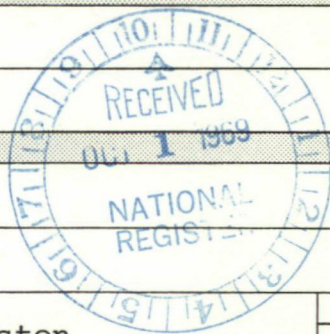


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: TEXAS	
COUNTY: Galveston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69/10-42-0007	DATE 10/28/69



1. NAME

COMMON:
El Mina Shrine Temple

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Use → **Ashton Villa, The J. M. Brown House**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2328 Broadway *BLK + LOT #5*
BA 203
B 11-14

CITY OR TOWN:
Galveston

STATE: **Texas** CODE: **42** COUNTY: **Galveston** CODE: **167**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Shrine Temple
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
El Mina Shrine Temple *(see letter)* City

STREET AND NUMBER:
2328 Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: **Galveston** STATE: **Texas** CODE: **42**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Galveston County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Avenue H

CITY OR TOWN: **Galveston** STATE: **Texas** CODE: **42**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **.47 acre**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
The Galveston Architecture Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: **1966-1967** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic American Building Survey, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a three-story brick with a slightly projecting central portico. An added polygonal wing projects from the east side. The roof is very flat and has deep projecting eaves supported by large paired modillion brackets. The original structure' was a large three-story brick block, separated at the rear by a wooden breezeway from a two-story structure on the alley. At some date in the 1890's a large wing was added on the east. Later additions have since been made at the rear. The load bearing brick walls have pilasters at all angles. Upper openings are arcuated; other trabeated.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape		Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Ashton Villa, the Colonel J. M. Brown House, was built in 1858. Brown, born in New York City in 1821, had been a canal-boat worker on the Erie Canal, and a master brick layer before arriving in Galveston in 1842 or 1843. In Galveston, Brown was engaged in the hardware business and attained great wealth. During the Civil War, the prominent Galvestonian was also president of the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railway and Purchasing Agent in Mexico for the Confederate States. Later he was instrumental in the formation of the First National Bank of Galveston and was its president for some years.

The Brown House was the headquarters for the Confederate Army and later the Union Army after the battle of Galveston Bay. In 1967 the Texas State Historical Survey Committee designated it a historic landmark.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexander, D. B. Texas Homes of the 19th Century. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966.
 Bracken, Dorothy K. and Maurine W. Redway. Early Texas Homes. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1956.
 Brown, John H. Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas. Austin: no publisher given, 1896.
 Historic American Building Survey, Measured Drawings (Federal and Local) Survey Number 33D-3 (1967)

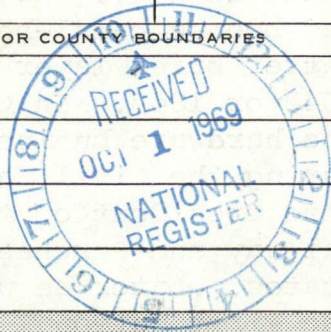
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		29° 18' 0"	94° 47' 32"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM
15/325900
3242360
HL

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Wayne Bell, Project Director (GH, JF, DC, JM)

ORGANIZATION: Texas State Historical Survey Committee DATE: 8-18-69

STREET AND NUMBER:
108 West 15th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Austin STATE: Texas CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Wm. J. Latimer</u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>September 30, 1969</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest Allen Connally</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>OCT 28 1969</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William J. Guntz</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>OCT 28 1969</u></p>
---	--

Duplicate

Ref # 69000204

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Ashton Villa
Galveston, TX
Galveston Co.

