Boyette (Fish Hawk)
Fish Hawk Creek
Bell Creek
Lake Grady

3 pgs

The following is an excerpt from:
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

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Prepared by:
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* These excerpts have been taken from the Historic Resources Survey Report with permission given by the Hillsborough County Historic Resources Review Board on December 15, 2003. The intention is to help provide targeted historical information on the water bodies in Hillsborough County.
**Boyette (Fish Hawk)**

Located South of County Road 640 (Lithia-Pinecrest Road) and north of County Road 672 between County Road 39 (Plant City-Picnic Road) to the east and the Boyett-Balm Road to the west, Boyette was originally known as Fish Hawk. As early as 1875, Nathan Boyette and Britton J. Burnett served as trustees for Fish Hawk school. Mr. Boyette was a successful orange grower by the 1880s, owning 40 acres of land in the Peru area, and Mr. Burnett was married to Macy A. (Kickliter) Burnett, farming and raising cattle. Other 19th century settlers in the area include John Barnes, Joseph Blane, Susannah Lewis, Perry Lewis, and Catherine Richards.i

By 1902, Fishhawk was renamed Boyette, for Thomas Boyette. Coinciding with this name change, Fishhawk received a post office on February 20, 1902. On April 29, 1902, the name was changed to Boyette. As the Wright Brothers made their first successful flight, the Seaboard Air Line Railway constructed a rail line from Turkey Creek to Manatee County in 1903, passing through the small community. Boyette's population reached 75 in 1911. D.L. Thorpe served as the postmaster. He owned a saw mill, co-owned the general store, and invested in naval stores. A.E. Wilson was the area's railroad agent. Five years later, Davis and Thorpe were the largest land owners in the area with Hull and DeVane trailing a distant second. Growing to 90 people, the community started a Baptist church by 1918. George Robb took over the general store and the postmaster position. Additionally, Robb was a fruit grower. Agriculture, especially fruit growing, expanded during the second decade of the 20th century. During the height of the Florida land boom in 1925 as people bought Florida land for its rich soil, Boyette's population reached 100, supporting a Baptist Church and J.N. Connell's general store.ii

In 1930 Boyette's population was 369, with 186 males and 183 females. Indigenous Whites constituted 80 percent of the population, with only 46 African Americans and 28 foreign-born Whites residing in the area.iii A 1930s description of Boyette disclosed that despite such an increase in population between 1925 and 1930, the area remained quite rural with the population spread across the landscape:

> A few section houses and a combination grocery store and filling station comprise this settlement [Boyette] on the Seaboard Air Line Railway.iv

On September 15, 1940, Boyette's post office was discontinued and residents received their mail from Lithia.v

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ii.*Atlas of Hillsborough County, Florida*, 58,62; Bradbury and Hallock, *A Chronology of Florida Post Offices, 10; Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1911-1912*, 66; *Florida State Gazetteer and
