

Gengler-Johnson House

2024 Avenue K

Lot 13, Block 140

Built 1886

The 1906 insurance record for this side-hall, three-bay southern townhouse with double galleries notes a two-story frame building with a shingle roof, elevated on 3 ½ foot brick piers. The record notes that the house contained seven rooms, two halls, one bathroom (plus a water closet), one closet and three porches. The value of the building that year was \$2800. In addition to the main house, the lot contained a wood cistern on a foundation, valued at \$70; a one-story frame building on the northeast corner of the lot that served as a water closet, valued at \$45; a one-story frame building on the northwest corner of the lot that served as a stable, valued at \$60; and a one-story wash-house situated midway along the western lot line, valued at \$50. Fencing around the lot was valued at \$75, for a total property value in 1906 of \$3100.

Notes on the insurance record indicate it was wired for electric lights in 1902 and repaired in 1903. Frederick Johnson is noted as the owner on the 1906 record. Johnson purchased the property in 1904 from Peter Matthew Gengler, son of John and Margaret Gengler, the original owners. City tax records note John Gengler as the owner of this parcel of land as early as 1862.

John and Margaret Scheiber Gengler

John Gengler was born in Borlendorf, Germany, on 21 October 1827. He immigrated to Galveston in 1843.¹ In 1851, John and his brother, Peter Gengler, established a retail grocery business selling vegetables and groceries door to door from a horse-drawn cart.² During the Civil War, John Gengler went to sea as captain of a two-masted schooner that transported cotton around the Union blockade, through San Luis Pass, and down to Mexico for resale. At the end of the war, John went back to work at Peter Gengler's grocery store, where he stayed until his retirement.³ He died at his residence, 2020 Avenue K, on 3 January 1897.

On 19 August 1854, John married Margaret Schreiber. Margaret was born in Bavaria, Germany, on 11 October 1826. She died at the Gengler family residence on Avenue K on 14 November 1899. Her funeral was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, two blocks west of the Gengler homestead.⁴ She was buried next to John in Old Catholic Cemetery on Broadway.

¹ Galveston Daily News, 4 January 1897, page 15, OLD CITIZEN PASSES AWAY, obituary of John Gengler

² Galveston Daily News, 13 February 1889, page 8, GENGLER'S WAS AN ISLAND TRADITION UNTIL CLOSING

³ Galveston Daily News, 28 May 1922, page 10, IN BUSINESS SINCE 1851

⁴ Galveston Daily News, 15 November 1899, page 10, TWO PIONEERS PASS AWAY, obituary of Margaret Gengler

Seven children were born to John and Margaret in Galveston, four of whom survived to adulthood: Annie Susan (Mrs. Henry C. Schaefer), born 1855, died 1938; Susanna Helena (Mrs. Anton Sommer), born 1858, died 1940; Peter Matthew, born 1868, died 1945; and James Charles, born 1870, died 1938.

In 1916, Peter Matthew and James Charles became president and vice president, respectively, of the Peter Gengler Grocery Company. Peter Matthew would maintain control of the Gengler family grocery business until his death in 1945.⁵

Captain Frederick Wilhelm Johnson and wife, Matilda E. Kramer Johnson

Frederick Wilhelm Johnson was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 29 October 1862. Shortly after he immigrated to the United States in 1878-1879, he came to Galveston where he engaged in the shipping trade and was appointed branch pilot of Galveston's harbor on 1 September 1891.⁶

After the death of his first wife, Eugenia Olhausen in 1897, Captain Johnson married Matilda Kramer on 17 December 1898 in Galveston. Matilda was born on 4 July 1872 in Quintana, Brazoria County, Texas to German immigrant parents Charles Kramer (1836-1902) and Caroline "Lena" Minna (1844-1916).⁷ In addition to the five children he shared with Eugenia, two more daughters were born to his union with Matilda; Wilhelmine, born in 1905, and Juliette, born in 1907.

