). Accessed May 20, 2012. Adams, David, former competition skateboarder and historical figure; Environmental Manager, Hillsborough County Public Utilities. Telephone and e-mail interviews. 2012. Briggs, Spencer, G. *Central Avenue Remembered*. WEDU, 2007. Public television documentary. Brooke, Michael, publisher of *Concrete Wave* magazine. Telephone and e-mail interviews. 2012. Coney, Cleo. *PUSH, CARVE, GRIND!: Skateboarding Florida's Central West Coast Changed My Life Forever*. AuthorHouse, 2004. Coney, Cleo, former professional skateboarder and publisher of *Coping Block* magazine. E-mail interviews. 2012. DeMaio, John; Troy Durett; Lance Robson. *The Bro Bowl: 30 Years of Tampa Concrete*. Eye Splice Creative/Islander Entertainment, 2010. DVD. Gordon, Betsy, Project Manager, Smithsonian Institution. Telephone and e-mail interviews. 2012. Hawk, Tony, professional skateboarder, historical figure, and CEO of non-profit, Tony Hawk Foundation. E-mail interview. 2012. Leone, Jared. "Buddies pay tribute to Bro Bowl skateboard park on film." *St. Petersburg Times*, March 12, 2010. Snyder, Craig B. *A Secret History of the Ollie*. Black Salt Press, 2012. Snyder, Craig B. *ROOTS: Skateboarding's Legends, Myths, and Beginnings*, Vol. 1. Black Salt Press, 2013. Snyder, Craig, historian and author; University Galleries Assistant and Exhibition Curator at Florida Atlantic University. E-mail interviews. 2012. Womble, Ed, former competition skateboarder and historical figure. E-mail interviews. 2012.

Name of Property

County and State

**Property Owner:**

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

name The City of Tampa

street & number 306 East Jackson Street

telephone (813) 274-8211

city or town Tampa

state Florida

zip code 33602

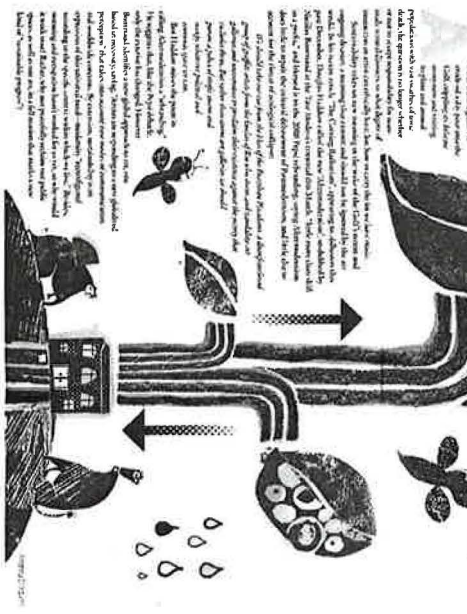
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Centering: 12 South Avenue Park, a block of The Country Where Love You page 6  
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# The Roosevelt and the beanstalk: art's climb toward sustainable progress

As we write this, we observe the 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive day of the December Horizon oil spill, called by the Obama administration "the worst environmental disaster we've ever faced in this country." One has to stop in the shadow of such a devastating event and evaluate the morals and ethics that guide our sensibilities. Participating with respect to art, our work may be hard to define. What can we do? How can we move forward?



# The Bro-Bowl: 30 Years of Tampa Concrete documentary: Interview with Troy Durrett

**Mid-afternoon Tampa.** Blocks of housing projects border one side; on the other, a cemetery and the fall. An olive cracks the silence and the skateboard rolls over spray-painted tags to the edge of the concrete bowl.

**It is 1985.** Troy Durrett had just met the Bro Bowl at Perry Harvey Park for the first time.

For the next 25 years, he will return to this legendary skate park over and over again, now after moving every gathering a job and a dwelling down.

Built in 1979, at the dawn of deindustrializing cultural impact, the Bro Bowl represented freedom to thousands of amateur and professional skateboarders who ground over its kick-flip-ramp and led to a global wave of concrete bowls. Its unusual design, from its architecture to that of post-hip-hop graffiti, makes the bowl a unique space during two very different eras of the most important movement in the Tampa Bay area.

Four years ago, Durrett and a group of friends began work on a documentary, *The Bro Bowl: 30 Years of Tampa Concrete*, commemorating the skate park for all the 6- to 12-year-old ground, five concrete ramps, and cultural war zone. At the time, the City of Tampa planned to raze the bowl—overseeing the demolition of the Bro Bowl. They wanted the documentary primarily as a thank-you in person. After a series of heated public meetings, a plan to keep the bowl was created.

Durrett talked to *The Studio* about the bowl's vibrant documentary filmmaking and why a skateboard culture means so much.

**TTX: Knowing what you do the best is...**

Skateboard culture for me is an independent spirit, an independence for people who are trying to define and reform the world around them, with influences from the drug and punk rock and hip-hop scenes. The skateboard and culture scene is a mix of these things and the unique subculture that has emerged. It's a mix of these things and the unique subculture that has emerged.

