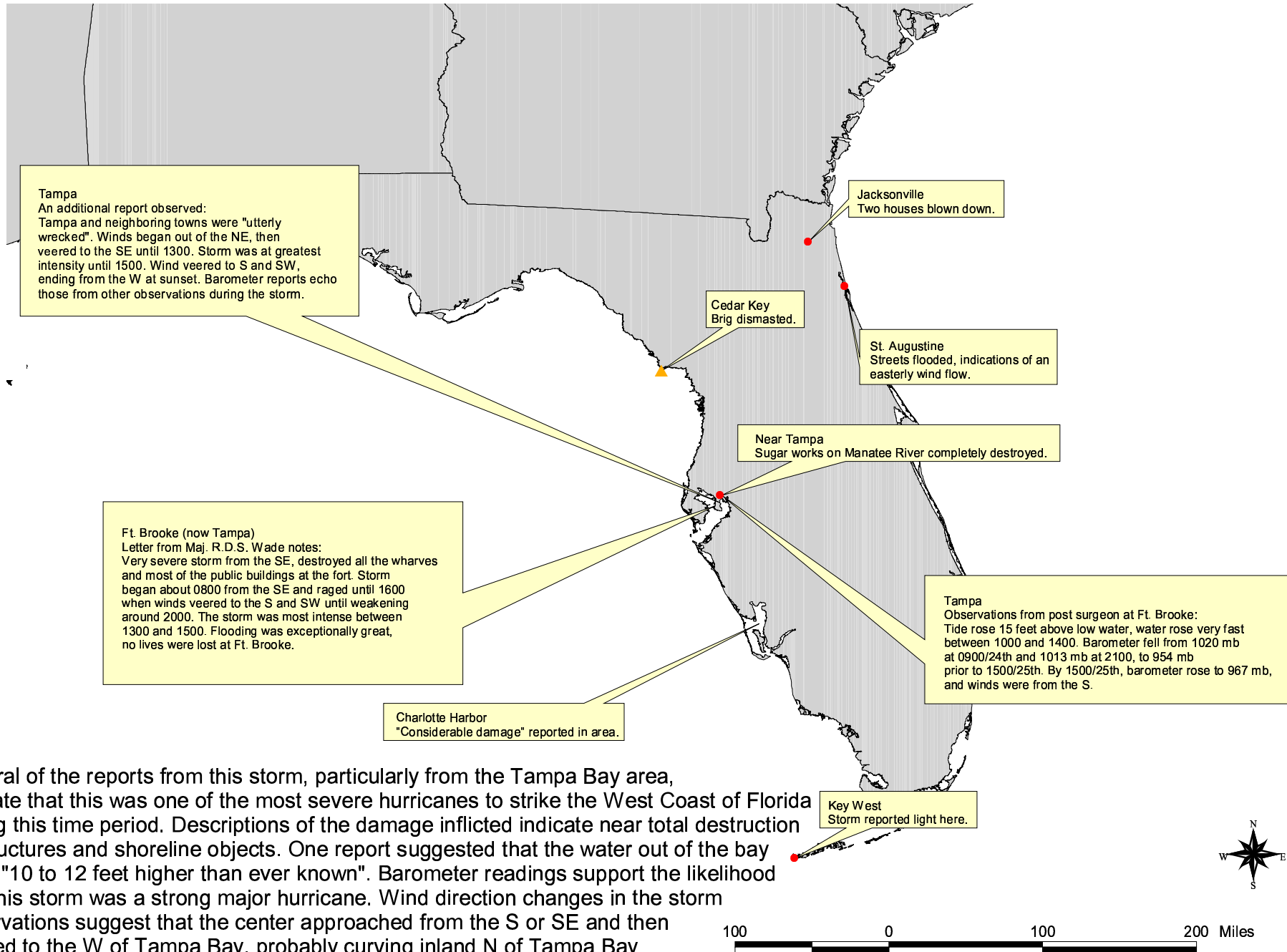


The Tampa Bay Hurricane of 1848 - Sept. 25



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.