Johnson died at 2024 Avenue K on 1 November 1927. He was buried at Lakeview Cemetery in Galveston. Matilda maintained the residence until her death there in 1944, after which Wilhelmina and Juliette inherited the property. Juliette sold her interest to Wilhelmina in 1945, leaving her sole owner. Wilhelmina, and her husband, resided in the house for a short period of time before they relocated to Sherman Boulevard. After they moved, they maintained ownership of 2024 Avenue K and used it as rental property until they sold it to Jose and Jimmie Candia in 1961.

Jose and Jimmie Candia

Jose Candia was born in Luling, Texas, on 19 November 1911. He moved to Galveston in 1958 where he owned and operated the Galveston Cleaners & Laundry.⁸ Jimmie Avis Rodgers Blaylock Candia was born 16 December 1920 in Mississippi. She moved to Galveston sometime during the

⁵ Galveston Daily News, 3 December 1945, page 1, PETER M GENGLER HEAD OF GROCERY FIRM SUCCOMBS, obituary of Peter Matthew Gengler

⁶ Galveston Daily News, 2 November 1927, page 2, VETERAN PILOT OF GALVESTON DIES, obituary of Frederick W. Johnson

⁷ Texas Department of Health Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Death, Matilda Johnson (1872-1944)

⁸ Galveston Daily News, 7 February 1978, page 3, obituary of Jose "Joe" V. Candia

1950s and worked in the health care industry until her retirement.⁹ Their union was a second marriage for both. After Jose's death in 1978, Jimmie maintained ownership of 2024 Avenue K until her death in 2011. They are buried together at Galveston Memorial Park in Hitchcock, Texas.

Chain of Ownership.

John Gengler to wife, Margaret Scheiber Gengler, upon his death (3 January 1897)

Margaret Gengler to surviving children, upon her death (14 November 1899)

Peter Matthew Gengler, son of John and Margeret, to Frederick Johnson, and wife, Matilda Kramer Johnson (1904)

Transfer between Johnson daughters, Juliette Johnson Cline to Wilhelmina Johnson Robinson, sole owner, wife of Theodore R. Robinson (10 April 1945)

Wilhelmina Johnson Robinson, widow, to Jose Candia and wife, Jimmie R. Candia (13 November 1961)

Jose "Joe" Candia to Jimmie R. Candia, upon his death (9 March 1978)

Sheriff's Deed, Jimmie R. Candia to RADIUS Investments LLC (2 June 2015)

RADIUS Investments LLC to current owner, (1 May 2017)

City Directory Search, 2024 Avenue K

1868

J. Gengler, drayman, r. 20 and Ave K east

1872

J. Gengler, drayman, r. 210 Ave K east

1874

J. Gengler, drayman, r. 210 Ave K east, btw 20th and Centre (21st)

1878

John Gengler, w Peter Gengler, r. northside Ave K, btw 20th, 21st

Peter Gengler, groceries 225-227 Market, r. same

1880

John Gengler, drayman, r. northside Ave K, btw 20th, 21st

⁹ Galveston Daily News, 30 June 2011, page 18, obituary of Jimmie Avis Rodgers Blaylock Candia

1884

John Gengler, porter Peter Gengler, r. northside Ave K, btw 20th, 21st

1886-1887

John Gengler, w Peter Gengler, r. northside Ave K, btw 20th, 21st

Peter M. Gengler, messenger L&H Blum, h. John Gengler

1890-1891

John Gengler, drayman Peter Gengler, r. northside Ave K, btw 20th, 21st

Peter M. Gengler, messenger L&H Blum, h. John Gengler

James C. Gengler, office boy Alex. Easton (district clerk), h. John Gengler

1891

John Gengler, drayman Peter Gengler, r. 2020 Ave K

Peter M. Gengler, messenger L&H Blum, h. 2020 Ave K

James C. Gengler, office boy Alex. Easton, h. 2020 Ave K

1895

John Gengler, r. 2020 Ave K

Peter M. Gengler, bookkeeper L&H Blum, h. 2020 Ave K

James C. Gengler, deputy district clerk, office courthouse, h. 2020 Ave K

1899-1900

Peter M. Gengler, bookkeeper Garbade, Eiband & Co., h. 2020 Ave K

The 1900 census, enumerated on 2 June 1900, noted Peter M. Gengler and his family residing at 2024 Avenue K. Samuel Hayman, and his family, were renting 2020 Avenue K. Margeret was residing on Broadway, with her daughter, Annie Schaefer.