**TTX: What does skateboarding culture mean to you?**

It's a mix of these things and the unique subculture that has emerged. It's a mix of these things and the unique subculture that has emerged.

**TTX: How long did it take to make the documentary?**

It took about a year to make the documentary. It was a mix of these things and the unique subculture that has emerged.

**TTX: How did you get started in skateboarding?**

I got started in skateboarding when I was a kid. It was a mix of these things and the unique subculture that has emerged.

**TTX: How did you get involved in the documentary?**

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compared to housing projects, 30 years of concrete and pavement, there are no other major things of the bowl that have become a part of the city's landscape. It's a mix of these things and the unique subculture that has emerged.

**TTX: How did you get involved in the documentary?**

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# Colliding cultures

**Which way do you go when renovating a park that has historical significance for black residents - and for white skateboarders?**

By EMILY NIPPS

Published November 6, 2006



[Times photo: Bob Croslin]

David Padilla carves a back-side five-o grind at the "Bro" bowl in Tampa. The bowl, a staple of the Tampa Bay skateboarding scene since 1979, is set to be demolished.

ADVERTISEMENT

Before they put up the public housing, before the drug dealers and the squalor and the blight, some pretty remarkable things happened in what is now Perry Harvey Sr. Park.

## dueling history



permalink | tags: [citizens](#), [city](#), [diversity](#), [downtown](#), [history](#), [music](#), [names](#), [sport](#), [tampa](#)  
by tommy @ 6:03 pm

Back in October, we told you about the possible changes to Perry Harvey Sr. Park. Since we here in the Sticks love the history, we are usually all gung-ho about saving the past. And when we think of the past, we think of a hundred years ago past.

Freed slaves settled here in 1865 and opened drugstores and restaurants. Ray Charles made his first recording here after hooking up with a local band. Men and women shared cocktails at the Cotton Club and watched Cab Calloway perform at the Apollo Ballroom. The city's biggest race riot happened on this land in 1967.

But that past is a hundred years old. For every one-hundred year old relic, there is also a thirty year old past. And really, thirty years is old enough to be claimed as "history."

Perry Harvey Sr. Park has such a double-historic past as well. I mentioned it in passing when the news came up, but didn't give it much depth:

Tampa is wondering what to do with Perry Harvey Sr. Park. The park is located right next to Central Park Village on the edge of downtown. **Skateboarders used to use the park quite a bit**, and there has been talk of building an amphitheater on the property to recognize The Scrub's musical past, but nothing has been determined yet.

It's known as the Bro Bowl. Apparently, the Bro Bowl is significant enough to be featured in a Tony Hawk video game, and Tony Hawk's foundation will likely put up some grant money to keep the public skatepark alive. Local sk8trs have been discussing the park on the SkateParkofTampa forums, and one of them even created a "save the bro bowl" website.

Times reporter Emily Nipps wrote a great piece on the **persepective of the sk8trs** who want to save the bro bowl vs. your traditional historian.

Ten days later, the Tribune got to the bowl full of memories story. The New York Times picked up the story, and says the city will likely include a skatepark in the new plans.



## perry harvey, sr. park



[permalink](#) | tags: [citizens](#), [city](#), [downtown](#), [music](#), [names](#), [tampa](#)  
by tommy @ 1:53 pm

Stevedore and social activist Perry Harvey Sr. helped organize Tampa's branch of the Longshoremen's Union (Local 1402) in the early 1940's. His son, Perry Jr. was elected Tampa's first black councilman in 1983.

Perry Sr. died in 1972, and shortly thereafter, the city named a park after him. The 11-acre park was established in 1974 and has mainly served residents of the Central Park housing project and children registered at the city's Kid Mason Recreation Center.

Now, the City of Tampa is wondering what to do with Perry Harvey Sr. Park. The park is located right next to Central Park Village on the edge of downtown. Skateboarders used to use the park quite a bit, and there has been talk of building an amphitheater on the property to recognize The Scrub's musical past, but nothing has been determined yet.

Tampa Parks & Rec is getting input from the public, so if you have a good idea, get down to the public meeting at the Central Park auditorium (1000 India St.) at 10am on Oct. 14 or 5:30pm Oct. 23.

What do you think the city should do with that green space downtown?

### Share:



### One Response to "perry harvey, sr. park"

1. *dcdave* Says:  
October 12th, 2006 at 3:38 pm



Photograph by OREGON PHOTO

Carlos Reynolds, 7, has some fun at Perry Harvey Sr. Park. The concrete dish inside the park has been dubbed the "Bro Bowl" by skateboarders.

# Where There's A Wheel

Donation program provides 'Boards To Bro's' and gives needy youths the chance to ride.

By COURTNEY CALANS PASTOR  
The Tampa Tribune

**TAMPA** — Dion Casey positioned himself close to Santa and scratched high, hoping to grab one of the dozens of skateboards being passed over his head Saturday.

