

1308 Church St in Galveston

Many generations have seen a great deal of change while calling this house home. Perhaps no one of historical note has ever lived here, nonetheless, the residents of this house have all witnessed and been a part of Galveston's history. According to a document located at Rosenberg Library, the central part of the house with the double gallery was built in 1865. Two additions, a kitchen and the east wing, were constructed in 1880 and 1898. This home has seen the installation of a cookstove, the advent of gas lighting, the conversion to electric, the commercialization of the telephone, the transition from literal horse powered transportation to mechanical horsepower. During the mid-20th century it was divided in two: the upstairs became a separate apartment and two families called it home. When we purchased the property, it had been restored to a single-family home, but needed love and attention, which we have tried to provide with foresight and optimism while honoring the historical traditions of the Victorian age. When it turned 150 years old eight years ago, I designed a birthday banner at Zazzle.com to hang on the porch in celebration. Soon it will be 160 years old.

This home has weathered many storms, including the devastating 1900 Storm. One hundred and eight years later, when Hurricane Ike came ashore in 2008, we discovered it was raised enough to avoid having water inside the house while many of our neighbors were less fortunate. Even then, as a community, neighbors helped each other and a terrible situation became bearable. When snow fell on Christmas Eve that year the neighborhood came alive at midnight. Children who had never seen snow, and adults who had rarely seen it here, spilled into the street to play and wonder at the transformed island.

The historic district is a fun place to call home. Daily walks with the dog never became boring. Every walk around the neighborhood is a chance to notice interesting architecture, historic locations and lovely gardens. Walking up any numbered street is a chance to see ships entering or leaving port. On windy days, hearing the surf from the Gulf of Mexico drives home that we live on an island. On a winter night when the sea fog is thick the foghorns recall the dangers of the sea and the heritage of Galveston's relationship with it. It's an easy walk downtown for a performance at the Grand 1894 Opera House, Mardi Gras parades, Dickens on the Strand, Artoberfest or any of the other community festivals nearby. With three restaurants and two bakeries just a block or two away we became regulars and got to know the waitstaff and favorite dishes. Often, we would arrange to meet friends for happy hour at one of the restaurants and afterwards we could walk home in just a few minutes. Better yet, were times we invited friends for cold drinks on the porch where passersby would wave a greeting. The front porches are also a great canvas for decorating to express yourself and celebrate holidays.

One of the best times of the year is the spring bird migration. The banana trees attract various insect-and nectar-eating birds including Orioles, Cuckoos, Tanagers, Buntings and various warblers. With a couple of bird feeders and a bird bath in the back yard, there will be twenty or more varieties of birds visiting in the spring. I loved to watch for the flashes of red, blue, and yellow as I worked in the kitchen. Washing dishes was hardly a chore with so much activity out the window. The birds traveling over the Gulf of Mexico need rest and sustenance when they are finally able to land and I always felt privileged to see them on to the next leg of their journey.

We also have witnessed history on our sojourn in this home. We have done our best to protect our house, strengthen its soundness and preserve its character. But it will no longer be our house so we leave it to the next owners to enjoy its charms and the charms of the locale, and to see it on the next leg of its journey.

DESCRIPTION AND ESTIMATE of the Present Cash Value

Of the 2-1 1/2 story State all Metal roofed frame Building
 situated on Lot No. 9 in Block No. 433, No. 1306-8 Ave G Street,

in the City of Galveston, owned by Robert W. Chase R. G. Macready '59.

Occupancy: First Floor by Chapman for Dwelling
 Second Floor by " for "
 Third Floor by " for "

DESCRIPTION:

When built? 1865; added 1880-1898 Last repaired or painted? repaired & repainted 1908, dry 1/2 day to complete, rest skodded 1898.

Is it on leased ground? NO. When does lease expire? "

What is used for lighting? Gas, Ring wired for street light Is gasoline used? NO.

Size of building? 18 x 41. 16 x 23. & 15 story added 18 x 22 ft. on top of brick and iron.

Number of rooms 6 Plastered 6 Ceiled and papered 6 Ceiled and painted 6 Halls 2 Bath room 1

Number closets? 4 Porches? 3 Mantels and grates? 4

on thereof? 3, brick, 2 to ground & 1 to ceiling

ESTIMATE.

at cost, at present value of materials and labor, including \$2600

Gas & water pipes & fixtures & Elect wiring \$ 900

age, use or location, percent \$ 2600

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

Terms 2 @ \$5 each = \$ 10

Tom's Wash house and woodshed 12 x 27 ft \$ 80

String White blinds \$ 50

Shedding on lot 9 \$ 70

Emmett F. McCoy and wife to Reginald G. Macready lot 9 in block 433 and improvements; \$10 (U.S. rev. stamps indicate transaction up to \$9,000) 12/3/59 \$ 250

Deduct for depreciation from age, use or location, percent \$ 250

Galveston and wife to Fred W. Chase lot 9 in block 433 with improvements and other considerations 4/19/93 \$ 250

REMARKS.

Blk 22 New 88 B. B. Bourn. 2nd. 3rd height = 2100.

3 Krc 1/2 B 92 2nd block wood

5/15 B. K. & Co 8 Apr 08. Concealed about wiring inspected & appd. 2 count

1 New bldg on 14 1/2 mont 1900 North bldg, wood concealed work appd. 3 count

Galveston, Texas, 14 day of July, 1898

B. K. & Co

Inspector