Margaret Gengler, (widow John), r. 1909 Broadway *

James C. Gengler, deputy district clerk, notary public, office courthouse, r. 911 33rd

1901-1902

Peter M. Gengler, bookkeeper Garbade, Eiband & Co., h. 2024 Ave K. 4

James C. Gengler, deputy district clerk, notary public, office courthouse, r. 911 33rd

1903

Peter M. Gengler, bookkeeper Garbade, Eiband & Co., h. 2024 Ave K. 4

Frederick Johnson, pilot 2004 Strand, r. 1419 Winnie

1905

Frederick Johnson, pilot 2004 Strand, r. 2024 Ave K
Peter M. Gengler, Garbade, Eiband & Co., r. 2109 Broadway

1908

Frederick Johnson, pilot 2004 Strand, phone 7, r. 2024 Ave K, phone 1432

1915

Frederick Johnson, captain pilot, r. 2024 Ave K (4)

1920

Frederick Johnson (Matilda), bar pilot, r. 2024 Ave K, phone 1432

1924-1925

Frederick Johnson (Matilda), bar pilot, r. 2024 Ave K, phone 1432

1930

Matilda Johnson (wid Fred), h. 2024 Ave K

1941

Matilda Johnson (wid Frederick), h. 2024 Ave K

1945

Theodore R. Robinson (Wilhelmina; 1), county judge Galveston Court, 1st floor courthouse, Tel. 5313, r. 2024 Ave K, Tel. 7097

1951

Christopher Morris (Elanor), asst professor U of T medical branch, h. 2024 Ave K, Tel 2-6262
Theodore R. Robinson (Wilhelmina; 1), county judge Galveston Court, 1st floor courthouse, r. 4528 Sherman Blvd

1955

Bernard R. Sharpe (Helen M), meat cutter, h. 2024 Ave K

1960

2024 Avenue K was noted in the cross directory that year as "vacant."
Jose Candia (Jimmie), Galveston Cleaners, h. 1614 Church

1968

Jose Candia (Jimmie), Galveston Cleaners, h. 2024 Ave K

1972

Jose Candia (Jimmie), retired, h. 2024 Ave K

1979

Jose Candia (Jimmie), retired, h. 2024 Ave K

Jimmie Candia, emp Turner Geriatric Center, h. 2024 Ave K

1985

Jimmie Candia, retired, h. 2024 Ave K

1990

Jimmie Candia, retired, h. 2024 Ave K

Beverly Daniel, h. 2024 Ave K

Beverly is Jimmie's daughter.

1996 (last year directories were issued in Galveston)

Jimmie Candia, retired, h. 2024 Ave K

Maps

1871 and 1885 Bird's Eye View Maps- shows several small buildings on lots 12 and 13 of block 140. John Gengler owned both lots 12 and 13 at this time and city directories note him living on the block.