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: _____
Action: ACCEPT 10-28-69
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name _____

2. Location _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property _____

5. Location of Legal Description _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Galveston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-10-42-0007	DATE 10/28/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **El Mina Shrine Temple**
AND/OR HISTORIC: **Ashton Villa, the J. M. Brown House**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **2328 Broadway**

CITY OR TOWN: **Galveston**

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Galveston	167

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: **Texas State Historical Survey Committee**

DATE OF PHOTO: **7/24/69**

NEGATIVE FILED AT: **Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711**

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

front facade window with Victorian design lintel
south elevation



10/4



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

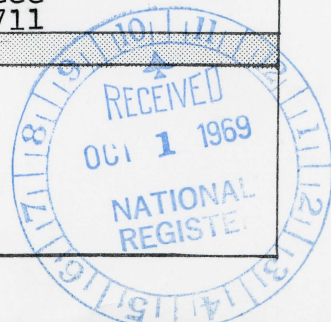
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Galveston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-10-42-0007	DATE 10/28/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:	El Mina Shrine Temple		
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Ashton Villa, the J. M. Brown House		
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:	2328 Broadway		
CITY OR TOWN:	Galveston		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Galveston	167
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee		
DATE OF PHOTO:	7/24/69		
NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711		
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
front facade -- south elevation			



20/4



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

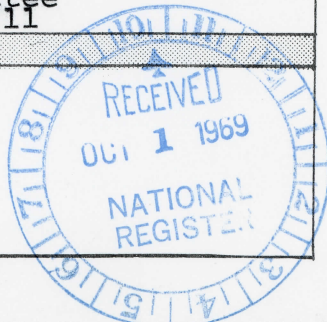
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Galveston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-10-42-0007	DATE 10/28/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:	El Mina Shrine Temple		
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Ashton Villa, the J. M. Brown House		
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2328 Broadway			
CITY OR TOWN: Galveston			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	42	Galveston	167
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee		
DATE OF PHOTO:	7/24/69		
NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee 108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711		
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. rear facade -- north elevation			



30/4



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Galveston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-10-42-0007	DATE 10/28/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **El Mina Shrine Temple**
AND/OR HISTORIC: **Ashton Villa, the J. M. Brown House**

2. LOCATION

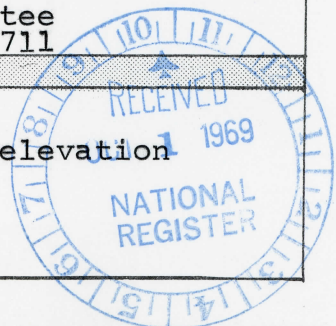
STREET AND NUMBER: **2328 Broadway**
CITY OR TOWN: **Galveston**
STATE: **Texas** CODE: **42** COUNTY: **Galveston** CODE: **167**

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: **Texas State Historical Survey Committee**
DATE OF PHOTO: **7/24/69**
NEGATIVE FILED AT: **Texas State Historical Survey Committee
108 W. 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78711**

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
front and side facades -- southeast elevation



10/28/69

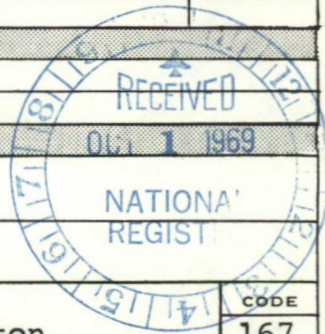
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Texas	
COUNTY Galveston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: El Mina Shrine Temple			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Ashton Villa, the J. M. Brown House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2328 Broadway			
CITY OR TOWN: Galveston			
STATE: Texas	CODE 42	COUNTY: Galveston	CODE 167
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U. S. Department of Army Corps of Engineers			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1954			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS		State of Texas Map Reference #2994-231	
1. Property boundaries where required.		Galveston Quadrangle	
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

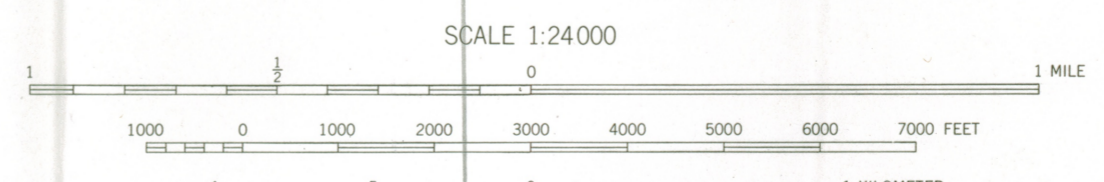
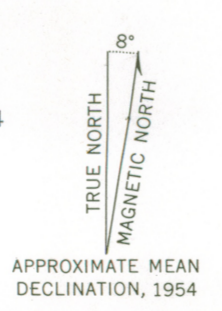