He likes to skate and hang out with friends at the concrete dish

skaters have dubbed the "Bro Bowl" at Perry Harvey Sr. Park. But when someone stole his board, he got stumped.

He and his friends still come to the park but rely on others to let them borrow their wheels.

Then, Santa pulled up in a white truck.

"Santa couldn't get his eyes to

make these skateboards, so all the Tampa Bay skaters donated these skateboards for you guys," said Ed Womble, who portrayed the red-suited man at the giveaway.

Children pushed forward Santa's truck, some climbing the bumper, to lay claim to one of about 40 boards inside. The first

ones went to the youngest children. Then, Womble pulled a longer board from the truck.

"There you go," he said as he handed it to Dion.

The Ferris Middle School seventh-grader bolted from the

See BOARD PROGRAM, Page 8 ►  
Bro Bowl is close to public housing.



Photograph by OREGON PHOTO

Dion Casey, 14, received a free skateboard Saturday courtesy of Skatepark of Tampa, which collected used and new skateboards and donated them to needy youths at its "Boards for Bro's" event.

## BOARD PROGRAM

Continued From Page 1

crowd, dropped his board and hopped on. He sailed over the bowl's edge and down the sloped walls.

"Boards for Bro's" emerged from conversations Womble had with Ryan Clements, general manager of the skatepark of Tampa, and skateboard manufacturer Paul Schmitt. The men were talking about ways to foster goodwill in the community.

The donation drive gave them a way to reach out to needy children.

The Bro Bowl, nicknamed for its location in a mostly black neighborhood, is a short walk from Central Park Village public housing. It often attracts children who watch skaters or ride bikes and scooters down the ramp and into the depression below.

Like Dion, many don't own a skateboard. Womble said skaters lend them boards, talk to them and hang out and teach them techniques.

"They always need a board, and we thought, why don't we give them boards?" Womble said.

They asked around and got new and used donations. The boards went quickly, and some children were still coming up and asking whether any were left.

One boy was ready to give up when Rob Meronek, who works for Skatepark of Tampa, stopped him and gave him the board he had just been riding.

Skateboarders came together this fall after learning of a plan to renovate Harvey Park and tear down the Bro Bowl, which opened in 1979 and gained national attention in a Tony Hawk video game. The city now is talking about building a replica elsewhere in the park.

Despite its cracked and graffiti-scarred surface, the bowl is beloved for its easygoing vibe.

Access is free, humps in the middle provide spots for tricks and no one nags skaters to wear helmets.

Dion, 14, said his favorite part of the bowl is its bumps, like moguls on a ski slope. But he also likes getting to know skaters who frequent there.

"We get to meet new people," he said.

By the time Santa left, new skaters had covered Harvey Park. They flew down the ramp into the bowl, some riding their boards like sleds. Others practiced on the flat basketball court. More found pavement behind some bleachers.

Clements, who helped distribute the boards, said he was surprised how many kids awaited them. They will come back next year, he said, with more to give. If he starts requesting donations now, he could have a couple hundred by next Christmas, he said.

"I can do this through the whole year," he said.

Reporter Courtney Calans Pastor can be reached at (813) 865-1603 or cpastor@tampatrib.com.

Bro Bowl Update from Clem  
Posted on Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Bro Bowl Update from Clem: This is to clear up whatever rumors you may have heard about the Bro Bowl in Tampa. Please read the letter from the citizen (Pamela) and then the response from Brad Suder from the City. Looks like we're not going to be able to keep the actual Bro Bowl, but we're going to get a replica of it on site at the other end of Perry Harvey Park. In addition to the Bro Bowl, we're going to be getting more a skate park that's going to be free, always open, and un-manned (no pad nannies). We'll keep you updated.

Ryan

THIS IS THE LETTER FROM PAMELA TO BRAD FROM THE CITY OF TAMPA:  
Dear Mr.Suder,

I hope the costs that might be incurred tearing down an already existing public skateboarding area, aka the 'Bro Bowl', in Tampa will be worth the costs in rebuilding a new one. I'm sure if the city has done a comparative cost/maintenance analysis of other cities in the state with public skateboarding facilities, they will discover that concrete is by far the best choice. However, the material used in the Bro Bowl would be an outdated inclusion in such comparisons. The upside is that it already exists and the maintenance, such as it is, is fairly low.

Is there a URL for the conceptual plans for Perry Harvey park, and any future decisions regarding that, available to the public? I would appreciate knowing what it is if you could send it at your convenience.

I'm sure you are well aware of the feelings on the part of the skateboarding community regarding these matters so I won't be redundant. I would only like to know that we are kept apprised of current or future plans.

Thank you,  
Pamela

THIS IS BRAD'S RESPONSE TO PAMELA:  
Pamela,

Thanks for writing in. I need to find the right vehicle, possibly SPOT, to keep the skateboarding community informed of all progress. I apologize on the length of this response but I am copying a few other very interested parties that have asked for updates since the charettes and others whose messages hit home. However slow it may appear to all that are concerned about the Bowl, we are working diligently to provide a safe but challenging public skating spot in downtown Tampa at Perry Harvey Sr. Park.

