

THE GRAND PLAN

1905-1912

It was in fashion during this time for railroad tycoons to build railroads to carry passengers as well as haul payloads. Grand hotels were erected and towns designed.



Phosphate terminal showing the dock, storage bins, power plant, smokestack, and water tank.



New and larger brick depot built in 1911. Note the water tower essential to train locomotives used at the time.



View of Board Street looking east in 1912. On the left is the depot, in the middle is the railroad's water tower (just beyond the Mercantile general store).



The Gasparilla Inn's bathhouse Boca Grande, Florida, circa 1910.



Postcard view of the Gasparilla Inn 1912.

Henry Flagler built hotels in St. Augustine as well as in other towns on the east coast of Florida. Henry Plant (a cousin of Peter Bradley of the AACCo) did the same in Tampa when he opened the Tampa Bay Hotel.

Not to be outdone, Mr. Bradley and his company, the AACCo, simultaneously built a railroad, a grand hotel (the Gasparilla Inn) and town, constructed a power plant and erected one of the most modern loading elevators in the country on Gasparilla Island. All of these activities occurred in a period of only six years, 1905-1911. The town of Boca Grande became one of southwest Florida's first planned communities.



The wagon that delivered goods to island residences and businesses during the early days.