

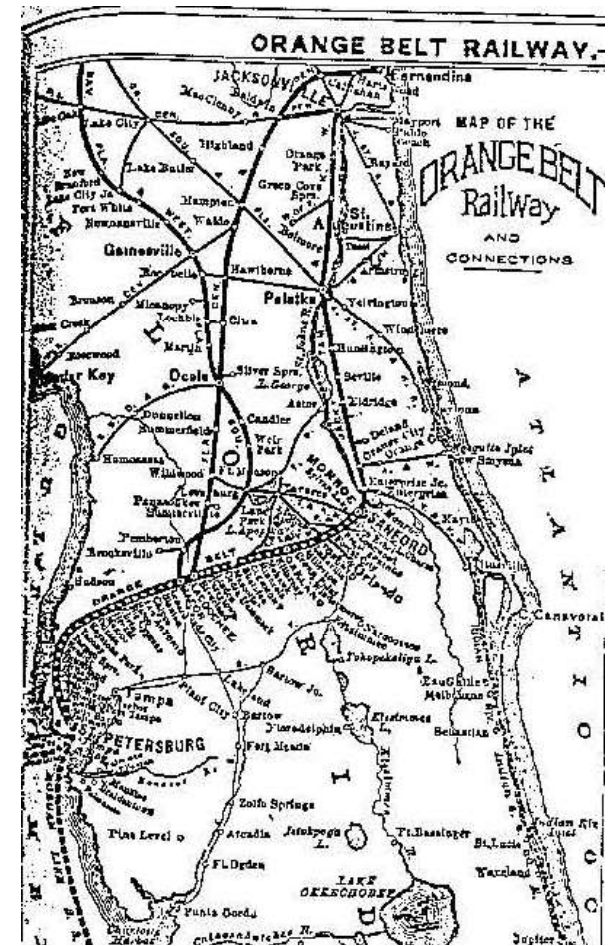
ONE CLEARWATER TOWER AT STATION SQUARE 600 Cleveland Street, Clearwater, Florida 33755

HISTORY

The City of Clearwater was originally settled by Native Americans of several tribes most notably the Tocobago and Timucua for many millennia before visits by Europeans in the 1500's. In 1822, Florida became a territory, and the Clearwater area began to be settled by colonists in the mid-1830s. During the Seminole Indian Wars of 1835, the government built the original Fort Harrison as a recuperation center for soldiers. It was located on the bluffs where Harbor Oaks is today about six blocks south of One Clearwater Tower. The fort was abandoned in 1841 and is commemorated by a plaque on Druid Road in downtown Clearwater. The area was originally known as Clear Water Harbor as this was the main point of access. In 1897 with the completion of Henry Plant's railroad line to Station Square and the Bellevue Biltmore resort, the area began to boom and eventually "Harbor" was dropped from the name in 1906. Originally a part of Hillsborough County, Pinellas County was created by an act of the Legislature in January of 1912, and Clearwater became the county seat with the original courthouse being built in 1918 at 315 Court Street four blocks southwest of One Clearwater Tower. The city of Clearwater was incorporated in May of 1915 with the first City Hall located at the northeast corner of Fort Harrison and Laura Street about 2 blocks away.

In 1916, the city built the first wooden bridge to Clearwater Beach, opening the beaches up for development. Following the end of World War II, between 1946 - 1970 there was tremendous population growth as mainland areas close to town developed and the barrier islands were augmented by dredging and the waterfront communities developed. The downtown area became more urbanized with the growth of government, offices of every type, service and distribution uses and retail development to serve the growing community.

In 1974 the principle shareholders of the Clearwater National Bank (which today is the Bank of America) designed and built the first Class "A" office building in downtown Clearwater with the bank serving as anchor tenant, professional offices for law firms, insurance companies and investment companies on the mid-level floors, and the Harbor View Club, a membership only businessmen's club on the top floor. In 2013 the property was acquired by 600 Cleveland, LLC and extensive renovations have been underway since to enhance the best environment for business in Clearwater's Central Business District.



In the map above from 1892 the initial rail line serving Clearwater is shown.