

History of 1516 Ball

1516 Ball was built in 1897, at the height of Galveston's prosperity, by Marine Insurance executive William F. Beers as an investment. Mr. Beers had noted Galveston architect C. W. Bulger design the Queen Anne style home. Mr. Bulger designed a number of homes, commercial buildings, and churches in Galveston, and other towns in Texas and across the Southwest and Central U.S.

The first occupant of the home was E. S. Levy that operated a large department store in Galveston. In 1904 the home was sold to Dr. Breath, a surgeon at UTMB, and his family. They lived in the house until 1913 when H. A. Griffin, postmaster of Galveston purchased the home. In 1915 John W. Hopkins, superintendent of Galveston schools purchased the home. The Hopkins family extensively remodeled the home in 1917 altering the appearance of the home from the Queen Ann style to the more modern craftsman style. The current front porch and the front room on the second floor were added. In this remodel all ceilings were lowered to just above the windows on both the 1st and 2nd floors and the stairway spindles were changed to more of a craftsman appearance. Also it appears the current kitchen and large 2nd floor master bath were built at this time. The Hopkins lived in the house until 1938 when William L. Moody III, V.P. of American National Insurance moved into the house. From 1939 to 1951 Dr. Dea Bailey Calvin (professor at UTMB), Hanes H. Brindley (Assistant in Anatomy at UTMB) and the Wilson family called 1516 Ball home. In 1951 Mr. & Mrs. Enbey purchased the home and initially turned the second and third floor into 4 apartments. After about 10 years the home was paid off, at which point the Enbeys stopped renting out the apartments. The Enbeys lived in the home for about 51 years until their death in 2002.

The previous owners purchased the home in 2002 and began a 3 year restoration project. The exterior 1950's siding and metal window blinds were removed. The home was totally gutted with new electrical, plumbing, hvac systems, and insulation installed. Some of the features of the 1917 remodel were removed to take the home back to the original Victorian appearance. The lowered ceilings were removed and the coved ceilings on the first floor were reproduced. The flat paneling installed over the original wood paneling of the stairway in the entry was removed, and the paint was stripped from the staircase and the kitchen/butler's pantry areas. The historic 117 year old home exudes all the character of days gone by with all the updates and conveniences of a modern home.