During our evaluations of the site, the program elements of all of the partners associated with the proposed Central Park Village redevelopment, the interests of the community, the interests of all users of the Park, the goals and objectives of the Parks and Recreation Department, the rich historical context of this piece of earth, the importance of the site to a not-so-unique sport and its community, etc., one unbeknownst item unexpectedly came to light that strongly influenced our decisions. It was the fact that the Florida Department of Transportation conducted a study over ten years ago and received a sign-off from the City that Orange Avenue would need to be widened in the future to accommodate the ultimate build-out of the I-4/I-275 Interchange. It was stated that it would need to be widened to the east since a historical church and community center would be impacted to the west. That study (a Section 4F) described the impacts to the park that included the bowl. That can not change. The current design and construction work is based on the traffic engineers knowing the "ultimate" alignments.

So, we needed to make the best out of a truly sad situation for the skateboard community that is barely aware of this "new" information. While we have the opportunity, we decided to plan for a multi-purpose skate/bike facility that for all intents and purposes will be all concrete and remain open at all times. We have a commitment from Banc of America and the Tampa Housing Authority to replicate the "Bowl" (if that is what the skateboard community wants) in its entirety and construct additional skate elements in Phase I as part of the Development Agreement associated with Central Park Village. I am working with other City Departments and others to make sure that happens. We also intend to design the entire skate facility at the current time and make budget requests in future years to complete it. I will begin a public skatepark input process soon to see exactly what can and should be accomplished in Phase I as well as the rest of the skatepark.

I have received close to 700 e-mails and written comment sheets to save skateboarding, the bowl, etc. It is best summed up that Skateboarders rallied to save the Bowl and the Bowl saved skateboarding. We have the opportunity to secure skateboarding at Perry Harvey Park and possibly have the Bowl take a stroll across the park and settle into new surroundings if that's what people want. I have already had a lengthy discussion with the executive director of the Tony Hawk Foundation to find out the best ways they can assist us in our efforts (Design/mini-grants, etc.)

I realize this is not the best answer that everybody wanted to see in the end. But it is actually good that we found out about this now. With some patience and assistance, I believe the skateboarding community will have a better place and reason to visit downtown Tampa.

That is a good idea about posting the conceptual plan for people to see. Please note that it is very conceptual at this point. Give me a few days and then check in the Parks and Recreation Department under [www.TampaGov.net](http://www.TampaGov.net)

Thanks

Brad  
Brad.Suder@ci.tampa.fl.us

Post a Comment:

Name or email: Enter your name.

Your comment: Enter a comment.

Note: We read all comments first. Keep it clean or your post will never make it onto the site.

Click on a date to see comments from that day:

Last 20 (20)

1 /9/2008 (1)

10 /14/2007 (2)

1 /4/2007 (2)

1 /1/2007 (1)

12 /29/2006 (1)

11 /25/2006 (1)

11 /22/2006 (1)

11 /15/2006 (2)

Last 20 Comments Posted

Posted by JEREMY on 1/9/2008 6:03:00 PM

To whom it may concern,

I just wanted to say to the community of skaters, bikers, bladers, and tons of people I've met. You want change, you got to get together as a group. Stand together or watch your history fall

Posted by Rappy on 10/14/2007 11:59:00 AM

Skateparks are cool, molotov cocktails are not:)

Build a new bowl, but put up a statue or a plaque of the old bowl to represent bro bowl history. Long live the big green monster.

Posted by Rappy on 10/14/2007 11:56:00 AM

Skateparks are cool, molotov cocktails are not:)

Posted by A new bowl on 1/4/2007 1:32:00 PM

hopefully it will be better than the out of date bowl is and we can all skate something cool and fun in the ghetto and get rocks thrown at us

Posted by Yeah right on 1/4/2007 9:30:00 AM

Im with Little Drew. Someone should push the skate plaza gimmick to the Tampa park folks. It's looks fun as hell and would really go great with the bowl. Anyway, let's skate the hell out of it til it's gone.

Posted by look... on 1/1/2007 2:24:00 PM

if we don't rebuild the bowl now, and allow the "man" to fund it, we will regret it when the DOT takes it away and doesn't offer to fund a rebuild 5 years from now. you can fight a losing battle trying to save what can't be saved, as sad as it is, or you can appreciate the government offering to help the skateboard community. enjoy the new bowl, it may

even be better and why not hope for the best?  
Posted by KsurfiWS on 12/29/2006 11:24:00 AM  
Parks and Recreation News & Information

### Perry Harvey Sr. Park Advisory Committee to Hold Public Meeting

December 22, 2006 - The Perry Harvey Sr. Park Advisory Committee will host a public meeting on Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department, located at 1420 North Tampa Street. This meeting is free and open to the public and all residents are encouraged to attend.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information as well as answer any questions regarding the Perry Harvey Sr. Park Project. The park will be renovated and restored as part of the Central Park Village redevelopment and revitalization project. Mayor Pam lorio appointed the 15-member advisory committee to ensure that the cultural and historic elements of Central Avenue are preserved and represented in the Perry Harvey Sr. Park renovation.

