2012

Application to the St. Petersburg Historic Preservation Commission for Local Designation of Landmarks and Landmark Sites: Perry Snell House

James Anthony Schnur

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APPLICATION TO THE ST. PETERSBURG HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMMISSION FOR LOCAL DESIGNATION OF LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES
CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1. NAME OF SITE OR PROPERTY PROPOSED FOR DESIGNATION:

HISTORIC NAME: the name by which the property was known originally or
during the period of its historic significance (often the name of the
person who originally developed the property):

Perry Snell House

OTHER NAMES: Common names by which it has been or is currently known.

Colonial Hotel Annex Colonial Fairview Pierview Guest House

2. LOCATION: Street and number: Corner of 5th Ave. and 2d St. S.

original: 106-2nd Avenue NE present: Parcels 1-3, block 80

3. CLASSIFICATION: Type of property being designated:

building ___ structure ___ object ___ site ___

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY: Name and address.

University of South Florida at St. Petersburg

140 Seventh Avenue South

St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5016

Telephone Number:

Voice: 893-9160 FAX: 893-9610

5. USE OF PROPERTY: historic use:

residence and hotel annex

present use:

vacant, awaiting restoration

Is the property presently occupied? Yes ___ No ___ X ___

6. ACCESSIBILITY: Is the exterior visible from public rights-of-way?

Yes ___ X ___ No ____

Is the interior accessible to public visitation? Regularly ____

By owner permission ____ Not accessible ___ X ___(Not accessible at the present time.)

7. CONDITION OF PROPERTY: excellent ___ good ___ fair ___ X ___ poor ___

ruins ___ unexposed (archaeology) ____

Has the property been altered? Yes ___ X ___ No ____ (Conversion from private
residence to hotel annex.)

Has the property been moved? Yes ___ X ___ No ____ Date 17 August 1993

Note: If altered/moved, describe alterations/circumstances of move
under Item 13.
8. PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: During what period(s) did property achieve historic significance. (cite specific dates where possible) 

期间的繁荣期于圣彼得堡（1904-1910）

9. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: In which of the following general categories was the property significant:

- archaeology
- architecture/engineering
- agriculture
- arts
- commerce
- industry
- military
- politics/government
- science/invention
- social/religious
- other (residence of prominent figure in the city's history)

10. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Describe boundary line encompassing all man-made and natural resources to be included in designation (legal description or survey as recorded on property rolls in county courthouse)

Township 31 S, Range 17 E, Section 19

Local description (as recorded on property rolls in County Courthouse):

Original site: North 3/4 of lot 5 and North 3/4 of West half of lot 4, block 23 (Northwest corner of block 23 fronting 75 feet on Second Avenue NE, and fronting 150 feet on First Street.)

Present site: Lot 2, and parts of lots 1 and 3, block 80, fronting Fifth Avenue South and Second Street.

11. RESOURCE TYPES: List all man-made features encompassed by the boundaries by number and type, including prehistoric features where known: aboriginal mounds or middens, building, outbuildings, landscaping, etc. Indicate with an asterisk (*) those that contribute to the historic character of the property.

This application for landmark status designation covers the Snell House and the land it presently occupies, lot 2, and parts of lots 1 and 3, of block 80. This application does not include the original site at the corner of First Street and Second Avenue NE. No significant outbuildings or extant structures were present on the land before the relocation of the Snell House. The Snell House serves as the focal point on this parcel of land.
12. **DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL OR HISTORIC APPEARANCE**: Describe the historic appearance of the property and its setting during the period of historic significance, in the following order:

   a. **Original Setting**: describe the surrounding area, neighborhood, rural or urban environment as it existed during the period of historic significance.

   b. **Exterior appearance of the major contributing resource(s)**. Describe the design/style, materials, construction methods. Start with the "front" and work around the resource.

   c. **Interior Appearance**: give overview of interior appearance.

   d. **Other contributing resources**: describe as above.

Write Historic Description Below (Use a continuation sheet if necessary):

C. Perry Snell and his wife, Lillian Allen, selected St. Petersburg as the site of their honeymoon in 1899. During this first trip to the city, they purchased land at the northwest corner of block 23. The Snells selected St. Petersburg as their permanent home in early 1904. During the period, most commerce and a majority of the residents lived in the present downtown area. Swampland covered Snell's property within the boundaries of First to Second avenues NE between First Street and Beach Drive NE. Before Snell could build any dwelling, he hired mule teams to bring fill material from Tampa, an arduous 52 mile trip on a sand trail around Old Tampa Bay that took 2 days and cost $6000 (St. Petersburg Times, March 18, 1991, City p. 1).