VTM
151325900
3242360
HL

EL MINA SHRINE TEMPLE
2328 BROADWAY
GALVESTON, TEXAS
42-167

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 planetable 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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1 FOOT



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

GALVESTON, TEX.
N2915-W9445/7.5

2994-1954-231

RECEIVED
NOV 25 1966

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY
COMMITTEE

Ashton Villa at 2328 Broadway was built in 1859 by J. M. Brown, a Galveston hardware merchant who later became the president of the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad. It is important enough in Texas history for its plans to be preserved in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Use
The three-storied brick house is one of the few Mediterranean villa type structures on the Gulf coast and the materials used throughout the home were collected by the Brown family from all over Europe. The iron cornstalk fence that surrounds it is an unusual in design and came from England as did the galleries and the iron pediments and sills at the windows. The interior walnut woodwork and gold leaf mirrors were carved in France.

There are 15 rooms in the house with a two-story structure to the rear of the building that was used as a kitchen, storeroom and the slaves eating quarters. The slaves ^{living} quarters have been torn down.

The house served as the headquarters for both Union and Confederate forces, the Confederates having captured Galveston from the Federals during the Battle of Galveston retaining possession of the city until it was formally surrendered after the War Between the States.

The Shriners purchased the home in 1928 from the Brown family and have used it continuously since that time as their meeting place.

*Descendants of
Brown family.*

Sources:

- Brindley, Anne., Historic Galveston Homes (Galveston Historical Society, 1951).
Darst, Elisabeth and Zwiener, Douglas., "A Guide to Historic Galveston" (DRZ and EFD Enterprises, 1966).
Barnestone, Howard., The Galveston That Was (The Macmillan Company, New York, 1966).

HOWARD BARNSTONE

THE
GALVESTON
THAT WAS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY

Henri Cartier-Bresson

AND *Ezra Stoller*

Foreword by

JAMES JOHNSON SWEENEY

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY • NEW YORK

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS • HOUSTON

Galveston Romantic

CHAPTER II covers the era roughly from 1858 to 1870. In most parts of the United States it was an era of anonymous architecture. The individual architect had not yet come into his own. There were no architectural schools in America. The American Institute of Architects was still a small professional organization in the East. In the research for this chapter, the name of an architect does appear from time to time. But in Galveston, builders worked from handbooks and from catalogs of cast-iron fronts in the Romantic themes common to architecture in the United States and England in this period.

The result is a potpourri of the styles and types that were sandwiched in time between the Greek Revival and the work of a single man, Nicholas J. Clayton, who was to take over in the early seventies as the architect of Galveston.

The Civil War interrupted the growth of the city. Nothing was built from 1861 to 1866.

Galveston was blockaded during the greater part of the War. It was captured by the Federals in October 1862, and was retaken by the Confederates in January 1863. From the beginning to the end of the great contest, communication was severed, traffic encumbered, industrial avocations interrupted, property confiscated, "the flower of the populace impressed for service," hearthstones desolated, and havoc made of life and happiness.

When capitulation was made on May 26, 1865, there was a general sigh of relief, and those who had returned soon set resolutely at work to repair the damages, and to resume the occupations they had formerly followed; so that on August 30 *Flake's Bulletin*, then, and for some time thereafter, a leading organ, said: "We cannot help observing how rapidly business is increasing at Galveston. The wharves are already crowded by steamers and other craft laden with merchandise. Old stores are being fitted up; dwellings converted into shops. All our merchants seem busy. Galveston is rapidly regaining her former commercial position."¹

The J. M. Brown House, 2328 Broadway, 1858

James Brown of Galveston could not have dreamed when he built his red brick Italian villa in 1858-1859 that it would ultimately become the home of the Galveston Shriners. The Brown House was the first of the great palaces of Galveston. It was the first house to use the new cast iron, soon to be the hallmark of the Galveston palace, and it was the first house to depart from the deeply entrenched Greek Revival, which remained the vernacular architecture of the island. John Maass, in his *The Gingerbread Age*,

gives us an eloquent and exact description of this type of house:

