

# Staff Report for Landmark Designation



Application #: DES-26-002

Proposed Landmark: Plant-Sumner House, Heritage Village Museum & Park, Largo

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Property name: **The Plant-Sumner House**

Street address: 11909 125th Street Community: Largo (unincorporated)

Applicant: Monica Drake, Historical Museum Operations Manager

Property owner: Pinellas County

Request: Staff-initiated application for the designation of the historic resource located at 11909 125<sup>th</sup> Street commonly known as the Plant-Sumner House located in Heritage Village, a part of the Pinewood Cultural Park, as a Landmark on a Landmark Site as per Sec. 146-6(a), Pinellas County Code.

Prepared by: Tom Scofield, Principal Planner, Historic Preservation Specialist, Pinellas County Housing & Community Development Department

Prepared for: The Pinellas County Historic Preservation Board

Public hearing scheduled for **Wednesday, January 21, 2026**, beginning at 1:00 p.m., in the Assembly Room, Pinellas County Courthouse, 5th Floor, 315 Court Street, Clearwater.

The following Exhibits are included as attachments to this staff report:

- Exhibit A – Current Photos (includes figures A-1 through A-14)
- Exhibit B – Historic Images (includes figures B-1 through B-3)
- Exhibit C – Location Maps (includes figures C-1 through C-4)
- Exhibit D – Application for Landmark on a Landmark Site
- Exhibit E – Florida Master Site File Form for Plant-Sumner House
- Exhibit F – Floor Plan
- Exhibit G – Historical Overview

## **Part 1 – PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION** [as per Sec. 146-6(d)(1)a, Pinellas County Code]

### **Property Location** [as provided by the Pinellas County Property Appraiser's Office]

Parcel ID Number: 09-30-15-00000-230-0100

Legal Description: The Heritage Village museum campus is located on the land parcel identified as the West ½ of the West ½ of Section 09, Township 30, Range 15 lying East and South of Ulmerton Road and East of County Road 123 less Walsingham Road on the South and less the East 60 feet of the Northwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼ also less that part described commencing at the Southwest

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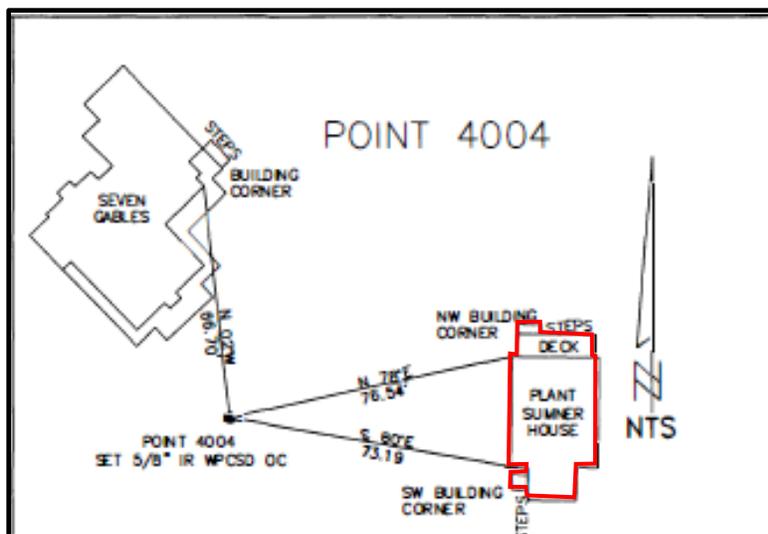
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corner of the Southwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ then South 89 degrees, 09 minutes, 32 seconds East 329.48 feet then North 17 degrees, 38 minutes, 19 seconds East 205.54 feet for the point-of-beginning then North 17 degrees, 38 minutes, 19 seconds East 1,091.76 feet then curve right radius 1,837.86 feet arc 77.80 feet chord bearing North 18 degrees, 51 minutes, 04 seconds East 77.79 feet then South 89 degrees, 05 minutes, 07 seconds East 341.48 feet then South 07 degrees, 30 minutes, 44 seconds West 1,128 feet then North 88 degrees, 59 minutes, 16 seconds West 550 feet to the point-of-beginning per O.R. 16892/2147 containing 92.26 acres.

On the museum campus, the northwest building corner of The Plant Sumner House is located 76.54 feet at a bearing of North 78° East and the southwest building corner is located 73.19 feet at a bearing of South 60° East from a survey monument established as POINT 4004 on the survey document titled 'HERITAGE PARK 2003 SURVEY' as prepared by the Division of Survey & Mapping, Pinellas County Public Works Department (location is depicted in the image below).

## Maps of Property to be Designated [as per Sec. 146-6(c)(5), Pinellas County Code]



### Proposed Landmark Site for The Plant-Sumner House, Heritage Village

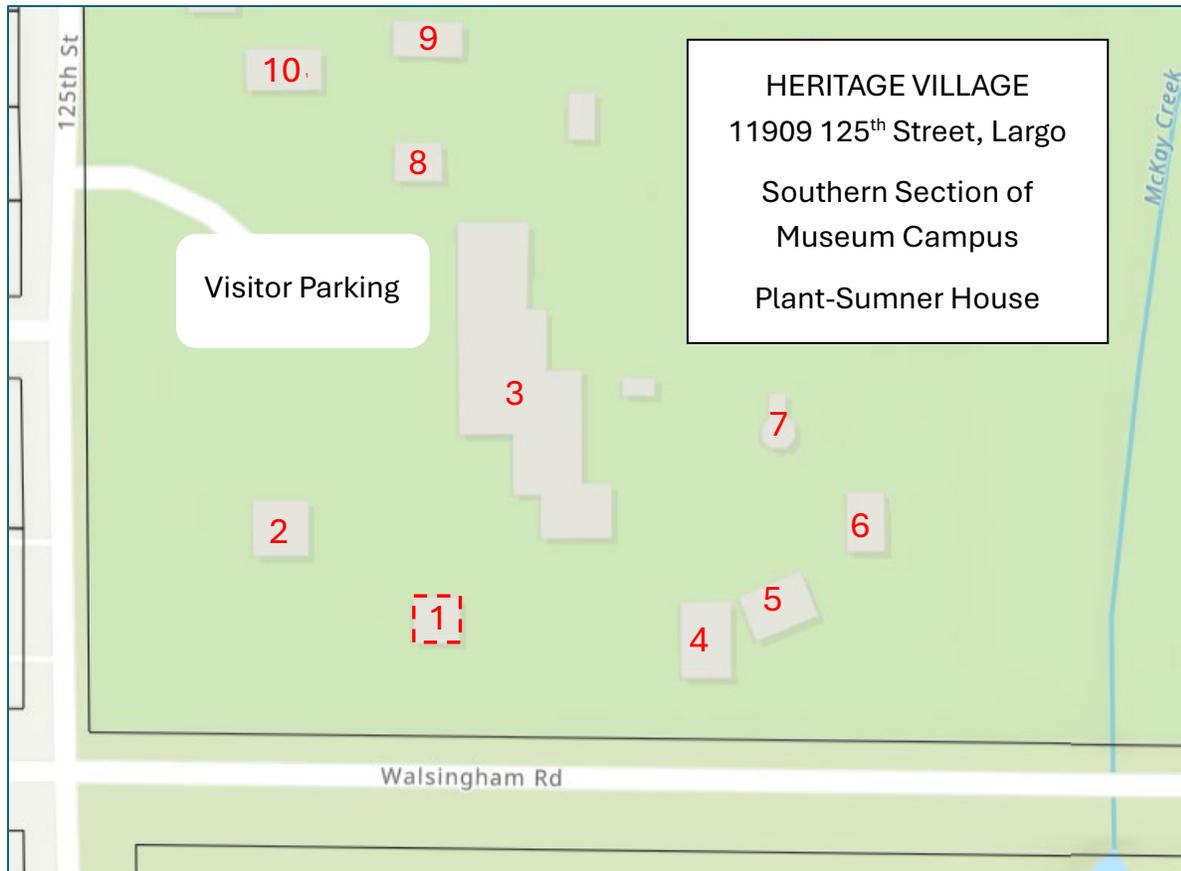
The Landmark Site, as per the definition provided in Sec. 146-1, Pinellas County Code, is proposed to be the area beneath the eaves, porches and steps of the building as indicated by the red line in the image above. This map detail has been taken from a survey document titled 'HERITAGE PARK 2003 SURVEY' as prepared by the Division of Survey & Mapping, Pinellas County Public Works Department, November 2003.

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 = Resource proposed for designation as a Landmark on a Landmark Site as per Sec. 146-6 Pinellas County Code

1. The Plant-Sumner House (subject of this application)
2. House of Seven Gables
3. Heritage Village visitor center & administrative offices
4. Safety Harbor Church
5. Safford Pavilion
6. Sponge Warehouse
7. Boyer Cottage
8. Madeira Beach Cottage
9. McMullen-Coachman Log Cabin
10. Sulphur Springs Depot

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## **Physical Description of Resource** [as per Sec. 146-6(d)(1)a, Pinellas County Code]

Resource: **The Plant-Sumner House**

Resource type: Building (currently a museum exhibit--formerly a single-family multi-family residence)

Photographs: Current photos provided in Exhibit A of this staff report; historical photos provided in Exhibit B

Date of construction: 1896

Architectural style: Frame vernacular (Folk Victorian)

Architect: Unknown Builder: Unknown

Architectural description:

*Exterior:* This 2-story wood-frame building with front-facing gable follows a rectangular plan and is topped by a moderately-pitched gable roof covered in cedar shakes. The 2-bay façade is located on the north side of the building facing the interior of Heritage Village Museum & Park. A single-story, shed-roofed porch extends the full width of the front with bracketed posts, a spindle band, stick balustrade, wooden steps, and handrail. One large brick chimney is located on the interior of the east wall just beyond the midpoint of the building.

The first floor of the façade consists of a wood and glass panel entrance door flanked by a single, 2/2-light, double-hung wood sash window. The second story of the façade features two similar windows that are aligned with the fenestration of the first floor. The east and west sides of the house also have similar type windows—three on the first floor and five on the second floor. At the rear of the house is located a one-story, shed roofed kitchen ell which has a single 2/2-light window in its south wall and doorways on its side elevations. Beside the west rear entrance, in the end wall of the main block of the house is a single 2/2-light double-hung sash window. Next to the east doorway is a 2-light hopper window that surmounts a small storage bay and illuminates the dining room. The second story features a pair of 2/2-light windows.

The exterior is primarily clad with wood, horizontal drop siding. There are two louvered attic vents on each gable end of the house. The foundation for the building consists of brick-faced masonry piers placed at building corners and evenly spaced along the sill beams.

*Interior:* The room layout reflects a middle-class sensibility and a simplicity of design that is redolent of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century home. The house contains seven spacious rooms--the first floor contains a foyer, with the stairs to the second floor located immediately to the right of the entrance, a living room, dining room, and kitchen. At the top of the stairs is a short transverse hall that

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provides access to the three bedrooms and a single bathroom. The bathroom includes a pull-chain commode, 7-foot-long claw foot tub, and plaster walls above and below wood wainscoting.

Character defining features:

- All building elements, features, and details associated with the exterior and interior of the building as described in the Architectural Description above.

Existing conditions:

- Heritage Village conducts quarterly inspections as well as a more in-depth annual inspection of the Plant-Sumner House. The [most recent inspection](#) conducted in October 2025 included the following observations:
  - Handrail and porch post on south-west porch is split requiring repair.
  - Some tree debris seen on the roof. Nearby tree should be cut back to provide more opportunity for shingles to dry out and less debris buildup on roof.

Threats:

- Currently, there are no immediate threats to this building.
- Over the long term it is important that hurricane straps be installed on the building at roof-wall and wall-foundation connections to better fortify the structure against high winds.