In a May 1904 story entitled "A Magnificent Residence," the St. Petersburg Times described the construction of Snell's house as follows:

The Times has before noted as one of the proofs of St. Petersburg's future being established, the increasing excellence and cost of her buildings, both residence and business. This is again emphasized in the beginning of work on the new residence of Mr. and Mrs. C. Perry Snell, at the southeast corner of Fourth avenue and First street [original street designations, before Fourth Avenue became Second Avenue North]. The house, which will be a large and imposing structure, will have a foundation and first story of concrete walls, the upper ones will be of shingle finish, and will be by wide comparison the most elaborate and expensive mansion yet erected in St. Petersburg, and one of the finest in Florida. The cost will run up into the many thousands of dollars. The materials for the super-structure and the interior will
be of the best, and brought from many directions. The construction work will be in charge of Williams & Miller, one of the best firms of builders in Florida. The article then noted that Snell was "already one of the largest investors and property holders of Pinellas Peninsula," and congratulated city authorities for attracting "such substantial and desirable people" as the Snells (St. Petersburg Times, May 14, 1904). Indeed, during the same month that Snell awaited the construction of the house’s concrete foundation, he added three new parcels to his holdings, including a 40 acre tract south of the city limits. The Times proclaimed that "such investments by men of the means and judgment of Mr. Snell are excellent evidences of the values and prospects of St. Petersburg and Pinellas Peninsula" (St. Petersburg Times, April 2, 1904; April 23, 1904).

The Snell residence attracted wide attention during its construction. Indeed, the newspaper even proclaimed that the design of the house set the stage for changes in building methods. With the headline "A New Industry," a Times article described the laying of the house’s foundation:

a new industry . . . has sprung up without the blowing of trumpets, but is the natural outcome of the needs occasioned by the demand for a material for building construction which has the advantage of being both durable and cheap.

Mr. C. Perry Snell, one of our most progressive and practical citizens, has just completed, under the supervision of Mr. Vincent Ridgely, the foundation and porch balustrade of what will be one of the handsomest buildings in the city, the walls of which are concrete formed of a mixture of Portland cement, sand and shells and are beyond a doubt the handsomest and strongest walls in the city.

Mr. Ridgely(,) being a practical concrete man, was so impressed with the peculiar fitness of the sand and shell that abound in this vicinity that he took the matter up with a number of the leading citizens, with the result that it is now practically certain a number of buildings will be erected in the future of this, the ideal material for homes and buildings of all descriptions. . . . It has been clearly proven that the cost of these materials is considerably less than that of brick, and very nearly that of wood.

Ridgely ordered 2 machines for the construction of the Snell house: The first machine created the hollow blocks for foundations and porch columns; the second machine made bricks from the mixture of cement and sand (St. Petersburg Times, June 11, 1904).

Interestingly, Snell’s innovative use of Portland cement mirrored the dreams of Thomas A. Edison. This famous inventor had observed the development of the Portland cement industry and
believed his knowledge of grinding rock into iron ore could also apply to grinding rock and limestone into cement. He sought to produce an inexpensive cement that would withstand the elements and allow for more families to own homes. He constructed a large plant in Stewartsville, New Jersey, that began operations in July 1902. Although Edison failed to attract the interest of builders or real estate men for his poured concrete homes, St. Petersburg residents saw Snell and Ridgely as innovators in a region where wooden foundations remained very vulnerable to the elements. While no direct connect between Edison’s visions and Snell’s enterprises can be proven, the design of this house demonstrates Snell’s ingenuity (Telephone Interview with Doug Garr, Assistant Archivist, Edison Archives, New Jersey. See also: Robert Conot, A Streak of Luck, New York: Seaview Books, 1979, 346-347). As builders worked on the house, the Snells left for their summer vacation. They arrived in Columbia, Tennessee, in July 1904, and Perry Snell did not return until November, when he supervised the completion of the "splendid new residence" (St. Petersburg Times, July 30, 1904; November 12, 1904).

