

## East End's 2014 Christmas Homes Tour

Galveston's East End Historical District Association will host its 25th Annual "A Victorian Christmas" Homes Tour on Friday, December 5th, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The architecture of Galveston's East End reflects some of the state's most notable examples of residential Victorian architecture with a variety of styles and periods. This year's tour will feature four East End homes decorated for the holiday season:

**The Isaac Heffron Home**, 1509 Postoffice St. Built in 1890 by Issac Heffron, this house has the original woodwork, long-leaf pine flooring, and an elaborate concrete balustrade along the front sidewalk line. After yellow fever and diphtheria outbreaks, Heffron was contracted to lay sewer pipes and build the Galveston Water Works to ensure fresh water.

**The August J. Henck Cottage**, 1412 Sealy St. Built in 1897 by real estate broker and builder Henck, this five-bay-wide cottage still has the original Victorian glass windows, with beveled cut glass. Henck aided in floating bonds for Galveston's seawall after the 1900 storm.

**The Medard Menard Ganter House**, 1209 Winnie St. Built by 1881, this double-dormered cottage was the home of Colonel Menard (Confederacy during the Civil War), from 1881 until his death in 1887. Shortly after 1900, Herbert Ganter, a local jeweler, purchased the house. His family owned it until 1973.

**The George Wilson Home**, 701 12<sup>th</sup> St. Built in 1884, this two story home was owned by George Wilson, a pilot, whose office was in the Hendley building on The Strand. The home passed to the DiPuccio family about 1920, and remained in that family until 1945.

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

Three complementary East End sites will also be included on the tour. These sites will feature a variety of holiday music:

**The Victor Gustafson Cottage.** Now the EEHDA Cottage, Gustafson was a Galveston Wharves cotton screwman, who rebuilt the cottage after the 1900 storm. It has an attached front porch, which tended to be preferred for north-facing houses.

**Darragh Park.** This park was built after a fire destroyed Darragh House on this site in the 1990s. The property was donated by Galveston Historical Foundation to the EEHDA, and a longtime association supporter, Dr. E. Burke Evans, donated the funds to build the wrought iron gazebo. The association maintains this park, along with Alderdice Park at 15th & Ball.

**First Presbyterian Church.** This Romanesque building was designed by prominent Galveston architect, Nicholas Clayton, and was constructed in 1872. Its sanctuary has been remodeled since Hurricane Ike, and features breathtaking stained glass windows, three of which were designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Homes Tour ticket holders will enjoy a variety of holiday music at the church:

Fanfare! Lutheran Music Academy	5:40-6:00pm
Moody United Methodist Church Bell Choir	6:15-6:45
Transitional Learning Center Choir	7:00-7:15
Holy Family Catholic School Choir	7:20-7:40
Galveston College Choral Group	7:45-8:05
Saxophone Quartet	8:10-8:40
Belton High School Madrigal Ensemble and Harmony Ensemble	8:45-9:15

The cost of the tour is \$15.00. Tickets are limited. Purchase your tickets in advance online at [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com). or in person at The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St. 409-765-1894.

Ticket proceeds directly benefit the East End Historical District Association. The EEHDA was formed in the 1970's to preserve and maintain the heritage and livability of the East End Neighborhood. For additional information, contact Deanna Johnson at [vice-president@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org](mailto:vice-president@eastendhistoricaldistrict.org).