For additional information regarding the meeting, contact Debbie Mercer at (813) 274-5871

Posted by Little Drew on 11/25/2006 10:13:00 AM

This seems to be a pretty fair deal. We get a replica of the bowl and some. Im anxious to see what else they add to it, maybe they will put the pyramid back, or even beter maybe they will add a skate plaza (like the DC one in Ohio).

If only more people could could take the time to do some research before they begin whineing about how the city is always holding the skaters down, because if they did they would actually find out that Tampa has our backs.

Posted by Pam laWhoreYo on 11/22/2006 1:12:00 AM

Just wanted to say that there's no point in making a larger roadway for the I-4 ramp. It doesn't get that crowded even in weekday rush hour traffic. Bro Bowl rules, it's fun, no static. They just had to tear it down to try and make us as miserable as them. Let's see if the man builds a new park, I doubt they will, not any time soon at least, and I'm old as it is!

Posted by Vegas on 11/15/2006 8:01:00 PM

I think it's a great idea. New Bro Bowl and new 'crete park Free!

Posted by at least on 11/15/2006 8:47:00 AM

he wasnt a total dousche

Tampa Journal  
Plans to Honor Two Cultures at Home in One City Park

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Article Tools Sponsored By  
By LYNN WADDELL  
Published: November 24, 2006

TAMPA, Fla., Nov. 23 — The Perry Harvey Sr. Park is not an inspiring sight. Bordering a squalid public housing project and an interstate ramp, the narrow park with brittle grass and a bumpy hole of concrete for skateboarders gives no hint of its rich history.

[Skip to next paragraph](#)

[Enlarge This Image](#)

Chip Litherland for The New York Times

Harry Ong, 14, at the Bro Bowl at Perry Harvey Sr. Park in Tampa, Fla. The Bro Bowl, built in 1978, appeared in a Tony Hawk video game.

The pit of green concrete in the middle of the park happens to be one of the oldest and most famous public skate bowls in the country, memorialized in a popular video game by the skateboarder Tony Hawk.

Built in 1978, the Bro Bowl, as it is known, is now outdated, but has such nostalgic appeal that when news of its impending demise hit the Internet, skateboarders from around the globe bombarded the city with more than 700 e-mail messages begging for its salvation.

But the land beneath the Bro Bowl practically pulsates with black history. The area where the park sits was settled by freed slaves in 1865 and later became Central Avenue, the center of Tampa's black community, then known as the Scrubs. There, Ray Charles was a struggling musician, Ella Fitzgerald helped write "A-Tisket, A-Tasket," and Cab Calloway performed at the Apollo Ballroom. The street had more than 100 black-owned businesses and was a place where blacks could buy groceries, get their hair styled and be entertained during the height of segregation.

Now the city wants to redevelop the park, and two groups — one predominantly white and suburban, the other black and urban — are appealing to preserve their seemingly disparate pasts.

When the city held three public hearings last month about the park's future, the two histories met. A black heritage group played a Ray Charles song and displayed pictures of the former Central Avenue, while more than 100 skateboarders showed up to save

the Bro Bowl. The Tampa Bay area happens to be a skateboarding hot spot, with a famous private skate park that draws international skateboarders who often stop by the scrappy public one.

"It was an interesting mix," said Brad Suder, a landscape architect for the city Parks and Recreation Department who is overseeing the redevelopment project, speaking of the hearings. "We're trying to really respect all groups that have an interest in the park and find a good blend."

Black leaders want the redesigned park to reflect the neighborhood's rich history, something that currently exists only in the memories of some older Tampa residents.

Helen Taylor, who grew up in the Scrubs, remembers when Central Avenue was lined with beauty parlors and packed music halls. She watched the neighborhood decline as homes were leveled to make way for public housing in the 1950s. In the race riots of the 1960s, fires destroyed some businesses on Central Avenue. The last black-owned business closed in the 1970s, when the street was bulldozed and replaced with the park.

Soon after, a city employee got the idea to add a skate area. Not realizing that skateboarding was a predominantly white sport, he thought it would give children in the projects something to do.

"I don't know why they put it there," Ms. Taylor said. "Skateboards are kind of expensive. The kids there can't afford them."

John Montesi, 34, also has fond memories of the area. A professional skateboarder who owns a skate shop in Tarpon Springs, Fla., he grew up cruising the Bro Bowl, often bringing an extra skateboard to enlist the neighborhood teenagers in clearing the bowl of human obstacles, like children on bikes.

After a month of hearings and hundreds of e-mail messages, city planners have a rough idea of what they want to do with the park, but will not make a final decision until a committee studies it over the next year. In the preliminary plan, both groups stand to gain and lose.

Mr. Suder said the plan would add a memorial to black community leaders and an amphitheater, a nod to the black community's musical history. It also calls for a return of Central Avenue, albeit with an emphasis on shops catering to residents of upscale condominiums and low-cost apartments that will replace the existing housing project.

