

1601 24th Street, Galveston Texas

The Prairie style Craftsman home at the intersection of 24th St. and avenue N 1/2 was built in 1926 by Captain Terry Raymond Dalehite. The house was designed by Knox Walker, the uncle of Captain Dalehite's wife, Laura. Built like a ship, the house weathered all hurricanes since its construction.

T. R. Dalehite was born on Christmas Day 1888 in Bell County, Texas. He moved here at the age of 9 and was engaged in marine work since his early youth operating a ferry service to Texas city. At the age of 33, he was admitted as the youngest member of the Galveston Texas City pilots association. He also owned and operated the tugboat Rona, named after one of his daughters. T. R. and Laura had a son and two daughters.

In early January of 1928, the captain accepted an assignment for an ill co-worker. This was in the day before pilot houses on ships were enclosed. He subsequently became ill, contracted pneumonia, and passed away January 18th, 1928. His wife remarried an engineer from the Corps of Engineers named James Russell Simpson a few years later and to this marriage another daughter was born.

During the war years, the Simpson family travelled extensively due to his career and the war effort. The home was rented to a variety of tenants. The most notable tenants

were Sam and Sedgie Maceo. The Maceo brothers were pioneers in the entertainment/casino business and owned the Balinese Room and the Hollywood Club. Sedgie was also an accomplished dancer. Twins were born to the Maceos during their stay in the home. Entertainers Phil Harris and Alice Faye visited and stayed in the home. Legend has it that Frank Sinatra, a friend of Sam Maceo, was invited to the house for dinner one evening and became intoxicated. He said goodbye at the front door and promptly passed out on the front porch. His manager frantically called the Maceos trying to contact Frank, who had been offered a starring role in the movie "From Here to Eternity".

The home was temporarily converted into a duplex, but Laura couldn't stand the idea of anyone else living in the house while she was there so that plan was abandoned. The home also includes the lot to the South of the property. Before the advent of air conditioning, these lots were left empty to ensure the cool southern breezes of the gulf reached into the home. Central air and heat were added to the home in the 1990's. The driveway opens into a three-car garage and two workshops.

The home was purchased from the Dalehite family by Richard and Holly Howard shortly after their marriage in 1988. They retired from University of Texas Medical Branch and lived in the home until 2012. Over the years, the servant's entrance

was converted into the downstairs bathroom, the maid's foyer was converted to a walk-in closet and pantry, and the sleeping porch on the second floor converted into a second kitchen which is now an art studio. The tile sink area in the art studio was added during WWII and the shortage of available tile dictated the eclectic tile choices.

In 2012 the home was purchased the by the current residents, Rick and Suzanne Becker, after Rick retired from ExxonMobil. Rick is a micropaleontologist and Suzanne is a teacher and artist. Both are active Texas Master Naturalists. The Beckers have added their own touches to the house, remodeling the kitchen and both bathrooms in addition to building a beautiful back deck and stone patio. They have loved living in this historic home located in the beautiful Galveston Historic District, but they are now moving on to new adventures in the mountains of North Carolina.

The property awaits the next owner/caretaker of this historic home who will bring their own vision while enjoying the joys of Gulf Coast life in this quiet corner home within an active historic community.

1601 24th Street, Galveston Amenities

- Double lot
- Three car garage with two workshops with 220 outlets
- 1000+ square feet ground level storage
- 5 mature pecans trees
- A fig tree, bay leaf tree and an avocado tree
- Exterior landscape lights, both front & back
- Expansive front porch
- Expansive deck with maintenance free Trex deck boards
- Rear stone patio
- Insulated and decked attic
- 45 windows, most with Aramco hurricane shutters
- All windows (but one) have Magnetite inserts for energy efficiency and noise dampening qualities.
- 8 ceiling fans, one a Hunter fan original to the house
- Art studio with porcelain floor for easy cleanup
- Original oak floors in the living room, dining room, TV room and breakfast knook
- Original longleaf pine in the bedrooms and kitchen
- The original galvanized water pipes have been removed and replaced with PEX tubing, with manifold controls
- Automatic Generac whole house generator
- Remodeled kitchen with two pull-out pantries
- Remodeled bathrooms and reglazed original tub
- Bertazzoni professional six burner range
- Sprinkler system
- Upstairs dehumidifier and two solar powered attic fans