This Dutch Colonial Revival structure includes elements of Queen Anne architecture. With his architect, Snell designed a sturdy structure of wood, lath, and plaster built upon the strong cement and steel-supported foundation. The front of the Snell house originally faced north along Second Avenue NE. It presently looks east from the corner of Second Street South and Fifth Avenue. A large, imposing porch with 2 doorways and impressive supporting columns greets passers-by. The entrance includes a wide doorway with glass windows on both sides of an Adamesque door frame. [See Photograph A] A distinctive stained-glass window appears in the main living room area, originally on the northwest corner of the first floor, presently facing northeast. [See Photograph B] A fireplace adorns this room, and an adjoining wooden cabinet with glass windows is situated between the fireplace and the base of the stairs. [See Photograph C] The entire structure includes 5 fireplaces, each unique in design. Large windows in the breakfast nook originally offered a beautiful view of Tampa Bay. Currently, this side of the house faces south towards the Bayboro campus. Parts of the first floor near this area sustained damage during the move, with some cracking of the external plaster and wood damage, as well as the removal of the entire floor in the nook area occurring during the move. [See Photograph D]

The second floor extends atop the porch and juts out from the gambrel roof. The roof’s lower slope becomes more steep over the porch. [See Photograph E] A gambrel roof is quite common in both Dutch Colonial and Colonial Revival structures. The front room on the second floor has served as a bedroom and guest quarters over the years, and is accented by a dormer with 5 windows and a gable. The main staircase ascends from the living room and grand entry to the second floor, with decorative railing on the second floor
following the hallway into the master bedroom. [See Photograph F] Window views from the master bedroom and original bathroom at one time looked along First Street and currently offer a view of the northern portion of the property, Fifth Avenue South, and the Carlton Towers. Subsequent additions to the structure have carved a closet and small bathroom from the master suite, but have retained the beautiful fireplace, a brick base graced by columns, a mirror, and fine woodwork. [See Photograph G] The original bathroom, with its entrance in the main hallway, was then used by guests who occupied the rear rooms on the second floor, an area with a cupola roof. [See Photograph H] All four sides of the house possess numerous windows that liberally distribute light throughout the structure. Despite alterations made during its years as the Colonial Hotel annex, the Snell house does retain much of its original character. (For a detailed description of architectural types, see: McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Knopf, 1984, and Poppeliers, John C., What Style Is It?: A Guide to American Architecture, Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1983).
13. ALTERATIONS AND PRESENT APPEARANCE: Describe alterations to property in chronological order. Indicate the date, type, and reason for each of the following:

a. Alterations to the major resource.
b. Alterations to other contributing resources.
c. Site alterations: demolition of any resources or construction of non-contributing resources, landscape changes, etc.
d. Setting alterations: describe changes in the surrounding area or neighborhood:

Write Description of Alterations Below (Use a continuation sheet if necessary).

Structural alterations modified the Snell house for use as an annex to the Colonial Hotel. According to records filed at the City Planning department, minor modifications--such as the addition of a single lavatory--occurred in 1933, 1942, and 1949. A substantial renovation took place in 1950. On September 2, 1950, A. Steadman Hills received permits to install 3 bathtubs, 2 partitions, and new electrical wires throughout the building. Three days later, the city approved modifications for 3 closets, 4 lavatories, and the 6 bathrooms needed to serve patrons. By the end of the month, additional plumbing work included the replacement of 1 sink and the addition of 3 bathtubs. The City Fuel Oil Company installed a 275,000 BTU General Electric oil heater in November 1955 (City Permit Records, Kress Building, St. Petersburg).

At the time of the Snell house construction, 2 houses and 3 smaller buildings occupied block 23. No structures existed on the north corner of the block. By July 1908, Snell’s residence and 2 other houses had appeared on the north end of block 23, according to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. These 2 dwellings sat along Second Avenue NE, to the east of Snell’s home. A small outbuilding appeared at the southeast corner of the Snell property in 1913, after it was purchased by the Fogartys. Another additional structure was built between the Colonial Hotel and the house by 1923 (Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Florida Reel 13).

