

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 10 1978

DATE ENTERED

MAR 21 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

ELISSA

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

PERMANENT LOCATION:  
MOORED AT SEAWOLF PARK

(temporary location: Piraeus, Greece)

CITY, TOWN

GALVESTON ISLAND

VICINITY OF

9

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

TEXAS

CODE

48

COUNTY

GALVESTON

CODE

167

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☒ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM (when  
PARK completed)☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P.O. BOX 302

CITY, TOWN

GALVESTON

VICINITY OF

STATE

TEXAS

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Galveston County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Galveston

STATE

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The square-rigged, three masted barque ELISSA represents one of the last remaining links between modern steamships and the Age of Sail. Typical of the style of sailing ships which called on the port of Galveston in the late 19th Century, ELISSA has undergone tremendous modifications during her 100 year history. Progressively downrigged to a motorship, ELISSA will be converted by her owners to an auxiliary powered barquentine, and after crossing the Atlantic from Greece, the vessel will be moored at Galveston and restored to its original appearance. She will be taken out to sea twice a year and will be one of, if not the oldest, operational sailing ships in the world.

Built in 1877 by Alexander Hall & Sons, ELISSA was originally classified as a barque and employed many techniques new to shipbuilding at that time. For example, the use of iron was a relatively new innovation to sailing ships. ELISSA's hull was erected of lomore iron which, by today's standards, is exceptionally thick and long-lasting. ELISSA's specifications included an overall length of 200 feet, with a deck length of 149.5 feet. The moulded depth measured 16 feet, the beam extended 28 feet and the ship's displacement equaled 974.4 tons.

From 1877 to 1918 the ship operated as a sailing ship for its various owners. However, in 1918 the vessel was fitted with an engine. As a result of her two different sources of power, ELISSA became an "auxiliary schooner" although Lloyd's Register of Ships continued to refer to her as a barque until the 1950s.

In 1936 ELISSA was re-engined, a deckhouse built on the poop and the bow cut. The main mast was cut in the 1950s, and in 1967 the fore and mizzen masts were removed and a new mizzen amidship re-installed. The forecastle railings were cut and a false bulwark plate was wedged into the forecastle. The engine was replaced with a newer, more efficient engine.

Currently, a two-phase plan is underway to restore the ship to her original appearance. ELISSA will initially be re-rigged as a barquentine. Although she will possess operational sailing apparatus, the vessel will rely primarily on a new engine to cross the Atlantic. Once she is back in Galveston, and when funds are available, final restoration will take place. The ship will be docked at Seawolf Park and will serve as the focal point of Galveston's maritime museum.



# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1877 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Alexander Hall & Sons

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As national awareness of our maritime heritage grows, the three-masted barque ELISSA increasingly becomes a more valuable cultural resource. The vessel remains as one of the last survivors of a long history of sailing ships which once played such a vital role in our nation's development. The ELISSA is indicative of the type of ship which made the city of Galveston one of the most important ports, not only in the United States, but the world as well. When final restoration is completed, ELISSA will reputedly be the oldest operational sailing vessel in the world - she will cross the Atlantic Ocean to Galveston completely under her own power in the fall of 1978. She will also be the third oldest merchant sailing ship still afloat, surpassed only by Britain's CUTTY SARK (1869) and San Diego's STAR OF INDIA (1863).

By the mid 1880s maritime technology was at a crossroads. The sailing ship was being revolutionized with innovations from the Industrial Revolution and, at the same time, the steamship was being perfected. Even though the new sailing ships, like the ELISSA were vastly superior to older ships, they soon were no match to the faster, more reliable deep water steamships. Therefore, when the ELISSA was launched in October 1877 the demise of the Age of Sail loomed in the not too distant future.

Constructed in Aberdeen, Scotland by the prestigious shipbuilding firm of Alexander Hall & Sons, ELISSA was owned by Henry Fowler Watt and Edward Wilson Crosfield, both of England. She was built for transporting goods and, according to Lloyd's of London Register of Shipping, carried a wide variety of cargo to over 100 ports in six continents during her 100 years of service. During this period, ELISSA sailed under six flags including Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Greece and the United States.

ELISSA's log reveals that the ship has seen considerable service in American waters. It was quarantined in Savannah, Georgia and once straggled into Key West short on provisions. Nearly sunk in the stormy weather that accompanied the infamous 1888 New England blizzard, ELISSA found safety and shelter in Boston, though its destination was New York City. ELISSA is thought by some to have been the only ship that was able to dock at Boston during the "Blizzard of 88".

Transporting a shipment of bananas from Tampico, Mexico, ELISSA docked in Galveston for the first time in December 1883. During this time,



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Galveston was an important trading center and "ranked second only to New York in exports and was the greatest cotton shipping source in the world".<sup>1</sup> When ELISSA departed in January, 1884 the ship was bound for the textile mills of Liverpool with a cargo of Texas cotton. However, this was not ELISSA's last visit to Texas. In 1887 the vessel once again docked in Galveston and eight years later the ship came to Rio Grande (now Port Isabel). During this trip ELISSA ran aground and received minor damage to the hull. This "hog" or indentation was repaired and the ship was soon back to sea.

In 1897 ELISSA sustained major damage during a storm at sea and required assistance from the steamship VALENTIA. Shortly after the repairs were made, the ELISSA was sold to a Norwegian partnership and was renamed FJELD. In 1911 the ship was sold again, this time to Carl Johnasson, a Swede, who renamed the ship GUSTAF. The vessel continued to be used for shipping, however modifications soon followed. The ship was fitted with an engine and reclassified as an "auxiliary schooner".

Bought by Erik Nyland of Finland in 1930, GUSTAF continued to be owned by Finn shippers until 1959 when she was sold to Greek merchants. Renamed CHRISTOPHOROS, the vessel underwent major modifications. The main mast was removed, making the ship, for all practical purposes, a motorship.

In 1967 the ship was shrouded in controversy involving cigarette smuggling from Yugoslavia to Italy. After official complaints from the Italian government, the ship was sold and renamed ACHAEOS. The fore and mizzen masts were removed and another engine refitted. In 1969 the ship was renamed PIONEER. After a conflict between the owners and the crew, the ship was moored off the scrap-yard beach of Pireaus, Greece in 1970. Later that year the vessel was sold and renamed ELISSA.

The Galveston Historical Foundation purchased ELISSA in 1975 because of her link with Galveston's port during the prosperous years of the late 1800s. Currently, plans are underway to restore ELISSA in order for her to make the journey from Greece across the Atlantic to Galveston. The ship will be used as an "operational" museum and will be sailed twice a year to allow Sea Scouts and underprivileged youth the opportunity to experience sailing a square-rigged ship.

1. Texas: The Lone Star State, by R.N. Richardson, p.357.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gaido, Paul and Hartman, Katherine J. Unpublished mimeograph 1977.  
Galveston Wharves Record.

Lloyd's of London Register of Shipping.

The Sailing Ship: Six Thousand Years of History . Pamola and R.C. Anderson.

W.W. Morton & Co., New York, 1963.

Texas: The Lone Star State, Rupert Norval Richardson. Prentice-Hall Inc.,  
Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1958

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

SHEFFIELD CALLED TEXAS

QUADRANGLE NAME Galveston

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 327420 3246220

B         

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Joe R. Williams  
Project Director

David Moore  
Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Texas Historical Commission

DATE

1/5/78

STREET & NUMBER

1511 Colorado

TELEPHONE

512/475-3094

CITY OR TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE   

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3.21.78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3.6.78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



Property Elissa

State Texas

Working Number 1.10.78.2204

Ref # 78002930

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 2  
Maps 1

*Size*

**CONTROL**

*pl*  
*1.12.78*

**HISTORIAN**

An important vessel. Major significance is not in American history, but enough to qualify. According to Pete Ragner (on an earlier problem) as long as ownership is in U.S. the ship does not have to be located in coastal waters to qualify for NR listing.

*accept*  
*W.P. Jure*  
*1/18/78*

*Eligible - but locational problems - currently in Greece.*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*accept*  
*Bravman*  
*1.18.78*

*- Jan*

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

*During commercial life, this ship was at Galveston; involved in U.S. trade.*

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*Accept*  
*Leborich*  
*1/30/78*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

*Hung*  
*2.6.78*

**KEEPER**

*perman*  
*3/21/78*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_

5.2.78

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAR 21 1978

INT:2106-74







PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

142  
ELISSA

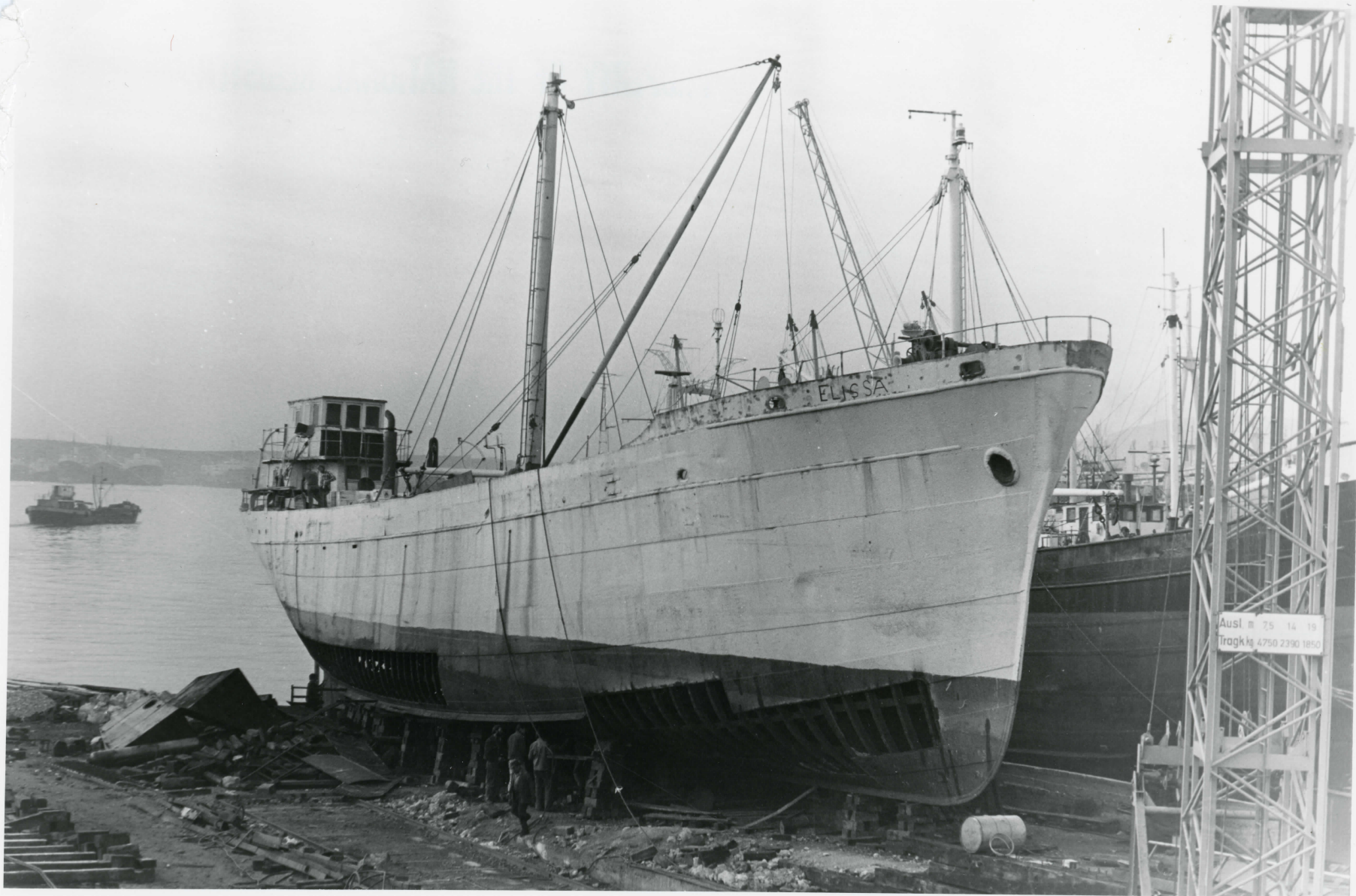
moored at Seawolf Park  
Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

unknown photographer circa 1900  
Galveston Historical Foundation  
reproduction at Texas Historical Commission