Rehabilitative or adaptive reuse proposals:

- Adaptive Reuse: The Plant-Sumner house shall remain as an exhibit at Heritage Village for the foreseeable future.
- Rehabilitation/Restoration: A restoration plan will be prepared for this building as part of the 5-year work plan for Heritage Village. A floor plan is attached in Exhibit F.

## **Part 2 – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** [as per Sec. 146-6(d)(1)b, Pinellas County Code]

**Historical Overview** (see Exhibit G in this staff report for a detailed historical narrative)

**Period of significance for resource:** c. 1896-1934; 1976-1977

- **First Period of Significance, The Plant & Sumner ownerships, 1896-1934:** The Plant ownership of the Plant-Sumner House begins with its construction circa 1896 as ordered by Henry B. Plant as part of the complex of buildings associated with the Belleview Hotel. The

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Belleview was one of the many assets associated with the Plan Investment Corporation that included the Plant System of railroads and steamship lines throughout the southeastern United States, and several luxury resort hotels in Florida. The Plant-Sumner House was originally located near the Belleview Hotel—later the Belleview Biltmore and now the Belleview Inn. This house was among several dwellings that Plant had constructed to provide homes for managers and their families during hotel construction. After construction of the hotel was completed, the house served as the residence for the railroad manager responsible for the railroad spur connecting the hotel property to the main line at the Clearwater Depot. When the house was built, it was equipped with what was considered “modern” facilities for 1896--electricity, running water, an ice box, and indoor plumbing. In addition to these conveniences the house provided seven spacious rooms to accommodate a growing family. Although the names of the families who lived in the house under Plant’s ownership have not yet been discovered and Henry Plant would never have stayed here, his name has been attributed to the house as recognition for the substantial investment he made in the expansion of the City of Clearwater and the Town of Belleair and the development of the central Gulf Coast of Florida in the Late Victorian era.

By the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Henry Plant had passed away and the employee residences associated with the hotel complex no longer served a useful purpose to those who were managing the exclusive resort. Hotel officials sold the dwellings at low prices with the understanding that the new owners would move the houses away from the Belleview. Two gentlemen by the name of Newman and Brown, purchased the Plant-Sumner House and had it moved about a half mile east to “A” Street just off Fort Harrison Avenue. In 1912, Robert and Louise Sumner, having recently moved from Maitland, Florida, purchased the house and moved in with their four children. Mr. Sumner worked locally as the Belleair Postmaster and was minister at Belmont Park Methodist Church. With experience in the dairy industry, the family also kept cows on their property and sold milk products to neighbors. Although the Sumners occupied the “A” Street residence for over 40 years, the Sumner family made substantial improvements to the house including a modernized kitchen and side porches in 1934 and a second bathroom on the west side of the house in 1950. Because none of these

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later improvements were saved after the move to Heritage Village and are not currently seen on the house, 1934 has been selected as the end of the First Period of Significance.

- **Second Period of Significance, Heritage Village, 1976-1977:** In May 1973, members of the Clearwater Junior League and Seminole Chapter of The Questers, an international nonprofit dedicated to keeping history alive through education, preservation, and the funding of restoration projects, were told by Ralph Reed, County Historian, that the Plant-Sumner House on “A” Street in Clearwater was to be sold. The new owner had plans to either burn down or demolish the structure, so the organizations joined forces launching the effort to save the structure. Intense lobbying directed at the Pinellas County Historical Commission and the Board of County Commissioners saved Plant-Sumner from the pyre or trash pile. The house faced a massive renovation and a much-anticipated relocation to the site of the county’s open-air museum, then called Heritage Park, along Walsingham Road. In 1976 Plant-Sumner became the first house transported to Heritage Village. Although termites had destroyed significant portions of the home, the Junior League of Clearwater raised \$50,000 for reconstruction costs, and the local chapter of the Questers provided interior furnishings. Not only did the efforts of the Junior League members save this house; their advocacy encouraged the creation of Heritage Village and brought substantial historic preservation grants to Pinellas County during America’s Bicentennial.

In 2026, Heritage Village will proudly commemorate its 50th anniversary, coinciding with America’s 250th celebration. This is a significant milestone, as it marks 50 years since the 1976 Bicentennial movement, which inspired the creation of numerous historical organizations and societies, along with the establishment of open-air museums like Heritage Village throughout the nation.

- Refer to Exhibit G, *Historical Overview* for additional detailed historical information about the Plant-Sumner House.

## **Historic Resource Integrity** [as per Sec. 146-6(e)(1), Pinellas County Code]

Among the significance criteria to be considered for the designation of a local landmark is the integrity of the historic resources found on the proposed landmark site regarding location, design,

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setting, materials, workmanship, and association. The following evaluation is provided for each of these elements:

*First period of significance, 1896-1934 (The Plant & Sumner ownerships):*

- Yes  No *Location* – The Plant-Sumner House was originally located in on the Bellview Hotel grounds and later on “A” Street in Clearwater. Integrity of location for this period of significance was lost when the Plant-Sumner House was moved to Heritage Village.
- Yes  No *Design* – The Plant Sumner House currently conveys the appearance of its design as a single-family residence constructed circa 1896 through 1934 when significant additions were made to the home by the Sumner family. Integrity of architectural style, form, plan, massing, proportion, and scale for the building is in place and maintained for the First Period of Significance.
- Yes  No *Setting* – The setting for the Plant-Sumner House changed three times. Originally located on the grounds of the Bellview Hotel, it was moved off the grounds to “A” Street in the early 1900s in Clearwater and then moved again in 1976 to Heritage Village in Largo. Integrity of setting was lost for this period of significance when the house moved to Heritage Village.
- Yes  No *Materials* – Much of the original materials used in the construction of the Plant Sumner House were severely damaged by termites destroying much of the home. After its move to Heritage Village significant portions of the house were reconstructed.
- Yes  No *Workmanship* – While additional research of early records may establish a better understanding of the house’s original date of construction, one can assume that the house resembled its current appearance by 1896 and, therefore, reflects the quality of workmanship demanded by Henry Plant in the construction of the Belleview Hotel complex.
- Yes  No *Association* – The association of the Plant-Sumner House with other buildings on the Belleview Hotel property and the surrounding neighborhood in Clearwater when it was moved to “A” Street were lost when it was moved to Heritage Village.

*Second period of significance, 1976-1977 (Heritage Village):*

- Yes  No *Location* – The Plant-Sumner House was moved to Heritage Village in 1976. The house has been a part of the Heritage Village Museum & Park for 50 years.
- Yes  No *Design* – After the Plant-Sumner House was moved to Heritage Village in 1976, a decision was made to restore the building to its appearance between 1896-1934

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before the Sumner family made substantial improvements including the kitchen, side porches, and second bathroom. Integrity of architectural style, form, plan, massing, proportion, and scale for the building is in place and maintained.

Yes  No Setting – In 1976, the Plant-Sumner House was moved to Heritage Village in Largo. It was the first building to be relocated to “Heritage Park” an open-air museum that was created as part of the American Bicentennial movement during the same year.

Yes  No Materials – Much of the original materials used in the construction of the Plant Sumner House were severely damaged by termites destroying much of the home. After its move to Heritage Village significant portions of the house were reconstructed.

Yes  No Workmanship – While additional research of early records may establish a better understanding of the house’s original date of construction, one can assume that the house resembled its current appearance by 1896 and, therefore, reflects the quality of workmanship demanded by Henry Plant in the construction of the Belleview Hotel complex.

Yes  No Association – The Plant-Sumner House is directly associated with other historic buildings that have been moved to Heritage Village Museum & Park since the facility opened in 1976. As shown in the “Map of Property to be Designated” above, five (5) historic buildings are in the immediate vicinity of the Plant-Sumner House (the dates in parentheses indicate *year built/year moved*): The House of Seven Gables (c. 1907/1976); Safety Harbor Church (1905/1977); McMullen-Coachman Log Cabin (1852/1977); Boyer Cottage (1878/1978); and the Safford Pavilion (c. 1890/1982). Also nearby, is the Heritage Village visitor center, archives and library which was constructed as a new building on site and opened to the public in 1977. The five historic buildings moved to the site would have otherwise been destroyed and by preserving them at Heritage Village provide an important connection to the history of communities in Pinellas County evoking a strong association with the past from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. All six of the buildings listed above provide a direct, tangible link to the first decade of operation of Heritage Village Museum & Park.

## **General Significance Criteria** [as per Sec. 146-6(e)(1), Pinellas County Code]

Among the significance criteria to be considered for the designation of a local landmark are general factors regarding the resource’s role in local, state and/or national history; association with persons contributing to the history of the county; architectural merit; and archaeological value or potential.

The following evaluation is provided for each of these elements:

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- a. *The resources are associated with distinctive elements of the cultural, social, political, economic, scientific, religious, prehistoric, or architectural history that have contributed to the pattern of history in the community, the county, southwestern Florida, the state or nation.*

Yes  No

First period of significance, 1896-1934 (The Plant & Sumner ownerships): Refer to the historical summary for this period provided on pages 5-7 above and Exhibit G, *Historical Overview*.

Second period of significance, 1976-1977 (Heritage Village): Refer to the historical summary for this period provided on page 7 above and Exhibit G, *Historical Overview*.

- b. *The resources are associated with the lives of persons significant in the county's past.*

Yes  No

First period of significance, 1896-1934: The Plant-Sumner House is associated with persons significant to national, state, and local history. Henry B. Plant was a businessman and entrepreneur well-known during the American Victorian era. Chairman of the Plant Investment Corporation among his holdings he owned the Plant System of railroads and steamship lines throughout the southeastern United States, and several luxury resort hotels in Florida.

Henry's son, Morton F. Plant, consolidated the Plant System of railroads into the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad after his father's death in 1898. Morton was instrumental in Clearwater's early development, including providing an endowment of \$100,000 to establish a hospital for the growing city. The present-day Morton Plant Hospital originally opened in the mid-1910s and often appeared on early city maps as the "Plant Endowed Hospital." The younger Plant remained an important nationally known business figure and civic leader until his death in 1918.

Robert Sumner is a person significant to local history as the Belleair Postmaster and pastor at Belmont Park Methodist Church.

Second period of significance, 1976-77 (Heritage Village): Important local advocates and stakeholders of the day involved in the saving of the Plant-Sumner House and the founding of Heritage Village include: the First County Historian, Ralph Reed; members of the Junior League of Clearwater; President Margaret Roy of the Questers; members of the Pinellas County Historic Commission including G.L. Pucci, Chairman, and George Gramling, who subsequently authored the "statement of purpose" for Heritage Park. Other important actors included former Clearwater City Commissioner and architect, Don Williams, and former County Commissioner, Don Jones.

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- c. *The resources embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style or method of construction or are the work of a master; or that possess high artistic value; or that represent a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.*

Yes  No

The Plant-Sumner house is a frame vernacular dwelling typically described as “Folk Victorian” in type. At the time it was constructed it was equipped with what was considered “modern” facilities for 1896--electricity, running water, an ice box, and indoor plumbing.

- d. *The resources have yielded, or are likely to yield, information on history or prehistory.*

Yes  No

This significance criterion is typically applied to archaeological sites. Since the Plant Sumner-House was moved from its original location in Clearwater, there is not likely to be any archaeological deposits of historical interest associated with the house at its current location in Heritage Village.

