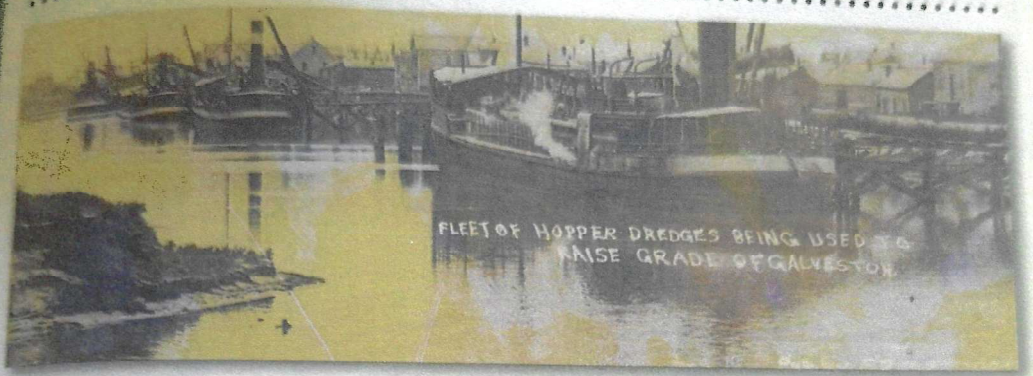
GEORGE AND SARAH PRENDERGAST HOUSE, BUILT 1886, REBUILT WITH ADDITIONS 1901

2007 AVENUE M



Surrounded by mature live oak trees and located in the Lost Bayou Historic District, marine engineer George Michael Prendergast built this two-story house. Born in Apalachicola, Florida in 1855, Prendergast came to Texas with his parents in 1860. After the Civil War, they moved back to Florida and then to New Orleans where Prendergast received his assistant marine engineer license in 1874. He moved to Galveston in 1876 as chief engineer for the Galveston Steamship and Lighterage Company and married South Carolina native Sarah Ann McEvoy (1858-1936) a year after he arrived. By 1893, their family included five children.

At the time Prendergast built the house he was engineer on the lighter ship BESSIE. In 1895, he resigned to accept a position with the U.S. War Department and was appointed chief engineer of the government dredge boat C. B. COMSTOCK. Sarah maintained the household and looked after the children as well as her elderly father, who resided with them.

After their home was damaged by the 1900 Storm, Prendergast repaired and enlarged the house to accommodate his household of eight. The insurance record dated 9 January 1901 described the rebuilt two-story frame house expanded to include seven rooms, two hallways, a bathroom plus a water closet and five porches. The most striking feature of the house, the angle-fronted double verandah over-looking Avenue M and repeated angled window bay alongside the main entry, are part of the 1901 renovations.

By 1920, Captain Prendergast was superintendent of dredging and repairs for the Galveston district. He held that position until his death in 1927. Sarah remained at their residence until 1932 when she relocated to Austin and leased the house to tenants. Verona Henck Flesher purchased the property in 1935 shortly before she married Frank Shaw Pix. Both the Henck and Pix families were early Galveston pioneers. After they acquired the property Pix and Verona added the existing two-story automobile garage with three-room apartment in 1941. After his death, Verona maintained ownership until her own death in 1975.

In 1977, J. Greenwell Stockton purchased the house from the Pix estate. Stockton utilized the house as rental property until he sold it in 2006 to architect Bruce Frasier and wife, Gail, who rehabilitated the house. The current owners purchased the Prendergast House in 2016. The building contributes to the twenty-three block National Register Historic District located within the San Jacinto Neighborhood.