The most substantial alteration to the structure occurred in August 1993, when the A.B. Thomas Housemover company relocated the structure to its present site. A crew took two weeks to remove the house from its foundation and to elevate it four feet off of the ground. The movers confronted evidence of the Snell’s sound construction methods when they meticulously sawed through the 1/2-inch thick steel bars that were placed three feet apart throughout the foundation. The house arrived at its present location in the early morning of Tuesday, August 17, 1993 (St. Petersburg Times, August 16, 1993, City p. 1).
14. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Describe the historic significance of the property:

a. What events and circumstances led to the original development of the property? Why was it developed at that particular time and place?

b. Who was involved in the original development? Who was the owner? architect? builder? What other significant work or activities where these persons noted for? Are other important persons associated with the property? How?

c. Be sure to give basic biographical information, if possible, on the above persons, including such details as: date and place of birth, and death, educational and professional background, and important events surrounding their lives.

d. How was the property used during its period of significance? What important events or developments occurred there? How do they fit into the overall historic development of the community?

e. How and by whom was the property used after its period of significance?

Write Significance Statement below (use a continuation sheet if necessary).

Historians have thoroughly documented C. Perry Snell's importance to the development of St. Petersburg. Ray Arsenault refers to Snell as the city's most important developer and "the first high priest of up-scale development" (Raymond Arsenault, *St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream: 1888-1950*, Norfolk: Donning, 1988, 137, 199). Authors Walter Fuller and Karl Grismer have also recorded Snell's importance to boom-era St. Petersburg. One writer noted that Snell developed more property on the Pinellas peninsula than anyone else (Hap Hatton, *Tropical Splendor: An Architectural History of Florida*, New York: Knopf, 1987, 75).

C. Perry Snell was born on June 5, 1869, in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The second son of Commodore Perry Snell and Isabella Shelton Snell, he attended Ogden College Preparatory School, the Cherry Brothers Institute, and later became a pharmacist. During his young adult years he helped a brother and sister get through school and worked in a variety of cities, including Louisville, Los Angeles, and Chicago. He later moved to Columbia, Tennessee, where he met and married Lillian Allen, an heiress who bankrolled his land investments. Early purchases included an east Tennessee peach orchard, as well as an 8,000-acre site in Arkansas that amounted to an $18,000 profit within a year. Two weeks after arriving in St. Petersburg during their first trip in 1899, the Snells purchased the northwest corner of block 23. A few weeks later, they bought the rest of the block, part of which later became a portion of the
Serenos Hotel. After annual vacations to St. Petersburg, the Snells decided to make this city their permanent home in February 1904. They immediately selected the corner of Second Avenue NE (then known as Fourth Avenue) and First Street as the location of their "elegant residence" (St. Petersburg Times, February 20, 1904; October 24, 1942; March 18, 1991, City p. 1; Evening Independent, December 8, 1975, 1B).

The Snell house served as a meeting place for leaders in the growing community. The "Personals" column of the Times often mentioned the Snell's involvement in city life. For example, they hosted many visitors to St. Petersburg's Chautauqua festivities. The Times referred to a January 1906 reception hosted by Lillian Allen Snell as the "most brilliant social event of the season." Green and red decorations adorned the dining room, roses filled the entire house, and "the brilliant rays of the electric lights were softened by the green and red of the flower shades." Nearly 100 guests attended this gathering, "an occasion to be remembered in the social realm of St. Petersburg" (St. Petersburg Times, January 20, 1906). In addition to such fêtes, Snell conducted negotiations and transactions at his picturesque homestead.

The house acted as a base for Snell's early civic and real estate development endeavors. As a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, he loaned a substantial sum for the construction of a new house of worship. He served as a stockholder in the National Bank of St. Petersburg. In May 1905, he became a partner in the Bay Shore Land Company, a body that purchased 80 acres of property north of the city. After a Tennessee vacation, the Snells returned to "their beautiful home on First Street and Second Avenue North" in the fall of 1905 as Bay Shore subdivision lots went on sale. Brisk sales encouraged Snell to purchase 17.5 acres of the Hanley Grove and 5 acres from Anna McPherson in early 1906. This property, near Reservoir (Mirror) Lake—and later additions in the Northeast St. Petersburg—solidified Snell's role as the leading developer of this period. By December 1906, Snell, J.C. Hamlett, and A.E. Hoxie purchased all of the holdings of the St. Petersburg Land and Improvement Company and formed a partnership known as Snell and Hamlett. This acquisition included several hundred city lots, as well as several hundred acres surrounding the city limits. Snell and Hamlett had an agreement to develop the North Shore area in 1909-1910, and Snell saw the potential for residential neighborhoods north of the downtown area (St. Petersburg Times, March 25, 1905; May 13, 1905; July 29, 1905; November 4, 1905; December 9, 1905; February 17, 1906; March 18, 1991, City p. 1; Karl H. Grismer, History of St. Petersburg: Historical and Biographical, St. Petersburg: Tourist News Publishing Company, 1924, 259-260).

