

HISTORY OF
THE LONG-BROOKS-HUBERT HOUSE

1827 BROADWAY
(AVE J)

GALVESTON, TX 77550

Compiled by Caryl A. Hubert

On the 1899 Sanborn Maps, there was a corner store situated at the Southeast intersection of Broadway and 19th St in Galveston. The owner/operator was identified as Mr. R.M. Weber . Born in Germany in 1861, Weber immigrated to the US in 1879. He married Kate in 1895. Kate was born in Texas in 1871 to English born parents. RM and Kate were parents of two young boys, MN born June 1898 and Carol E. born Jan 1900. They operated the corner grocery located at 1827 Broadway. They lived upstairs from the family store, and with Will Garrison, a male servant born in Texas in 1878 of Scottish father; cooking was done by the negro maid, Lizzey Waddell, born in 1880 in Louisiana. The Galveston Business Directory of 1900 stated Mr. Weber sold Seafood, Oysters and Groceries. Mr Weber and his family do not appear on subsequent census' of Galveston after 1900...nor are they listed among the fatalities of the storm. Many people were unaccounted for and the list of victims is still incomplete 100 years later.

Reportedly, at the height of the storm, water covered the island... though it should have been only a few feet deep at this location, according to records of water heights on the Moody Mansion several blocks to the North and approximately the same elevation.

The Maceo family living at 1821 Broadway, in the year 2000, related the following story. In 1900, the two families living next to 1827 Broadway, which would have been the Hackworth family at 1821 Broadway, and the Bair family living at 1815 Broadway, were related, and left their homes together to seek higher ground... all members of both families drowned...and ironically, their homes survived intact being of the highest elevation on the east end of the island.

The Rosenberg Library has Galveston City Directories showing the corner grocery store @ 1827 Broadway was being run by J. Morris Tannenbaum until 1903. The 1905 Directory listed Tannenbaum as a Peddler at 2914 Ave L

The 1906 General Directory of Galveston listed Joseph Morris Tannenbaum as a tailor living at 2914 L and working at 405 24th. There is still no mention again of the original store keeper, Mr. Weber.

The 1906-07 City Directory showed the last known merchants to operate the store were the Bowen Brothers, Robert and Henry P. They specialized in groceries, fish and poultry. The brothers lived a block behind the store in a residence at 1828 L street in 1907.

In 1908, Sanborn map updates show no structure on this Southeast Corner of Broadway and 19th, nor was the store listed in the City Directory that year as it had been for many years prior.

The Bowen Brothers were then shown operating their grocery store out of their residence at 1828 Ave L.

Reportedly, the store survived the Great Storm of 1900. The 1910 Sanborn map shows a vacant lot. Rosenberg Library Historians suggest various reasons as to why the building failed to appear on the Sanborn assessments, it could have been moved, demolished or perhaps, burned down. Regardless, the plot was shown as a vacant lot

The present residence did not appear on Sanborn maps until after the 1912 update. Comparing the maps to the census data and city directories, it is obvious that construction began after 1908 and was complete before 1913. The earliest documentation was a 1913 Insurance statement. A deed search should show a more exact construction date, but for now...we shall use 1910 as the year the lot was purchased by Frank Long, owner/builder of the first single family residence to be built at 1827 Broadway.

In July 1900, not far from the island, in Brazoria County, lived Frank Long, born in 1865, and his wife Kate with their two sons John E., age 6 and Louis F. age 3, ...1910 Frank Long, then a clerk for a printer company in Galveston, and his spouse Kate, daughter of German immigrants, lived 3410 Avenue H near 34th. Samuel Farley age 36 an engineer for a steamship company, rented quarters from the Long's when he was in port.

Frank Long purchased the corner lot in 19__ where the grocery once stood.

Next door neighbors at 1821 Broadway were James P. Byrne and Nathaniel H. Christian. Next to them was 1819 Broadway, occupied by Paul Lobit. Moving east, 1815 was occupied by Alphonse Rosenthal and the 1805 Ave J (Broadway) residence belonged to Benjamin Phillips.

Around 1908, Frank Long, aged 44 and his wife Kate age 41, knowing the site was at a high point on the island, decided to purchase it for their permanent home. They began planning construction of their dream home for themselves and their two sons Louis age 11 and ____ age ____ ..They adopted a daughter, Mildred, born in 1910.

They contacted Raymond P. Frank, a contractor and homebuilder who grew up in Galveston, 1805 27th Street. Raymond, youngest of 5 children was born in 1892 in Galveston. His father, Lawrence Frank, widowed between June 1900 and the 1910 census, and his sister Elizabeth were not listed at the latter date. Aside from that, Raymond lived with his father and siblings until he married Lydia. Raymond, a storm survivor at 8 years of age, learned the building trade hands on through the reconstruction of the island after the 1900 Storm devastation. He started his own business soon after he married Lydia Klenk. In Raymond's later years, he gave refuge to his aging father, Lawrence, a blacksmith and a farrier, as well as Lydia's mother and her brother, Fred, who was also a carpenter. Raymond had one child, Margaret Frank (Griggs). Margaret was still living in Galveston County Friendswood, and dictated much of this history of 1827 Broadway during an impromptu interview (a chance meeting of this author and 3rd owner of 1827 Broadway) at Rosenberg Library in 1998. Mrs. Griggs stated a local architect by the name of Bowden, drew up the plans. While not documented, it is

assumed this was the Bowden family who owned Island Lumber and Building Materials located at 1727 Strand corner of 18th Street. Miss Margaret tells a story about how proud she was, Raymond Frank's little girl, when she helped her uncle Fred lay the front door threshold for this house...(some years later this same 'little girl' raised her 4 children here at 1827 Broadway.)

The home is constructed of cypress and long leaf pine lumber. Style wise it is actually a blend of the favored Queen Anne styling, abandoned after the turn of the century for a style with less labor intensive details, and taking on some characteristics of the upcoming Craftsman movement, more generally placed in the 1920's, apparent in the less severe pitch of the roof. The enclosed eaves, crown molding trim below the soffits, and the use of gable ends are indicative of Queen Anne influence. The interior use of transom windows and divided lite windows also are reminiscent of Queen Anne style.

Interestingly enough, Frank Long was himself a merchant, listing himself as a storekeeper owner/operator on the 1920 U.S. Census. By this time, Louis, the youngest son was a student in college and living at home.

While the house stayed in the Long family, it was home to several tenants besides Margaret Frank Griggs mentioned above. The house passed to Frank Long's son, who sold it in 1972 to Mr. Brooks and Mr. ____ for a summer cottage. At this time the original kitchen and baths were gutted and took on a 70's ambience. These fellows owned it until April 1999 when they sold it to Caryl Hubert, the 3rd and current owner. Ms. Hubert restored the vintage atmosphere by restyling the kitchen to a more traditional look with all wood hickory cabinets, restoring the transoms and flooring to the original finish. Restoration & renovation work included addition of insulation, central air and heat, electrical service upgrades, carport and privacy fencing to create a backyard entertainment area paved in natural slate with extensive tropical landscaping. Livability was further enhanced by enclosing the back porch for a storage & utility room, and addition of closets upstairs and down.

For many years the entryway was graced with a baby grand piano...and many Galvestonians recall taking lessons from Miss ^{Reanna Burns} in their youth...One House Company executive, Andrea Sunseri, a well known Galveston Real Estate Broker, recalls taking piano lessons with obvious pleasure.

