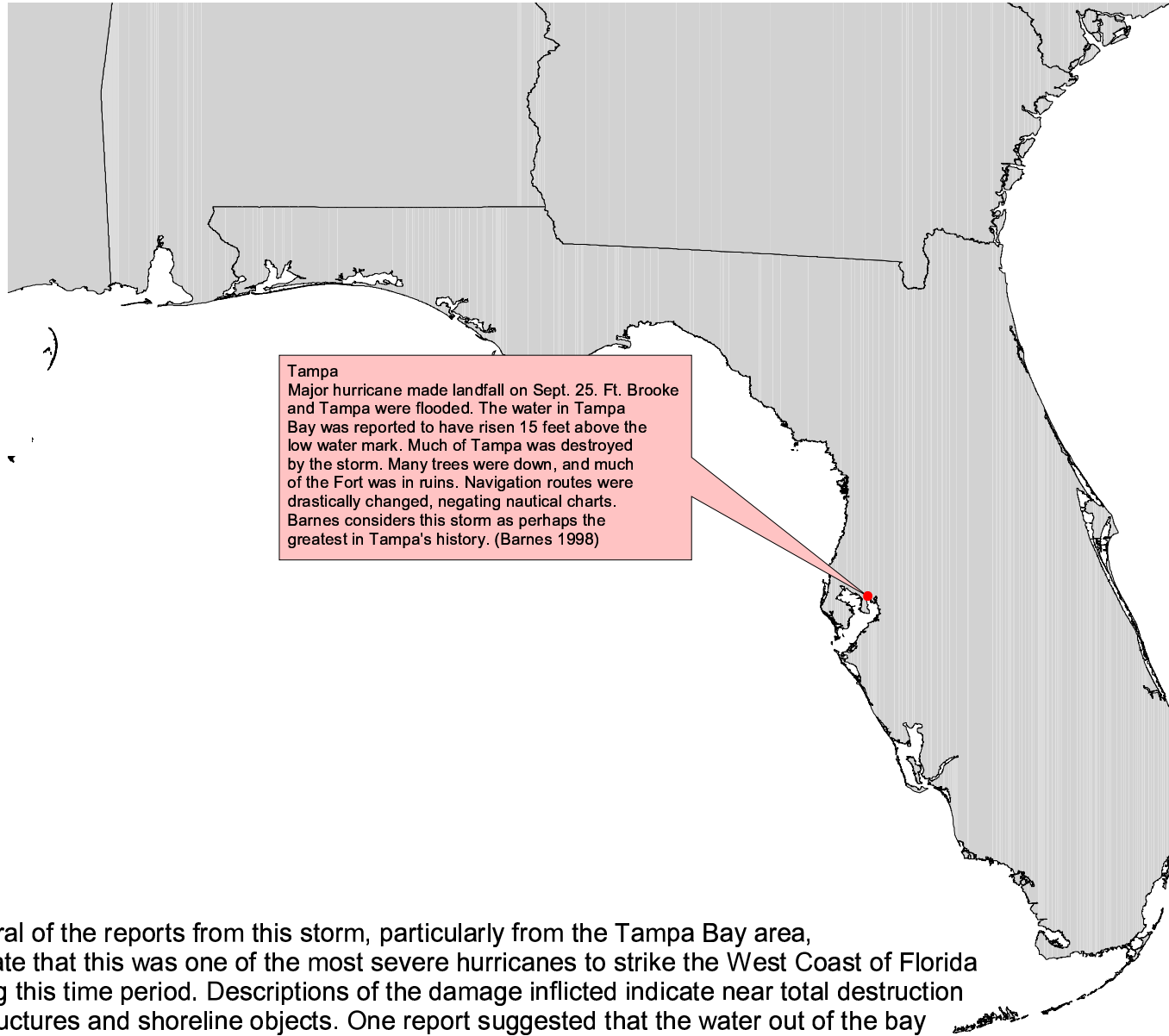


# The Tampa Bay Hurricane of 1848 - Sept. 25



Tampa  
Major hurricane made landfall on Sept. 25. Ft. Brooke and Tampa were flooded. The water in Tampa Bay was reported to have risen 15 feet above the low water mark. Much of Tampa was destroyed by the storm. Many trees were down, and much of the Fort was in ruins. Navigation routes were drastically changed, negating nautical charts. Barnes considers this storm as perhaps the greatest in Tampa's history. (Barnes 1998)

Several of the reports from this storm, particularly from the Tampa Bay area, indicate that this was one of the most severe hurricanes to strike the West Coast of Florida during this time period. Descriptions of the damage inflicted indicate near total destruction of structures and shoreline objects. One report suggested that the water out of the bay rose "10 to 12 feet higher than ever known". Barometer readings support the likelihood that this storm was a strong major hurricane. Wind direction changes in the storm observations suggest that the center approached from the S or SE and then passed to the W of Tampa Bay, probably curving inland N of Tampa Bay and crossing the peninsula diagonally to the NE.



100 0 100 200 Miles