Snell's active support of William L. Straub's vision of a public waterfront park also began during his years at this house. With Beach Drive serving as a shoreline roadway at the time,
Snell’s house sat only one block from the Tampa Bay. The scenic view offered by this prime location certainly encouraged Snell to appreciate the importance of maintaining public access to the waterfront. In March 1905, he joined the St. Petersburg Board of Trade’s harbor survey committee. As chair of the Board’s waterfront and harbor committee, he appeared before the city council in April 1906 to report on the group’s progress at securing waterfront lots for public ownership (St. Petersburg Times, March 18, 1905; April 7, 1906; April 14, 1906).

During Snell’s ownership, the property’s value appreciated substantially. In 1898, W. J. Davis owned lots 1 through 5 on block 23. Hillsborough County placed the value of these 5 lots at $500, and assessed Davis $2.38 in state taxes and $5.63 in county taxes. Less than eight years later, authorities valued Snell’s portion of blocks 4 and 5 at $1,500. For 1906–1907, Snell paid $9.00 in state taxes, $27.00 in county taxes, and a special school district tax of $4.50 (Reels 10 and 19, Tax Records, Hillsborough County Courthouse, Tampa). Snell sold the property to Elizabeth M. Fogarty in 1910. According to page 73 in Deed Book 136, Hillsborough County, Fogarty paid Snell the sum of $8,000 for parts of lots 4 and 5 of block 23. The Snells and Fogarty entered into an agreement on August 15, 1910, and authorities filed the transaction in the Deed Book on October 21, 1910 (Reel 108, Platted Lands, Hillsborough County Courthouse, Tampa). The Snells then moved to a smaller home at 136 Second Avenue N.E., which the owner of the Jungle Prada and Soreno Lund later occupied and which was razed in September 1992 (St. Petersburg Times, June 15, 1992, City p. 1; September 18, 1992, City p. 1).

While numerous sources describe Snell’s activities during the boom era, Snell’s earlier real estate transactions (those prior to 1910) truly established him as a leader in the community and made future speculative activities possible. Snell and Hamlett oversaw the construction of housing in the area west of Mirror Lake and around Crescent Lake, and Snell allowed the city to acquire a 56-acre rectangular portion of land around Crescent Lake for use as a city park at a cost of $35,000, much less than the property’s value. After moving from his first St. Petersburg home, Snell developed much of the North Shore area. Along with Hamlett, Snell purchased several large tracts bordering Tampa Bay. On March 18, 1919, Snell bought out Hamlett’s interest in the partnership, and less than 2 months later began work on the Coffee Pot Golf Course (Grismer, History of St. Petersburg, 259-260).

Once he purchased Hamlett’s share of this enterprise, Snell continued his affairs without any partners. After announcing the availability of lots on Snell Isle in October 1925, Snell accumulated sales of over $7-million in this, his most elegant development. During this period, he also constructed the Snell
Building (later known as the Rutland Building and the Snell Arcade) on the corner of Fourth Street and Central Avenue at a cost of $750,000. The collapse of the land boom and Florida's early entry into the Great Depression devastated nearly every local developer, and Snell alone continued to fulfill his commitments to his clients, at great personal financial expense. A true patron of the arts and culture, Snell actually toured Europe in search of paintings and statues as the boom went bust. He returned from his $1-million shopping spree, and found himself morally committed to completing promised improvements on Snell Isle. In later years, Snell also expressed an interest in Gulf Beach property along Pass-a-Grille, the last area he developed (Grismer, Karl H., *The Story of St. Petersburg: The History of Lower Pinellas Peninsula and the Sunshine City*, St. Petersburg: P.K. Smith, 1948, 301-303, and Box 26, Walter P. Fuller Papers, Special Collections, University of South Florida Library, Tampa, Florida).

Perry Snell continued to serve as one of St. Petersburg's greatest boosters until his death in October 1942. While returning from a vacation to Mexico City with his third wife, Snell suffered a heart attack in Monterrey, Mexico. He died on October 23, 1942, at Mercy Hospital in Laredo, Texas, and his body was returned to Bowling Green, Kentucky, for services and interment. After Snell's death, Mayor R. J. McCutcheon praised this city pioneer for "his foresight [which] resulted in the development of some of the city's most valuable properties. He had great confidence in the future of St. Petersburg and seemed to have the ability to chart the direction of the city's future growth" (*Evening Independent*, 24 October 1942, 1, 9).