- e. *The resources are listed or have been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*

Yes  No

The Plant Sumner House is not currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Also, no official determination of National Register eligibility has been provided by the Florida Division of Historical Resources or National Park Service. However, a statement has been made by staff at the Florida Division of Historical Resources that open-air historical museums consisting of relocated historic buildings that were established as part of the American Bicentennial, such as Heritage Village, might be considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Historic/Cultural Significance Criteria** [as per Sec. 146-6(e)(2), Pinellas County Code]

A historic resource shall be deemed to have historic or cultural significance if it fulfills one or more of the following criteria:

- a. *The resources are associated with the life or activities of a person of importance in local, state, or national history.*

Yes  No

The significance statement provided under criterion Sec. 146-6(e)(1)b above also applies to this criterion for persons of importance in local history that were associated with the Plant-Sumner House. Also, refer to Exhibit G, *Historical Overview* for additional detailed information on these persons of interest.

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- b. *It is the site of a historic event with a significant effect upon the county, state or nation.*

Yes  No

The significance statement provided under criterion Sec. 146-6(e)(1)a above also applies to this criterion for Heritage Village's local association with the national celebration of the American Bicentennial during the Second Period of Significance, 1976-77.

- c. *The resources are associated in a significant way with a major historic event.*

Yes  No

No historic event that meets this criterion is known to be associated with this property.

- d. *The resources are exemplary of the historical, political, cultural, economic, or social trends of the community in history.*

Yes  No

The significance statement provided under criterion Sec. 146-6(e)(1)a above also applies to this criterion for the association of the Plant-Sumner House with the historical, cultural, economic, and social trends of history in the community of Clearwater and Belleair for the First Period of Significance, c.1896-1934 and the historical, cultural, and social trends in the Pinellas County community for the Second Period of Significance, 1976-77.

- e. *The resources are associated in a significant way with a past or continuing institution which has contributed substantially to the life of the community.*

Yes  No

The Plant-Sumner House is associated in a significant way with the History of Heritage Village Museum & Park, a Pinellas County Parks & Conservation Resources educational program and the Pinellas County Historical Society, a continuing institution that has contributed substantially to the life of the Pinellas County community since its establishment in the 1960s.

## **Architectural/Aesthetic Significance Criteria** [as per Sec. 146-6(e)(3), Pinellas County Code]

A historic resource shall be deemed to have architectural or aesthetic significance if it fulfills one or more of the following criteria:

- a. *The resource portrays the environment in an era of history characterized by one or more distinctive design element or architectural styles.*

Yes  No

This dwelling is a typical example of "Folk Victorian" frame vernacular architecture of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century representing the front-gabled roof subtype. While the two-story form is most common in the northeastern states, influences for its construction may have been brought

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with the builder who was hired by Henry Plant to provide housing for construction workers building the Belleview Hotel. Notable is the modern conveniences provided at its time of construction such as electricity, running water, indoor plumbing, and an ice box all available to the residence because of its association with the Belleview Hotel complex.

- b. *The Plant Sumner House embodies the characteristics of an architectural style, period or method of construction.*

Yes  No

This dwelling is a typical example of “Folk Victorian” frame vernacular architecture of the late 19th century representing the front-gabled roof subtype. While the two-story form is most common in the northeastern states, influences for its construction may have been brought with the builder who was hired by Henry Plant to provide housing for construction workers building the Belleview Hotel. The Plant-Sumner House also exemplifies late 19th-century craftsmanship using native pine and hand-finished joinery.

- c. *The resource is a historic or outstanding work of a prominent architect, designer, or landscape architect.*

Yes  No

The resource is not a historic or outstanding work of a prominent architect, designer, or landscape architect.

- d. *The resource contains elements of design, detail, material, or craftsmanship which are of outstanding quality or which represented, in its time, a significant innovation, adaptation or response to the southwest Florida environment.*

Yes  No

The Plant-Sumner House does not contain elements of design, detail, material, or craftsmanship which are of outstanding quality or represents significant innovation, adaptation or response to the southwest Florida environment.

## **Staff Recommendation** [as per Sec. 146-6(d)(1)f, Pinellas County Code]

It is the recommendation of the staff liaison for the Pinellas County Historic Preservation Board that the historic building known as The Plant-Sumner House, associated with the Heritage Village Museum & Park located at 11909 125<sup>th</sup> Street in the unincorporated portion of Largo as depicted on the Map of Property to be Designated included with this staff report, should be considered eligible for designation as a Landmark on a Landmark Site consistent with the significance criteria set forth in Sec. 146-6(e), Pinellas County Code.

In summary, the resources in the resource group have met significance criteria, as follows:

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- Historic Resource Integrity:
  - First period of significance, 1896-1934 – Two of the six criteria have been met.
  - Second period of significance, 1976-77 – Five of the six criteria have been met.
- General Significance – Three of the five criteria have been met.
- Historic/Cultural Significance – Four of the five criteria have been met.
- Architectural/Aesthetic Significance – Two of the four criteria have been met.

Therefore, the Pinellas County Historic Preservation Board should forward to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, a recommendation for APPROVAL of the request submitted by the property manager for designation of The Plant-Sumner House, associated with the Heritage Village Museum & Park located at 11909 125<sup>th</sup> Street in the unincorporated portion of Largo, as a Landmark on a Landmark Site as provided for in Sec. Chapter 146-6, Pinellas County Code.

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## EXHIBIT A: CURRENT PHOTOS



Figure A-1: The Plant-Sumner House (view from the northwest)

Source: Heritage Village Library & Archives



Figure A-2: The Plant-Sumner House (view from the southeast)

Source: Pinellas County Housing & Community Development, December 2025

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Figure A-3: Façade (north side) of the Plant-Sumner House  
Source: Heritage Village Library & Archives



Figure A-4: Rear (south side) of the Plant-Sumner House  
Source: Pinellas County Housing & Community Development, December 2025

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Figure A-5: West side of the Plant-Sumner House

Source: Pinellas County Housing & Community Development, December 2025



Figure A-6: East side of the Plant-Sumner House

Source: Pinellas County Housing & Community Development, December 2025

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Figure A-7: Entrance on west side of rear addition

Figure A-8: Entrance on east side of rear addition

Source: Pinellas County Housing & Community Development, December 2025



Figure A-9: Front porch

Figure A-10: Front porch detail

Source: Pinellas County Housing & Community Development

Source: Heritage Village Library & Archives

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Figure A-11: Interior of the Plant-Sumner House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor foyer  
Source: Heritage Village Library & Archives



Figure A-12: Interior of the Plant-Sumner House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor parlor  
Source: Heritage Village Library & Archives

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Figure A-13: Interior of the Plant-Sumner House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor dining room  
Source: Heritage Village Library & Archives



Figure A-14: The Plant Sumner House, 1<sup>st</sup> floor kitchen  
Source: Heritage Village Library & Archives

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## EXHIBIT B: HISTORIC IMAGES



Figure B-1: Original location of the Plant-Sumner House in **Clearwater**, circa 1970

Source: Heritage Village Library & Archives

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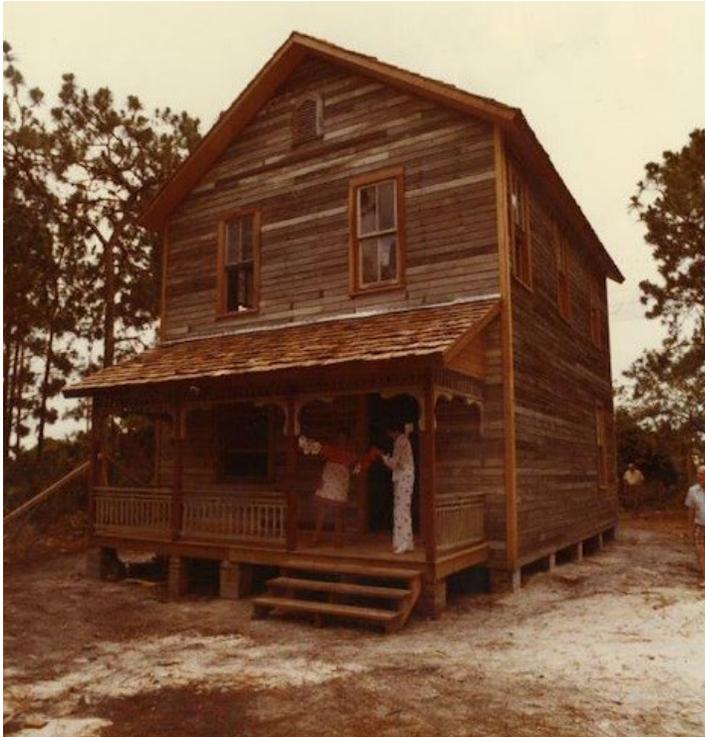


Figure B-2: The Plant-Sumner House at Heritage Village prior to restoration, circa 1976  
Source: Heritage Village Library & Archives



Figure B-3: Ribbon cutting at the Plant-Sumner House and Heritage Park, circa 1976  
Source: Heritage Village Library & Archives

# Staff Report for Landmark Designation



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## EXHIBIT C: LOCATION MAPS

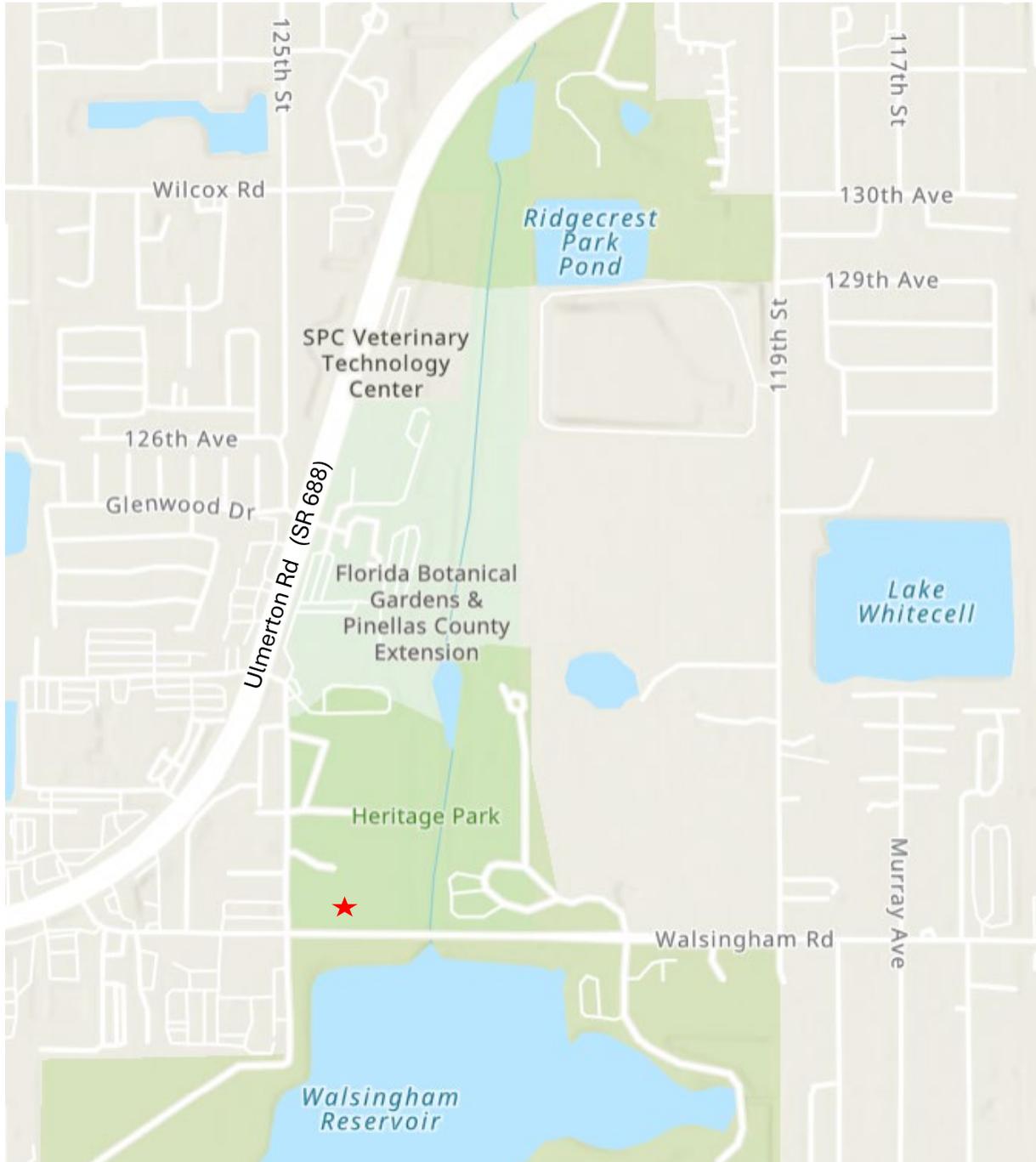


Figure C-1: Ridgecrest vicinity of Pinellas County (location of subject building indicated by red star)

