

# 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 bin, power plant smoke stack and water tank.



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



The Gasparilla Inn's bathhouse-beach facility shown here in 1910.



View of Fourth Street looking east in 1912, the depot is to the left; on the right is the railroad's water tower just beyond the Mercantile general store.

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.



Postcard view of the Gasparilla Inn 1912.

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.



Ice wagon that delivered ice to island residences and businesses during the early days.