The Fogarty family played a prominent role in the development of Bradenton and Manatee County. Members of this family settled in St. Augustine in the 1830s and later moved to an area near western Bradenton (then known as Braidentown) on the banks of the Manatee River (St. Petersburg Times, November 4, 1979, 27B). These pioneers established the community of Fogartyville in 1865 (St. Petersburg Times, July 13, 1975, 5B). Elizabeth's son, Captain Will J. Fogarty married the former Caroline Lindemeyer and they had four children before his untimely death. Elizabeth (known within the family as "Eliza"), her daughter-in-law Caroline, and Caroline's four children moved into the Snell house in 1910. According to a family biography, "wide streets and the spaciousness of the growing town on Pinellas Point" attracted the family to St. Petersburg (Ollie Z. Fogarty, *They Called It Fogartyville: The Story of the Fogartys and Fogartyville*, New York: Gaus' Son, 1972, pp. 149, 216).

The Fogarty quickly became part of the boom time community. Soon after the family's arrival, Caroline became involved in church and social groups. Elizabeth died at their house in September 1922, at the age of 82 (Fogartyville, p. 238). During that same year, occupants of the house included Caroline, son Arthur Bebee (A.B.),
George C., and Margaret J. Fogarty. A.B. Fogarty spent many years in the real estate profession, as an agent and appraiser.

The Snell house became an annex to the Colonial Hotel (126 - 2nd Avenue N.E.) in the late 1920s. The Colonial Hotel was constructed on its present site in 1917. According to the R. L. Polk and Company city directories, a variety of managers supervised the furnished rooms in the Colonial annex. In 1933, A. Stedman Hills of Washington, D.C., and John Boice created the Colonial Hotel Properties to replace the Christian-Boice Corporation. The Colonial Hotel's ownership added bathrooms, closets, and other structural modifications to accommodate the lodging needs of guests who stayed at the annex. The United States Army used these buildings from 1942 to 1945 as a basic training center and an officers cadet school. On November 1, 1945, the Colonial returned to civilian use as it reopened for the annual winter tourist season (St. Petersburg Times, May 3, 1993, City p. 1). From 1947 to 1949, directories listed the former Snell property as the Pierview Guest Home. An establishment known as the Bay Mill Antique Shop briefly occupied the structure in 1948. Between 1950 and 1985 the property at 106 - 2nd Avenue N.E. appeared under the names "Colonial Fairview" and "Colonial Hotel Annex." Subsequent directories listed the property as "vacant" (R. L. Polk and Company).

A.S. Hills--owner of the Colonial Hotel since 1933--sold his interests to the Bond ownership group in 1967. According to realtor Paul J. Sattler, the new owners spent a base sum of $245,000 and planned to commit an additional $50,000 for the first phase of the Colonial's renovation. Purchasers included William, Samuel, and "Nin" Bond; Mrs. M. W. King; and William Tucker. This purchase price included the Snell house, which was referred to as an "adjoining cottage" to be operated on a lease basis (Evening Independent, October 9, 1967, 14A). During the mid-1980s the property gained notoriety for the long-standing custom of seasonal visitors parking their vehicles on the lawn (St. Petersburg Times, March 14, 1985, Neighborhood p. 2).

The city completed a historic site survey with assistance from the Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management. In an August 1981 report, the St. Petersburg Community Development Department assigned a "category III" rating to the Snell house. Of the 600 properties examined, 350 received a category rating. Level III properties possess strong architectural qualities and/or moderate historic significance. Such structures may become eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at a later date (City of St. Petersburg, Planning Division, St. Petersburg's Architectural and Historic Resources, St. Petersburg: City Community Development Department, 1981). A story in the March 14, 1985, St. Petersburg Times notes that the U.S. Department of the Interior considered the Snell house and 26 other buildings in the
The Snell house's future became uncertain after the Bond family sold its Colonial interests to Bay Plaza Cos., in August 1990. Bay Plaza financed the purchases to the tune of $800,000. Preservationist group Save Our St. Petersburg and Bay Plaza examined a variety of alternatives in their desire to avoid demolishing this landmark. Plans included moving the house along First Avenue North and adding the structure to Pinellas Pioneer Settlement. In February 1993, the University of South Florida, city, and Bay Plaza officials announced that all sides had agreed to move the house to the Bayboro Campus so it could serve as an alumni and faculty center. Originally slated to rest on Fourth Street South between Seventh and Eighth avenues, the parties later decided to place the house at the northern boundary of the campus, on the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue South and Second Street, the spot it assumed on August 17, 1993 (St. Petersburg Times, April 18, 1992, City p. 1; December 21, 1992, City p. 3; February 12, 1993, City p. 1; May 3, 1993, City p. 1; August 16, 1993, City p. 1).

