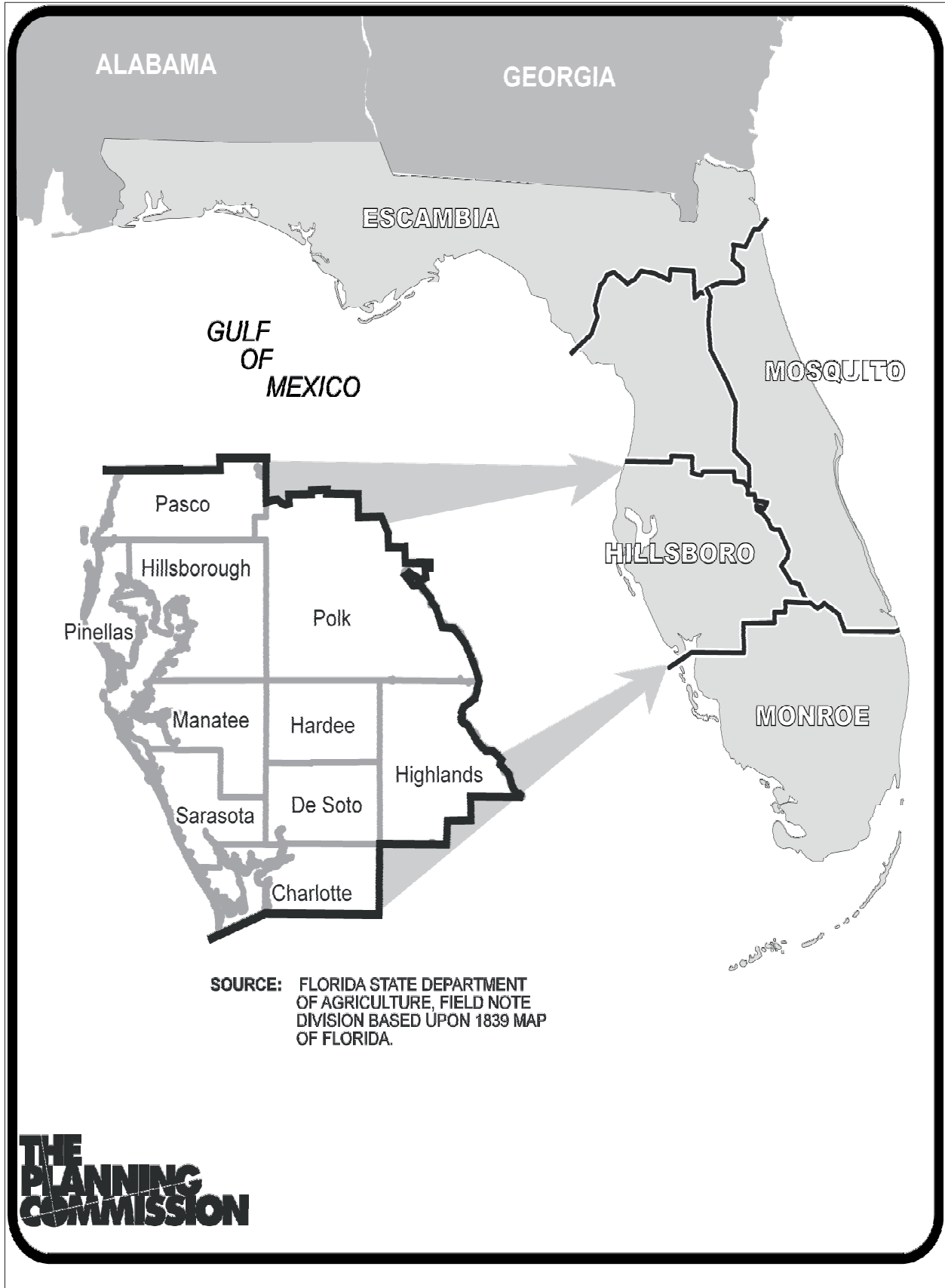


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# **OUR HISTORY**



**1834 POLITICAL BOUNDARY  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**





# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

The Spanish conquistadores were the first European explorers to enter the shores of Hillsborough County. In 1528, Panflo de Narvaez and Hernando Desoto landed in what is now known as Hillsborough County. Their arrival in the early 16th Century started the European settlement in Hillsborough County. Prior to the arrival of the Spanish explorers, the Indian tribes of the Muskogans, Tomogans, Caloosas, Creeks, Tocobagas and Seminoles were already settled in the area now called Hillsborough County. The United States took possession of Hillsborough County in 1821. On January 25, 1834, a portion of the Florida Indian Territory was divided into Florida's 19th County and named "Hillsboro County" (see an attached map). Originally, Hillsborough County's geographic area was 8,580 square miles of land and water. This area was bounded to the North by Alachua County, to the east by Musquito County, to the South by the Caloosahatche River and to the West by the Gulf of Mexico. Today, this region contains the counties of Pasco, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Desoto, Charlotte, Highlands, Hardee and Pinellas.



## 1847

- The original town plat for the City of Tampa was recorded with many familiar street names including Franklin (Benjamin Franklin) and Ashley Streets. Ashley Street was named after a longtime Tampa resident named William Ashley.

## 1849

- Covering an area of 3-square miles of land and 3-square miles of inland water, the City of Tampa was incorporated as a municipality with a population of 125 residents.

## 1849

- The City of Tampa was incorporated twice. The original incorporation was terminated by voters. The City reincorporated in 1855 with a new charter and full government.

## 1856

- Manatee County was officially established and separated from Hillsborough County. Five years later (1861), the eastern part of Hillsborough County was named Polk County.

## 1860

- Hillsborough County's population rose from 2,979 residents in 1860 to 5,814 residents in 1880. The increase in the county's population was due in part to the

Homestead Act of 1862 which entitled settlers to 160 acres of land.

**1884**

- Henry Plant, built the City of Tampa's first railroad system, which started an economic expansion in the City. Spanish and Cuban cigar workers moved their families and businesses to Tampa.

**1885**

- The City of Plant City was incorporated with a population of 349 residents. The geographic area of the City was one-mile-square bounded by Calhoun Road, Carey Street, Alsobrook Road and Knight Street.