Source: Capture from Pinellas County EGIS, October 2025



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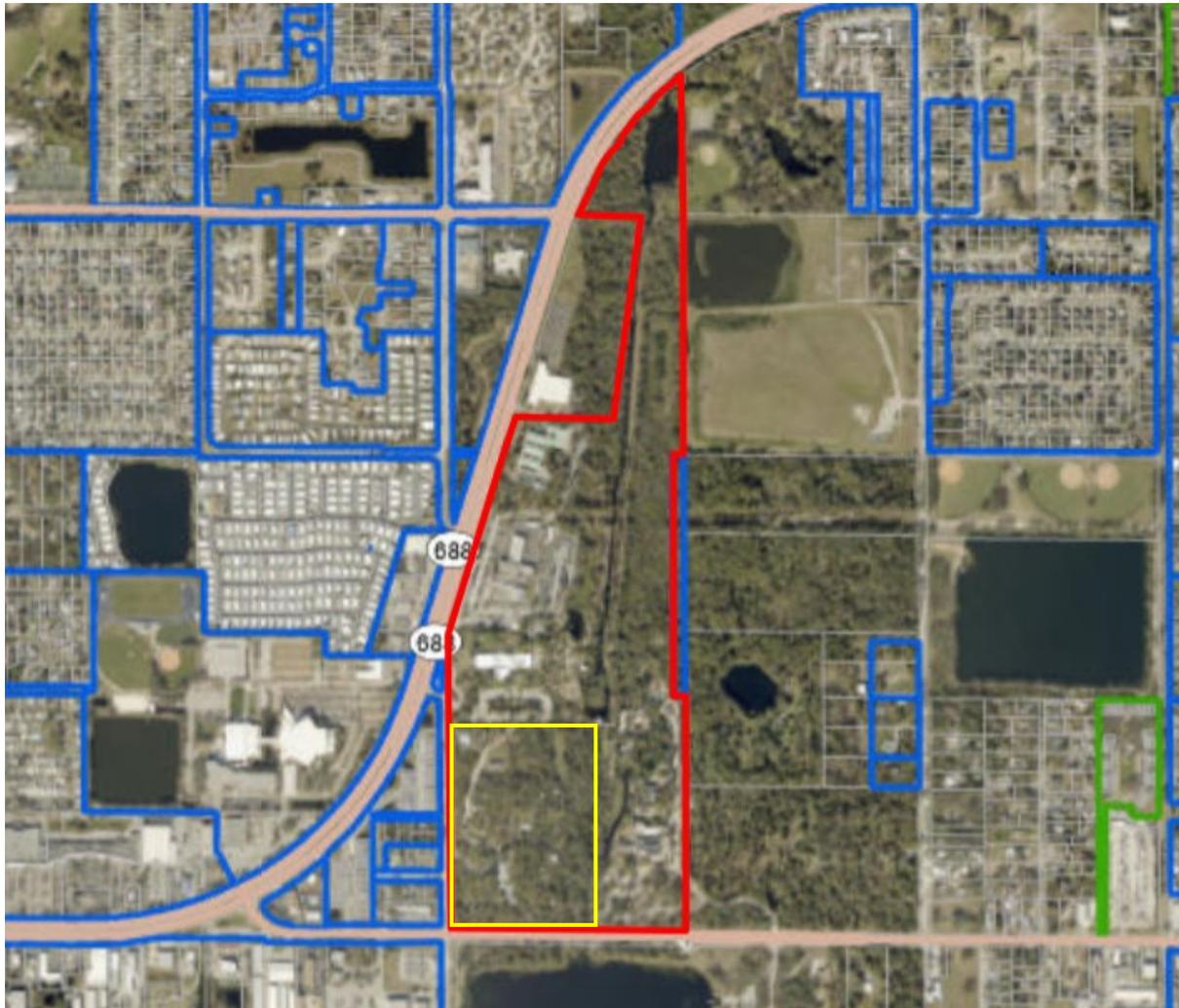


Figure C-3: Land parcel associated with subject property (outlined in red) and grounds of Heritage Village (outlined in yellow)

Source: Pinellas County Property Appraiser, October 2025

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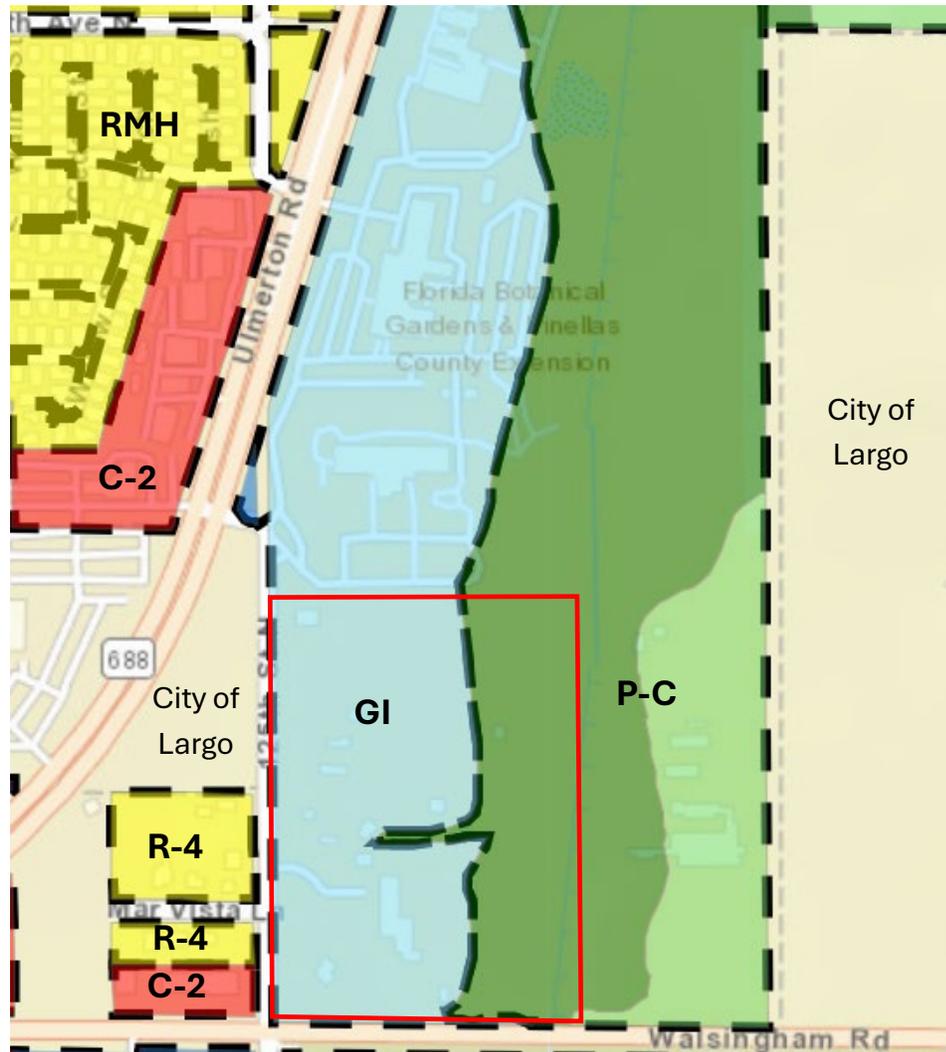


Figure C-4: Zoning and Future Land Use (grounds of Heritage Village outlined in red)  
 Source: Pinellas County EGIS, August 2025

Future Land Use:

-  = Institutional (I)
-  = Preservation (P)
-  = Recreation/Open Space (ROS)
-  = Residential Urban (RU)
-  = Commercial General (CG)

-  = City of Largo

Zoning:

- GI** = General Institutional District
- P-C** = Preservation/Conservation District
- R-4** = 1, 2 & 3-Family Residential District
- RMH** = Residential Mobile Home District
- C-2** = General Commercial & Services District

# Staff Report for Landmark Designation



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**EXHIBIT D – APPLICATION FOR LANDMARK ON A LANDMARK SITE**



December 19, 2025

Pinellas County Historic Preservation Board  
310 Court Street  
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Subject: Historic Landmark Designation – Plant Sumner House

Dear Historic Preservation Board:

This is a letter of consent allowing for submittal of the application to consider designation of the Plant Sumner House as a Landmark on a Landmark Site by the Board of County Commissioners with a recommendation to be provided by the Pinellas County Historic Preservation Board. The house was moved to the current Pinellas County property in 1976. In its current location at Heritage Village, the house meets the 50-year criteria for local, historic landmark designation.

Sincerely,

Paul Cozzié

Director

Parks and Conservation Resources

# Staff Report for Landmark Designation



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## EXHIBIT E: FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE FORM FOR PLANT-SUMNER HOUSE

Page 1

Original  
 Update  
(give site#)



**HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM  
FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE**  
Version 3.1 6/05  
Consult Guide to Historical Structure Forms for detailed instructions.

Site #8 PI - 11520  
Recorder # \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Date 8 / 4 / 2005  
Form Date \_\_\_\_\_

Site Name(s) (address if none) Plant - Sumner House Multiple Listing [DHR only]  
Survey \_\_\_\_\_ Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register Category (Please check one: consult with Site File before using last four):  building  structure  district  site  object

### LOCATION & IDENTIFICATION

Address (include N,S,E,W; # St., Ave., etc.) Heritage Village - Pinellas County Government, 11909 - 125th Street North  
Cross Streets (nearest / between) Ulmerton Road / Walsingham Road  
City / Town (within 3 miles) Largo In Current City Limits:  Yes  No  Unknown  
County Pinellas County Tax Parcel #(s) 09 /30 /15/ 00000/ 230/ 0100  
Subdivision name not applicable Block \_\_\_\_\_ Lot \_\_\_\_\_  
Ownership (Please check one):  private-profit  private-individual  city  county  Native American  
 private-nonprofit  private-unspecified  state  federal  foreign  unknown  
Name of Public Tract (e.g., park) Pinewood Cultural Park - Pinellas County Government  
Route to (especially if no street address) \_\_\_\_\_

### MAPPING

USGS 7.5' Map Name & Date Clearwater 1974  
Township 30S Range 15E Section 09 ¼ section:  NW  SW  SE  NE  Irregular-name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Landgrant \_\_\_\_\_ UTM: Zone  16  17 Easting \_\_\_\_\_ 0 Northing \_\_\_\_\_ 0  
Plat or other map (map's name, location) not applicable

### DESCRIPTION

Style\* homestead house Exterior Plan\* rectangular Number of Stories two  
Structural System(s) \* wood frame  
Foundation: Type(s) \* piers Material(s) \* brick  
Exterior Fabric(s) \* drop siding  
Roof: Type(s) \* gable Material(s) \* wood shakes  
Roof secondary strucs. (domers etc.) \* not applicable  
Chimney: No. one Material(s) \* brick Location(s) \* gable side; pitched roof; offset  
Windows (types, materials, etc.) \* DHS: wood; rectangular; 2/2 DHS: wood; rectangular; 1/1 Hopper: wood; rectangular; 2  
Main Entrance (stylistic details) 3-bay, 1-story, shed-roofed veranda with bracketed posts, a spindle band & a stick balustrade, wooden steps and handrail  
Porches: #open one #closed \_\_\_\_\_ #incised \_\_\_\_\_ Location(s) north/entrance  
Porch roof type(s) shed roof  
Exterior Ornament not applicable  
Interior Plan\* irregular  
Condition (Please check one):  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  ruinous  
Surroundings (N=None, S=Some, M=Most, A=All/nearly all): N commercial N residential A institutional N undeveloped  
Ancillary Features (No., type of outbuildings; major landscape features. Use continuation sheet for descriptions of interior, landscaping, etc) Plant - Sumner House Located in Heritage Village at Pinewood Cultural Park - a Pinellas County government program. See attached sheet.  
Archaeological Remains \_\_\_\_\_  Check if Archaeological Form completed  
Consult Guide to Historical Structure Forms for preferred descriptions (coded fields at the Site File).