Because of Central Avenue's return and plans to widen an adjoining major city street, the Bro Bowl must be removed, Mr. Suder said. But the city wants to replicate it at another end of the park, adding modern skateboarding platforms.

"We're trying to make the best out of the situation," he said. "I don't consider



skateboarding to be only a white person's sport, and I don't consider black history to be only for African-Americans. You can't celebrate a culture if it's in a vacuum."

To many, it is an acceptable compromise.

"Even though it's sad to lose the history, the city intends to include a skateboarding area in the redesigned park," said Miki Vuckovich, executive director of the Tony Hawk Foundation in San Diego, which works to increase the number of skate parks. "We understand certain development progress requires space to be reallocated, but our hope is that the skateboarders' needs will not be forgotten."

Tampa's director of community affairs, Fred Hearn, who is pushing for the black history component, said he was happy with the initial plans.

"I think it's good that there was such widespread support for the skate park," Mr. Hearn said. "I respect that. It's a public park, and it's been there over 30 years."

While disappointed that the original skate park must go, Bill Bush, who skated the Bro Bowl in his youth and is a history professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, said replacing it was the "least worst option."

"There wasn't much of a chance of preserving the Bro Bowl in its current form," Professor Bush said. "Instead of somehow holding on to the old bowl, the skateboard community needs to put that behind them and focus on working together with everyone on the new one."

HISTORIC TAMPA SKATEBOARDING SITE TO BE MOVED by Roxanne Escobales  
10/20/06

Most people know that Tampa's fame lies in cigars. But for extreme sports enthusiasts round the world, Tampa is a famous skateboarding capital. And a piece of its skateboarding history is under threat from urban redevelopment.

[nat sound bro bowl then under for mike act] ACT:

20 year old Mike O'Brien has skateboarded at what's called the Bro Bowl for three and half years, although it's older than he is. The Bro Bowl in downtown Tampa is a public, open-air skateboarding site " a cement depression in the inner city Perry Harvey Park, painted green with mounds built into the middle. And it's one of the oldest such places in the country, built when the new sport skateboarding rolled out of California in the late 1970s. Yet soon, it may itself be history.

ACT: Brad 1

Brad Suder is the Tampa parks and recreation project manager in charge of redeveloping Perry Harvey Park, home of the Bro Bowl.

ACT: Brad 2

With its current proposed plans to be revealed on Monday at a public hearing, the city of Tampa will demolish the original Bro Bowl and rebuild it north of its current site. This disappoints local skateboarding enthusiasts, like David Miller.

ACT: David 1

Miller has skated at the bowl since 1985 and now takes his sons there. He's led calls to urge skateboarders around the world to write the city of Tampa in protest. The city's Brad Suder says he's received around 100 emails and 40 handwritten letters in support of keeping the Bro Bowl.

ACT: Brad 3

So what's the big deal about a 27-year-old cement depression bordered by housing projects to the east, the interstate to the north and downtown to the south? It's been touched by the wheels of the world's best known skateboarder. Tony Hawk. It's such an important spot, says David Miller, Hawk even put it in his video games.

ACT: David 2

[nat sound SPOT music then under] The Skatepark of Tampa opened in 1993 in a warehouse in the industrial part of East Columbus Drive. Retail manager Sean Albright says it's there in East Tampa where two of the biggest skateboarding events in the

country happen twice a year.

ACT: Sean 2

And there's a professional event that brings the likes of Tony Hawk, Mike Frazier and Andrew Reynolds.

ACT; Sean 3

After these events, the pros go to Bro Bowl for outdoor skateboarding. It's free and open to the public all day long. Albright says that's what makes it such an important part of the community.

ACT: sean 4

Tampa Parks and Rec project manager Brad Suder says that the city is dedicated to keeping skateboarding in the park, just in a different location. It's options are relocating it or destroying it altogether because the city is under orders from the Florida Department of Transportation to widen Orange Avenue, where the bowl is located.

But local skateboarder Mike O'Brien doesn't want to see the Bro Bowl go.

ACT: Mike 2 - don't tear it down?

The City of Tampa will hold its final public hearing on its plans to redevelop Perry Harvey Park at 5:30 pm Monday October 23 at Central Park Auditorium at 1000 India Street in Tampa. For more information call Brad Suder at 813 231 1336.

## Skateboarding

Plastered onto a parkbench on a downtown courthouse, where the steps are worn and the curbs are waxed for skateboarders' tricks, a bumpsticker reads "Skateboarding is not a crime." Many skaters assert that skateboarding is a serious sport, but they are countered by an opinionated contingent who believe that skating's codification into sport competitions has ruined skateboarding. However defined, skateboarding is a highly creative form of serious play that has had huge influence on contemporary culture.

Its relatively recent beginnings are related to the older sports of skiing and surfing. It is likely that rollerskaters adapted a prototypic version of the skateboard from a single skate by the 19th Century, but skateboarding's origin is unknown.

