

EEHDA 24th Annual “A Victorian Christmas” Holiday Homes Tour

Galveston’s East End Historical District Association will host its **24th Annual “A Victorian Christmas” Holiday Homes Tour** on Friday, December 6 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 five East End homes decorated for the holiday season.



Levy-Bowden Home, 1227 Winnie. This home was built in 1883 by Meyer M. Levy, a broker and grocery commission merchant. The house was severely damaged during the 1900 storm, and was sold to building contractor, M.C. Bowden. Bowden restored the house and lived there with his family until his death in 1938.



Charles Vidor Home, 1702 Winnie. This home was built in 1886 by Hungarian-born insurance executive Charles Vidor, father of film director King Vidor, who directed the Kansas sequences in *The Wizard of Oz*. King Vidor was born in a room on the first floor of the home, and lived there throughout his childhood.



Henry M. Trueheart Tenant House, 1821 Winnie. This house was built by real estate investor Henry M. Trueheart in 1893, along with its mirror twin next door. Trueheart built these twin houses after the great fire of 1885 destroyed 40 city blocks and left 2,500 people homeless. Trueheart’s wealth and interest in real estate allowed him to purchase lots in the fire district and build tenant houses for Galveston’s mobile population.



William and Lena Juneman Smith Cottage, 1709 Ball. This Queen Anne gabled-front cottage was built in 1892 and features decorative shingles and turned porch columns meant to increase its presence among the upper income houses of the 1700 block of Ball Avenue. William Pautsch built the house for Dorothea Juneman, widow of George Juneman, a bookkeeper for Gengler’s Grocery. Her daughter, Lena, and son-in-law, William Smith, moved into the cottage when it was completed.



Sorley-Marx Home, 1712 Ball. This home was built in 1886 for James and Mary Sorley. Sorley was a founder of the Galveston Cotton Exchange and was appointed Customs Collector for the Port of Galveston during the Civil War. Sorley sold the house to Galveston businessman Marks Marx in 1883. Mr. Marx lived in the house during the 1900 Storm and was a leader in the recovery of Galveston.

Tickets for the Tour are \$15 and are available at **The Grand 1894 Opera House** (www.thegrand.com or 800-821-1894). Guests may start the tour at any of the above addresses at 5:30 p.m. or at the **EEHDA Cottage at 1501 Postoffice St.**, where refreshments and restrooms will be available.

This year, the EEHDA is proud to complement its Holiday Homes Tour with **The Ronald McDonald House of Galveston’s “Lights of Love,”** an annual event thanking the community



for their support. The Ronald McDonald House of Galveston is a “home-away-from-home” for families of children seeking medical treatment. Tours of the House will be provided from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Santa will be there to greet and take photos with the children. They can enjoy Ronald McDonald’s magic show, face painting and fun projects. Best of all, children of the community will provide entertainment. “*Lights of Love*” is a free event, open to the public.

The East End Historical District Association preserves and maintains the heritage and livability of the East End Neighborhood. Visit www.eastendhistoricaldistrict.org.