



# Sulphur Springs

MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER

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Tampa, Florida



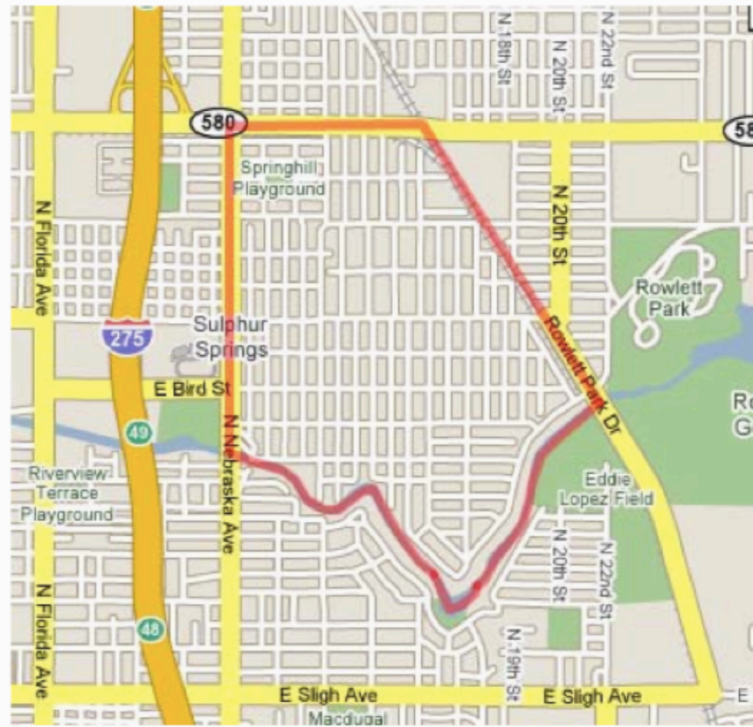


Hillsborough County 1874. Source: Columbus Drew, *LC Railroad Maps* (Jacksonville, FL: Columbus Drew, 1874) 195 Map Credit: Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division. View map online at <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/pages/10800/f10889/f10889.htm> Courtesy of the Florida Center for Instructional Technology, <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/>

## Mission

To celebrate and preserve the history of Sulphur Springs, a neighborhood community that helped shape Tampa, Florida.

**Figure 1. Map of Sulphur Springs**



# Map of Sulphur Springs

Spillane, Courtney

2007 *Reconstructing the Past: Heritage Research and Preservation Activities in Tampa Bay Communities*. M.A. thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida.

# The Other Side of Leisure in Sulphur Springs

Excerpts from a paper by Ja'Nay Armstrong

Prepared for 2007 USF Summer Heritage Research  
Experience for Undergraduates

In spite of their less than favorable situation, Spring Hill's youngsters developed ingenious way to spend their precious time. Some of them used to "pill around," as Jonas Taylor would say, in a sort of jungle valley affectionately known as the *Bottom*. The *Bottom*, in all its heavily forested glory, was a favorite play spot for many generations of Spring Hill kids. The wealth of information I received about the *Bottom* came from community elders from two different generations. The younger of the two, a Mr. Marcus Jackson, unknowingly answered a burning question I had about the meaning behind the Bottom's name. Nearly at the end of a short community tour he was leading, he suggested that the Sulphur Springs group pull over to the side of Taliaferro Avenue and pile out of our non air-conditioned USF van. As we filed out of the muggy van, he pointed to the wooded area and stated that "the reason that they call it the *Bottom* is "cause the street actually goes down, then back up. So the *Bottom* was actually like the trench area."

[Marcus Jackson conversation with author, June 5, 2007]

Marcus Jackson is a pseudonym for the informant's real name.

Click here to play >> [VR Movie](#)

## VR Movie: Sulphur Springs



A view of Sulphur Springs, circa 1909.

*Produced by the Florida Center for Instructional Technology from a photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division [digital ID number pan 6a03425].*

*Credit: Panorama movie. <http://fcit.usf.edu/FLORIDA/vr/attractions/vr00158a.htm>*

*For more Florida Virtual Reality Movies go to <http://fcit.usf.edu/FLORIDA/vr/vr.htm>*

# Sulphur Springs in 3D!



Scan courtesy of The Florida State Archives, Tallahassee, Florida. Image retouched and converted to anaglyph in 2005 by the Florida Center for Instructional Technology at the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida. View this image using 3D glasses with the red lens over the left eye and the blue lens over the right eye. [More Florida 3D](#)

# The Arcade - Then



Arcade-1800 block of Nebraska  
(before)

The Arcade – constructed by Richardson between 1925 and 1927 to foster tourism in the area. The lower floors made up America’s first mall which had a bakery, barber shop, pool hall, liquor store, grocery, 2 pharmacies, furniture and appliance store, jeweler, and a five & dime The upper story had 39 hotel rooms as well as 14 apartments and offices.



Arcade-1800 block of Nebraska

In 1927 Richardson mortgaged the property to build the water tower. In 1933 the Tampa Electric Company Dam collapsed and flooded Sulphur Springs. This caused financial crisis when combined with the great depression and Richardson had to sell when he could not pay the mortgage.

