

## William and Maggie Chapman House

132 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Texas City

Lots 1-3, Block 340

Built November 1940

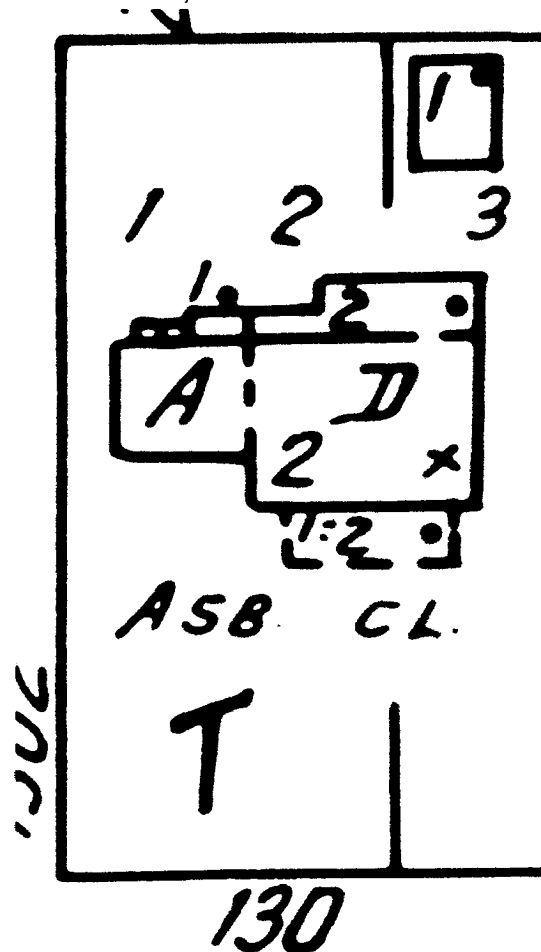
- 19 October 1940. Contract between William H. and Maggie Chapman and John H. Merkley, building contractor, to build house on lots 1-3 on block 340. To cover cost of construction, the Chapmans took out a loan with the Banker Home Building & Loan Association, L. F. Fox, trustee. (*Galveston County Clerk, Deed Archive, Book 601, Page 463*)
- The *Galveston Daily News* published the building permit for the Chapman house on 27 October 1940 and noted a two-story frame house was to be built for W. H. Chapman on lots 1-3, block 340, by building contractor J. H. Merkley. The description of the new residence noted it would contain four rooms and a powder room on the first floor and three rooms and a full bathroom on the second.

**W. H. Chapman, Texas City lumberman, is having J. H. Merkley, contractor, build a two-story frame house at 129 13th avenue. According to the permit the downstairs will have four rooms and powder room, and the upstairs will include three rooms and bath. Estimated cost is \$2500.**

- William Henry Chapman was born 20 October 1890 in McLennan County, Texas. A lumberman by trade, Chapman married Margaret Lee "Maggie" McKenzie. McKenzie was born 2 December 1888 in Texas. The couple had two children. Chapman died in Texas City 16 November 1963 and Maggie died in Galveston 24 May 1968.
- Building contractor John H. Merkley was born in Illinois in 1890. The 1930 U.S. Census recorded his residency in Beaumont, Texas, where his occupation was noted as a "blue print man" for a construction company. By 1940, Merkley had relocated to Texas City where the U.S. Census recorded his occupation as a self-employed building contractor. He remained in Texas City and eventually went into the real estate business, his occupation recorded on the 1950 U.S. Census. Merkley died in Texas City in 1961.
- 13 March 1945. Charles D. and Mary Jane Miles purchased the Chapman House. Miles was also a building contractor born in Victoria, Texas, in 1898. An obituary for one of his children noted he was also a long time employee of Brown & Root. Miles could be

responsible for application of the exterior stucco finish over the original wood siding and addition of two-garage bays north of the original garage supported on the first level of the building's west wing. After Miles' death in 1956, his wife, Mary Jane (born in New Iberia, Louisiana, in 1906) maintained ownership until 1964.