DHR USE ONLY  OFFICIAL EVALUATIONS  DHR USE ONLY			
NR DATE ____/____/____	KEEPER-NR ELIGIBILITY <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Date ____/____/____	
DELIST DATE ____/____/____	SHPO-NR ELIGIBILITY: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> potentially elig. <input type="checkbox"/> insufficient info	Date ____/____/____	
LOCAL DESIGNATION: Local office _____		Date ____/____/____	
National Register Criteria for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d (See National Register Bulletin 15, p. 2)			

HR6E063R06-05\_Florida Master Site File / Division of Historical Resources / R. A. Gray Building / 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250  
Phone (850) 245-6441 / Suqoon 205-6440 / Fax (850) 245-6439 / E-mail fmsfile@dos.state.fl.us  
Computer File P:\FSF\DOCS\MO\momm\_docs\SS\_FORM\_V3.0.doc

# Staff Report for Landmark Designation



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Page 2

## HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FORM

Site #8 PI - 11520

Consult Guide to Historical Structure Forms for detailed instructions.

### HISTORY

Construction date: Exactly            (year) Approximately 1896 (year) Earlier than            (year) Later than            (year)  
Architect (last name first): unknown Builder (last name first): unknown  
Moves: yes no unknown Dates 1976 Original address 1305 S. Fort Harrison Ave. (facing "A" Street), Clearwater  
Alterations: yes no unknown Dates 1934 & after Nature\* addition of side porches & a second bathroom  
Additions: yes no unknown Dates            Nature\*             
Original Use\* (give date ranges) 1896 – 1912 believed to have been built by Henry B. Plant for one or more of his workers.  
Intermediate Uses\* (give date ranges) mid 1950s – 1973 "By the mid-1950s, C. C. Whitehurst moved into the Plant-Sumner House. Native of a pioneer family, Whitehurst lived at the home for approximately eighteen years. During part of that time, he worked at the nearby Kilgore Groves and West Coast Fruit Company" (Schnur).  
Present Use\* (give date ranges) 1977 to present: open historic house in Heritage Village, Largo, Florida  
Ownership History (especially original owner, dates, profession, etc.) 1912 – mid 1950s Robert Sumner family lived in the house. "In the Belleair community, Sumner held a variety of positions: the Belmont Methodist minister, Belleair postmaster, dairy farmer, and occasional veterinarian" (Schnur). Sumner family is first documented residents to live in this house.

Consult Guide to Historical Structure Forms for preferred descriptions (coded fields at the Site File).

### RESEARCH METHODS (Check all choices that apply; if needed write others at bottom)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> formal archaeological survey  | <input type="checkbox"/> past surveys search at FMSF       | <input type="checkbox"/> local library research     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn maps          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> informal archaeological inspection  | <input type="checkbox"/> past sites search at FMSF         | <input type="checkbox"/> non-local library research | <input type="checkbox"/> subdivision maps      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Lands Survey (DEP)   | <input type="checkbox"/> FL Archives (Gray Building)       | <input type="checkbox"/> building permits           | <input type="checkbox"/> plat maps             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tax records/property deeds  | <input type="checkbox"/> FL Photo Archives (Gray Building) | <input type="checkbox"/> demolition permits         | <input type="checkbox"/> local newspaper files |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tax records only  | <input type="checkbox"/> occupant/owner interview          | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial permits         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> interior inspection   | <input type="checkbox"/> neighbor interview                | <input type="checkbox"/> occupation permits         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other methods (specify) <u>Stephanie Ferrell, FAIA: Heritage Village architectural briefs &amp; James A. Schnur: Heritage Villagers: "A Social History of the Pinellas Peninsula as Revealed Through the Structures at Heritage Village."</u> |  |   |  |

### RECORDER'S OPINION OF EVALUATION (NOT OFFICIAL; Check one choice on each line)

PE means Potentially Eligible

NR means National Register of Historic Places

PE individually for NR? yes no insufficient info  
PE as contributor to NR district? yes no insufficient info

Area(s) of Historical Significance (See National Register Bulletin 15, p. 8 for categories: e.g. "architecture", "ethnic heritage", "community planning & development", etc.)  
Social History

Explanation of Evaluation (required, whether positive or not; limit to three lines; attach longer statement, if needed, on separate sheet)

"The plan to save the Plant-Sumner House led members of the Junior League of Clearwater and Seminole chapter of the Questers to push for the creation of Heritage Village. Rather than demolition, the house faced a massive renovation and a much anticipated relocation to the site of the county's open-air museum along Walsingham Road. Indeed, in 1976 Plant-Sumner became the first house transported to Heritage Village" (Schnur).

### DOCUMENTATION (Photos, Plans, etc.)

Bibliographic References (Use Continuation Sheet, give FMSF Manuscript # if relevant; see attached sheet)

Photographs (required) B&W print(s) at least 3 x 5, at least one main facade.

Location of negatives & negative numbers Heritage Village Archives/Library

### RECORDER

Name (last name first) / Address / Phone / Fax / Email / Affiliation Addeo, Alicia, Museum Specialist, Heritage Village, 11909 – 125<sup>th</sup> Street North, Largo, Florida, Phone: (727) 58202145, Fax (727) 582-2455, aaddeo@pinellascounty.org

Remember: Use a Supplement for Site Forms or other continuation sheet for descriptions that do not fit in the spaces above.

#### REQUIRED:

- (1) USGS 7.5' MAP WITH STRUCTURE PINPOINTED IN RED
- (2) LARGE SCALE STREET OR PLAT MAP
- (3) PHOTO OF MAIN FACADE, B&W, AT LEAST 3X5

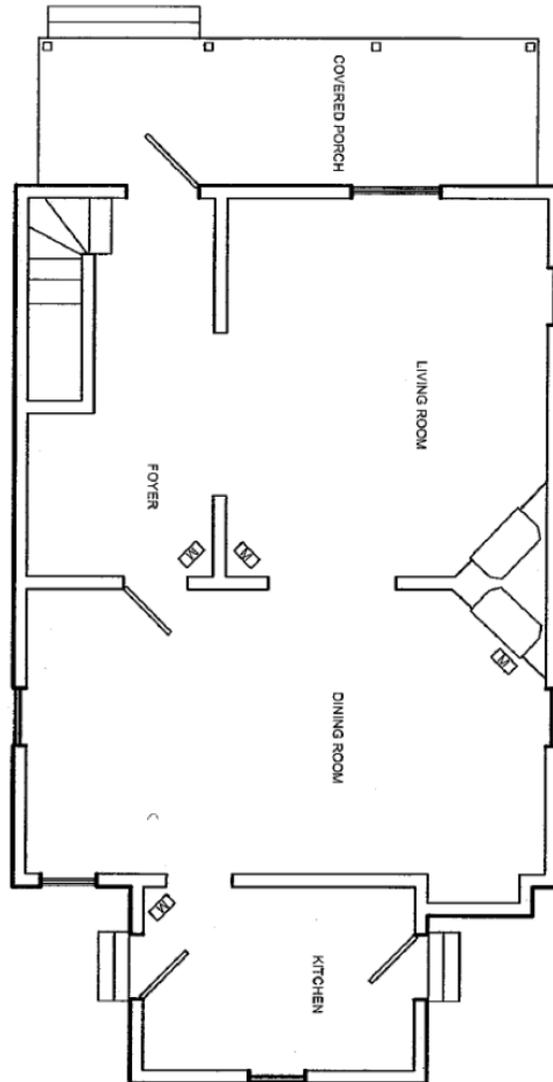
# Staff Report for Landmark Designation



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## EXHIBIT F – FLOOR PLAN, FIRST FLOOR



Sheet 1 of 2	<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">Legend</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Ⓢ</td> <td>Smoke Detector</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ⓁⓅ</td> <td>Entrustor Panel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ⓁⓂ</td> <td>Fire Key Pad</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ⓈⓂ</td> <td>Security Key Pad</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ⓜ</td> <td>Modern Detectors</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ⓈⓈ</td> <td>Security Contact</td> </tr> </table>	Legend		Ⓢ	Smoke Detector	ⓁⓅ	Entrustor Panel	ⓁⓂ	Fire Key Pad	ⓈⓂ	Security Key Pad	Ⓜ	Modern Detectors	ⓈⓈ	Security Contact	HERITAGE VILLAGE  <b>PLANT SUMNER HOUSE L1</b> <b>FLOOR PLAN</b> NOT TO SCALE	
	Legend																
Ⓢ	Smoke Detector																
ⓁⓅ	Entrustor Panel																
ⓁⓂ	Fire Key Pad																
ⓈⓂ	Security Key Pad																
Ⓜ	Modern Detectors																
ⓈⓈ	Security Contact																

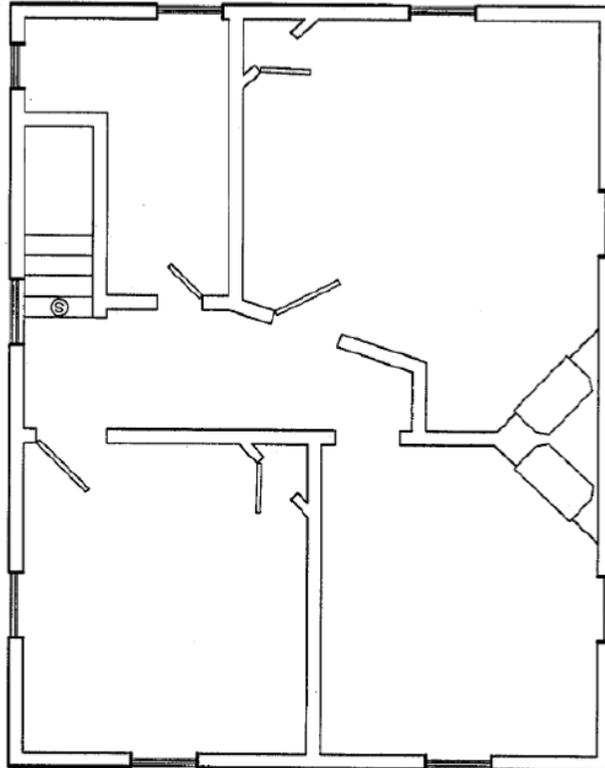
# Staff Report for Landmark Designation



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## EXHIBIT F – FLOOR PLAN, SECOND FLOOR



Sheet 2 of 2	<b>Legend</b>	HERITAGE VILLAGE											
	<table border="1"><tr><td>SD</td><td>Smoke Detector</td></tr><tr><td>EP</td><td>Entrustor Panel</td></tr><tr><td>FKP</td><td>Fire Key Pad</td></tr><tr><td>SKP</td><td>Security Key Pad</td></tr><tr><td>MD</td><td>Motion Detectors</td></tr><tr><td>SC</td><td>Security Contact</td></tr></table>	SD	Smoke Detector	EP	Entrustor Panel	FKP	Fire Key Pad	SKP	Security Key Pad	MD	Motion Detectors	SC	Security Contact
SD	Smoke Detector												
EP	Entrustor Panel												
FKP	Fire Key Pad												
SKP	Security Key Pad												
MD	Motion Detectors												
SC	Security Contact												



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## EXHIBIT G: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The following is an excerpt from a narrative prepared by James Anthony Schnur on the history of The Plant-Sumner House:

At the time of Henry Bradley Plant’s death in 1899, the Plant railroad system controlled 2,100 miles of railroad and possessed large holdings of steamship lines and hotels. The Plant-Sumner House, constructed in the late 1800s, symbolized Plant’s contributions to central Pinellas, and especially his efforts to expand and develop the City of Clearwater and the Town of Belleair. Located near the site of Plant’s Belleview Hotel—later the Belleview-Biltmore Hotel, and now the Belleview Inn—the Plant-Sumner House and other dwellings provided homes for the construction project supervisors and their families. By the late 1890s, the eastern portion of the property sat alongside a railroad line that included a spur connected to the Belleview property. This house served as the residence for the supervisor of the railroad that ran from the Clearwater depot to the Biltmore Hotel.