Documentation does exist that by the late 1950s, Californian youths created homemade skateboards by tinkering with an asphalt sled called a Flexi Flyer and sidewalk scooters. This technique of adapting and rearranging older materials to create something new remains a central aspect of skateboarding. Skaters are *bricoleurs*. They look at sites designed for varied uses such as water drainage and handicapped access and invent new terrain for skateboarding.

By the early 1960s, the first skateboards were commercially manufactured. Surf companies patterned their models after surfboards, and toy companies began producing their boards by 1964. A skateboarding craze swelled from California, and skateboard manufacturers sold millions of boards across the nation. With this early skateboard mania came concerns that remain part of skateboarding. Namely, the fad was seen as a dangerous activity tied to a subversive, anti-authoritarian ethos. In fact, skateboards of the 1960s were dangerous. The clay or metal wheels created major problems as they

gave skateboarders a rough, noisy ride. Emergency rooms treated countless skateboard injuries, skateboarders were killed in accidents, and the craze faded in a few years.

A key innovation in 1973 revived skateboarding. Frank Nasworthy created a new skateboard wheel from polyurethane. The new wheels not only absorbed small bumps on hard surfaces but they also kicked away the larger pebbles and stones that would ordinarily stop a steel or clay-composite wheel. This innovation remains the biggest influence on skateboarding, but other also engineers developed new boards and especially more sophisticated skateboard trucks, or the assembly that connects the wheels to the boards and allows for turning the entire wheel assembly.

The innovations created an even bigger skateboard craze that saw a burgeoning of skateboard manufacturing, skateboard shops, competitions, magazines, and eventually new parks specifically created for skateboarding. With the advances came new ways of riding, and skateboard teams such as the Z-Boys of the Dogtown neighborhood of Los Angeles invented new ways to skate by riding in empty drainage ditches, swimming pools, and irrigation pipes. Skateboarding was popular once again, and it even featured its stars. Tony Alva and Jay Adams, in particular, are credited with inventing the first aerial maneuvers, tricks that are now central to contemporary extreme sports.

This second wave had peaked, however, by the mid 1980s. Skateparks closed and skateboard magazines folded. After the sport's popularity had waned, there was a second revival in the mid 1990s. A range of influences created this resurgence. Skateboarding's status as the only sport approved by hardcore punkers fueled a revival within alternative subcultures. Skating on the streets with new tricks replaced the older style of skating in parks and pools. One of the biggest influences, however, was the

growing globalization of skateboarding and its connections to extreme sports. The major influence on this third wave of skateboarding is the skater and marketer Tony Hawk. He has combined his skateboarding prowess with his advocacy for competitions. The enormous popularity of X-game competitions, and the central role of skateboarding in these games, stems from directly from adaptation of a small toy once used on California's sidewalks.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sean Cliver, *Disposable: A History of Skateboard Art* (Ginkgo Press, 2004); Stacy Peralta and Craig Steyck, "Dog-Town and Z-Boys," (documentary film distributed by Sony Pictures, 2001); Jocko Weyland, *The Answer is Never: A Skateboarder's History of the World* (Grove Press, 2002).

Gregory Hansen  
Arkansas State University



Gabbert, James &lt;james\_gabbert@nps.gov&gt;

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**FW: Question about skateboarding**

2 messages

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**Mattick, Barbara** <Barbara.Mattick@dos.myflorida.com>

Fri, Apr 26, 2013 at 12:23 PM

To: "Gabbert, James" &lt;james\_gabbert@nps.gov&gt;

Barbara E. Mattick, Ph.D.

Historic Preservationist Supervisor &amp; Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Survey &amp; Registration | Bureau of Historic Preservation | Division of Historical Resources |

Florida Department of State | 500 South Bronough Street | Tallahassee, Florida 32399 | 850.245.6364 | 1.800.847.7278 | Fax: 850.245.6439 | www.flheritage.com | Barbara.Mattick@dos.myflorida.com

: <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/this-place-matters/sign.html>

-----Original Message-----

From: Waide, Blaine Q.

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 5:46 PM

To: Mattick, Barbara

Subject: FW: Question about skateboarding

A few paragraphs below might be worth reading. Blaine

@ItsWorkingFL: <https://twitter.com/ItsWorkingFL> The Department of State is leading the commemoration of Florida's 500th anniversary in 2013. For more information, please go to [www.fl500.com](http://www.fl500.com).

The Department of State is committed to excellence. Please take our Customer Satisfaction Survey: [http://survey.dos.state.fl.us/index.aspx?](http://survey.dos.state.fl.us/index.aspx?email=Blaine.Waide@DOS.MyFlorida.com)

email=Blaine.Waide@DOS.MyFlorida.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Gregory Hansen [mailto:ghansen@astate.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2013 7:38 AM

To: Waide, Blaine Q.  
Subject: RE: Question about skateboarding

Good Morning, Blaine.

