

## East End's 2015 Christmas Homes Tour

Galveston's East End Historical District Association will host its 26th Annual "A Victorian Christmas" Homes Tour on Friday, December 4th, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. This event is the EEHDA's biggest annual fundraiser.

The elegant historic homes of the East End Historical District are the architectural products of skilled European immigrants during a time when Galveston was the wealthiest city in Texas. Many of the East End homes you see today rose out of the ashes of the Great Fire of 1885 that burned over 40 city blocks, including a swath of the East End. Many of the homes built after the fire were designed and constructed for wealthy merchants and entrepreneurs wanting to display their wealth, and impress their neighbors.

Four East End neighbors have generously volunteered to open their homes, which will be festively decorating for the holiday season:

**The Charles W. Hurley Home.** Built in 1868 for Charles Hurley, a shipping merchant who developed two Texas narrow gauge railroads, and owned the Liverpool and Texas Steamship Company. Hurley was also Mayor of Galveston in 1873 & 1874. With its strongly proportioned Doric columns, this double galleried home is an excellent example of Greek Revival.

**The Howard and Kate Mather Home.** Built in 1888 for Howard Mather, who worked for cotton factors Lammers & Flint. In 1895, the house was owned by Jake Cohen of Sass & Cohen, cotton factors and clothing manufacturers, and in 1908 by Albert G. Pabst of Pabst Brothers, Inc., merchants dealing with tropical and domestic fruits. The style of this home is a cross between Queen Anne and Swiss Chalet.

**The Joseph Goldstein House.** Built in 1898 for Joseph Goldstein and his sisters, Henrietta and Minnie. Joseph was a boot and shoe retailer at 2201 Market St., Minnie was a dressmaker for Fellman Dress Company, and Henrietta was a stenographer for the Galveston Shoe and Hat Company. The house remained in the Goldstein family until the 1960s.

**The Queen Anne Two Story.** This house was built in 1882. The house was rebuilt in 1910 by Galveston contractor, Mills Bowden, and sold to Robert A. Lyons, Jr., co-owner of Lyons & Boddecker Hardware Company. Lyons later became Galveston postmaster. The Bob Lyons Post Office on 58th & Broadway in Galveston is named in his honor. Mills Bowden, who lived at 1227 Winnie, subsequently purchased the house, and held it as income property until 1966.

Two East End Historical District Association sites will also be included on the tour, where guests can enjoy live holiday music featuring Bagpiper Stanley Fontenot, Members and Friends of the First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, and Joyful Noise Children's Choir.

**The Victor Gustafson Cottage.** Now the EEHDA Cottage, Gustafson was a Galveston Wharves cotton screwman who rebuilt the cottage after the 1900 storm.

**Darragh Park.** This park was built after a fire destroyed Darragh House on this site in the 1990s. The property was donated to the EEHDA, and a longtime association supporter, Dr. E. Burke Evans, donated the funds to build the wrought iron gazebo.

Tickets, \$17.00, are available at The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St. [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com), 1894. The proceeds from this event help the EEHDA maintain the East End Cottage, Darragh Park and Alderdice Park, all of which are open to the community for use.

Guests may start the tour at any of the homes, or at the EEHDA Cottage, 1501 Postoffice St., where light refreshments and restroom will be available.