

History of 1202 N. Howard Avenue

April 9, 1904	George and Lettie Benjamin deeded four parcels of land — Lots 21-24 of G.N. Benjamin's Addition to West Tampa — to Samuel I. Davis for \$16,600.
September 1904	Samuel I. Davis & Company, later the Davis Brothers & Company, became the first occupant of the new factory at Pino Avenue (now Howard Avenue) and Nassau Street. They produced the famous cigar brand, El Sidelo and the building was sometimes referred to as "El Sidelo".
1911	Balbin Brothers purchased the factory. They manufacture the popular Elizardo and Balbin Brothers brands.
1915	Tampa Cuba Cigar Co. acquired the Balbin Bros. Co. and makes it a subsidiary. Tampa Cuba Cigar became the largest cigar manufacturer in West Tampa. The company remodeled and expanded the factory and made significant changes to its exterior.
1921	Tampa Cuba Cigar Co. shared space with Consolidated Cigar Company.
1923	Balbin Bros. dissolved. Tampa Cuba Cigar Company continued operations in the factory.
1924	Tampa Cuba Cigar Co. shared the building with Tampa Grande Cigar Company.
1927	Tampa Cuba Cigar Co. shared the factory with the Elmerbrink Company and Preston Cigar Company.
1929	Tampa Cuba Cigar Co. was listed at 1202 N. Howard Ave. and the Gradiatz Annis Company was listed at 1204 N. Howard Ave. in the City Directory, suggesting the factory was split.
1930	Gradiatz Annis and Sanchez y Haya occupied the building. No record of Tampa Cuba Cigar Co. in the City Directory.
1933	Gradiatz Annis was the sole occupant. No listing of Sanchez y Haya in the City Directory.
1934 – 1936	DeSoto Brewing Company owned the building and brewed beer in it.
1937 – 1975	Fred and Mack Perlman of Davis Islands purchased the building and used it for their enterprises which included the Empire Mercantile Company, Supreme Manufacturing Company, Sunstate Slacks, Inc. and Fremac's - a chain of 24 men's and boys' clothing stores.
1978 – 2005	Freeman family members purchased the building and used it for their enterprises which included EverWear Products, Inc., Royal Kitchens, Inc., and Daystar International.
June 2005	Karyn and Glenn Freeman sold the building to North Hyde Park Lofts, LLC of Concord, Mass.
January 2006	Intelident Solutions purchased the building for future use as its corporate headquarters.

*Research conducted by Maura Barrios, M.A., Director, Voces de West Tampa Project.