The house possessed very modern facilities for 1896, such as electricity, running water, and indoor plumbing. One may speculate that Plant built these houses with such modern conveniences so he could entice tradesmen to move their families into the area while they worked at the Belleview Hotel. With seven spacious rooms for a growing family, the house included picture and plate rails, a built-in china cabinet, four fireplaces, a wood cook stove, and icebox, all desirable amenities at the height of the Victorian era. However, in the early twentieth century, these Plant homes became “eyesores” to those managing the exclusive hotel. Belleview officials sold some of the dwellings at low prices with the understanding that the new owners would move the houses away from the Belleview Hotel.

Robert Sumner purchased the Plant-Sumner House in 1912. The previous owners, Newman and Brown, probably had some connection with the Plant Investment Company. The Sumners raised their children in the home and kept cows on their property. In the Belleair community, Sumner held a variety of positions: the Belmont Methodist minister, Belleair postmaster, dairy farmer, and occasional veterinarian. In 1934, workers modernized the kitchen

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and installed a gabled roof and side porches. By 1950, the family added a second bathroom on the west side of the house. For over forty years, the Sumners occupied the “A” Street residence.

By the mid-1950s, C. C. Whitehurst moved into the Plant-Sumner House. Native of a pioneer family, Whitehurst lived at the home for approximately eighteen years. During part of that time, he worked at the nearby Kilgore Groves and West Coast Fruit Company. He retired from the citrus industry by the mid-1960s, a time when residential subdivisions started to appear on many of the former citrus groves, and other industrial and commercial facilities replaced many of the old packing houses. As Whitehurst prepared to move to a new home in 1973, members of the Junior League of Clearwater and the Seminole chapter of the Questers learned about the home’s history after meeting with Ralph Reed, then Curator of the county’s historical museum.

The Questers and League members soon discovered that Plant-Sumner’s new owner planned to burn down or demolish the structure. Massive termite damage had destroyed significant portions of the home. Intense lobbying by these women to members of the Pinellas County Historical Commission and the Board of County Commissioners saved Plant-Sumner from the pyre or trash pile. Rather than demolition, the house faced a massive renovation and a much anticipated relocation to the site of the county’s open-air museum along Walsingham Road. Indeed, in 1976 Plant-Sumner became the first house transported to Heritage Village. The Junior League of Clearwater paid \$50,000 for reconstruction costs, and the local chapter of the Questers furnished the dining room and the nursery. Not only did the efforts of Junior League members save this house; their advocacy encouraged the creation of Heritage Village and brought substantial historic preservation grants to Pinellas County during America’s bicentennial.

## **The Railroad Opens the Belleair Region for Development**

Before the arrival of the Orange Belt Railway in 1888, most settlements along the west central Pinellas Peninsula sat along or very close to the water. Settlers at early outposts such as Dunedin, Clear Water Harbor, Anona, Indian Rocks Beach, Bay Pines, and Johns Pass conducted much of their commerce and travel along the intracoastal waterways and the Gulf of Mexico.

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Supplies often arrived by boat from Cedar Keys or Key West. Due to the primitive network of paths and roadways, even shipments from Tampa often came either by schooner around the Pinellas Peninsula, or by boat to Bay View.

In 1870, Captain Charles Wharton Johnson regularly sailed his ship, *The Evening Star*, along the Gulf coast between Cedar Keys and Fort Myers to deliver mail, supplies, and occasional travelers. According to a published history of Largo, he encountered bad weather while traveling near Clear Water Harbor during one of his trips. Some residents along the bluff witnessed Captain Johnson in distress, and brought him and his son, Levin William Johnson, to shore. Other narratives claim that Johnson happened upon the ridge where the Belleview Biltmore Hotel currently sits and explored the area. However he arrived, he soon applied for a homestead on the land now occupied by the hotel and brought his family from Cedar Keys. He built a small home on his parcel in Belleair by 1872. After a while, he purchased other lands around the intersection of Bay Drive and Seminole/Missouri where he built a three-story dwelling near the present-day Largo Library and Largo Cultural Center. This impressive residence included five fireplaces, a cistern that provided running water, mahogany paneling and banisters crafted from wood Johnson had obtained in Honduras, and a flush toilet on the second floor by 1908, certainly a rarity in this region at that time.<sup>1</sup>

The construction of the Orange Belt Railway and an eventual change in the line's ownership accelerated development in the areas of Belleair, Largo, and southern Clearwater. In the early 1880s, Hamilton Disston had purchased substantial acreage throughout Western Hillsborough. Soon, Disston brought in associates and agents to parcel, sell, and develop his holdings from Tarpon Springs to Disston City (now Gulfport). Meanwhile, Henry Bradley Plant had acquired a charter to bring a railroad line to Tampa. A native of Connecticut, Plant first came to Florida in the spring of 1853. After the Civil War, he expanded his interests in the shipping and transportation businesses. Plant's trains pulled into Tampa Town by early 1884, and over the next

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<sup>1</sup> *Largo, Florida, Then Til . . .* (Largo: Largo Bicentennial Committee, 1979), 15; Prudy Taylor Board and Esther B. Colcord, *The Belleview Mido Resort Hotel: A Century of Hospitality* (Virginia Beach: Donning, 1996), 14.

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decade he expanded his network to include steamships and an extension of the railroad lines to Port Tampa, along the Interbay Peninsula. He soon began to design an opulent resort—the Tampa Bay Hotel—along the western banks of the Hillsborough River. This structure, presently the campus of the University of Tampa, dominated the skyline of the growing community by the early 1890s. Also, the recent arrival of cigar workers to Ybor City and West Tampa fueled Hillsborough County’s land boom at a time when much of the Pinellas Peninsula remained “off the beaten path.” Disston hoped to secure a railroad along Pinellas to serve as a catalyst for his interests, but animosity between him and Plant forced him to look for another locomotive company. By late 1886, Disston decided to visit Peter Demens, a Russian immigrant who had recently taken control of the Orange Belt Investment Company’s line from Sanford to Oakland, near Lake Apopka. Throughout 1887 and early 1888, workers extended the Orange Belt from Lake Apopka to southern Pinellas, though not to Disston City. A disagreement between Disston and Demens led to a new agreement between the Orange Belt Investment Company and “General” John Constantine Williams that brought the iron horse to the future site of Demen’s Landing.<sup>2</sup>

The railroad’s arrival in St. Petersburg promoted settlement and commerce, as well as a regional rift. Demens and his partners had borrowed funds from a Philadelphia syndicate. In 1889, Demens could not make interest payments on the loan. Soon, the Russian sold his interest in the project and left Florida. The narrow gauge line, though poorly constructed, brought settlers to the communities along the Pinellas Peninsula’s backbone. By the 1890s, Tarpon eclipsed Anclote, Largo absorbed Anona, and St. Petersburg overshadowed Disston City. Although the arrival of the railroad promoted urbanization, regularly scheduled train service also fostered agricultural pursuits as large landowners expanded their groves, cultivated bountiful and diverse crop yields, and continued to raise livestock. Plant certainly viewed the development of hotels and resorts on the nearby Pinellas Peninsula as unwelcome competition; his quarrels with Disston and early demands for the secession of Pinellas from Hillsborough by some settlers also bothered him. The notable

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<sup>2</sup> Board and Colcord, *Bellevue Mido Resort*, 14.

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growth of St. Petersburg by the early 1890s concerned Plant, who by that time considered lower Pinellas and its growing legion of boosters a detriment to his commercial ventures. Always hoping to expand his operations, Plant often dispatched his agents to search for sites for future resorts and hotels. His overtures to civic leaders in St. Petersburg to construct a signature hotel fell on deaf ears as property owners refused to accept Plant's offer on his terms. During a visit along the bluff in Belleair, Plant decided to purchase some of the Captain Charles Johnson's real estate. His acquisition of this property and the former Orange Belt Railway expanded his empire and sent a strong message to St. Petersburg's business community.<sup>3</sup>

## **Henry Plant, the Belleview, and Houses in Belleair**

Henry Plant hired workers to improve the railroad and commissioned architects to design a new hotel and subdivision. Laborers converted the narrow-gauge rails of the Orange Belt into a standard gauge line. A new depot soon opened on Cleveland Street in Clearwater. The former Orange Belt soon became part of a larger railroad network in the Plant System that connected shorter roads in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina under a standard gauge. Meanwhile, Plant commissioned J. W. Newman to conduct a survey of the region and design plans for a community he named "Belleair" by 1896. Plant also hired Tampa architects Francis J. Kennard and Michael J. Miller to draw up plans for his hotel. By the summer of 1895, over three hundred workers came to the area to clear the land and begin construction of the hotel. Some also built homes near the rail lines and in Belleair for early guests and project managers.<sup>4</sup> The Plant-Sumner House may have had its beginnings as one of these structures.

The Plant-Sumner House's exact age and original design remain a mystery. Early clippings describing the opening of Heritage Village included statements that placed the date of construction as early as 1875. They also inferred that the original structure may have resembled a smaller cottage or "cabin" rather than a two-story edifice. Though purely conjecture, workers may have

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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moved this smaller home to its location on “A” Street in Clearwater and expanded it during the mid-1890s. A brochure published the Junior League of Clearwater to commemorate the reconstruction of the house at Heritage Village places its year of origin at 1886, with Plant acquiring the home as part of his Belleair development a decade later. Later research by Cathy MacKinnon places the probable period of construction as the spring of 1896, after Plant had acquired the property and the Orange Belt Railway. In redesigning the rail lines, Plant’s crew planned to make the area northeast of the home and west of the former Kilgore family citrus-packing facility a switching area between track lines. Under this assumption, Plant’s interests built the Plant-Sumner House and other nearby dwellings as residences for those erecting the Belleview Hotel or supervising railroad operations. MacKinnon’s conversations with those familiar with the house pointed out that the installation of wires and plumbing probably took place at the time of construction, leading one to assume that construction did occur in the mid-1890s, not earlier. While additional research of early property records may establish a better understanding of the house’s early occupants and date of construction, one can assume that the house resembled its present form by 1896 or 1897, the period when workers built the hotel and other homes in the new Belleair subdivision.<sup>5</sup>

The Belleview’s opening on 15 January 1897 attracted much attention in the region. The original hotel possessed 145 rooms, large verandas, electric lights, telephones, and telegraph and newsstand facilities that allowed guests to keep in touch with events back home. Nearby structures benefited from their close proximity to this hotel: Although Clearwater did not have a municipal water works at the time, the Plant-Sumner House possessed plumbing and received running water from the Belleview’s system by the late 1890s. Some of the water came from a deep well pump

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<sup>5</sup> *St. Petersburg Times*, 8 March 1976; *Clearwater Sun*, 1 April 1976; “Remembering When . . .,” included in Minutes of the Pinellas County Historical Commission, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo, 11 March 1976; Cathy MacKinnon, “The Story of the Plant-Sumner House,” undated manuscript located in Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo; Cathie MacKinnon, “Henry Plant House: Facts Gathered Up to This Time from Old Residents of House,” 18 February 1976 manuscript, located in Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo.