JAN 10 1978

MAR 21 1978





Ausl. m. 75 14 18  
Tragkg. 4750 2390 1850



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

202

ELISSA

moored at Seawolf Park

Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

unknown photographer 1977

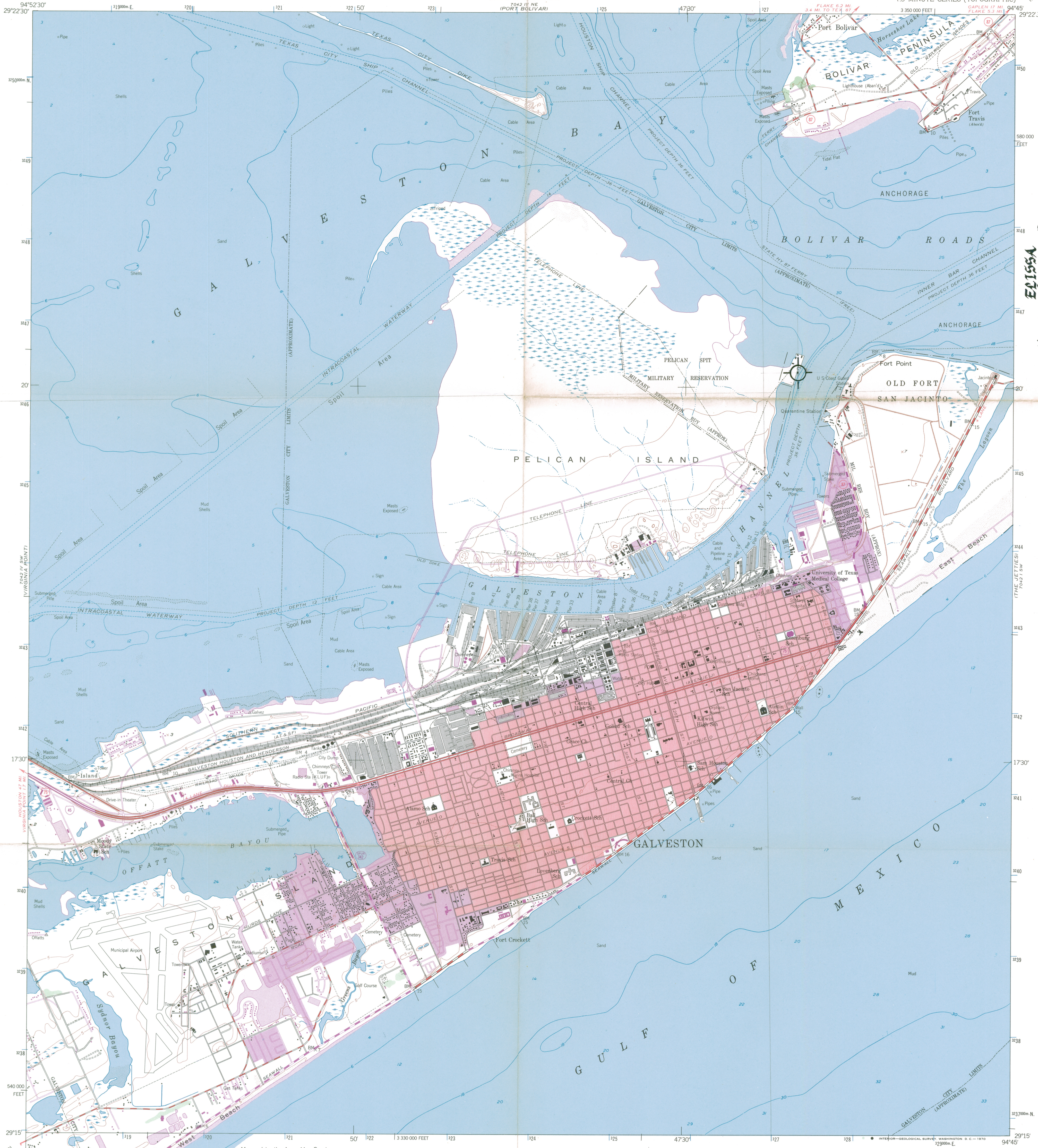
Galveston Historical Foundation

reproduction at Texas Historical Commission

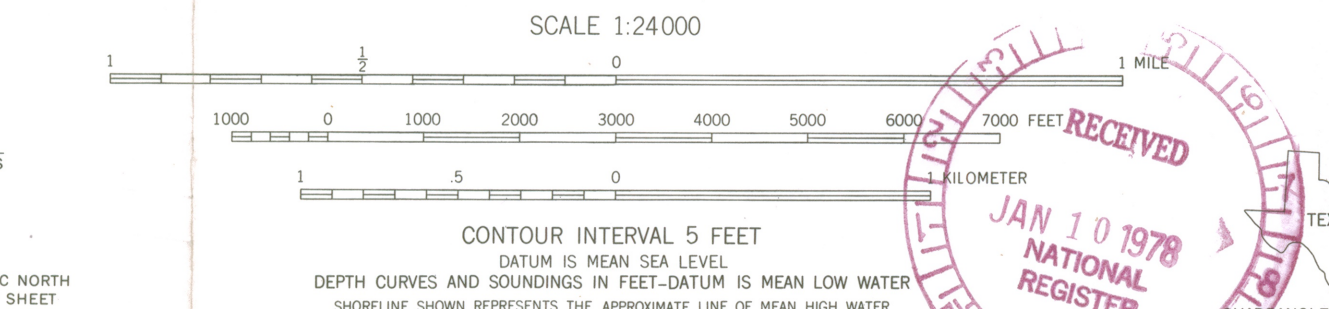
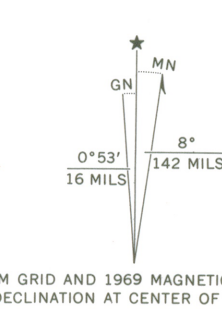
JAN 10 1978

MAR 21 1978





Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
Control by USC&GS, USCE and TVA  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
and by planimeter surveys 1943. Revised by photogrammetric  
methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954  
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 520,886  
and 1282 (1953)  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,  
south central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

MAR 21 1978  
GALVESTON, TEX.  
N2915-W9445.5/7.5  
1954  
PHOTOREVISED 1969  
AMS 7042 IV SE-SERIES V882

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

EA155A  
MOORED AT SEAWOLF PARK  
GALVESTON, GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE: 15/327420/3246220

2994-231



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      TEXAS

Date Entered      MAR 21 1978

Name

Location

Elissa

Galveston  
Galveston County

Also Notified

Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen

Hon. John G. Tower

Hon. Jack Brooks

Regional Director, Southwest Region

880

Mott/js

3/24/78

State Historic Preservation Officer

Mr. Truett Latimer

Executive Director

Texas Historical Commission

P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711





EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
Athens, Greece  
APO NY 09253

April 19, 1978

Mr. Robert R. Garvey  
Executive Director  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
1522 K. St.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Garvey:

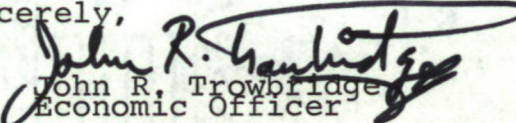
The American Embassy in Athens has recently heard through rumors that a steelplated sailing vessel named "Elissa", built in Abderdeen, Scotland in 1877 and now being restored in Pireaus, Greece by the Galveston Historical Society of Galveston, Texas for use as a "floating museum", has been designated as a national historical vessel. The Embassy is unaware of the exact title of designation, but understands that it would have taken place under your office. It is believed that your office took this action within the past few weeks.

The Embassy has been closely following the restoration of the "Elissa" since July, 1977 and has intervened with the Greek Government occasionally to "cut red-tape" on their behalf. Since the vessel will be under restoration here for about another year before being sailed back to Texas, thought is now being given to officially notifying the Greek Ministry of Culture about the project and asking the Ministry to lend its' support to easing the bureaucracy surrounding the project.

It would significantly help us in any approach we might make to the Ministry if the "Elissa" has been designated as a historical entity by the United States. I am therefore requesting verification of the "Elissa's" recent acquisition of historical status, together with any details and documentation you might be able to provide relating to the case.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt response,

Sincerely,

  
John R. Trowbridge  
Economic Officer

RT/mj



ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION

APR 28 11 38 AM '78

07-05-03

2000-01-01



Advisory Council on  
Historic Preservation  
1522 K Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

MAY 2 1978

Mr. John R. Trowbridge  
Economic Officer  
U.S. Embassy  
Athens, Greece  
APO NY 09253

Dear Mr. Trowbridge:

We have your letter of April 19 inquiring about the historical designation of the "Elissa," a vessel currently being restored in Greece for ultimate display in Texas. The "Elissa" was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the U.S. Government's official inventory of cultural properties worthy of preservation. The National Register is the responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior, not the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. We are therefore asking the Keeper of the National Register to provide you with further information about this designation and its meaning.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

Robert M. Utley  
Deputy Executive Director

cc:  
HCRS-NR (Attention: Carol Shull)



H32-NR

MAY 16 1978

Handy  
5-12-78  
Lebowitz  
5/13/78

*Galevator*  
*Jelly*

Mr. John R. Trowbridge  
Economic Officer  
United States Embassy  
Athens, Greece  
APO New York 09253

Dear Mr. Trowbridge:

Mr. Robert M. Utley, Deputy Executive Director of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, has forwarded to us your letter of April 19 concerning the "Elissa."

We are pleased to inform you that the "Elissa" was entered in the National Register of Historic Places March 21, 1978. Enclosed is a copy of the nomination which documents the vessel's historic significance and material explaining the National Register and effect of listing.

We appreciate your commitment to the preservation of the "Elissa."

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) William J. Murtagh

William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer  
Executive Director  
Texas Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 12276  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

bcc: Director's Reading File  
NR

FHR:B. Handy:pr:5-12-78:523-0431  
✓ Basic File Retained in NR

Mr. Robert Utley  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
Suite 430  
1522 K Street NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20005



# THE SACCARAPPA

NEWSLETTER OF THE GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

TEXAS' OLDEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

• FOUNDED IN 1871 •

INCORPORATED IN 1954

OCTOBER 1977

P. O. BOX 302 GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550

Vol. 11 No. 2

## OLD FED GETS A POSTAL CARD

By ROBERT NESBITT

The first commemorative stamp for Galveston, honoring the Custom House, Post Office, and United States Courtroom here, the first non-military federal building in Texas, was issued on July 20, 1977, with due pomp and ceremony in front of the venerable structure. The Postmaster General of the United States, several federal judges, and high government officials in the post office, customs and General Services Administration (the government housekeepers) were on hand for the occasion.

Completed in 1861, immediately prior to the outbreak of the war between the states, the old building was never dedicated until 106 years later when its restoration was marked with appropriate ceremonies in June, 1967. The structure was used for the post office, federal courtroom and the U. S. customs here until 1891, when an imposing, fortress-like structure designed by Nicholas Clayton, was completed on the present site of the federal building in the block between 25th and 26th streets and Church and Winnie.

Galveston Postmaster Jimmie Wortham said on August 9, 1977, that his office had filled requests from all over the world for approximately 250,000 first day cancellations of the Galveston postal card. The first day cancellations are no longer available but the postal card is on sale at post offices throughout the country. Owen Young, an official in the customs service of the post office in Houston, stated that there are more postage stamp collectors in the country than there are dog owners. □

## GHF PERMANENT OFFICES IN HENDLEY ROW

GHF will restore the West Section of Hendley Row, 2014-2016 Strand, for its permanent offices and for a visitors center and public exhibit area.

This decision was made by GHF after careful consideration of the following factors: (1) GHF has had to move its offices four times in the past four years, usually because restoration and new uses required the owners to utilize the spaces GHF was renting; (2) the Moody Foundation will begin major renovation of the Santa Fe building in the near future for a community services center and, once renovation is done, will have to charge 25 to 40¢ cost per month per square foot, substantially more than GHF can afford on an on-going basis (GHF presently has very ample space in the Santa Fe, at no charge, because of the generosity of the Moody Foundation); (3) GHF desires to keep its main offices within The Strand National Historic Landmark District, and this

(continued on page 10)



As the first event of a one-day "Oktoberfest" celebrating the opening of the new program of German heritage at nearby St. Joseph's Church, Ashton Villa will introduce "The Golden Era Brass Band" in a noontime ballroom concert. Playing authentic nineteenth century brass instruments, this group will present a program of seldom-heard music discovered in an 1854 Brass Band Journal. Under the direction of Galvestonian Douglas Koeppe, the band will play such songs as "The Jewel Waltz", "The Lily Belle Two Step", "The Rainbow Schottisch" and an extraordinary arrangement of "The Star Spangled Banner."