The University of South Florida, St. Petersburg campus, intends to restore the Snell House to its original grandeur. The wide porch will be reconstructed, with minor modification of the south corner (near the breakfast nook) for a wheelchair ramp. Many later additions—including some of the bathrooms and wall partitions included to accommodate hotel annex visitors—will be removed to restore original room dimensions. The first floor will tentatively include a welcome center, reception area, conference area, alumni office, and kitchen and utility areas. After construction workers remove a wall and bathroom added in the 1950s, the front bedroom will become a reading room and sitting area. The master bedroom, with its impressive fireplace, will serve as a conference room. A second reading room and a meeting room will also occupy the second floor.
15. Attach the following items:

a. A locator map showing the location of the property.

b. A site plan justifying the boundaries of the property to be designated and the location of all contributing and non-contributing resources on the site.

c. Photographs: black & white 5" x 7" or 8" x 10", two copies of each shot, showing:
   1) An overall view of the property (taken at a distance to show all or as many of the resources as possible).
   2) Close-up shots of significant or unusual decorative or structural details of the property.
   3) One exterior view of any other major feature or structure within the boundaries of the property to be designated.

d. Footnotes and a bibliography of sources used in the preparation of the description and significance statements.

16. Designation proposal prepared by (include title and name of agency or organization if appropriate):

Name James A. Schnur
Title Special Collections Assistant
Agency Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, University of South Florida
Address 140 Seventh Avenue South, POY 114
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5016
Telephone Number 813-803-9125 (work) 813-822-0785 (home)
Date proposal prepared 12 September 1994
Signature of preparer
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

PERRY SNELL HOUSE

Photograph A
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

PERRY SNELL HOUSE

Photograph B
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

PERRY SNELL HOUSE

Photograph C
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS
PERRY SNELL HOUSE
Photograph D
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

PERRY SNELL HOUSE

Photograph E
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

PERRY SNELL HOUSE

Photograph F
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG CAMPUS

PERRY SNELL HOUSE

Photograph H
Bibliography of References Cited


Papers of Walter P. Fuller. Box 26. Special Collections, University of South Florida, Tampa.


Hillsborough, County of. Platted Lands, Reel 108. Hillsborough County Courthouse, Tampa.


———. Planning Division. St. Petersburg’s Architectural and Historic Resources. (St. Petersburg: Community Development Department, 1981).

St. Petersburg Evening Independent.

St. Petersburg Times.

20 May 1996

Mr. George Percy  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
Department of State  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Dear Mr. Percy:

On behalf of the Executive Board and membership of the Pinellas County Historical Society, I send greetings and express support for Phase III of the Special Category Grant for the restoration of the Snell and Williams houses (SC 644). Located on the St. Petersburg campus of the University of South Florida, these historic structures offer an important link with two of St. Petersburg’s early civic leaders, John C. Williams and C. Perry Snell. We commend your office, USF St. Petersburg, and local partnership organizations for starting the first phase; the Society hopes this relationship will continue during Phase III.

The Pinellas County Historical Society has a strong interest in promoting and preserving our county’s documentary and architectural heritage. Our Society maintains its offices in the Greenwood House, one of nearly twenty-five historic structures located at Heritage Village/The Pinellas County Historical Museum, in Largo. Many of our members attend cultural and educational events at USF St. Petersburg, and look forward to the opening of the Snell and Williams houses.

Although our Society’s limited budget prevents us from offering a monetary contribution, we can show our support by offering publicity through our Pinellas Past television program. Every two weeks, we videotape Pinellas Past for distribution to county and government access channels in our communities. Future programs could document the progress made on the Snell/Williams restoration.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully yours,

James A. Schnur  
President