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

Submitted to:
Florida Department of State
Bureau of Historic Preservation

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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.
Branchton

Located in northeast Hillsborough County, just south of the Pasco County line on County Road 579 (Morris Bridge Road), Branchton’s roots extend back to the late 19th century. Branchton was named for James Madison Branch who settled in the area around 1888. Mr. Branch's family line includes John Branch, governor of Florida during the transition from a territory in 1844 to statehood in 1845. Additionally, James Branch's roots also include Frank Branch, an early settler of Seffner.

James Branch left Seffner to escape the hustle and bustle of the growing town. Relocating to the area that eventually became Branchton, Mr. Branch, and his uncle, Noah Neal, operated a small farm and raised cattle. On his property, Branch built a log cabin. A post office was created on June 18, 1899, and discontinued on July 31, 1918. Mail was then delivered from Zephyrhills.

While Branch had a sizeable holding (280 acres), the principal landowners in the area in 1916 were the Virginia Trust Co.; Beckwith, Henderson, & Warren; and J.J. Tucker & E.W. Sparrow. Other property owners surrounding Branch included W.M. Tate, A.W. Rigsby, N.S. Byrd, George Fox, and E. Smith. Branchton's population totaled 45 in 1930, consisting of 23 males and 22 females, all of whom were native-born Whites. Nearly twenty years later, electricity reached the Branchton community. Some of James Branch's children and eventually his grandchildren moved away from the settlement shortly after the turn of the century, but many of them returned after World War II. In 1983 Branchton consisted of a Baptist church, 23 houses, and 50 trailers situated along three streets. Today, while Tampa City limits threaten to consume the area from the west, it still is predominantly rural.

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ii. Bradbury and Hallock, A Chronology of Florida Post Offices, 11; George, "Branchton: Deep Roots Anchor Family Legacy," 4-NW.