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and Lake Belleview located on the eastern side of the railway tracks at the end of “D” Street. From there, water passed through ten- and twelve-inch pipes, first to a large water tower (with a capacity of 85,000 gallons) at the eastern end of “D” Street, then by underground pipe to the Belleview. Whatever direct ties Henry B. Plant had with this home came to an end on 23 June 1899, when he passed away at his Fifth Avenue residence in New York. Henry’s son, Morton Plant, took over his father’s investment operations. Over time, however, Morton sold or transferred some of the holdings. If the Plant-Sumner House belonged to the Plant Investment Company outright in 1899, Morton had sold or relinquished claim on the “A” Street property by 1912. Morton F. Plant, a name associated with Clearwater’s early development, also provided an endowment of \$100,000 to establish an early hospital for the growing city. The present-day Morton Plant Hospital originally opened in the mid-1910s; it often appeared on early city maps as the “Plant Endowed Hospital.” The younger Plant remained an important civic leader until his death in 1918. A year later, John McEntee Bowman acquired the hotel as part of his Biltmore chain and renamed the structure the Belleview Biltmore. By 1924, workers completed an expansion of the structure to 425 rooms.<sup>6</sup>

## **The Sumner Family Arrives in Clearwater**

The Sumners acquired the house on “A” Street in 1912, the year Pinellas celebrated its independence from Hillsborough County. Earlier occupants remain unknown, though research by MacKinnon notes that Sumner acquired the property from two owners named Newman and Brown. Additional examination of pre-1912 deed records in Hillsborough County may reveal a connection between that Newman and J. W. Newman, the original surveyor of the Belleair community. If a connection exists, Newman may have received the house (and other associated properties) from a trust conferred by the Plant estate, or Newman may have merely acted as an agent assigned with the task of selling former Plant properties. In the latter case, records may still

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<sup>6</sup> Board and Colcord, *Belleview Mido Resort*, 14-25, 34; MacKinnon, “Story of Plant-Sumner” manuscript; Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Maps: Florida* (Teaneck, N.J.: Chadwyck-Healey, 1983), February 1917 and June 1923 maps, microfilm reel 1.

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point towards the Plant Investment Company as primary owner of the property. In any case, Robert and Louise Sumner brought their family to the area from Maitland, a farming community near Orlando. The Sumners moved into the house in 1912.<sup>7</sup>

Robert L. Sumner came from a large family. His parents, Robert and Martha J. Sumner, hailed from Georgia and entered the world in the late 1820s. According to census records, the couple had at least ten children, with five of them born before the Civil War: John R. (born circa 1851), Jesse K. (born circa 1853), James A. (born circa 1855), Joseph D. (born circa 1857), and William J. (born circa 1860). Robert and Martha worked as farmers in or near Swainsboro, Georgia, in 1860. This town—the seat of Emanuel County—sat approximately midway between Macon and Savannah. At the time, other members of the family apparently lived in Worth County, Georgia, between Tifton and Albany. The parents welcomed two children during the war years—Aminia M. (born circa 1862) and Benjamin L. (born circa 1864)—and one as the South began its earliest phase of Reconstruction, Eliza M. (born circa 1866). By 1867 or 1868, the Sumners decided to move their family to Hernando County, Florida, the birthplace of the couple’s youngest children, Sarah C. (born circa 1868) and Robert L. (born circa 1872). Robert, Martha, and their nine oldest children lived in the Fort Dade area of Hernando County by the time census-takers arrived in 1870. They occupied land near the Withlacoochee River and an old trail that connected Fort King (Ocala) to Fort Brooke (Tampa). Robert claimed to work as a blacksmith, though he probably also continued to farm. Other members of the Sumner family also came to Hernando County by 1870, possibly to start anew after the devastation of many Georgia farms and that region’s economy during the Civil War.<sup>8</sup>

Young Robert L. Sumner became the couple’s youngest child. A native of Hernando County, Robert no doubt assisted his parents on their farm in the late 1870s and 1880s. He courted and married Julia M., a native of Alabama, in about 1894. At some point by 1910, Robert L. and

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<sup>7</sup> MacKinnon, “Story of Plant-Sumner” manuscript.

<sup>8</sup> Genealogical research on the Sumner family appears in building files located at Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo.

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Julia M. Sumner moved to Maitland in Orange County, nearly due east from his childhood home. It is possible—though not confirmed—that the Sumners may have traveled between his childhood home in Hernando and his property in Maitland along the Orange Belt Railway and its successor lines, as the early roads and paths between those settlements followed a similar path around Lake Apopka. By 1910, the younger Robert and his wife lived at the intersection of Maitland and Howell Road. The family had four children by the end of the first decade: Luther, Mildred Agnes (born about 1902), and infants Louise “Oween” (born about 1908) and Ralph Marion (born about 1909). During this time, Robert owned a dairy farm.

The Sumners moved to Clearwater and acquired the Plant-Sumner House in 1912. Shortly after their arrival, Julia M. Sumner gave birth to the couple’s youngest child, Maurice Orien “Bill” Sumner, in one of the upstairs bedrooms. In her research, MacKinnon claimed that the child’s aunt, a woman named America Sellers, delivered Maurice in or about 1913. As family members changed Maurice’s diapers, they could also look out the east window and watch workers add a spur line of the Tampa and Gulf Coast Railroad (T&GC, commonly called the “Tug-and-Grunt”) alongside the Atlantic Coast Line tracks on their property’s eastern border. Sanborn maps from 1917 show a two-story residence due west and adjacent to the Plant-Sumner House, and two one-story homes at the southeast corner of Fort Harrison Avenue and “A” Street as the only buildings on that block. An ell-shaped, one-story dwelling sat across “A” Street. A small outbuilding, perhaps an outhouse (for the growing family) or a shed, sat just south of the Plant-Sumner House. Robert Sumner began working as Belleair’s postmaster by April 1915, and the *Largo Sentinel* occasionally mentioned his visits to that city in that newspaper’s “Happenings In and Round About Largo” column. By 1920, Robert Sumner shared the home with his wife and their four youngest children (Mildred, Louise, Ralph, and Maurice Orien). At the time, the post office occupied space in a general store near where the former railroad tracks (and present-day Pinellas Trail) cross Fort Harrison. The Sumner family’s neighbors may have had earlier ties with their home. The 1920 census lists Nathan Brown and Nadine Newman as those living closest to Sumner. Nathan Brown and wife Jeanette lived on their property with six children and a son-in-law, Carl O’Quin. Nathan worked as a

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foreman in a citrus packinghouse. Meanwhile, Nadine Newman lived with her twenty-two year old sister and two tenants. Once again, additional genealogical and property records research may discover ties between these individuals and the Brown and Newman families that sold Sumner the house in 1912.<sup>9</sup>

In addition to his duties as postmaster, Sumner served as a pastor and veterinarian. Rev. Sumner delivered sermons at the Belmont Methodist Church, located near the intersection of Greenwood and Belleair streets. He probably filled in for other preachers on the local Methodist circuit, and certainly visited other central Pinellas churches. With a large backyard and the eastern portion of the property ending at the right-of-way for the Atlantic Coast Line (ACL) Railroad, the Sumners had sufficient land to raise cattle on their “A” Street property. Although they consumed most of the milk, they often sold some to their neighbors. Dr. Garfield Evans, one of Rev. Sumner’s nephews, recalled that his uncle often helped other cattle owners in the southern Clearwater area tend to their animals. His previous ownership of a dairy in Maitland allowed him to serve as an amateur veterinarian for other cow farmers.<sup>10</sup>

The Sumners watched Clearwater transform into a city through the windows of the Plant-Sumner House. To the northeast of their house, beyond the end of “A” Street and the ACL and T&GC tracks, the family could watch citrus packers work during the harvesting season at the West Coast Fruit Company. This large rectangular building came to life as truck farmers brought their citrus crops by road or rail for cleaning, sorting, packing, and shipping. Platforms on the building sat alongside the T&GC spur line and tracks on the east side of the building accommodated trains from the Seaboard Air Line (SAL) Railroad. South of the house, beyond the trees, the family could see a fourteen-foot high railroad water tower that sat between “B” and “C” streets. A short walk to the end of “D” Street brought them to a much larger water tower (that approached ninety feet in height) near an abandoned railroad station, as well as the sophisticated power plant and waterworks

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.; Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Maps*, February 1917 map, microfilm reel 1; MacKinnon, “Story of Plant-Sumner” manuscript; *Largo Sentinel*, 15 April 1915.

<sup>10</sup> MacKinnon, “Story of Plant-Sumner” manuscript;

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for the Belleview Biltmore. The hotel obtained a steady stream of fresh water from Lake Belleview, located just south of Lakeview Road. Before 1929, the West Coast Fruit Company's building added condensers and a canning factory. By that time, buildings sat on the north side of "A" Street. To the southeast, the Biltmore had attached a large greenhouse building to the hotel's original power plant. By the mid-1920s, developers touted the nearby Belleair Estates subdivision as a neighborhood with "ten miles of roads and twenty miles of sidewalks" connecting homes built with "every modern utility," including gas, water, electricity, and telephone service. Nine holes of the eighteen-hole Donald Ross golf course awaited golfers by December 1926. While the city grew around them, the Sumners also celebrated their growing family. On 17 April 1922, Mildred Agnes Sumner—then about twenty years of age—married Sidney (or Sydney) B. Barger in a Clearwater ceremony. The Bargers soon moved to a house on Lotus Street and raised at least two children, Sydney S. and Myron L. Barger.<sup>11</sup>

Robert and Julia Sumner occupied the Plant-Sumner House from 1912 through the early 1950s. According to the 1930 census, Ralph (then twenty-one) and Maurice Orien (then seventeen) still lived with their parents. Nathan Brown and Chester Kilgore were neighbors along "A" Street, sometimes referred to as Corbett Street by this time. Rev. Sumner continued to serve as a Methodist minister. Between 1934 and 1936, he led morning and evening worship services at the Anona Methodist Church. By about 1934, the family remodeled the kitchen. This area of the home originally had a wood stove at the southeast corner with a single window along the south wall. Workers replaced the shed roof with a gabled roof, improved the layout of the kitchen, and added a side porch to the structure. Although their children had moved away from home by the late 1930s, the Sumners maintained an active life in the community. Ralph graduated from Florida Southern College in 1931 and became a reporter and district manager with the *Tampa Morning Tribune*, while Louise "Oween" earned her degree at Florida Southern in 1929 and later became a librarian at that institution in Lakeland. Maurice Orien "Bill" moved to Largo, sold electrical supplies, and

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<sup>11</sup> Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Maps*, June 1923 and April 1929 maps, microfilm reel 1; *Tampa Daily Times*, 4 December 1926.