The Golden Era Brass Band will utilize third and fourth quarter nineteenth century instruments from Director Koeppe's private collection. Most of the instruments are rotary valve brass and American-made. Included are two soprano cornets in E flat, trumpet, alto horn, baritone, and the instrument that "supports" the band, the helicon, a bass tuba.

Tickets for the noon concert are on sale at Ashton Villa, P. O. Box 1616, Galveston, Texas 77553. Price of admission is \$2.50 per person and a sell-out is expected.

Beer will be sold at intermission. A limited number of souvenir beer mugs will be available for purchase. The handsome glass mugs will bear the official Ashton Villa Oktoberfest logo, silk-screened in brown. The logo was designed by Galveston artist Tom Hackett. Also on sale at the concert will be a Smithsonian Institution publication titled "And the Band Played On". This delightfully illustrated little book gives a history of band music

from 1776, written to encourage awareness of this aspect of America's cultural heritage. □

## OKTOBERFEST!

By SANDY BATEY

It may seem a bit premature to present a celebration for the new program at the 1859 St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 22nd and Avenue K; however, that's exactly what GHF's OKTOBERFEST on October 1, 1977 is all about. Co-sponsored by St. Joseph's Church and Ashton Villa, the festival is designed to mark the beginning of a museum program rather than view the results. This is an attempt to give the community a chance to become involved in perhaps the most important way—by providing the unique family stories and neighborhood anecdotes that reflect how it was to live as a German family in Galveston in the 19th century.

Research will continue in the Archives of the Rosenberg Library to obtain statistics such as population percentages, general history and some personal stories of prominent Germans. But vital to the recording of a special heritage are the details of all kinds of people; those in the simplest professions or family businesses as well as community leaders. There were German shoemakers, dressmakers, carpenters, ship captains, and thousands of others whose lives are not related in newspapers or books about the community. It is recognized, of course, that at this point the stories will come from memories of second and third generation descendants of the German immigrants but these are important to record now before they are lost.

As a beginning, a slide show has been prepared using pictures from the Archives of the Rosenberg Library.

Other exhibits include immigration ship names, German activities in Galveston taken from the 1884-85 city directory, and the christening gown of Mr. Herman Schocke, a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Church, in addition

(continued on next page)

## GHF EFFORTS TO SAVE 1860 UFFORD BUILDING CONTINUE

GHF continues its efforts to save from demolition the 1860 Ufford Building, on the southeast corner of Mechanic and Tremont. The Ufford Building is located within The Strand District as listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Parks Service.

A preliminary injunction has been issued by Federal District Court requiring the owner of the Ufford Building, First Hutchings-Sealy National Bank, not to demolish the building until the U.S. Secretary of Interior has had an opportunity to document fully the building (with measured drawings, photographs, etc.) The Bank is appealing issuance of the injunction and is suing GHF for alleged damages "in excess of \$10,000" suffered by reason of the injunction. Most recently the Bank's attorneys have filed 53 interrogatories (some with multiple sub-questions), most requiring extensive written answers by the GHF.

Pursuant to the injunction John Burns, an architect with the Historic American Building Survey of the Interior Department, has already spent last August 11 and 12 in Galveston meeting with bank and GHF representatives and analyzing the building; based on his report the Secretary of Interior will determine whether the building merits detailed documentation.

Nancy Brown Negley, a member of the Advisory Board of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Frank Gilbert, Director of Landmarks and Preservation Law for the Trust, also met with Bank officials on August 2, but reported no progress. Truett Latimer of the Texas Historical Commission is also strongly concerned about the potential demolition and is being kept abreast of efforts to save the building.

GHF believes that tremendous progress has been made in the restoration and revitalization of 19th century buildings on and near The Strand, with nearly \$4,000,000 in private investment committed to the revitalization by the end of this year. Thus, The Strand is becoming a fine economic and aesthetic asset for our community. An important part of The Strand National Historic Landmark District are the 19th century buildings on both sides of Mechanic Street.

GHF's strategy for restoring and revitalizing this Strand District has been to concentrate its Revolving Fund activity first on Strand Street so that such a concentration of investment and activity would develop into a viable critical mass. With credibility earned in this way, investment and activity could then spread to the 19th century buildings located on the adjacent parallel street, Mechanic, between 20th and 25th Streets, all of which lies within

(continued on page 5)



**Oktoberfest** (continued)

to the items formerly on exhibit in the Church.  
Another new feature of the interpretation program is an audio system which relates the history of St. Joseph's Church and presents a short concert of religious music appropriate to the mid-19th Century.

St. Joseph's Church has been a project of the Galveston Historical Foundation since 1970 after the Diocese closed the Church as an active parish. With help from the community, a committee within the Foundation made arrangements to lease the building and maintain St. Joseph's Church as a museum. A new full-time staff person, Lucille Alexander, opens St. Joseph's every day except Tuesday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The \$1.00 adult admission is used for further development of the program.

It is hoped that more family pictures will come from the German descendants to be reproduced for future slide presentations. Those wishing to contribute family histories or who have photographs or papers which can be reproduced can call GHF at 765-7834 and a member of the St. Joseph's Committee will be in touch or they may visit the Church.

For the OKTOBERFEST the Church will be open from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be no admission charge for this introductory celebration but donations will be gladly accepted.  
**WILLKOMMEN!** □



The Garten Verein once again will resound to German music the evening of October first for the Oompah Dance.

**GARTEN VEREIN SETTING FOR OOMPAH DANCE**

How about a polka—or a German waltz? The Garten Verein Dancing Pavilion will again resound with the music of The Golden Era Brass Band for dancing and singing German songs October 1st at the Oompah Dance, climax of GHF's Oktoberfest. Since 1876, this site, which is now known as Kempner Park (27th and Avenue O) was the place for the activities of the German social club, the Garten Verein. A history from a 1923 edition of the Galveston Daily News gives the following description:

“The history of the institution which practically passed out of existence last night (March 27, 1923) dates back to 1876, when it was formed by a number of men for the purpose of being a social gathering place for their friends. At the time of its organization the name given it was the Galveston Garten Verein, and in order to be a stockholder one must necessarily be of German descent. The purpose of the Garden, as it has been known since about 1917, is as it was when organized, strictly social. At the time of its organization it boasted 180 members, with a set limit of 500 members, which was reached on several occasions. Today the Garden has only 256, having dropped off to a noticeable extent during the past few years.

The grounds of the Garden extend from Twenty-seventh to Twenty-eighth streets and from Avenue N to O. The grounds are laid out with pleasing landscape conformity with a handsome fountain near the center, while the clubhouse which contains game rooms and other features is placed midway on the western side. Bowling and tenpin alleys are located on the Avenue N side at Twenty-eighth street. Tennis courts are located on the Avenue O side, while the dancing pavilion is situated at Twenty-seventh and Avenue O. Throughout the spacious grounds are places for rest and flower-bordered walks give ample room for the out-of-door stroll. Throughout the spacious grounds are placed swings of all kinds for the pleasure of both young and old.”

The clubhouse, swings, and flowered-bordered walks are gone from Kempner Park but the Dancing Pavilion still stands—in active use by the city's Recreation Department and for the Oompah Dance as part of the OKTOBERFEST celebration. The hours are from 7 p.m. to 1 p.m. Refreshments will be available and the proceeds will go to the St. Joseph's Church program. Tickets for the dance are available in advance at Ashton Villa, at \$2.00 per person.

The floors have been danced on in the past—the rafters have rung with German songs. Come and add your footsteps and your voice to the wonderful history of the Garten Verein Pavilion. □

**ST DAS NICHT OKTOBERFEST?**

**Ja! Das ist Oktoberfest?**

**Datun:**  
October 1, 1977  
**Platz:**

Ashton Villa Noon until 1:30  
St. Joseph's Church 2 p.m. until 7 p.m.  
Mary Moody Northen Plaza 2 p.m. until 7 p.m.  
Garten Verein 7 p.m. until 11 p.m.



**VILL VE HAF DER MUSIC?**

**Ja! Brass Band Concert!**

Noon — Ashton Villa 2328 Broadway  
**THE GOLDEN ERA BRASS BAND** 19th Century brass instruments —  
1854 musical arrangements  
Tickets \$2.50 per person — advance tickets on sale at Ashton Villa

**VILL VE HAF DER FOOD UND SCHNAPPS?**

**Ja! Bier und Vine und German Food!**

**VILL VE HAD DER SOUVENIRS?**

**Ja! Oktoberfest Beer Mugs — designed by Herr Tom Hackett**  
“And the Band Played on” — Books from Smithsonian

**VILL VE HAF DER ENTERTAINERS?**

**Ja! Dancing und Singing — Magicians — Free Tours of St. Joseph's Church**  
German Heritage Center 22nd and Avenue K

For der kinder: Schauspielerhaus at Ashton Villa — Children's Reading Theatre 2:30 until 6 p.m. Tickets 25¢

**VILL VE HAF DER OOMPAH DANCE?**

**Ja! at der Garten Verein — 27th and Avenue O 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.**  
Tickets \$2.00—advance tickets on sale at Ashton Villa

Band for more dancing, more singing, und more refreshments und MUCH, MUCH MORE Gemutlichkeit!

**JA! DAS IST OKTOBERFEST!**

**WILLKOMEN!**

**Sponsored by The Galveston Historical Foundation for the benefit of St. Joseph's Church.**

**EAST END HISTORICAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION**

By JOAN MADER

The summer has been a productive and busy time for the East End Historical District Association. An old fashioned May Fete celebration was well attended by district residents who enjoyed a dog show, sack races, tug of war contests, refreshments, May Basket competition and more. Traditional May Pole Dances climaxed the event. Galveston's first annual Croquet Tournament was held in conjunction with the day's activities and was televised on Galveston Community Television (GCTV).

In a joint effort with the Galveston Historical Foundation, EEHDA brought the film premiere of “Galveston—the Gilded Age of the Golden Isle” to Ashton Villa for viewing prior to the film's release by the Public Broadcasting System over nationwide television. The premiere and champagne reception generated needed funds for the Association to purchase a pocket park at 1501 Ball. The park is now nearing development and will include gardens, walkways, benches, and a display area for the National Historic Landmark plaque awarded to the District. A Block Party and Jazz Festival at this site celebrated the final closing of the land purchase with the cast of the Lone Star Historical Drama as special guests.

In other news, the Association also participated in the May Homes Tour and the Festival on the Strand and will offer German sausages at the Oktoberfest.

Observers to the Historic District Board, Planning Commission, City Council and School Board keep abreast of happenings in local government and serve as liaison between these governmental bodies and the Association.

The Association's Education Committee is currently working with the PTA of Rosenberg School on funding of the RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program for this school. Dr. E. Burke Evans has offered to lease the lot at 1501 Postoffice to EEHDA. This property will be cleared, planted, and maintained as a “green space” by the Association.

Future plans include a weekend outing for residents and friends to Cherokee Co., Texas for tours of historic areas in East Texas. Dates are Oct. 15 and 16. For information, contact Sarah Hermes, 1428 Ball. The Association is also planning a film festival in honor of King Vidor, nationally acclaimed film maker and native Galvestonian who grew up in the Historic District.

A workshop session of EEHDA was held Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at the home of Sally Robinson, 1227 Ball.

The East End Historic District Association is a neighborhood association dedicated to maintaining the unique heritage of the District and to promoting a high quality of life for residents living there. Voting membership is open to any resident of the District and Associate membership

to any interested person. Dues are \$3.00/yr. For information, write P. O. Box 2424, Galveston, 77553. if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter of the Association, contact Joan Mader, 1015 Church. □

**HISTORICAL DISTRICT BOARD**

The Historical District Board (HDB) recently elected officers. Mike Doherty was re-elected chairperson, and Mrs. Lou MacBeth was elected vice chairperson. The HDB is appointed by the City Council to administer the ordinance governing the two residential historical districts. Other members of the board are: Charles Zwiener, Robert Alderdice, Latane Temple, Don Burrows and Paul Gaido.

With the funds budgeted by the City Council, the HDB published and distributed to property owners, a handsome brochure as a means of further informing owners and residents of city policy in the districts. The brochure is presented in question and answer form and will also prove helpful to prospective purchasers as well. Copies are available at the GHF Office and the City Planning Department, fourth (4th) floor, City Hall. □

**TEXAS HERITAGE COUNCIL FORMED**

The Texas Heritage Council has been formed as a committee of the Texas Historical Foundation. The Heritage Council is encouraging a state-wide membership to support historic preservation throughout Texas, exchange information, provide educational conferences, and support favorable legislation. GHF is a charter member of the Council.

The first membership meeting and preservation conference of the Council was held in Dallas on September 16 and 17. Speakers included Lee Adler of Historic Savannah, and a fine program regarding preservation and museum work was presented to several hundred members present.