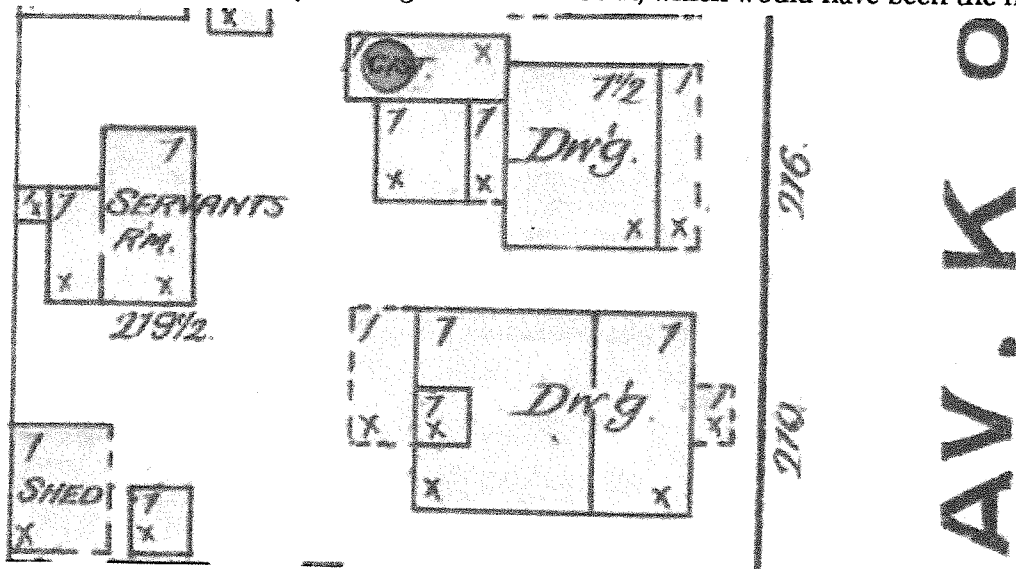


1871 Bird's Eye View Map, north side, block 140

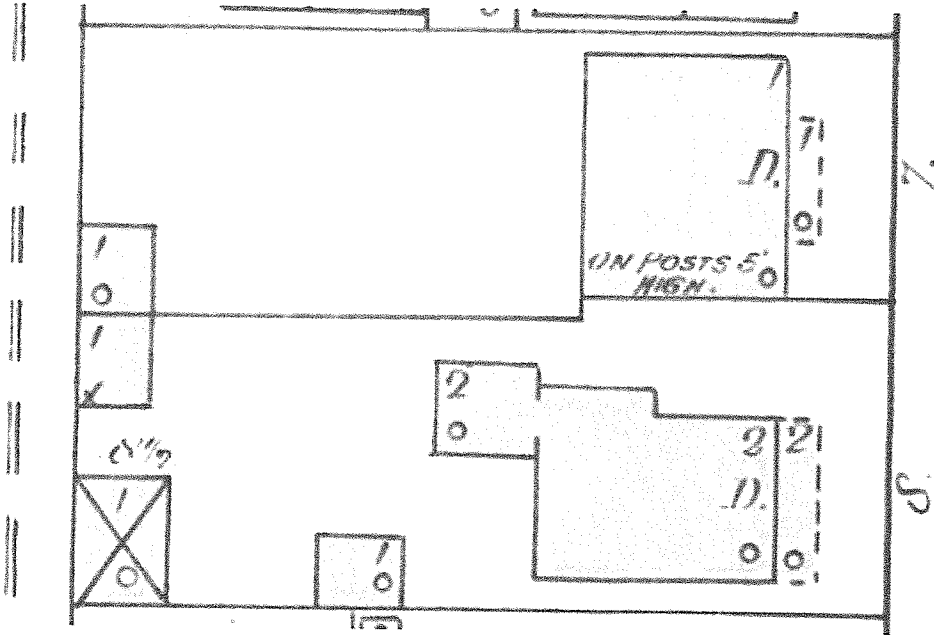


1885 Bird's Eye View Map, block 140. Corner of 21st and K marked with blue arrow. The block was within the area destroyed by the 1885 fire, which leveled 40 city blocks.

