

both buildings being gutted. Thence it spread to the adjoining Hubbard block on the west, extending to Pine Street. The Hubbard building was a new 4-story brick building, occupied by the S. B. Hubbard Hardware Company, Western Union Telegraph Company, Southern Bell Telephone Company, Southern Savings & Trust Bank, with offices, and the Jacksonville Light Infantry armory above. While this building was burning, the DaCosta Printing office, adjoining on Pine Street, was burned. The L'Engle building at the northeast corner of Pine and Bay Streets miraculously escaped destruction.

From this corner (southeast corner of Pine and Forsyth Streets) the fire crossed Pine Street to the 4-story brick Freedmen's Bank building on the southwest corner of Pine and Forsyth, which was soon ablaze. Adjoining on Pine Street were a billiard saloon and the shoe store of Simmons & Scott; these also burned.

While the Freedmen's bank building was burning the Burbridge building at the northeast corner of Pine and Forsyth Street, occupied by the Seminole Club, caught and burned. This was a 3-story brick building, and just east of it was a brick-veneer building owned by C. B. Smith (where the Windle Hotel is now). Both were destroyed.

The large 3-story brick and frame Tremont Hotel on the northwest corner of Pine and Forsyth Streets became involved in the meantime, so that now all four corners at Pine and Forsyth Streets were on fire and burning fiercely.

When the fire reached the Smith building at 1:45 a.m. (18th), there was a terrific explosion of dynamite stored there, that rocked every building in Jacksonville, and caused a wholesale destruction of plate glass show windows and panes of glass for blocks around. At least a dozen people were injured by flying glass and scores of persons were knocked to the ground by the force of the explosion. No one was seriously hurt, however.

The 5-story brick Placide Hotel stood on Pine Street just back of the Tremont; the explosion had broken every pane of glass in it and it soon became a roaring shaft. The adjoining building on the southwest corner of Adams and Pine (where Kress' store is now) caught from the Placide and was quickly destroyed, as were two small dwellings immediately west of it.