**ELISSA TO WINDWARD!**

At long last after 3½ years of fundraising and planning, restoration will finally begin on our 100 year old square-rigged sailing vessel ELISSA. Restoration Director Michael Creamer, Chief Assistant Walter Rybka (both formerly of the South Street Seaport Museum in New York) and four stalwart volunteers from Galveston . . . Bill Swann, Jerry Cobbs, Jeff Berkholtz, and Ed Claxton . . . are now in Piraeus, Greece, and have begun restoration work on ELISSA.

In August the 210 tons of restoration material shipped from Galveston arrived in Greece and were cleared through Greek customs. In early September ELISSA was hauled out (drydocked). When she returns to the water . . . probably after some 60 days in the shipyard . . . she will have undergone hull repairs to meet the requirements of Lloyds of London and will have been fitted with a new engine shaft and propeller.

Immediately after leaving the yard, the ELISSA restoration team will give ELISSA a new deck, seal her hatches for the winter, and begin the arduous task of piping (for a new fire and bilge system), wiring, and completely refitting the engine room.

In the spring work will begin on rigging, with ELISSA scheduled to begin her voyage to Galveston . . . “on her own bottom” and under sail in the late fall of this coming year.

**KEMPNER FUND DONATION USED TO PURCHASE FIR**



With a heave-ho, Gus Rankin (l.) GHF special consultant, and Andy Leslie(r.) ELISSA committee member, moved the quarter-sawn douglas fir (for ELISSA's new deck) out of the Crespi warehouse.



In June, the ELISSA construction materials were loaded aboard the JOHN LYKES in Galveston. Left to right are John Scardasis of Lykes Brothers, Paulie Gaido of GHF and Carl Crossley of Lykes Brothers.

The restoration of the 1877 square rigged ship ELISSA came \$10,000 closer to completion recently with a donation by the Eliza and Harris L. Kempner Fund.

The money will be used to buy 13,000 feet of Douglas Fir, the finest structural lumber in the world. The fir will be cut especially for use on ELISSA's main deck.

The idea of bringing a 19th century sailing ship to Galveston began in 1974, when a special GHF committee



Robert Moak, the marine artist who produced the very fine portraits of the Texas Navy vessels, has painted this handsome view of ELISSA close-hauled before a squall. Color prints of the painting were presented to Mrs. Mary Moody Northen, Harris L. Kempner and Mrs. Fredericka Lykes Thompson and others for their contributions towards ELISSA's progress. Print copies are available for purchase from the limited series of five hundred. Signed prints for \$55.00 + tax and unsigned prints for \$13.00 + tax may be ordered from the Occidental Trading Company, 2311 Strand, Galveston.



The ELISSA lies at anchor in Piraeus, Greece; viewed from her bow. Immediately behind ELISSA at water's edge is the shipyard where she will be hauled out for hull repair. The ELISSA crew lives in one of the houses in the background. The hilltop is where Xerxes watched his fleet destroyed in the battle of Salamis.

waters. she will be wharved at a newly built dock on Pelican Island. The Parks Board of Trustees has agreed to assist the project by allocation \$50,000 for construction of a berth, pier and bulkhead for the ship. The Parks Board has also agreed to underwrite (on a repayable basis) \$75,000 toward restoration of the ship.

To date more than \$350,000 has been raised for restoration of the ELISSA, including grants from the Moody Foundation, the Brown Foundation, the Houston Foundation, the Strake Foundation, Galveston Restaurant Association, Robert Sealy, and the Rebecca Sealy Mallory Foundation of Connecticut. Major donations of materials and service have been received from ARMCO Steel, Stewart and Stevenson, Lykes Brothers, Temple Industries, Exxon, International Paint, Wall Rope, Western

Geophysical and other major corporations.

Special financing for the project is being made available for the project by Moody National Bank and United States National Bank. □

**LYKES VESSEL DEPARTS FOR GREECE CARRYING ELISSA MATERIALS FOR RESTORATION**

Two-hundred tons of materials for the 1877 square rigged sailing vessel, ELISSA, were boarded on the JOHN LYKES this June for shipment to Piraeus, Greece. The Lykes cargo ship transported masts, spars, engines, generators, tools, logs, and other materials to be used in the restoration of this historic ship.

The Galveston Historical Foundation extends their warmest appreciation to Lykes Bros. Steamship Co. for donating the entire cost of shipping these materials 7,000 miles to Greece. “As a result of the interest and co-operation of Lykes Bros., the ELISSA has saved \$20,000 in shipping costs,” said Paul Gaido, ELISSA Chairman. “I want to particularly thank Captain Scardasis, Captain Shepherd, Carl Crossley, Nathan Sukiennik, Louis Ripol of Lykes and Mrs. Fredericka Lykes Thompson,” added Gaido.

GHF also thanks the Galveston Wharves Board of Trustees for the use of the Crespi warehouse for the last year and one-half as a storing and staging area, and their Pierpoint Packers, who under the direction of Douglas Marchand and A. P. Niccolai, provided key support to the project by donating all the crating and preparation of the refitting and restoration tools and materials for shipment to Greece.

With the delivery of these materials, ELISSA is projected to be substantially restored by the spring of 1978. Once restored, the ELISSA will be the oldest operational sailing ship in the world, and will be based at Galveston as a maritime exhibit and a part of maritime history for the public's education and enjoyment. □





Because of their work for historic preservation, these Galveston Scouts were the first to earn the ELISSA badge. Troop leader Mrs. Margret Coltzer presented the badge at the Sweeney-Royston House to (l. to r.) David Opperman, Gilbert Syes, Richard Gaido and Peter Coltzer.

## ISLE SCOUTS WORK FOR PRESERVATION

The ELISSA was the inspiration and model for GHF's historic preservation badge created for Galveston Scouts by leaders Mrs. Margaret Coltzer and Mrs. Jenny Gaido. The oval blue, red and black badge is being earned by both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts who work on historic preservation projects in Galveston. These Scouts (pictured) earned theirs by working at Ashton Villa cleaning floors, woodwork and doing yardwork; taking tickets at the Sweeney-Royston House and serving as greeters at the Jasmine House. Peter Coltzer had a head start on filling the requirements because of his two and one half years of Saturday work at Ashton Villa taking tickets and keeping the alley clean. In June, Cub Scout Pack 110 sold lemonade at Ashton Villa to raise funds for the ELISSA restoration.

## WORK BEGINS ON FILM OF ELISSA

A film-making team began work this August on a film about the restoration and return voyage of ELISSA, according to Paul Gaido, ELISSA Committee Chairman of GHF. Departing for Greece to begin shooting the film were: Producer/Director Robert Cozens of Houston and Associate Producers and crew members Wayne Miller and Brenda Reiswerg of Galveston.

Cozens recently directed the one-hour television documentary, "Galveston: Gilded Age of the Golden Isle," and is the Senior Producer of the film department at KUHT Channel 8. Miller and Reiswerg recently graduated from the University of Texas School of Communications.

Initial filming will show ELISSA prior to its going into dry dock for repairs to its iron hull, and later will show work underway on the ship in the yard. The team will return to Greece next year to film restoration work on the masts and rigging. Film-makers will then accompany ELISSA on her return voyage to Galveston.

Once completed the ELISSA film will be shown in the hull of the ship to add a major dimension to the understanding of visitors to the ship. The film will also be released for television use and distribution through schools and other organizations. Funding is also being sought from Federal agencies to expand the film into a one-hour television special to be shown nationwide on the Public Broadcasting System, as was Cozens' earlier Galveston film.

Budget for the film is \$44,000. The Moody Foundation is generously providing \$15,000 toward this total and the Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund \$2,000. Additional important funding is being provided by Wayne Miller and Brenda Reiswerg (\$1,000) and United States National Bank (\$500). Significant donations have also been received from Bank of Galveston, Mitchell Energy and Development, and Robert Mosbacher. Channel 8 is providing equipment and processing facilities worth \$16,000. An additional \$8,000 is being sought from the Galveston Parks Board of Trustees

to complete the funding.

"The ELISSA Committee and the Historical Foundation appreciate very much the help of these donors," Gaido stated. "Their support of the ELISSA film will enable the public to see and hear the full story of ELISSA's restoration and Atlantic crossing. All of us extend our sincere thanks for their support of this significant project." □



1. The Postmaster General of the United States, Benjamin Franklin Bailor, expresses his pleasure at being in Galveston for the ceremony. Seated, at the right, Federal Judge Finis Cowan and Jimmie G. Wortham, Galveston Postmaster.

2. Postmaster General Bailor presents Virginia Noel, wife of Judge Noel, with a gift from the local stamp ceremony committee in recognition of her efforts in leading the drive for the stamp and in planning the highly successful ceremony. Behind, Mrs. G. Harold Jordan, GHF past president, and Mrs. Anita Reynier, executive assistant to the Galveston Postmaster. Mrs. Noel conceived the idea of a stamp for "Old Fed" as a Galveston Bicentennial Project. Support was slow in gathering momentum but Mrs. Noel persisted until the

## SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

By FRANK T. HARROWING

The Dick Dowling Camp #1305, Sons of Confederate Veterans in Houston, Texas, is interested in forming a Sons of Confederate Veterans camp in Galveston. The Sons of Confederate Veterans, widely known as the S.C.V., is a voluntary association of male descendants, of those who served the Confederate States of America in military, naval, or civil capacity. The S.C.V. is not affiliated with, nor in any way linked to, any other organization. It is not political, nor is it sectional. It strives to give to the world, and especially to its own fellow Southerners, an understanding and appreciation of the Southern people and their brave history.

All male descendants of those who served the Confederate cause in the Confederate Army, Navy, or in the civil government of the Confederate States of America, and who were not dishonorably discharged, are eligible for membership. Candidates for membership must be at least sixteen years of age, and must provide proof of their Confederate lineage — either direct or collateral descent — on an application blank furnished by the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization.

Local units, known as camps, throughout the United States elect their own camp officers — commander, adjutant, chaplain, etc. They design their own projects and carry out their individually chosen programs. Most camps meet monthly, and these meetings are highlighted by knowledgeable talks on the Confederacy and on the War. Camp projects include preserving Southern monuments, replying to misstatements in the news media, marking graves of Confederate veterans, publicizing local history, and celebrating Confederate anniversaries.

Since Galveston is one of the greatest centers of Confederate history in Texas, it should have a Sons of Con-

federate Veterans camp. Anyone interested should contact Commander Frank T. Harrowing, Dick Dowling Camp #1305, Sons of Confederate Veterans, 2011 Sixth St., Galena Park, Texas, 77547, or they may contact Mr. Ken Pagans, 762-8621, in Galveston. In the near future we will hold a meeting in Galveston of all those interested in forming a local camp of the S.C.V. Those interested will be notified of the time and place of the meeting. □

## VICTORIAN SATURDAYS — UNIQUE SUMMER ATTRACTION

By SANDY BATELY

The "Victorian Saturdays on Galveston Island" special tour through June, July and August enjoyed increasing popularity throughout the summer. Six 19th Century structures, which included Ashton Villa and St. Joseph's Church, projects of Galveston Historical Foundation, offered a discounted ticket on Saturday afternoons to promote historic tourism. The tour took visitors from the Austin-Garrett House, 3517 Avenue M to the East End Historic District to see "Jasmine", the Skinner-Wade House at 1318 Sealy with stops between at the Sydnor-Powhatan House, 3427 Avenue O, the Sweeney-Royston House, 2402 Avenue L, Ashton Villa, 24th and Broadway, and St. Joseph's Church, 22nd and Avenue K.

Visitors traveled between structures on their own — some hardy tourists even hiked around the 24th and 22nd Street area — and were met by docents who gave tours of the two museums and four private homes. One of the major advantages of the packaged tour has been to direct tourists to historic buildings which are not on the main streets, and give deserved exposure to the neighborhoods which are rich in 19th Century architecture. □



3. "Old Fed", at 20th and Postoffice Streets, Galveston, as she appeared a couple of days before the ceremony in July, 1977.

