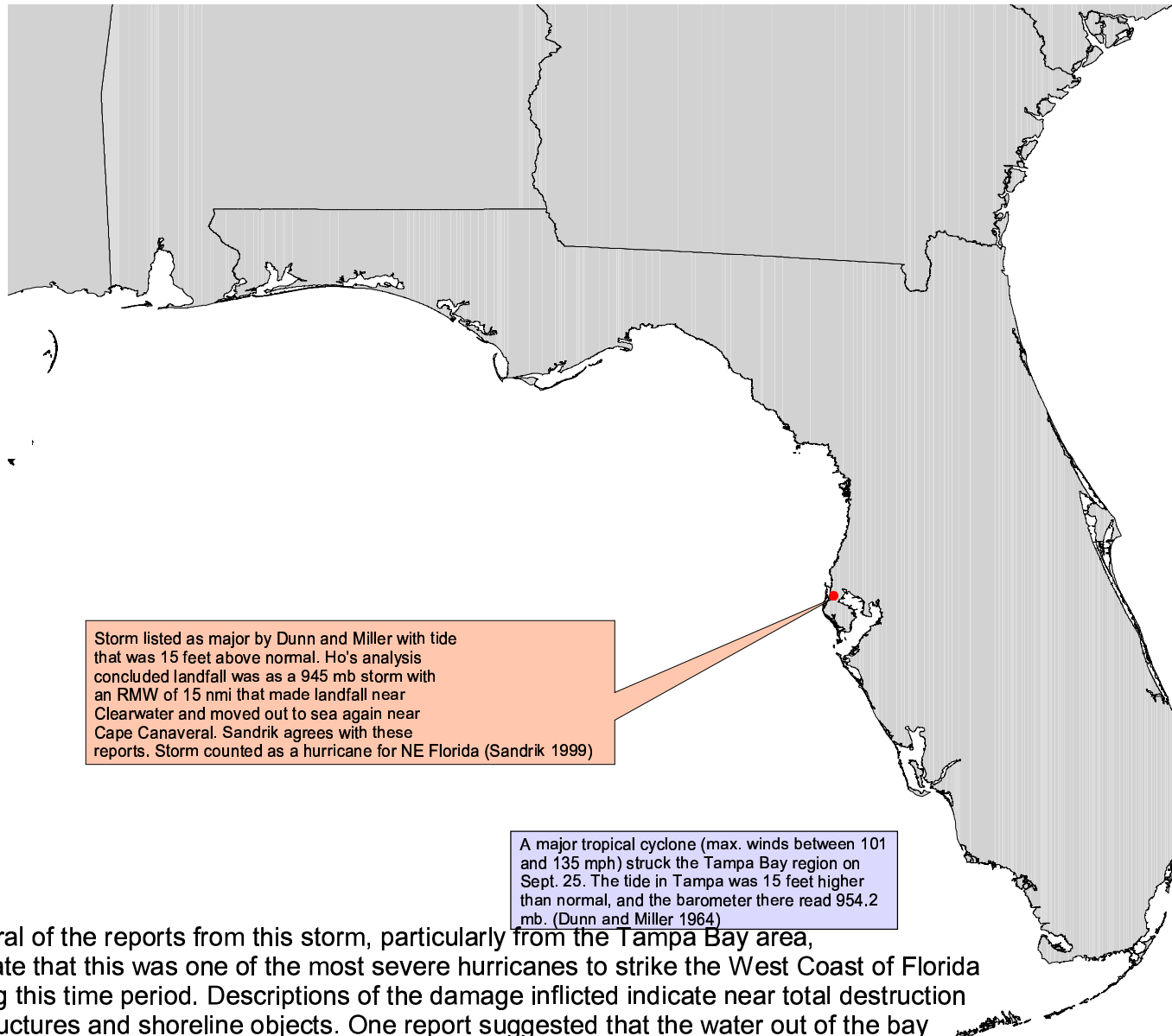


The Tampa Bay Hurricane of 1848 - Sept. 25



Storm listed as major by Dunn and Miller with tide that was 15 feet above normal. Ho's analysis concluded landfall was as a 945 mb storm with an RMW of 15 nmi that made landfall near Clearwater and moved out to sea again near Cape Canaveral. Sandrik agrees with these reports. Storm counted as a hurricane for NE Florida (Sandrik 1999)

A major tropical cyclone (max. winds between 101 and 135 mph) struck the Tampa Bay region on Sept. 25. The tide in Tampa was 15 feet higher than normal, and the barometer there read 954.2 mb. (Dunn and Miller 1964)

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