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became a charter member of that city's St. Paul United Methodist Church. Grandchildren remembered visiting the house during the 1940s and early 1950s. By that time, the Sumners owned a large upright piano, kept a telephone on the wall closet under the stairway, and used heavy drapes to separate the living and dining rooms. Meanwhile, through the 1930s, the Belleview Biltmore operated as a self-sufficient entity that shared its postal, police, and fire department facilities with the Town of Belleair. According to a published history of the hotel, town officials assumed control of these departments and moved them from the Belleview campus by 1942. The hotel continued to maintain its own power plant for another year, until government authorities required them to connect the hotel to the Florida Power electrical grid. The power plant and greenhouse once located along the railroad tracks disappeared by 1949. Directories from the Peninsular Telephone Company indicate that the Sumners had a telephone by January 1946. An examination of telephone directories available in the special collections area of the Largo Library placed Robert as the head-of-household through the January 1954 edition. An examination of official city records for the Town of Belleair, as well as the microfilm archives of the *Clearwater Sun*, may allow future researchers to trace Rev. Sumner's many contributions to the community.<sup>12</sup>

## **A Citrus Connection with the Whitehurst Family**

A member of the Whitehurst family occupied the Plant-Sumner House from circa 1957 until the early 1970s. Calvert Clifford "C. C." Whitehurst, a native of Sutherlin (Palm Harbor) born 25 July 1902, descended from a pioneer family. By 1930, he lived with his wife, Pauline E.

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<sup>12</sup> Genealogical research on the Sumner family appears in building files located at Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo; *Largo, Then Til*, 106; MacKinnon, "Story of Plant-Sumner" manuscript; MacKinnon, "Facts Gathered Up" manuscript; Board and Colcord, *Belleview Mido Resort*, 42; Undated note to Ellen Babb, located in building files, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo; Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Maps*, 1949 map, microfilm reel 1; See available issues of: R.L. Polk's *Clearwater/ Dunedin/Largo (Pinellas County, Fla.) City Directory*; For a list of early graduates of Florida Southern, including many Pinellas families from the school's earlier years, see: [snoopy.tbtc.lib.fl.us/fsc/archives/grads1890to1934.html](http://snoopy.tbtc.lib.fl.us/fsc/archives/grads1890to1934.html). Researchers interested in activities at the Belleview Biltmore during the tourist season may want to consult columns that appeared in early issues of the *Clearwater Evening Sun* by the mid-1920s. For example, in January 1925, that newspaper ran a regular column entitled "News of the Belleview Hotel" that announced arrivals and departures and listed activities at the resort.

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Whitehurst, at 421 West Grand Central Street, just a few blocks away from the Plant-Sumner House. Steven Whitehurst, Calvert's brother, lived next to him at 423 West Grand Central with his family. In the 1950s, C. C. Whitehurst worked as a foreman at Kilgore Groves. He moved into the Plant-Sumner Home by 1957 and shared this residence with his wife, Maggie Mae Whitehurst.<sup>13</sup>

During his tenure at Kilgore Groves, Whitehurst drew a paycheck from one of the largest citrus operations in Pinellas County. About 1913, Jessie Barnard Kilgore established the West Coast Fruit Company with loans from forty stockholders. Son of Samuel and Mittie Kilgore and a native of Largo, Barnard became familiar with the citrus industry as a child raised in the area's groves. His company, located across the railroad tracks from the Plant-Sumner House, became an important processing and packing point for citrus shipped from the Clearwater-Largo area. By the late 1920s, the West Coast Fruit Company operated a grapefruit canning facility in addition to its regular shipments of boxed fruit. The physical plant of West Coast Fruit expanded by the 1940s to include an office building at the end of "A" Street, as well as other smaller structures on the west side of the tracks. The original fruit packing structure included extensions to the grapefruit canning factory and a large cooling room at the north end of the building to store processed fruits before shipping. Whitehurst, a member of a family with long ties to the citrus and agricultural history of Pinellas, worked at West Coast Fruit Company for many years. He had an easy commute: To walk from home to work, he merely had to cross the railroad tracks at the end of "A" Street.<sup>14</sup>

Whitehurst lived at the Plant-Sumner House after he retired from Kilgore Groves. During his tenure at the West Coast Fruit Company operated by the Kilgore family, C. C. Whitehurst held positions as a grove worker, maintenance staff member, foreman, and mechanic at the packing plant. He worked at Kilgore Groves until either 1966 or 1967, when that company ceased operations. Genealogical records indicate that his wife, Mae, died in July 1966. Calvert continued

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> William L. Straub, *History of Pinellas County, Florida: Narrative and Biographical* (St. Augustine: The Record Company, 1929), 356; Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Maps*, 1949 map, microfilm reel 1.

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to live at Plant-Sumner after he retired, until at least the spring of 1973. By 1974, city directories placed C. C. Whitehurst at 1143 Howard Street, his home until he passed away on 17 January 1982 at the age of seventy-nine.<sup>15</sup>

## **The Questers and Junior League Lead Efforts to Preserve the House**

Members of the Questers have long embraced efforts to preserve and promote local history. Margaret Roy, president of the Seminole chapter of the Questers, joined some of her colleagues to meet with Ralph Reed, County Historian and Curator at the Pinellas County Historical Museum's old offices in the basement of the courthouse. During this visit, Reed talked with the Questers about older homes in Clearwater that faced possible demolition. Reed showed pictures of some of these structures, including the "former H. B. Plant home" on "A" Street. The Questers became interested in the Plant-Sumner House, and decided to contact C. C. Whitehurst, owner of the home, during the spring of 1973. By May of that year, Whitehurst prepared to sell the Plant-Sumner House and land to his eastern neighbor, the Clark Concrete Property. The owner of that company told representatives of the Questers that he only had interest in the land and "plans to either burn the house or have it demolished." The Questers hoped to move the home, a building Roy considered to be in "very good, movable condition." Roy estimated that the move to a nearby, vacant property would cost \$2,000, and that the home required about \$500 in additional expenses for termite treatment. During a presentation at the 16 May 1973 Pinellas County Historical Commission (PCHC) meeting, Roy hoped for assistance and support from the Commission. She envisioned a plan to move the Plant-Sumner House to an empty parcel somewhere in Clearwater, renovate and furnish the building with period furniture, and hold chapter meetings at the structure. At this time, the PCHC lacked funds to assist in this endeavor, though the Commission did encourage the Questers to contact the Belleview Biltmore Hotel and the Town of Belleview about possible support or information that might allow them to preserve the house. These conversations

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<sup>15</sup> Genealogical research on the Sumner family appears in building files located at Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo; See available issues of: R.L. Polk's *Clearwater/ Dunedin/Largo (Pinellas County, Fla.) City Directory*; *St. Petersburg Times*, 19 January 1982.

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occurred before the Board of County Commissioners had established a plan for the creation of Heritage Village.<sup>16</sup>

The plan to save the Plant-Sumner House led members of the Junior League of Clearwater to push for the creation of Heritage Village. The Junior League received permission to move the Plant-Sumner House by late 1974 from then-owner George Mallory, but needed a new location for the building. Officials in Clearwater notified the Junior League that the city could not provide money or land in support of this effort. In a retrospective interview, park Director Kendrick Ford recalled that many people held the common assumption “if it’s old, tear it down” during the early 1970s. After failing to obtain support from Clearwater, the Junior League approached the Pinellas County Historical Commission. Junior League members played an important role in the creation of Heritage Village by lobbying the Board of County Commissioners to create and fund an open-air historical park, and by encouraging their husbands—many of whom occupied positions of authority in Clearwater or county politics—to support this initiative. When early discussions took place about the possibility of establishing a historical preserve along Walsingham Road, some donors to the county’s historical museum balked at the proposal because they assumed that the treasures collected by Ralph Reed and others over the years would always remain in Clearwater. When county leaders failed to reach an agreement with the Junior League of Clearwater about providing a site for the Plant-Sumner House, the women of that organization made an appeal to the PCHC and the county administrator. After finally winning the Board’s approval, the PCHC commissioned Don Williams to develop a site plan for the original ten acres of the park. This plan included Plant-Sumner and Seven Gables, two buildings slated to move to the new park before Pinellas County had even hired a director. Ford began his tenure as director in April 1976, after

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<sup>16</sup> Records of the Pinellas County Historical Commission, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo, 16 May 1973.

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PCHC members had approved the move of Plant-Sumner to the park; the house arrived by June 1976.<sup>17</sup>

The Plant-Sumner House arrived at Heritage Village as Pinellas residents planned to celebrate the nation's bicentennial. To commemorate this structure's journey to Heritage Village, the PCHC planned to hire a "Bicentennial bus" to transport guests from the county courthouse to the Plant-Sumner House at Heritage Village on June 22. Advocacy by the Junior League of Clearwater to preserve this house created other opportunities for historic preservation: The work of Junior League members helped Pinellas County qualify for a \$25,000 grant from the Florida State Bicentennial Commission. G. L. Pucci, PCHC chair, reminded the Board of County Commissioners of this fact when some members discussed merging all budgetary and administrative operations of the new open-air museum under the auspices of the Park Department in 1977-1978.<sup>18</sup>

By the time movers visited the structure on "A" Street, termite damage and wear-and-tear left the Plant-Sumner House in very poor condition. Workers had to discard substantial portions of the structure before moving the best parts of the dwelling to Heritage Village. John Logan led efforts to restore and reconstruct the house. Wall studs and frames, floors, porches, the toilet on the second floor, and most of the wood around the windows replaced original materials that workers could not save. Original portions of the home include the sink, fireplace mantle, door and window cases, cupboard and drawers, corner closets in the bedrooms, and the large bathtub.<sup>19</sup>

The Junior League of Clearwater remained involved with the Plant-Sumner House after it became the first building located at the new historic preserve. At this time, Heritage Village lacked a fence around its perimeter, and security became an issue because park employees stored many

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<sup>17</sup> Interview of Ken Ford, former director of Heritage Village, by Stephanie Ferrell and Jim Schnur, 3 May 2003, Heritage Village, Largo; *St. Petersburg Times*, 8 March 1976, 13 April 1980; "Plant-Sumner House Background," undated manuscript, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo.

<sup>18</sup> Records of the Pinellas County Historical Commission, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo, 16 June 1976; G. L. Pucci, chair, Pinellas County Historical Commission, to Jeanne Malchon, chair, Pinellas County Historical Commission, 2 May 1977.

<sup>19</sup> Ken Ford interview.

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artifacts in Plant-Sumner before the completion of the library and archives. Despite regular monitoring by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, by the fall of 1976 PCHC members thought it wise to encourage the installation of a fence to protect Plant-Sumner, Seven Gables, and the grounds during the evening and weekends. On Wednesday mornings during the spring of 1977, Junior League volunteers came to Heritage Village to paint Plant-Sumner. They brought their own equipment and hoped to complete their work before the summer rains and heat arrived. After they finished painting the house, League members planned to collect furniture stored at various homes. Though located at Heritage Village, the structure still belonged to the Junior League. That organization continued to pay for insurance coverage on the house. By some estimates, the Junior League spent between \$45,000 and \$50,000 to restore the house. During the summer of 1977, League members met with park and county officials to develop a formal transfer agreement to turn the "Henry Plant house" over to the county historical museum. Workers had completed approximately ninety-five percent of their restoration efforts by September 1977; at that time, they only needed to add accessories, such as curtains and carpeting.<sup>20</sup>

Many visitors to Heritage Village enjoy tours of the Plant-Sumner House and its neighbor, the House of Seven Gables. While a number of sources document the home's early history as part of Plant's Pinellas empire and its forty-plus years of ownership by the Sumners, the later use of the house by a member of the Whitehurst family merits further investigation. As an employee at the nearby Kilgore Groves packing house, C. C. Whitehurst provides a connection between this structure and the citrus industry during its mid-twentieth century heyday and early stages of decline. While it may be too early to rename the building the "Plant-Sumner-Whitehurst House," this chapter of the dwelling's life may reveal new connections between residents, business, and industry in the communities of Belleair, Clearwater, and Largo.

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<sup>20</sup> Records of the Pinellas County Historical Commission, Heritage Village Library and Archives, Largo, 17 November 1976, 16 February 1977, 29 March 1977, 20 July 1977, 19 September 1977; "Plant-Sumner House Background" manuscript.