

Tramor Cafeteria
123 Fourth Street South (also 119 Fourth Street South)
Designated January 1991, HPC #90-04



Constructed in 1929, the Tramor Cafeteria is a prime example of Mediterranean Revival style architecture and is especially noted for the beauty of its interior which is considered a significant feature in its landmark designation. Its tradition as a seasonal cafeteria is important to St. Petersburg's development as a tourist town. Opened for business as Bob's Cafeteria in 1930 by original owner Robert Ely, it was known as the Holsum Cafeteria between 1931 and 1938. It became the Tramor Cafeteria in 1939 after the property was purchased by the Haige Corporation. The Tramor was designed by architect Elliott Hadley, and is noteworthy for Hadley, engineer Emil Nordstrom and contractor Reuben Clarkson use of 70-foot long hanger trusses left from an abandoned airport construction project at Weedon Island.

The Fourth Street, main (east) facade is strongly horizontal, anchored at each end with a slightly projecting vertical tower. There is also a tower located on the southwest corner of the building. All three towers have a pyramidal shaped roof capped with clay barrel tiles ranging in color from soft red to chocolate brown and have decorated eave brackets. The upper level of the towers contains paired windows with decorative iron balconettes and a clay tile canopy. The central section of the main facade, at ground level, contains six arched windows trimmed above and below with decorative tiles, the upper level contains six double-hung sash windows centered over each arch. The main entrance and the second story window above it are also trimmed with tiles.

The interior decor retains its original character which was designed to create the illusion of dining on the patio of a Spanish hacienda. Red barrel tile tops the arched windows and doorways of the balcony which wraps around three sides of the central eating area. The stucco ceiling is painted blue with wisps of white to simulate the sky. In the lobby the floor is tiled in colorful adobe squares, the ceiling has stenciled cypress beams and glazed Mexican tile decorates the walls.