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.
Gulf City

Very little is known about the beginning of Gulf City. Situated at the mouth of the Little Manatee River on its southern bank, Gulf City was founded sometime before 1882. A post office was created on November 4, 1885, and the School Board authorized operation of a school on November 27, 1885. By 1893 approximately 250 people resided within a seven-mile radius of the community. Harriet Selner served as Gulf City’s postmaster, and residents traveled to Tampa by steamer. Seven years later, 96 people called Gulf City home. This number grew to 211 by 1910.¹

L.G. Denson served as Gulf City’s postmaster in 1911. Truck farming and harvesting oranges were the dominant agricultural pursuits of area farmers with O.L. Williams operating a canning factory on the north shore of the Little Manatee River. However, because of its location on Tampa Bay, residents also fished and collected oysters. Fishing was so prominent that William Lynn made a living building boats. L.G. Denson raised poultry, J.H. McCahon served the community as a dentist, and F.B. Sehner worked as an electrician. As the community of Ruskin grew, Gulf City slowly faded from its earlier prominence. By 1918, only 75 people resided in Gulf City. Despite the population decline, the number of area truck growers and fishers increased. Mrs. H.C. Denson became Gulf City’s postmaster, T.R. Saffold owned a general store and a boat livery service, and Williams still operated the canning factory. Because of the growth of its neighbor to the east Gulf City’s post office was discontinued on June 30, 1921, with mail being delivered from Ruskin.²


² Atlas of Hillsborough County Florida, 64; Bradbury and Hallock, A Chronology of Florida Post Offices, 35; Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1911-1912, 137; Florida State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1918, 194.