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A Piece of History Returns Home

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One of the Gandy Bridge’s original toll towers will begin its journey back to its home Thursday, June 14 at 9 a.m. The tower was entrusted to USF St. Petersburg in 1996 through the work of Rep. Bill Heller, then dean at the university, where it was restored to its original splendor and kept until now.

USFSP will turn over the tower to the Friendship TrailBridge Oversight Committee to be used as the focal point for the Friendship TrailBridge entrance.

Currently located on 8th Avenue South, just North of the Bayboro Harbor peninsula, the tower stands 17 feet tall and 6 feet wide and was among the first four toll towers built for the Gandy Bridge in 1924.

"We are pleased that USF St. Petersburg was able to play a small role in preserving a big piece of our community’s history," said Tom Piazze, executive director of development at USF St. Petersburg.

"We are equally happy to return the toll tower to the TrailBridge where it can be enjoyed by generations to come. Special thanks to Rep. Bill Heller for his foresight and those who came before us for their efforts."

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