4. James L. Noel, Jr., senior federal judge for the Southern Texas District, addresses the spectators on what the old building means to the federal judiciary. Judge Noel is called "the savior of the building", because it was through his inspiration and great efforts that the building was saved and restored in 1967. Seated, left to right, Stacey Bender, member of the local stamp ceremony committee; Galveston Postmaster Jimmie G. Wortham, Truett Latimer of Austin, president and chairman of Cameron Iron Works and chairman, Board of Governors,

U. S. Postal Service; Federal Judge George Brown; Pat Fennell, curator of the Galveston County Historical Museum; E. C. Stevenson, Houston postmaster; Robert L. Hardesty of Austin, associate chancellor, University of Texas System and Member, Board of Governors, U. S. Postal Service; Mrs. Mary Moody Northern; Ballinger Mills; Elbert Whorton, GHF president; Peter Brink, GHF executive director, and Federal Judge Ross Sterling. Among those standing in background: At left of Judge Noel, Lonnie Wortham, 17, son of the Galveston postmaster; and, at right of Judge Noel, Ronnie Glenn, special services section, U. S. Postal Service, Houston; at right of center column, Ray Blozis, Washington, D. C., special assistant in the postal service who represented the post office in local ceremony arrangements. □



## Ufford Building (continued)

the National Register and National Landmark District.

The 19th century buildings on Mechanic are important both in themselves and to draw together activity on Strand Street and the downtown. Boone Powell of the architectural firm of Ford, Powell & Carson in a recent letter emphasizes:

"The need to avoid a snaggle-toothed look of clearance for parking lots between the Strand and downtown. The retention of well scaled and creatively utilized buildings between the CBD and The Strand is essential to our concept of a revitalizing unity in the whole downtown area. The linkages needed cannot be achieved without the continuity provided by properly scaled buildings. Moreover, corner buildings such as the Ufford Building are most important since they provide visual anchors on two streets and their loss creates a large gap because of the immediately adjacent streets on both sides. This particular corner, containing also the Washington and (former) Tremont Hotels, is probably the most important such corner of commercial historic Galveston outside of The Strand (street) itself."

The Ufford Building retains a handsome Classical facade on Tremont Street, whose beauty is largely disguised by the boarded-up windows and monotone white paint covering the facade. (See accompanying article for a discussion of the history and architecture of the Ufford Building.)

GHF has had intermittent contacts concerning the preservation of the Ufford Building with the owner of the building, First Hutchings-Sealy, since early 1975. Beginning in early 1977 more frequent and intense contacts occurred, with meetings between bank officials and GHF representative Sally Wallace and (later) Executive Director Peter Brink. While GHF discussions with Bank officials . . . and GHF efforts to find an alternative parking site acceptable to the bank . . . were continuing, demolition barriers appeared without notice around the Ufford Building on July 22. At the request of GHF's Executive Committee, Bank officials then graciously agreed to hold off demolition of the building until a compromise could be investigated involving preservation of the building with Bank parking spaces on the first floor interior behind the existing facade. With an architectural/engineering study by consultants of GHF, a compromise proposal was in fact worked out by GHF and Bank representatives and was to be presented to the bank's Executive Committee and Board of Directors on July 11 and 12, respectively. Prior to those dates, demolition

of the building suddenly started again on July 6. Believing they were saving the Bank from a severe mistake and embarrassment . . . in light of the agreement that the Bank's Board would consider the compromise . . . GHF members and friends entered the Building, after trying to contact appropriate Bank officials, to delay demolition. The demolition effort was then halted after Bank officials advised the City Council that in fact no demolition was to occur until the bank Executive Committee and Board considered the compromise, and the City Council unanimously revoked the demolition permit.

The compromise, which had been approved by GHF's Executive Committee would have entailed the Bank selling the building to GHF at a negotiated price, GHF making the necessary structural changes and conversion for 12 Bank parking spaces in the building, and GHF providing the Bank a permanent, free lease of that parking area. The Tremont facade and handsome second and third floors would have been retained intact for refurbishing and active use. The Bank's Senior Vice-President involved in the negotiations stated that the cost to the Bank per parking space would be about \$4,000 to \$4,500 per space whether under the compromise or the demolition plan, with the difference that the Bank would receive the permanent lease under the compromise rather than own the property. In addition, according to figures developed in the negotiations the Bank would lose one to five parking spaces by accepting the compromise (counting the Ufford property and the property adjacent on the south . . . GHF made no objection at all to clearance of the adjacent lot with its one-story building.)

The Bank's Board rejected the compromise on July 12. The next day the demolition permit was re-issued, but demolition was halted in the nick of time by the temporary restraining order and, later, the preliminary injunction obtained pursuant to the decision of GHF's Executive Committee.

On August 1 GHF's Board of Directors convened for a full report and discussion on the disagreement and the action of the Executive Committee.

GHF is continuing to investigate other alternatives which would both satisfy the Bank's desire for additional parking and yet preserve the Ufford Building and other historic buildings within the district. GHF asks for the support of its members and friends in this unfortunate and difficult disagreement.

Tremont House, to General Albert Sidney Johnson, Colonel Woods and McLean, and Captain Ben McCullough, Texas officers, who served in the army of operations against Mexico, and were personally present at the storming of Monterey.

"In complying with this duty, the Committee beg you to be permitted to add the assurance of their high consideration and respect.

Signed

"Samuel M. Williams (Secretary of Austin's Colony from its birth)

J. C. Watrouse (United States Judge of Texas)

James Love (ex-Congressman from Kentucky, Judge of Texas)

A. F. James (Chief-Justice of Galveston County)

James David (General and Senator of Texas)

**E. L. Ufford (a large-hearted New Englander, long a Galveston merchant)**

D. Y. Portis (distinguished lawyer in San Antonio)

James N. Hamilton (long a valuable citizen of Galveston) and

John M. Jones (Texas real estate man, at No. 33 Broadway, New York)."

(The parenthetical matter was taken from an explanatory paragraph following the invitation describing the importance of the men, as written by Hayes in his book.)

Ufford, you will note, was one the hosts. In fact, Charles Hayes describes the personnel of this Committee of Arrangements as "a fragment of the history of Texas".

Architecturally and historically, the Ufford Building is significant because it survives as one of the few pre-Civil War commercial buildings in the central business district. GHF can confirm to date four other antebellum business structures.

Built in the simple Greek Revival style, the Ufford Building also retains most of its original decorative trim on the Tremont Facade, "being an important example of the pioneering construction developed at that early date using prefabricated iron elements". The corbeled parapet at the top of the wall is embellished with dentils. The peaks of the hipped roofs of the two buildings can be seen easily and are nicely proportioned although the slate has been replaced.

The window openings are spanned by flat lintels with stepped, moulded, cast-iron labels. The ground floor arcade is rhythmically composed of brick piers clad in paneled cast-iron headed by modified Corinthians capitals. The interstices were originally filled with double-leaved doors — the spaces now closed in with plate glass.

The front of the Ufford Row, except for the closure of the first floor arcade, looks very much as it did when the building was constructed in 1860. The north elevation of the building originally was as heavily enriched with iron details as the front, but modifications occurred about 40 years ago. The windows were altered, and the labels of iron have been removed.

Probably the most important architectural consideration is the visual one. The building stands at the corner of a block of fine 19th century cast-iron trimmed structures on Mechanic Street. To demolish this corner building would create a snaggle-toothed look.

Boone Powell, of the well-known San Antonio architectural firm Ford, Powell & Carson, states, "The retention of well scaled and creatively utilized buildings between the CBD and The Strand is essential to the concept of a revitalizing unity in the whole downtown area. The linkages needed cannot be achieved without the continuity provided by properly scaled buildings. Moreover, corner buildings such as the Ufford Building are most important

(continued on page 10)

## WHO WAS UFFORD?

By

Evangeline L. Whorton, Vice-President  
Galveston Historical Foundation

Who was Edmund L. Ufford? What was the Ufford Building—the building causing all the controversy in the southwest corner of Mechanic and Tremont?

Edmund L. Ufford was born in Stratford, Connecticut, on October 25, 1816. How he came to Texas and Galveston is not known, but in 1838 he pioneered a new business on the Island. He married Sidney Shaw, and made his home here until his death in Houston at the home of his daughter in 1874.

In journalist Charles W. Hayes personal recollections, **History of the Island and The City of Galveston**, E. L. Ufford was listed along with the Cronicans, Menards, Doswells, Pixs, Lewises, LeCleres, Leagues, Balls, Sydners, Bordens, Shaws, Williams, Ostermans, and many others "who began business here in 1838 and 1839 . . . men who would have given caste and character to any play or locality. They were all strong men, possessed of an individuality and fixity of purpose that yielded to no opposition—men who had courage and sagacity to face the rugged realities of life, successfully overcome its incongruities, meet obstacles half way and establish themselves firmly before another breaker was ready to submerge them. Of such metal were the men who first planted themselves upon this 'tight little island', and gave strength, character and vitality to Galveston in her adolescent years . . . There was no waiting for things to turn up, but they went at it with a determination to turn something up, and generally succeeded in doing it."

The **Galveston Daily News** accounts, "This pioneer citizen, Mr. Ufford, took an active part in the political life of Galveston . . . Offats Bayou is the wrong spelling . . . it should be Uffords Bayou. His grand-daughter

could not say definitely but thought Mr. Ufford lived at one time on Uffords Bayou and owned property there. The name has changed in spelling, due to improper pronunciation through the years." (This writer has not researched this quotation, as written by Mrs. W. L. Love in this 1936 **GDN** article).

Ufford served as **alderman** in 1843 under Mayor John Allen; under Mayor John S. Sydnor in 1847; under Hamilton Stuart in 1849 and 1852. Ufford was postmaster in 1853. He was again **alderman** in 1856 under Mayor John Henry Brown; and in 1861 and 1862 under Mayor J. C. Haviland. After the War, Mayor Haviland was removed from office by Major General Griffin and replaced by I. G. Williams in 1868 under whom Ufford served again as alderman. All in all, Ufford's aldermanic tenure spanned twenty-five years . . . politically active in Galveston, he was! He also served as a representative of his ward to the first school board and was a volunteer of the First Hook and Ladder Company.

Besides civic involvements, what did the businessman Ufford do? "E. L. Ufford, Auctioneer and Commission Merchant, Tremont Street, Galveston. Agent for Dupont's Powder, Bridge-water Paints, and Dealer in Provisions Western Produce." This advertisement was found in 1857, 1858, and 1859 issues of **The Texas Almanac**.

The 1866-67 City Directory gives the following insight into the nature of Ufford's business: "E. L. Ufford, Established in Galveston Twenty-two years; Auction sales every Tuesday and Friday, consisting of a general assortment of Merchandise, Furniture, Produce, Clothing, Glassware, etc."

The Ufford Buildings, as Galvestonians know them today, stand because of a contract in 1860 Ufford signed with John Brown, a local builder of note, for "two brick stores" — ad-

joining row stores with identical facades and which now stand at 301-305 Tremont Street. A small cornerstone at the second floor line on the northeast corner reading 'E. L. U. 1860' may be seen if one looks carefully.

Referred to in contemporary advertisements of the 1860's as "Ufford's Iron Front Fire-Proof Buildings, Tremont Street near The Strand", these stores indeed survived the numerous fires in Galveston, including the famous Moro Castle Fire of 1869 that swallowed up scores of buildings and inflicted a total loss estimated at \$1,500,000.

Edmund L. Ufford owned the property on Tremont Street as early as 1843. He leased to W. R. Wilson in 1843; Edward S. Wood occupied the building on the site as a dwelling and store house in 1848. In 1850, the building owned by Ufford was the dry goods business of David Ayres. In 1857, 1858, and 1859, Ufford, Auctioneer and Commission Merchant, is listed in the building. In 1859 the old Ufford Building collapsed and thus the contract was consummated in 1860 for the "new" Ufford Buildings.

On the human interest side—Ufford was socially-minded also. In 1846, after the fall of Monterey and the victory at Buena Vista in the Mexican War, many Galveston soldiers returned to be honored at a reception and grand dinner prepared at the Tremont House. This was a magnificent affair, and eclipsed anything that had ever been attempted before. The redeeming feature of the occasion was that the private soldiers, 55 in all, were not overlooked. Each invitation was handwritten:

Galveston, November 23, 1846.