- The 1949 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Texas City recorded the footprint of the house for the first (and only) time. The two-story frame house spans three lots and was originally addressed as 129, then 130 and finally 132.



- 12 October 1964. Stanley and Patricia Baumgartner purchased the house. They utilized the property as their private residence and maintained ownership until October 2020. As their tenure as ownership was also lengthy, they, too, could be responsible for the change to the exterior finish and garage addition.
- 29 October 2020. Lets Remodeling & Construction LLC purchased the house. They sold the property to Chad R. Pesek in April 2021.
- 15 August 2022. Chapman House acquired by current owner.

W. H. CHAPMAN  
WM. T. BROWN



826 TEXAS AVE.

CHAPMAN-BROWN LUMBER COMPANY

PHONE WI 8-4481

TEXAS CITY, TEXAS

## Timeline of important events in the history of Texas City

1854 – US Government built a light house near the current base of the Texas City Dike.

1878 –US Post office, named Shoal Point, was opened.

1893 – A consortium of investors formed the Texas City Improvement Company, and filed a plat of the early community.

1893 – The Texas City Post Office was opened. Shoal Point Post Office was closed.

1893 – The railroad link with Texas City was established.

1896 – A mill with an elevator (Texas City Mill & Elevator company) opened. Docks were built.

1897 – Texas City Improvement Company declared bankruptcy and reorganized into the Texas City Company (Later the Mainland Company) and the Texas City Terminal Company (later the Texas City Terminal Railroad).

1900 – The 1900 storm (hurricane) caused extensive property damage.

1901 – A two-room school was established on Fifth St. between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

1901- First church building was opened in Texas City at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N & 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

1904 –The Texas City pier was built.

1904 –The first oceangoing steamship, the S.S. Piqua, came in to the Texas City port.

1905 – The U.S. Government assumed maintenance of the Texas City channel.

1905 – Dr. Frank Danforth began practicing medicine in Texas City.

1905 – Texas City Independent School District was started.

1907 – Texas City Terminal Railroad connected with the Galveston, Colorado and Santa Fe Lines.

1908 – The first cargo ship landed in Texas City port.

1908 – Texas City Refining Company started the first refinery in Texas City.

1909 – The grain elevator opened for business.

1911 – Texas City was incorporated as a city with a mayor/commissioner form of government. The first elections were held .

1911 – Texas City Fire Department was chartered as a volunteer organization.

1911 – The Texas City Board of Trade was established.

1912 – The first school for black students was started.

1913 - First Aero Squadron was established in Texas City.

1913- US Army Camp was established in Texas City.

1914 – Texas City Civic Club was started.

1915 – A hurricane destroyed the Army camp in Texas City. The camp was abandoned and soldiers relocated. Loss of the Army Camp started an economic depression in Texas City that lasted for over a decade.

1915 – The Texas City dike was completed.

1922 or 1924 – The Texas Sugar refinery was started.

1927 – The Texas City library was started.

1928 –The Texas City City building was completed, including offices, a jail, a courtroom, a library and an auditorium, in the 600 block of Sixth Street.

1929 – Pierce Petroleum Refinery closed.

1930 – Texas City Channel was widened to 800 feet.

1931 – Texas Sugar refinery filed for bankruptcy.

1931 – Through the efforts of Helen B. Moore, Texas City gained control of the dike.

1931 – Republic Oil Refinery was built.

1933 – Texas City Garden Club was started. The first president was Mrs. Frank Davison.

1936 – Project to deepen the Texas City Harbor & Channel started.

1938 – Union Carbide & Chemical Company was established.

1939 – Two schools, Danforth Elementary and Heights Elementary were built.

1940 – U.S. Government began building the only tin smelter in the Western hemisphere in Texas City.

1941 -1945– Texas City plants went on war status with 5 defense plants. Plants began producing high octane aviation fuel, and styrene and synthetic rubber.

1942 – Pierce Oil Refinery was shut down.