**1886**

- Vincente Martinez Ybor founded and settled in Ybor City. The City of Tampa later became known as the "Cigar Capital of the World."

**1887**

- The northern part of Hillsborough County is separated and named Pasco County.

**1898**

- The Rough Riders, under the command of Teddy Roosevelt camped and trained in Tampa during the Spanish American War.

**1912**

- Pinellas County's plan to split from Hillsborough County was approved by the Florida Legislature.

**1922**

- Local World-War-1 hero, Captain Dale Mabry dies in a civilian plane crash along with 33 others. Today, Dale Mabry Highway bears Captain Dale Mabry's name.

**1923**

- A land area of 9.9 square miles of Hillsborough County was annexed to the City of Tampa. The annexation expanded Tampa's corporate boundary north to the Hillsborough River and southwest to the Hookers Point industrial area.

**1925**

- Temple Terrace is officially incorporated as a municipality in Hillsborough County.

### **1938**

- The Works Progress Administration brought \$1 million worth of capital improvements to Bayshore Boulevard, including its famous balustrades.

### **1939**

- Construction begins on the airfield now known as the MacDill Air Force Base.

### **1947**

- The Tampa Bay Downs, a horse racing track, opens in Oldsmar.

### **1960**

- The Howard Frankland Bridge opens.

### **1971**

- The new Tampa International Airport (TIA) opens.

### **1974**

- The 27th franchise of the National Football League (NFL) was awarded to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

### **1983**

- Hillsborough County voters approved a Home Rule Charter for the county in a countywide referendum. The county's Board of County Commissioners adopted an ordinance for a Home Rule Charter.

### **1990**

- The Tampa Convention Center opens in downtown Tampa. The Tampa Bay area gets a National Hockey League team, the Tampa Bay Lightning.

### **1995**

- Major League Baseball owners officially welcomed the Tampa Bay Devil Rays to St. Petersburg as the 13th expansion team in Major League history.

### **1996**

- Hillsborough County voters passed the Community Investment Tax to fund education, road construction, police and fire department services. Tampa Bay Water is formed to provide wholesale water to Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas Counties.

**2001**

- Hillsborough County's population topped 1,000,000 at 1,027,530 on April 1, 2001.

**2003**

- A record number of single-family units (10,127) are issued in Hillsborough County, primarily to residential developments in southern Hillsborough County.