"Dear Sir:—The undersigned, a Committee of Arrangements, have been appointed by their fellow-citizens to invite you to a dinner to be given on Wednesday, the 25th instant, at the



# WATCH THE STRAND COME ALIVE ONCE AGAIN!

New activity and restoration work continues at an exciting pace in The Strand National Historic Landmark District. Since our last Newsletter, Warners has become the **Brass Rail on The Strand** with live music Wednesday through Saturday, plus good food. Jack King has opened the doors to **La King's Confectionary** . . . an old-fashioned ice cream parlour and candy factory where you can watch all types of candy being made! Lee Trentham and Craig Lazzari have bought the mansard-roofed **1870 Merchants Mutual Insurance Company Building** to restore it. Mary Kay Gaido is showing off beautiful brass and glass items in the **Occidental Trading Company**. Mary Alpert and Betty Ewing are playing us with delicious frozen yogurt at the **Moo Palace**. George and Cynthia Mitchell are within inches of starting a splendid restoration of the **1870 League-Blum Building**. Dale and Leta Dronet and operating the fine **Dronet's Interior Landscaping** with the plants and gifts. Daniel Thorne has nearly completed six magnificent apartments in the **1870 Rice, Baulard and Co. Building**. And Robert Lynch has bought the 19th century **Opperman Build-**

**ing on Mechanic to restore.**  
Down the street, exterior work is being done on the **1877 First National Bank of Galveston Building**, housing the **Arts Center on The Strand**. Work is nearly done on the **1882 Mensing Brothers Building**, with a reconstructed canopy and sidewalk. **Cafe Torrefie** is expanding and adding mixed drinks; **The Strand Greenery** is moving in (from down the street); and the **Parlour** has already settled into new quarters next to **The Smoked Meat Company** and **Thorne's**. And Bill Fullen has purchased the **Commerce Building** to rehabilitate.  
And . . . the first of ten building pictorial signs has been installed, in front of the **1882 Moody Building** with the **Strand Surplus Center**. Trees are planted in the **Hendley strip park**, and we are waiting delivery of the paving tiles!  
At last count nearly \$4 million will be invested, since the start of the Revolving Fund, in The Strand restoration and revitalization by the end of 1977 . . . causing us again to give thanks to the Junior League for doing the first two Strand restorations way back in 1969-71! □



1. The first Strand pictorial sign was unveiled July 29 in front of the W. L. Moody Building at 22nd Street and the Strand. The sign, one of a projected series of 10, features an 1880's photograph of the Moody Building as well as historical and architectural notes. Attending, from left, are Councilman Roland Basse, Councilman Mel Rourke, Mayor John Unbehagen, Acting City Manager Steve Huffman, Mrs. Mary Moody Northen, Meyer Reiswerg (owner of the building), Councilman Bill Fullen, Councilman Rudy Teichman and Executive Director Peter Brink. The city council allocated U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds to the GHF in 1975 for the signs. The pictorial signs were recommended by Venturi & Rauch in "The Action Plan for The Strand" and were then designed by Bob Timme of Taft Architects.

2. The final two sections of the 1870 Rice and Baulard Buildings, 213-217 Tremont, have been handsomely restored on the exterior and extensively developed for six apartments and three retail shops by Daniel Thorne. The design, by Taft Architects, includes a dramatic skylit entrance and atrium. On the left are the Whiteside Townflats, also part of the Rice and Baulard Buildings, featuring three handsome apartments completed in 1975.

3. Mary Alpert, co-owner of The Moo Palace, shows off a tee shirt with the whimsical cow that has come to symbolize frozen yogurt treats for Strand-goers. The Moo Palace is located in the Rosenberg Building, 2311 Strand.

4. The Parlour has moved down the street to new quarters in the 1882 Mensing Brothers Building at Kempner (22nd) and Strand. Come see their handsome space and fine array of handcrafted gifts and antiques.

5. Lee Tretham and Craig Lazzari have purchased the 1870 Merchants Mutual Insurance Company Building from Schreiber-Miller. The building, with its beautiful Mansard roof, will be authentically restored on the exterior and extensively developed on the interior for retail uses on the first floor and apartments on the three upper floors.

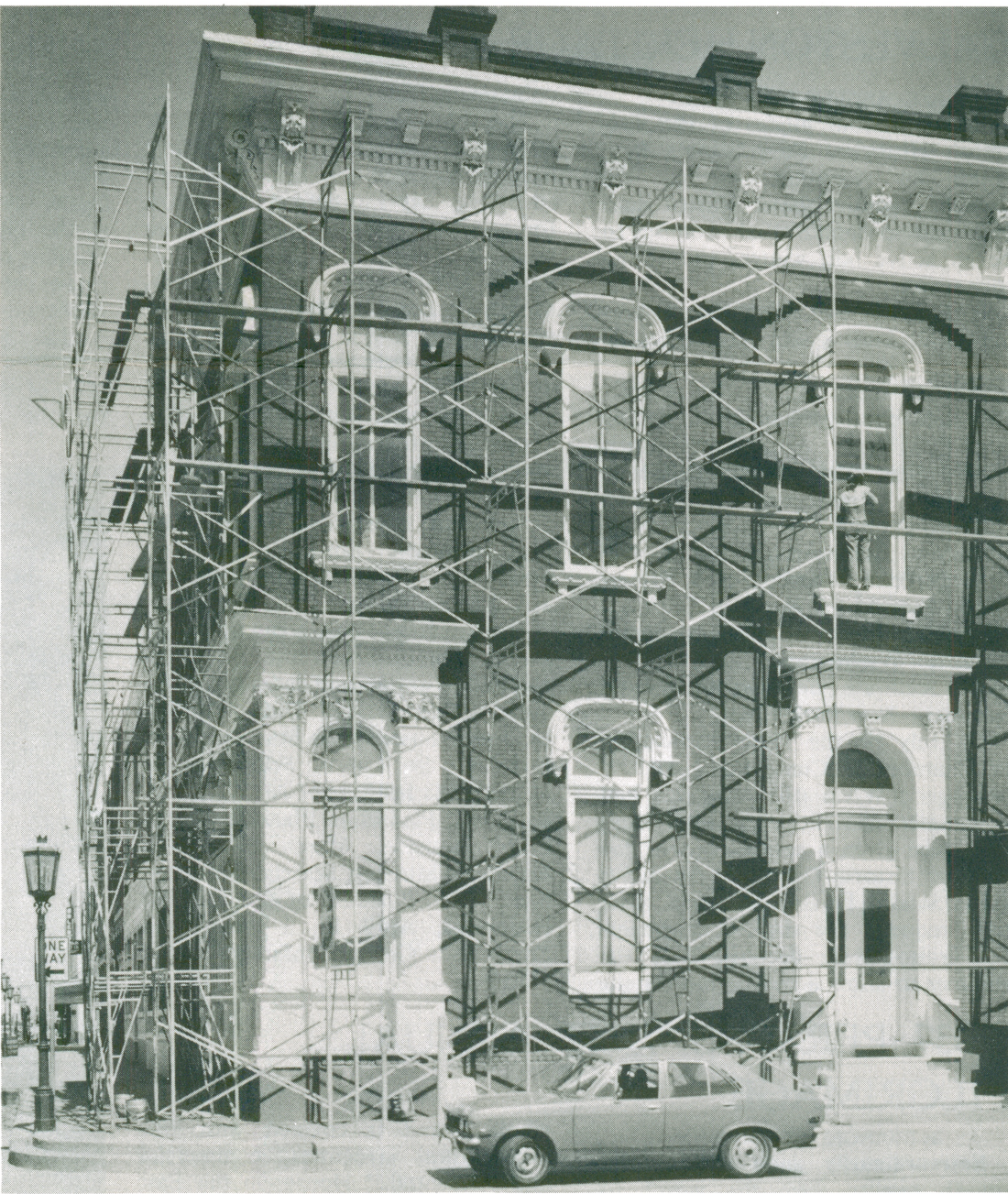
6. Repointing of brick and extensive maintenance work is being done on the exterior of the 1877 First National Bank of Galveston Building, which houses the Arts Center on The Strand. This and interior work are being assisted by a \$20,000 matching grant from the Texas Historical Commission.

7. Twenty elm trees represent the beginning of the Hendley park . . . a 20 by 120 foot landscaped sitting area at Moody (21st) and Strand. Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter the earth-colored tile will be being installed and, later on, park benches will be added.

8. Robert Lee Kempner Lynch has purchased the 19th century Oppermann Building at 2317 Mechanic from Schreiber-Miller. The exterior will be restored (the original doors are behind the cinder blocks), and GHF will obtain a preservation deed restriction on the building.

9. The Cafe Torrefie will soon be expanding into this handsome space in the 1882 Mensing Brothers Building at Kempner (22nd) and Strand, and will be joined by The Strand Greenery which is moving from down the street. The Torrefie will continue serving lunch, dinner, and mixed drinks, and have a separate bar, lounge, and wine vault. A reconstructed canopy and sidewalk will soon be finished around the south and west facades of the building.

10. Jack King will be serving old-fashioned ice cream sundaes and cones, and making candy before your eyes, by the time this newsletter reaches you. King's candy-making equipment will turn out pecan clusters, stick and ribbon candy, chocolates, and taffy. Jack and his father, Jimmy, have been in the candy making business 40 years. We're super-pleased to welcome all the King's to Galveston.





## STRAND MERCHANTS AND OWNERS ASSOCIATION

By MARILYN GENSHEIMER

The new shop, restaurant and building owners on The Strand have formed an association with the stated purpose of actively working for the economic growth and betterment of the Strand Historical District.

Officers are Bill Fullen, President; Dale Dronet, Treasurer; and Marilyn Gensheimer, Secretary. Members are: Dronet's Interiors, Strand Smoked Meat Company, Thorne's Restaurant, Thorne's Properties, the Junior League of Galveston, The Moo Palace, Kon Tiki Club, Occidental Trading Company, the Rosenberg Building, Old Strand Emporium, The Brass Rail, George Mitchell, Strand Greenery, Cafe Torrefie, La King Confectionery, Arts Center on the Strand, The Parlour and the Galveston Historical Foundation.

The Association is promoting a new brochure describing the Strand Historical District and attractions in the area.

The Strand merchants joined the Downtown Merchants in celebrating Old Fashioned Bargain Days in September. The Association is also sponsoring Sunday afternoon "Artists on the Strand." Local artists and craftsmen have been invited to show and sell their handwork on Sunday afternoons on The Strand. The city council and property owners have given permission for these artists to set up in front of their buildings on the sidewalks.

### BEAUMONT ANTIQUE SHOW

The Beaumont Heritage Society will hold its Fourth Annual Antique Show and Sale November 4-6 at the Red Carpet Inn, Beaumont. The proceeds

## GALVESTON HERITAGE TOURS

By EVANGELINE WHORTON

Volunteer tour guides of the Galveston Historical Foundation's Programs—on vacation during the summer months—have shifted into high gear to handle what promises to be an active fall, winter, and spring tour season.

Peter Brink and Evangeline Whorton, who both guide the Galveston Heritage Tours, have taken a number of special tours during the summer for individual personages including Paul Goldberger, Architectural Critic for the *New York Times*; Ray Reese, *American Preservation* magazine; Michael Durham, American Heritage Society's *Americana*; Frank B. Gilbert, Director, Landmarks & Preservation Law of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; Benjamin Forgey, *Washington Star*; Norma Shire, *Antiques Monthly*; and Louise Kriesberg, *New York Times*.

On July 19, the Texas Association of Chamber of Commerce Executive Manager's Wives (the managers had a summer convention in Galveston) also were given a comprehensive day tour of historic Galveston by active guide Sandra L. Batey, but all other tour requests for day arrangements for groups were declined over the summer to allow a rest period for the

volunteer guides.

The volunteer guides who train for at least a year (and work from three manuals compiled and heavily researched by tour service) before they board for a day of touring with a charter busload of visitors include: **Mrs. J. Curtis Batey, Mrs. M. J. Correia, Mrs. John Erdman, Mrs. Philip Lohec and Mrs. Elbert Whorton.**

In-training guides with the tour service are: **Mrs. Doug Fine, Mrs. Jack King, Mrs. William Glenn, Mrs. Charles Lawrence, Mrs. Larry Patton and Mrs. Merrill Stiles.**

Guides on special buildings/sites/districts are: **Peter Brink, Capt. Julius W. Jockusch, Edward R. (Tim) Thompson, Jr., Larry Wygant and Mrs. Edward Fugger.**

The Touring season is filling rapidly and is scheduled well into 1978 with guaranteed groups and dates as follows: Sugar Creek Garden Club, October 26, 1 or 2 buses; Lone Star Travelers, November 19, 2 buses; Friends of the Minneapolis Institute of Art, February 20, 1 bus; Plantation Planters Garden Club, Houston, March 8, 1 bus; American Museum Society, Houston, April 5, 1 bus; Society of Architectural Historians, April 10, 3 buses; and Texas State Credit Conference, April 17, 1 bus. □

## 2,037 PERSONS VISIT ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

By EVANGELINE WHORTON

**Extraordinarily good success and superb quality** were the words to describe the Third Annual Historic Homes Tours on May 14 and 15 this spring!

The two days of tours under sunny skies featured six different structures each day and the beautiful grounds of the historic John Hutchings property.

