



1428 Ball Avenue

B-136

1900

Although it hardly looks revolutionary, this sober brick house was the first post-Victorian house in Galveston. Its symmetry, lack of picturesque protrusions, and the abandonment of lacy wood or iron porch supports for a portico carried on paired Tuscan columns indicate its attempt to replicate, with some degree of academic correctness, the sort of house that might have been built by Yankee master builders for a Southern planter in the 1820s. The raised basement and the handsome cement stucco-faced parapet framing the property lines are, of course, pure Galveston. Completed just before the Storm of 1900, this house was built for one of Galveston's pioneer jewelers, Michael W. Shaw, a Prussian Jew who came to Galveston in 1845. Its architect has yet to be identified.