The Italianate villa was in vogue until the eve of the Civil War and this brief period has left us beautiful and distinctive buildings. None of the clichés about dark, gloomy, fussy Victorian mansions can possibly be applied to these high, wide and handsome homes. . . . Their ground plans are open and informal, featuring bay windows and sliding doors; the outward aspect is an interesting free arrangement of blocks and wings; the roofs have wide overhangs; the first floor rooms open on to terraces

and loggias for outdoor living. All these amenities anticipate the same features in present-day houses by over a century.²

When completed, the Brown House was the first brick house constructed in Texas and the finest home in Galveston. It is one of the very few Italian villa houses in the South; the style, so loved in New Haven, Portsmouth and Philadelphia, was never really popular in the South. Immediately before, during and after the Civil War, when the Italian villas were spreading Mediterranean charms over much of the Northeastern seaboard, Southerners were usually too impoverished to indulge in such fashionable proof of having made the Grand Tour.

Brown was a successful hardware merchant who made a fortune in Galveston and was out to prove it. The brick, wood and plaster for the construction was brought to Galveston by schooner from Philadelphia, the original home of both Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

The main entrance extends the entire length of the building. On the left is the drawing room, completely finished and furnished in white and gold. To the right is a formal sitting room. To the north of this is the large dining room used for special occasions. As many as forty persons could sit at the table at one time. In the rear of the dining room, running east and west, was an immense informal living room (now replaced by the Shriners' ballroom), used as a children's playroom when the house was full of children. Later, when the youngsters grew up, it was used for parties and dances. On the second floor there are two rooms on each side, each pretentious and imposing. On the third floor there is one bedroom on each side. In the rear there is an annex of six rooms, two stories high, used as the servants' dining room, kitchen and storeroom.

Connecting the kitchen and servants' quarters with the stables was a long two-story wooden washhouse built in 1900. The stables consisted of three rooms downstairs and four rooms upstairs with stalls to accommodate four horses. The family was always partial to black horses and these, for the most part, comprised the stable.

Much of the original frescoing and plasterwork still adorns the interior walls; and the original panel French mirrors, extending from ceiling to floor, are still in place and in excellent

condition. The walnut valances over the windows in the interior were carved in Paris, and French artisans decorated the ceilings and walls in delicate friezes and panels ornamented in twenty-two-carat gold leaf.³ Most of the furniture was specially built for the house because of the massive size and height of the rooms.

The rafters and joists are morticed and held together with wood pins. The roof is connected to the joists on the third floor with one-inch iron rods, placed at intervals around the house.

The walls in many of the rooms are covered with primitive—almost absurd—tapestries, the work of Miss Betty Brown, who was well known locally for her artistic ability. She had studied abroad for many years and, since she had traveled throughout the Old World, she brought back relics and costumes from every part, which she sometimes unhappily conveyed to canvas.

Prior to the 1900 storm there were huge oak trees in the yard and along the sidewalks. Some were almost as tall as the house itself and were three feet in diameter. These were all blown down in the storm, one falling across Broadway and blocking the south side. The cavity left in the east grounds by one of the uprooted trees was converted into a fountain, which was thought to be one of the beauty spots of the grounds. The grade-raising operations of 1903-1905 covered approximately three feet of the basement and grounds, as can be seen from the height of the present iron fence, constructed when the house was built.

On the death of Mr. Brown, the house reverted to Mrs. Brown and later, in 1907, on her death, to Miss Betty Brown and Mrs. M. E. Sweeney, her two daughters. On the death of Miss Brown, it became the property of Mrs. Sweeney and upon her death in 1927 was inherited by Mrs. Sweeney's daughter, Mrs. Henry Jumonville of New Orleans. The home was purchased by the Shrine from Mrs. Jumonville.

The house is intimately connected with early Texas history. It served during the Civil War as a hospital and haven for Confederate soldiers and as a headquarters for both Union and Confederate generals. Over and over again it is alleged in Galveston that the swords of surrender were exchanged in the Gold Room. However, recent research indicates that the surrender actually took place aboard a ship in Galveston Harbor.