The past two annual pilgrimages have opened the doors to 23 different Galveston private homes. Twelve additional structures this year bring that total to 35 homes greatly improved or restored to add to the treasury of Island houses.

"The amazing part of this Galveston story, is that—unlike other tours across the country—our potential here allows us to show different residences each year." As Lee Adler said so well when he visited Galveston—"the

whole Island is covered with fine architectural structures, commercial and residential." Houses in the East End, houses in the Silk Stocking Historical Precinct, houses on Avenues L, M, N, O, and P—we have boundless potential to show different fine 19th century structures all over the Island.

Hundreds of volunteers were involved in producing these tours. Just in houses alone—313 volunteers, among them the generous, sharing owners—served as chairmen of houses and as docents. Wonderful GHF names stand out who carried out the major responsibilities—many of them repeating their tasks after several years of duty. Please see the inserted sheet in the 1977 homes tours catalogue for a list of chairmen and their committees. By the way, the catalogue was a special production this year . . . carefully researched and written (few typos)

will to to support the John J. French Trading Post Museum and other activities of the Society.

(Ed note) The Society has already called to let the GHF know that they will be chartering a bus to bring their members to Dickens's Evening on The Strand December 10. □

## THE 1900 CHARITY BALL COOKBOOK

By JEAN EDGE MILLS

The 1900 Charity Ball Cookbook is an exact reproduction of the souvenir cook book compiled by the Board of Lady Managers of the Galveston Orphans Home—the oldest child care home in the State of Texas—for the tenth annual Charity Ball held April 17, 1900.

The Charity Ball then, as now, was given as a benefit for the Galveston Orphans Home (now the Galveston Childrens Home). To quote the Galveston Daily News of Thursday, April 19, 1900: "The Board of Lady Managers of the Galveston Orphans Home, to shelter and care for the bereft of every earthly gem, each year comes before the public with its annual Charity Ball."

This little cook book is a true collectors item, as only one copy is known to definitely exist, in the Archives of the Rosenberg Library in Galveston. One other may exist, as a reference was made to it in "The Southern Cook Book", published in 1951 by the University of North Carolina Press. Most were destroyed in the great storm of September 8, 1900.

In 1976, the country's Bicentennial year, and the 98th year of the Galveston Childrens Home, the Board of Trustees reprinted this little gem, so that it could once again come to light. This was accomplished by them with the whole hearted co-

operation of the Board of Directors of the Rosenberg Library Association, and of Clarke and Courts.

The book was introduced again at the 86th Charity Ball on April 25, 1976. It consists of 81 pages, with recipes for soups—such as crab gumbo—fish, fricasses de chevrettes a la creole, meat and game, blind hare—the recipe mentioned in the Southern Cook Book—salads, such as frozen tomato salad, desserts and ices, including such as cafe parfait and frozen eggnog, cakes, such as watermelon cake, and a miscellaneous section containing recipes for pickled oysters and cheese balls. Also confections such as nougat candy and stuffed figs, and a beverage section with Roman punch with rum and champagne, and chafing dish recipes with deviled oysters, and welch rabbit.

This delightful little book is on sale at a bargain price of \$5.00, and is available at Clarke and Courts, 2406 Mechanic, Eiband's Department Store, Ashton Villa, the Trinity Episcopal Church Book Shop, the Emporium, the Galveston Childrens Home, 1315-21st street, and the GHF office. □

### DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY!

at the

*Ashton Villa Gift Shop*

A delightful selection of antique replica miniatures, shell candles and mirrors, and many other gift ideas.

featuring again handcrafted sterling silver jewelry by JACK HALL

with creative layout and fine photographs. We consider the catalogue a printed piece to collect along with other books about Galveston. The catalogues can be purchased for \$1.50 at the GHF office in the Santa Fe Building or at Ashton Villa, The largest single expense—photography, production and printing of the catalogues—has been paid for by Programs out of the profits. However, any future sales of the catalogues are designated for the restoration of the Samuel

May Williams House, 3601 Avenue P.

It was determined well before the tours that the proceeds would be shared and the net profits will benefit GHF's administration by \$7,000 and the Samuel May Williams House by \$3,000.

Annual historic homes tours, scheduled each mid-May weekend, have been an added attraction for Galveston, an incentive for restoration of houses—with a lot of hard work—a nice profit for GHF projects. □



The 1886-1888 Jacob Sonnentheil House is beginning to show the flourishes of its grand "carpenter Gothic" style as the restoration progresses under new owner, Lee Trentham.



## ASHTON VILLA TO HAVE MAINTENANCE PLAN

ASHTON VILLA NEWS BY  
JUDY SCHIEBEL, ADMINISTRATOR



Building Conservation Technology's Joe Herndon inspected the mortar of the Ashton Villa carriage house as part of the firm's longterm maintenance survey on the landmark.

Joe Herndon, in Galveston from Washington, D.C., toured Ashton Villa in what can most certainly be described as an "in depth" visit. Herndon, of Building Conservation Technology, Inc., was brought to the restored mansion by the Ashton Villa staff and the Galveston historical Foundation for a maintenance study of the property.

The on-site analysis took Herndon in, out, over, under, and around the house in a meticulous effort to identify problems or material failures in the 118 year-old structure. Result of the analysis will be a written and illustrated maintenance manual prepared specifically for Ashton Villa covering maintenance concerns to be expected over the next five to ten years or longer.

The manual will provide recommendations, guidelines, a prioritized schedule, and a cost analysis to insure the continued physical and cosmetic preservation of Ashton Villa.

## ASHTON VILLA DOCENTS HONORED

One of the most dedicated, hard working groups in Galveston, the Ashton Villa Volunteers, were honored by all of Galveston at a luncheon and awards ceremony in the Ashton Villa Ballroom.

September 13 was declared "Ashton Villa Volunteer Day" at a City Council meeting to pay tribute to the historic house museum's guides, cashiers, and ticket takers, who are some of Galveston's most effective diplomats. 39,000 visitors toured Ashton Villa in 1976, and the count for 1977 has already passed 25,000. The Ashton Villa volunteer staff also serves for special events such as evening tours and receptions. They come from all walks of life — retired teachers, young mothers, teen-agers, and grandmothers. One volunteer, an ANICO employee, serves on his lunch hour as tour guide, and many ladies leave their office jobs to give two hours a week to this project.

Some arrive by Moody House bus. One takes a cab from the Mainland, and one charter volunteer serves weekly coming from Bolivar. "All are devoted to an effort they consider worthwhile", says Martha

Goodman, Ashton Villa volunteer chairman. "We believe in what we are doing, enjoy it, and try to do it well."

During the luncheon ceremony, volunteers who have served Ashton Villa for at least two years were presented silver lapel pins, designed by Jack Hall exclusively for Ashton Villa volunteers. The pins were patterned after the distinctive "corn ears" of the cast iron gates of Ashton Villa.

Donating their services as caterers for the Ashton Villa volunteers luncheon were **Kathy's Katerers** of Galveston and **Two M's Shop** of Texas City. Tables and chairs were donated by **Dunn Equipment, Inc.**

Some of the local businesses contributing door prizes were: **Dronet's Interior Designs**, **The Occidental Trading Co.**, **The Emporium**, **King's Confectionary**, **The Parlour**, **Purity Ice Cream**, **Sea-Arama**, **Thorne's Restaurant**, **Treasure Island Tour Trains**, **The Brass Rail**, **Sweeney-Royston House Museum**, **Shrimp-N-Stuff** and **Uneeda Uniform & Linen Service**. □



Mrs. Mary Moody Northern rang the liberty bell at Ashton Villa's Fourth of July picnic and patriotic songfest.

## NEW ASHTON VILLA POSTCARD

A new full color post card picturing Ashton Villa is now on sale in the Ashton Villa Carriage Gift Shop. "The photograph," says Judy Schiebel, Administrator, "is the best we have ever seen of the Villa and is a fine example of the talent of Galveston's Richard Tichich."

The Ashton Villa postcard was printed by the Astrocard Company of Houston. A representative of the company expressed great appreciation of the quality of the photograph and negotiations are underway for its distribution by the Astrocard Company. At the present time the card will be sold exclusively at Ashton Villa.

The Ashton Villa Gift Shop occupies a small area of the historic Carriage House and is devoted to the sale of gift items related to Ashton Villa and historic Galveston.

## VICTORIAN EVENINGS FOR BANKING EXECUTIVES

The Ashton Villa ballroom, although not yet fully restored, has been the scene of innumerable receptions and other parties in 1977. Among the most prestigious events scheduled is a spin-off from the American Bankers Association National Convention in Houston in mid-October. Ashton Villa has booked candlelight tours, cocktail parties and Victorian dinners for 600 of the conventioners, all "top brass" according to a spokesman from Continental Bank of Chicago. Busloads of 150 guests each night for four consecutive nights will be brought to Galveston from the ABA convention headquarters hotel, Houston's "The Warwick." Costumed tour guides from "The Planners" a Houston tour broker, will deliver bank Board Villa docents, also in costume, will show the pre-civil war Italianate mansion and tell the story of "the Brown Family." James Moreau Brown, builder of Ashton Villa, was a nineteenth century banker and research proves that many Texas Bankers Association meetings and parties were held in the now restored home.

Entertainment during the open house will be presented by a newly formed group of Galveston's most talented musicians, under the direction of Douglas Koeppe. Vocalists Maureen and Larry Patton, pianist Carolyn Adams and Mr. Koeppe, flautist will perform waltzes, polkas, quick steps, schottishes; all popular parlor music pieces in this country during the third and fourth quarters of the 19th century. These arrangements, drawn mainly from collections put together by John Phillip Sousa, will be performed in the gracious dining room of Ashton Villa. Cocktails will be served from a fully stocked bar. Dinner will be catered by Donald Clark. Mr. Clark has planned a Victorian menu to be served by Mr. Koeppe and Carolyn Adams. Cigars for the gentlemen and cordials for the ladies are planned for after dinner.

"Our entire staff," says Judy Schiebel, Ashton Villa administrator, "is, as they said in the 1890' nearly 'in the rigors' over this! We are really excited at the prospect of hosting this important client at Ashton Villa. We certainly plan to give a good image of our project and our city to these visitors from all over the nation."

## DONATION IMPROVES CATERING FACILITIES

Don Clark, a caterer associated with Royal Coach Inn of Houston, has arranged for the purchase of a commercial stove for the recently renovated kitchen at Ashton Villa. Mr. Clark, who is well known in Galveston for having catered many outstanding parties, (including the first annual Ashton Villa Jazz Brunch,) also is donating half the cost of the stove. "I hope," says Mr. Clark, "that others will follow my example in helping to expand this fine project. Development of the ballroom and kitchen will be a strong factor in the financial support of Ashton Villa."

Ashton Villa needs other kitchen equipment including a dishwasher and a commercial refrigerator. Caterers now must bring in all equipment for the many parties being held in the popular Ashton Villa Ballroom.

## GUIDED TOURS OF THE STRAND TO BEGIN!

Receipt of a federal CETA position from the City is enabling GHF to begin guided walking tours of The Strand National Historic Landmark District. Rob Ringle will give the tours, highlighting the history and architectural details of the buildings, and the restoration and new uses. Rob is a graduate of the University of Texas, who has recently completed a photographic study of historic Galveston.

The tours are open to the public and free. Tours will be at regularly scheduled times, to be announced in the news media (or phone GHF at 765-7834 for times). In addition, Galveston or out-of-town groups by making arrangements in advance with Rob Ringle. There is no charge for either the regular or special group tours.

So . . . come see The Strand. Learn about and enjoy this vital part of our Island! □



On Sunday's tour, May 15, the 1875 Henry and George Seeligson House had 1,170 visitors between 12 noon and 7 in the evening. 2,037 persons toured the fine houses chosen for the two days of tours.



## Who Was Ufford (continued)

since they provide visual anchors on two streets and their loss creates a large gap because of the immediately adjacent streets on both sides."

"It is critically important that The Strand not seem like a separate 'project area' as much as a healthy and vital part of downtown Galveston . . . Larimer Square in Denver has been a success in many ways but has been isolated from neighboring areas by newly cleared parking lots. This may well lead to a more limited life-span of the development and to its premature deterioration. It also limits its ability to influence in a positive way the surrounding areas."