I'm glad to hear that you're meeting Larry Mangum. Tell him that I said to say "Hello." Maybe you'll have the chance to hear some of his western swing band. He'll likely have some CDs for you. He also knows a lot of the musicians in the area. If you're over there, you may also have time to look up my friend Jack Piccalo. Jack was playing with an Irish group last I heard. He's a bluegrass and old-time banjo player, too. I probably mentioned to you that he introduced me to Richard Seaman.

One center for skateboarding in Jacksonville is the Kona skateboard park. It was built 40 years ago, during the "old school" phase of skateboarding. It's a major skateboard park for the east coast, and it's pretty important to the history of the sport. I don't know if it's even open anymore, but it was located off of Arlington Expressway, near the intersection with Atlantic Blvd.

A good hub, now, for finding skaters is the Aqua East Surf Shop. That's in Atlantic Beach (maybe Neptune Beach). To find it, just keep going out Atlantic Blvd. It's about 8 blocks from the ocean. You'll find it on the south side of the road. Aqua East is JAX's equivalent of Ron Jon's surf shop. They have gone into skateboarding equipment, too, and they'd be a good entry point for finding skaters. There's also some surfboard makers in the area, too. There are a few other surfshops at the beaches, or there were, and they'd likely have skateboard equipment and gear, too.

The skaterboarders that I knew have all grown up. Ben French would be about 40 now, and I doubt he lives in the area. There is an interview with him in the archives, though, and that might be useful to you. Bob Stone also did some fieldwork with skaters for the FL Folk Festival a few years ago. Maybe there's some more material in the archives from that event. I think it would have been about 1996. I'm glad to hear that you're looking into these younger communities. The newer styles of skateboarding are interesting. Some are "going retro," and they like the old school tricks like power slides and street skating for speed. I'm finding that my old boards from the 70s are becoming collectors' items. The newer wave was more into tricks on things like stairs and curbs, and they used a lot of interesting flips and pops.

Have you seen Stacey Peralta's film "Dog-Town and Z-Boys"? He's also done a good one on surfing called "Riding Giants." Both are great. They really delve into the history and ethos of the sports.

If you want to read a fun history of skateboarding, check out "The Answer is Never." When I get to work, I can send you a PDF of an article on skateboarding that I wrote for the encyclopedia of play.

If you get to Neptune Beach, check out Ragtime's Restaurant -- 2 blocks from the ocean. It's a brew pub, good food, and great jazz. Larry Mangum can tell you about the European Street restaurants. They often have a good range of music, too.

Ward's Landing had some interesting music on Sunday afternoons. They'd sometimes have some blues and jazz bands. Clark's Fish Camp is a restaurant well worth a visit. They don't have music at Clark's, but the food is terrific.

- Gregory

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From: Waide, Blaine Q. [Blaine.Waide@DOS.MyFlorida.com]



Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 4:39 PM  
To: Gregory Hansen  
Subject: Question about skateboarding

Hi Gregory,

Adam Watson has told me more than once about your work with skateboarders in Jacksonville. I just stumbled across an interesting event and/or community - I'm on Board art shows. The only requirement is that the art be made on skateboards. The show itself includes other bboy community traditions, such as DJs and breakdancing. I'll paste some links below:

<http://www.facebook.com/events/113026748869846/?suggestsessionid=1000035897741291357683117>

<http://vimeo.com/9853187>

<http://eyeswideawake.com/> (founder of the event, there is a link to the show on the top right)

You know the skateboarding community over there, at least its history/longevity, better than me. I'm eager to reach some younger communities and emerging traditions. What do you think?

Also, I'm meeting with Larry Mangum on Thursday. Thanks so much for all your help.

Best,  
Blaine

Blaine Q. Waide

State Folklorist | Bureau of Historic Preservation | Division of Historical Resources | Florida Department of State | 500 South Bronough Street | Tallahassee, Florida 32399 | 850.245.6427 | 1.800.847.7278 | Cell: 850.274.9121 | Fax: 850.245.6437 | [Blaine.Waide@dos.myflorida.com](mailto:Blaine.Waide@dos.myflorida.com) | [www.flheritage.com/preservation/folklife/](http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/folklife/) <<http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/folklife/>>

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The Department of State is leading the commemoration of Florida's 500th anniversary in 2013. For more information, please go to [www.fl500.com](http://www.fl500.com) <<http://www.fl500.com/>>.

The Department of State is committed to excellence.

Please take our Customer Satisfaction Survey<<http://survey.dos.state.fl.us/index.aspx?email=Blaine.Waide@DOS.MyFlorida.com>>.

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**4 attachments**




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**Mattick, Barbara** <Barbara.Mattick@dos.myflorida.com>

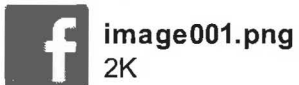
Fri, Apr 26, 2013 at 12:25 PM

To: "Gabbert, James" <james\_gabbert@nps.gov>

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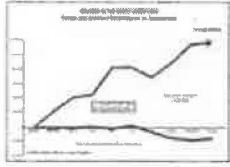
**4 attachments**





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5K



**vivaf145.png**

2K