# Sulphur Springs Pool Complex- Then



**-Pool-713 East Bird St (before)**

- The pool was fed by the Spring itself and the 72°f water was touted for its rich healing capabilities.
- In 1906 a toboggan slide, high dive, white sand beach, bath house, and gazebo were added to foster tourism. A gator farm next to the pool to shock the middle class or tin can tourists. In 1916 admission to the pool was \$.05.



# Sulphur Springs Pool Complex- Now



*(Photo by PJW)*

- The pool was closed in 1986 due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria that seeped into the spring from sinkholes and storm water runoff.
- A new pool complex was built around the original site in 2000, where visitors still reminisce about their formative years spent at the spring and pass the experience on to new generations.

# Harbor Club



Back of the Harbor club.

The Harbor Club formerly the tourist clubhouse was founded in 1937 by a group of Michigan and Ohio tourists. It was once an all white club. Finally in 1984 membership to the tourist clubhouse fell down to 100 and the club was closed. It was renamed the Historical Harbor club which is now a restaurant. It also housed different events such as the Poetry slam or parades. What remains from the old Harbor club is this metal parking plaque entangled in the tree on which it was fixed.



Front of the Harbor Club.

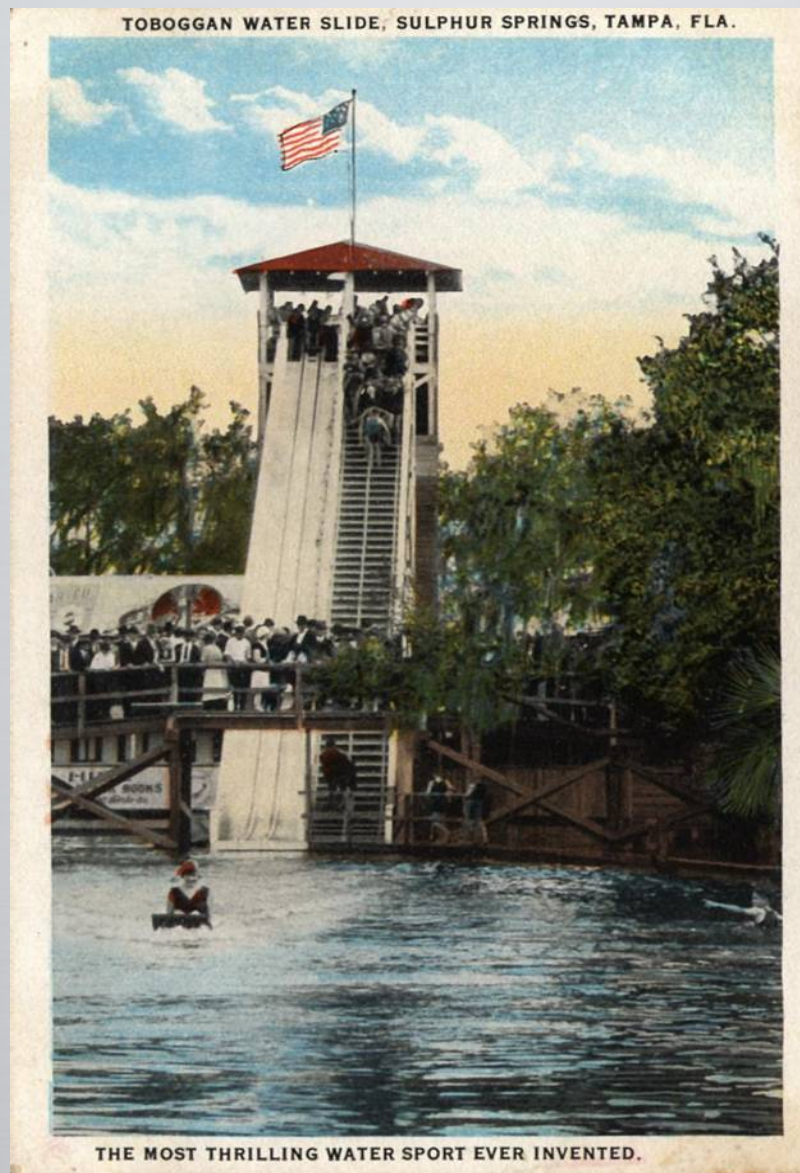


Image courtesy of University of South Florida Special Collections



Swimming pool with high diving platform, swimmers, spectators surrounding buildings, cars, streetlights and telephone wires.

Image courtesy of University of South Florida Special Collections

# Water Tower

- Richardson built a water tower to supply adequate water pressure to his developments
- 210 foot concrete water tower with a 45 foot deep foundation still stands today.

# Sulphur Springs Theatre - Then

- Built in 1938
- 300 seat theatre
- Art deco style



# Sulphur Springs Theatre - Now

Throughout the years, the theatre has served various functions including a movie house, auction house, Beacon Press and is currently a recording studio and graphic design company.



# Acknowledgements

- Norma Robinson and Joseph Robinson of the Sulphur Springs Museum and Heritage Center Board.
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- USF Department of Anthropology, Issues in Heritage Tourism Classes Instructor: Dr. Antoinette Jackson. Special thanks to 2009 for their construction of the website including



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