Strong revitalization efforts have been progressing for some time on Mechanic and Tremont Street within

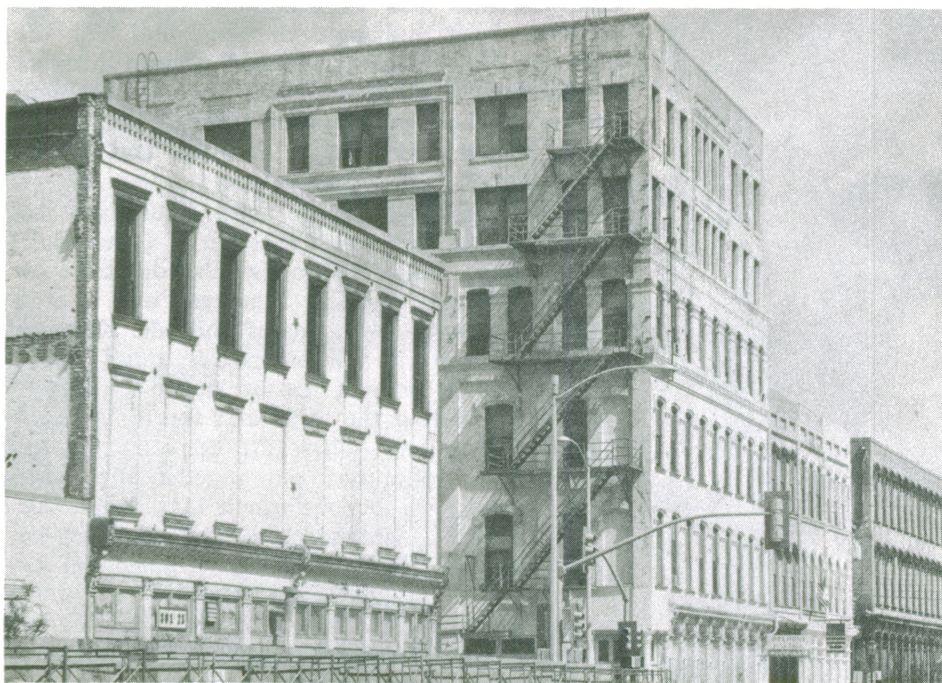
The Strand National Historic Landmark District. The Stewart Title Company this year invested \$400,000 into the renovation of the 1881 Kaufman & Runge—Stewart Building at Mechanic Street and Kempner. The circa 1870 John Koebbel Building is going into the final phase before its adaptive re-use as the Seaman's Center on Mechanic at 20th. Also on Mechanic, the Clayton-designed Clarke and Courts Building continues operation as the oldest stationery concern in the State. The old, prestigious company brought the first stone lithograph press to the region, and the building on Mechanic is still used by the company who built it in 1890! Also on Mechanic Street is the remarkable—though badly in need of exterior restoration—Leon &

H. Blum Company Building (the Home Furniture location today), extending along most of the northside of Mechanic between Tremont and 24th. As were the Stewart Title Building, the Houston Cotton Exchange Building, and many courthouses across the state, this old Blum Building was designed by the notable 19th century architect, Eugene T. Heiner.

Across from the Leon & H. Blum Building on the southside of Mechanic, research has revealed that the John Berlocher Buildings adjoining and west of the Ufford Buildings are the oldest surviving contiguous group of commercial buildings in the city. Built by John Brown, the building contract dates 2309 Mechanic, May 13, 1858! In addition, businessman Robert

Lynch and architect Bob Timme have purchased the smaller Victorian structure further west on the block at 2317 Mechanic to renovate for a wood working shop on the first floor with plans for commercial spaces above. The restoration of the exterior should commence within the next month.

This is the progressive revitalization effort taking place in Galveston's downtown today. The Ufford Building is a unique building in a company of fine buildings in The Strand National Historic Landmark District. "This particular corner, containing also the Washington Hotel, is probably the most important such corner of commercial historic Galveston outside of The Strand Street itself." □



The Ufford building as it fronts on Tremont St.



This photograph of the Hendley Building was probably taken in 1872. GHF offices will be located in the west end of the building (far left). Photo courtesy of the Rosenberg Library.

## GHF Offices (continued)

section of historic Hendley Row is ideal in this respect.

GHF has owned the West Section of Hendley Row since 1968 when it was saved from demolition. Hendley Row was completed in 1859, although the West Section burned in 1866 and was reconstructed in 1867. The Row is of Classical style, with handsome proportions. The Row is of pressed brick, with massive granite columns and granite trim brought to Galveston by ship.

GHF plans to restore authentically the front facade of the West Section. The second floor will be rehabilitated for GHF's offices, and the first floor will be a visitors center and area for public exhibits about the history of The Strand. Eventually GHF plans to add a multi-media presentation of Strand history (similar to the "1900 Storm" presentation at Ashton Villa) for which a reasonable fee would be charged.

The Executive Committee has established a Special Hendley Building Committee for the undertaking. This

committee has now interviewed several architectural firms and has chosen Taft Architects of Houston for the project. Taft were also the architects on Robert Lynch's Rosenberg Building and Daniel Thorne's Rice, Baulard and Co. Building. Preliminary architectural work has now begun. Additional GHF members interested in being members of the Special Committee are most welcome and need only phone GHF (765-7834) to participate.

Very preliminary estimates on total cost of the project are between \$200,000 and \$250,000. To date a \$5,000 donation has been received from an anonymous donor, \$30,000 from the Texas Historical Foundation, and \$20,000 from HUD Community Development Funds of the City. Another \$25,000 is being requested from the City's General Revenue Sharing Funds.

GHF views this as a great opportunity, at long last, to have permanent offices in an historic building. There is also a strong urgency to the project since GHF will have to move out of the Santa Fe building by mid-1977.

## DEADLINE FOR SHOP PARTICIPATION SET AT OCTOBER 1

The Galveston Historical Foundation extends an invitation to civic organizations, businesses, and individuals who desire to participate with a shop during "Dickens's Evenings on The Strand" to contact Evangeline Whorton before October 1.

The recreated winter event for the PUBLIC in the downtown has had escalating attendance — 7,500 in 1975; between 15,000 - 18,000 in 1976, and in spite of threatening weather.

Sixty-six shops, including those business houses already in The Strand area, participated in 1976 installing English-type specialty shops housed in 19th century buildings along The Strand and its cross streets. The Strand on this magic yuletide evening is transformed into a bustling English street scene of the 1840-1870's with Charles Dickens characters and free amusements. Tiny Tim, Fagin, puppeteers, elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen visitors, English Bobbys, beggars, lamplighters, pick-pockets, town criers, and carolers join in the holiday-like festivities!

Christmas shopping at its best! The shops sell everything from Dickensian mouth-watering fare and refreshment to eye-dazzling Victorian wares, many of these handcrafted.

To open "shop", shopkeepers agree to strict guidelines which are aimed at perpetuating the growing reputation of Victorian recreation. The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation named "Dickens's Evening" as Texas' outstanding

event during December 1976.

For the first time, shops will be asked to pay a \$35.00 participation fee, to include a signage cost, to help defray GHF's great expense of producing the event. Planners of the event feel the good exposure and high quality warrants the small fee. Alone, GHF bore upwards of \$5,000 of expenditures last year toward the building strategy of the event which GHF hopes—in short years—will become a major fundraiser and of such drawing magnitude with revenues for the community equalled to those generated by "Night in Old San Antonio" or "Night in Old Denver". San Antonio's events brings about 250,000 visitors and about four million dollars to the coffers of city businesses.

Another major objective is to bring good feelings for downtown and The Strand, the long-neglected but awakened main street of 19th century Galveston. GHF, in keeping with the spirit of Dickens's writings from 1840 to 1870—so infused with jollity and a strong sense of social right and wrong—hopes to vivify Dickens moral ethic of exemplary conduct and good conscience of generosity among citizens.

Available shop spaces are quickly filling. Call GHF today to participate with a shop or as a volunteer to plan and produce "Dickens's Evening on The Strand". How about it, Judge Piperi, you are destined to be Scrooge again?! □

THE GALVESTON  
HISTORICAL FOUNDATION  
proudly invites you to

## "DICKENS'S EVENING ON THE STRAND"

an authentic recreation of an English  
Street scene during the winter holidays  
of the 19th Century  
on THE STRAND,  
"The Old Wall Street of the Southwest"  
between 20th Street  
and 25th Street (Bath or Rosenberg)  
on Saturday, the tenth day  
of December  
(Rain or blue north date, Saturday  
the seventeenth day of December)  
from Six until eleven o'clock in the evening

Sixty Lamp-Lit Shops in 19th Century Buildings  
on The Strand and its Cross Streets Selling Quality  
Victorian Wares, Fare and Refreshment by Costumed  
Shopkeepers

Remember your Purses  
for Christmas Shopping

Free Street Activities, Entertainments, Amusements,  
Street Characters, Vendors.

English Culinary Treats Galore! Pubs! Three Drink  
Dispensaries! A Wine Tasting Palace with The Strand  
bedecked with greens and ribbons and torches and  
gas lamps and a Tannenbaum rivaled only by the  
royal tree at Windsor!

AND . . . Soliloquies from "A Christmas Carol"  
by renowned master Alfred Hyslop. \$1 for a per-  
formance at The Strand Street Theatre.

Dress Optional. Dickensian Attire of the 1840-1870's  
Greatly Encouraged.

\$1.00 Public Voluntary Donation Gladly Accepted.  
Free—All Children 14 years and under.

Gain entrance to the grand street (with map of the  
event and memento given) at 20th, Moody (21st  
Street), Kempner (22nd Street), Tremont (23rd Street),  
24th, and 25th Streets (Bath or Rosenberg) at The  
Strand. □



# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

<b>① NAME as it appears on federal register:</b> Elissa		<b>② OTHER NAMES:</b> Fjeld; Gustaf; Christophoros; Achaeos; Pioneer		<b>③ date of entry:</b> MAR 21 1978	<b>④ county code:</b> 167
<b>⑤ LOCATION street &amp; number</b> Seawolf Park		<b>city / town</b> Galveston		<b>vicinity of</b> TX	<b>county</b> Galveston
<b>⑦ OWNER</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)		<b>⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:</b>		<b>⑥ NPS REGION:</b> SW	
<b>⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NHL		<b>⑩ FUNDED?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT</b> 9th	
<b>⑫ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>⑭ ACREAGE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
<b>⑮ CONDITION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated <input type="checkbox"/> altered <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed <input type="checkbox"/> excavated		<b>⑯ original site</b> <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> unknown		<b>⑰ features:</b> INTERIOR: <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR: <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS: <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-6 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-9	
<b>⑱ ACCESS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		<b>⑲ ADAPTIVE USE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		<b>⑳ SAVED?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
<b>㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE-6 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS-7 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3 <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION-8 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4 <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS-9 <input type="checkbox"/> ART-5 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10		<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING-11 <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26 <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12 <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27 <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13 <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14		<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16 <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE-17 <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19 <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20	
<b>㉒ functions</b> WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		<b>㉓ dates</b> of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:		<b>㉔ CLAIMS: explain</b> 'first' <input type="checkbox"/> 'oldest' <input type="checkbox"/> 'only' <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>㉕ architectural style(s):</b>		<b>㉖ architect:</b>		<b>㉗ master builder:</b>	
<b>㉘ landscape architect / garden designer:</b>		<b>㉙ interior decorator:</b>		<b>㉚ artist:</b>	
<b>㉛ artisan:</b>		<b>㉜ builder/contractor:</b>		<b>㉝ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION</b>	
<b>㉞ NAMES give role &amp; date</b> PERSONAL:  EVENTS:  INSTITUTIONAL:					
<b>㉟ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP</b>					



Elissa (Bark)

(Resource Name)

GALVESTON

(County)

78002930

(Reference Number[s])

TX

(State)

06 / 13 / 2015

(Date form completed)

WACC

(Completed by)

STATUS:

1. MISSING \_\_\_\_ 2. REMOVED/ DEMOLISHED \_\_\_\_ 3. NHL ☒ 4. TR \_\_\_\_ 5. MRA \_\_\_\_ 6. OVER-SIZED \_\_\_\_ 7. NPS - UNDOCUMENTED \_\_\_\_ 8. DOE - OWNER OBJECTION \_\_\_\_ 9. RESTRICTED \_\_\_\_

EXPLANATION:

1. Missing Status: Entire Folder ( ) ; Nomination ( ) ; Map(s) ( ) ; Photos ( )  
Available on: Microfiche ( ) ; Optical Disk ( )

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cause for removal)

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
(Date Removed)

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

12 / 14 / 90  
(Date Designated)

4. \_\_\_\_\_  
(If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(TR or MRA Name)

5. \_\_\_\_\_  
(If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Location of oversize file)

7. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Current source of partial documentation)

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
(Target Date)

COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Where found, or source of replacement)

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
(Date Found/Replaced)