Harney

Located in the northeast section of Hillsborough County on the west side of the Hillsborough River, little is known about the origins of Harney. Early 19th century homesteaders included Aggie Holoman, Solomon Stanton, James Campbell, Lawrence Masters, and Dennis Anderson. During the 1890s, Charlie Tuft erected a sawmill on the banks of the Hillsborough River. Mr. Tuft erected homes with lumber from his mill for his growing number of employees. Truman D. Peck founded Harney’s post office on December 20, 1894. By 1911, Charlie Tufts, the postmaster and manager of the Seminole Cypress Company, delivered mail to approximately 300 residents. Situated near the Tampa & Thonotosassa Railroad, one sawmill and two lumber companies operated in Harney. However, the community’s days were numbered, for on August 15, 1912, the post office was closed and mail was delivered from Tampa. Four years later only 200 people lived in Harney. The community continued to decline when the saw mill closed and most of the business’ workers left for greener pastures. C.R. Vernon operated a general store, the only business in the community, in 1918. By the 1930s Harney, with a population of 25, was described as “a small group of houses, the remains of a cypress sawmill, and a fishing camp” consisting of boats and fishing tackle. The few remaining families consisted of citrus farmers that weathered the sawmill closure.  

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ii. Federal Writers’ Project, Florida, 538.

iii. HTHCPB, The Cultural Resources of the Unincorporated Portions of Hillsborough County, 54.