TEXAS STATE
HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

TRUETT LATIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
108 WEST 15TH STREET
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

MAILING ADDRESS:
P. O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION

October 1, 1968

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Office of Archeology and
Historic Preservation
Department of the Interior
801 19th St., NW
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

It has come to our attention that Ashton Villa, an Italianate Victorian house built in 1859 by Col. J. M. Brown at 2328 Broadway in Galveston, Texas, may be in danger of destruction. The building is presently owned by the El Mina Shrine Temple and has recently been placed on the market for sale at a price of \$200,000.00. If a suitable buyer is not found, the Shrine will raze the building and build a new structure on the site.

Through the means of this letter I want to inform you that this house was declared a recorded Texas Historical Landmark in 1962. In 1936 HABS drawings were recorded on the house, and in 1967 a rework of these records was made and filed in Washington.

As Texas' liaison officer for the National Historic Properties Act, I feel that Ashton Villa is National Register potential, and whenever proper forms are made available such recommendation will be made.

Sincerely,

Truett Latimer
Executive Director

TL/ps

~~transcript~~
Texas

Galveston Co.,
Island

Keune 10/10

H30-HR

October 10, 1968

Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical
Survey Committee
108 West 15th Street
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Latimer:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 1 in which you have included a nomination of the Ashton Villa of Galveston for inclusion in the National Register. We are reviewing your nomination and will make recommendations to the Chief of this Office for his consideration when he returns from Nepal next month. The authority to place entries in the National Register has been delegated by the Director to Dr. Connally.

Sincerely yours,

Russell V. Keune (Sgd.)

Russell V. Keune
Assistant Keeper of the
National Register

cc:
Regional Director, Southwest

HR

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

RVKeune:jah 10/10

H30-MR

Hon. Ralph Webster Yarborough
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Yarborough:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure has^u been nominated by the officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and has^u been entered into the "National Register of Historic Places." Senator John Tower and Representatives Wright Patman and Jack Brooks have also been provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connally
Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

Enclosures

cc:
Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, 108 West 15th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Duplicate copies sent to:

Hon. John Tower	Hon. Wright Patman	Hon. Jack Brooks
United States Senate	House of Representatives	House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C.

Regional Director, Southwest Region

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

10/27/69

RGamble:mb

cc: Mr. Steen
T-Butterfield
DAL-Mr. Melvin
HR



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
201 19TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30-HR

OCT 26 1966

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

- Alley-Carlson House (Marion County)
- Epperson-McNutt House (Marion County)
- Jefferson Playhouse (Marion County)
- Old United States Post Office and Courts Building (Marion County)
- Excelsior Hotel (Marion County)
- The Presbyterian Manse (Marion County)
- George Sealy House (Galveston County)
- ✓ Old Red (Galveston County)
- ✓ El Mina Shrine Temple (Galveston County)



Texas State Historical Survey Committee

Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711

Truett Latimer

Executive Director

December 22, 1969

Miss Elizabeth Dippel
Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation
National Parks Service
801 19th Street - N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Miss Dippel:

Attached hereto are copies from two sources which place the date El Mina Shrine bought Ashton Villa in 1928. Until that time Ashton Villa had served as a residence for J. M. Brown and his descendants.

If you need further information please feel free to call on us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Bell".

M. Wayne Bell, AIA
Consulting Restoration
Architect

MWB/pbs

Attachments



Texas Historical Commission
Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
Truett Latimer
Executive Director

~~MDL~~
Rowland

September 5, 1974

Mr. Charles Herrington
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Herrington:

In regard to our National Register submission, the El Mina Shrine Temple in Galveston, Galveston County, would you please change the common name to read Ashton Villa. Since the house was accepted to the National Register in 1969, the home has been acquired by the City of Galveston for restoration by the Galveston Historical Foundation. The house is now commonly referred to as "Ashton Villa".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Landon".

Marie D. Landon
Historian

MDL/dra

Ashton Villa

EL MINA SHRINE TEMPLE (48-72-00022-00).
Galveston, Galveston Co. Private ownership
(Galveston Historical Foundation, Inc.). A
brick Italianate mansion built in 1857. Interior
and exterior carpentry and millwork.
\$12,500.00.