1943 – Mainland Company, led by Hugh Moore, donated the land for Bay Street Park.

1943 – A major hurricane hit Texas City.

1945 -1946 – Labor strikes took place in Texas City.

1947 – The Texas City disaster occurred with massive casualties and extreme property damage. Rebuilding and recovery help was received from all over the world.

1947 – Texas City annexed the industrial district and Texas City Heights.

1950 – Texas City began expanding its city limits.

1951 – Nessler and Sanders pools were built.

1952 – Galveston County Memorial Hospital (now Mainland Medical Center) opened with 90 beds.

1954 – Pan American Refinery became part of American Oil.

1955 – Robinson Stadium was completed.

1955 – Texas City Fire Department became a city department.

1956 – Nessler park was dedicated.

1957 – The grain elevator was demolished.

1959 – Stingaree stadium was built.

1960 – The Sanders Community Center opened.

1961 – Texas City Dike was annexed ; the dike was also made a recreational site.

1961 – Hurricane Carla struck, causing extensive damage.

1964 – The public library dedicated a new library building at 1701 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

1964 – The new City Hall facility was dedicated at 1801 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

1964 – The new swimming pool was dedicated.

1967 – College of the Mainland opened.

1970s – Texas City plants and refineries involved in several corporate mergers among oil companies.

1973 – The Carver Community Center opened.

1973 – The oil embargo by Arab nations began to cause economic problems in the oil & gas industries.

1974 – The Texas City Municipal shooting range complex opened.

1974 – The Lowry Fitness Center opened.

1974 – Bayou Golf Club opened.

1975 – Citizens of Texas City passed an \$18 million bond issue to renovate sewers, create rainwater pumping stations, and build a water treatment plant.

1978 – An amendment to the City Charter created 4 single member districts & 2 at-large positions on the City Commission.

1986 – A major expansion of Moore Memorial Public Library was completed.

1987 – The Texas City-La Marque Hurricane Flood Protection System is dedicated.

1988 – The Lowry Expressway was dedicated.

1989 – Hurricane Allison caused extensive flooding in Texas City.

1989 – Mayor Emmett F. Lowry died in office after 25 years as Mayor.

1991 – Mall of the Mainland opened for business.

1991 – Texas City Memorial Park and Cemetery were dedicated.

1994 – Texas City Museum opened.

1994 – New central fire station and administration complex opened. Fire station 2 opened in 1995 and Fire station 3 opened in 1999.

1995 – Biosphere 1 opened.

1997 – Texas City was named an All American City by the National Civic League.

1994-1999 – Bay Street Park was completed (Phase I, 1994 ; Phase 2, 1998 ; Phase III, 1999).

1998 – Rankin L. Dewalt Criminal Justice Center was dedicated.

1999– Doyle Convention Center was dedicated.

1999 - First annual Texas City Art Festival was held.

2000 - The Rotary Pavilion in Nessler Park was built.

2000 City of Texas City signed an agreement for a megaport container terminal.

2001 Citizens Police Academy program began.

2002 – Land donation from the Texas Nature Conservancy was accepted by the City Commission to create the Dollar Bay Conservation Birding Trail.

2002 -Grand opening of the Showboat Pavilion was held.

2005 - An explosion at BP's Texas City refinery killed 15 and injured 170.

2007 – Lowry Center renovation was completed.

2007 – Matthew T. Doyle Natatorium was completed.

2007 – City of Texas City converted Emergency Management Services to a city department .

2007 - Citizens passed a bond issue for Texas City Independent School District, but voted against the bond issue for College of the Mainland.

2008 – Hurricane Ike caused massive damage to the Texas City Dike, but the city was protected from devastating floods.

2010 – The new Sanders-Vincent Community Center was dedicated.

#### Population figures from US Census

1920	2509
1930	3,534
1940	5,748
1950	16,620
1960	32,065
1970	38,908
1980	41,403
1990	40,822
2000	41,512
2008 (est.)	44,391