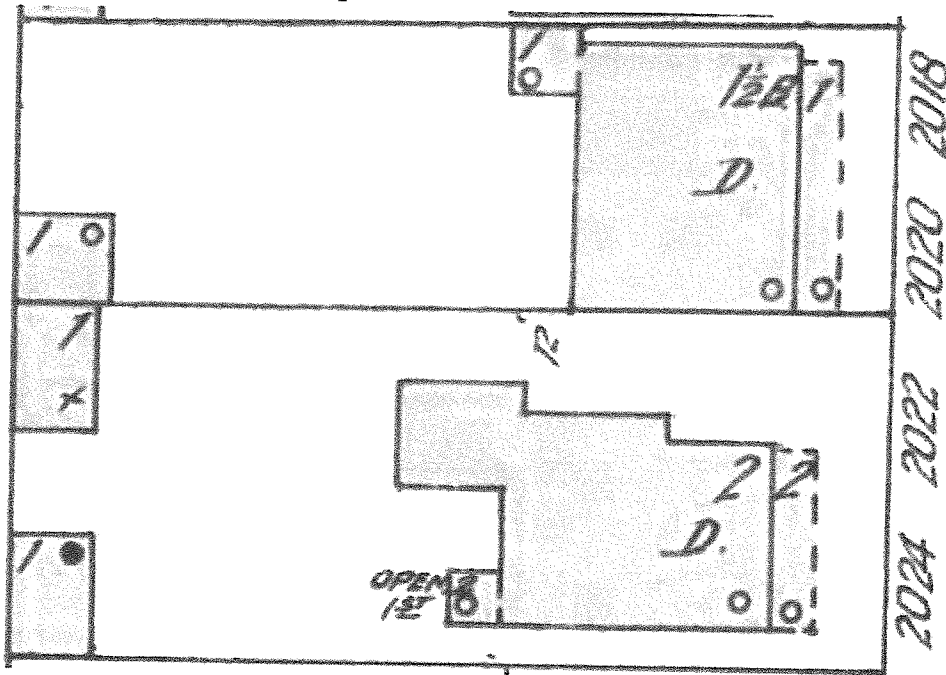
1885 Sanborn Insurance Map coincides with the 1885 Bird's Eye View map and shows the footprint of a one-story frame dwelling on lot 13, block 140 and a one-and-one-half story on lot 12. A one-story servants room noted as 219 1/2 is located at the rear of the property, occupying ground from both lots. These buildings were destroyed by the 1885 fire. The 1880 U.S. Census recorded John Gengler and family residing in 210 Avenue K, which would have been the house on lot 13.



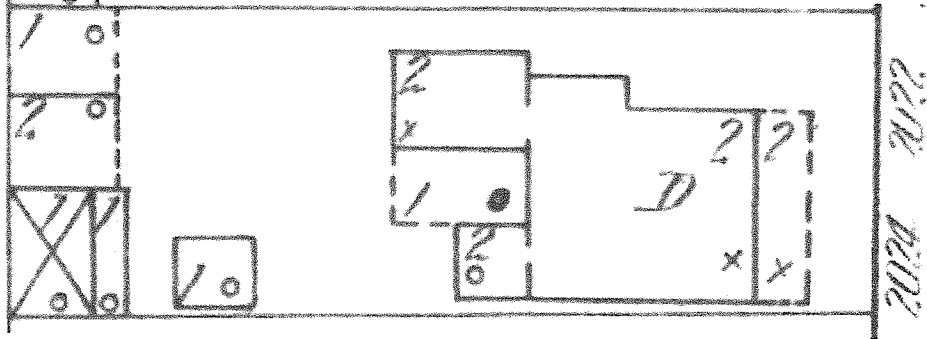
1889 Sanborn Insurance Map. 2024 Avenue K can be seen for the first time, noted on lot 13. A new one-story building occupies lot 12 (2020 K). John Gengler built both houses after the 1885 fire. He resided in one, and used the other for rental property. It is possible that Gengler and family resided at 2024 Avenue K for a short period of time, but by 1891, the city directories noted John and Margaret residing at 2020 Avenue K, on lot 12 and presumably leasing 2024 K to tenants or extended family.



1899 Sanborn Insurance Map.



1912 Sanborn Insurance Map. In 1904, the Gengler family sold lot 13. The addition of several outbuildings on the lot, as well as a one-story addition at the back of the main house are highlighted on the 1912 map.



1947 Sanborn Insurance Map. One small change noted in the rear buildings.

