

Hendley Building
2000-2016 Strand
Galveston
Galveston County
Texas

HABS No. TX-290

HABS
TEX
84-GALV,
37-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. TX-290

HENDLEY BUILDING

Location: 2000-2016 Strand Avenue, Galveston,
Galveston County, Texas

Owner: Charles M. Demack, Jack J. Demack, Thomas G.
Steph and J.M. Wallace.

Significance: "Hendley's Block", consisting of four adjoining buildings, is the oldest surviving commercial structure on the Strand, the heart of the old Galveston commercial quarter (See Strand Historic District- as recorded by HABS No. TX-3296). For a period of over five decades major trade traffic for all of Texas and the surrounding states passed through the port of Galveston and this commercial district. The building itself is a fine example of the Greek Revival style.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1858-1860 The only documentation for this is provided by the dated granite plaques located in the center of each upper story which have the date 1858 inscribed on their respective faces. The building was completed, however, by 1861. At that time the company was one of the largest in the business community of Galveston.
2. Architect: Unknown.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

William and Joseph Hendley, brothers, were in Galveston from its earliest days and engaged in the shipping business. At an early date they established the firm of William Hendley and Company, cotton and commission merchants. John Sleight and Phillip Gildersleeve were partners in the business. In 1854 when Gildersleeve died, the firm's cash value and assets were computed to be \$113,440.

Joseph Hendley was born c. 1807 and probably in Connecticut or the northeastern part of the U.S. Little else is known of either brother except that Joseph captained a ship for the firm and was considered a master mariner. He died at Middletown, Connecticut in September 1887.

During the Civil War, the building was designated an official Confederate watch tower. There from a wooden cupola on the roof eight master mariners and ship's captains kept watch on the shipping in the Gulf of Mexico.

Following the war the building reverted to its original use housing numerous offices of commission merchants, cotton buyers, attorneys and shipping agents.

It has remained in use until the present day.

C. Bibliography.

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Galveston, Texas. Rosenberg Library. Manuscript Collection.
Hendley Papers.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Galveston News. September 15, 1887.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.

Director

Galveston Architecture Inventory

March 23, 1967

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The row consists of four adjoining three story brick buildings. Rusticated granite quoins mark the juncture of the party walls on the front facade. In other respects the facade is continuous across all four buildings.
2. Condition of fabric: Good with some exceptions. The brick is sound but some openings have occurred, principally on the rear.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building measures 50' x 94' with a 60' front on Twentieth Street.
2. Foundations: Said to be granite blocks imported from Maine.
3. Wall construction: Pressed brick on the upper floors. The ground floor consists of granite piers with doors and windows filling the interstices.

4. Structural system: Load bearing walls; ground floor a series of piers and lintels. The piers are granite, thought to be from Maine, and probably solid throughout. They have a classical antae molding of granite.
5. Porches: A continuous one-story sidewalk cover supported at the curb line by cast iron columns.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Upper three-fourths filled with glass lights; lower fourth, molded panel. Glass transom above.
 - b. Windows: Second floor windows are six-over-nine lights and extend to the floor. Upper windows are six-over-six lights. All are double-hung wood sash. Openings are spanned by a granite architrave which in profile corresponds to a Doric cornice. Window sills are also granite. These windows are provided with interior adjustable louvered wood shutters.
7. Roof: A separate gabled roof covers each of the four parts of the buildings with the exception of the end building of the west which now has a flat roof. A simple brick cornice and parapet extends along the street facades.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plan: The stores are variously divided into offices and sales spaces. Lower floors were long narrow spaces running the depth of the building with an office space or two. The upper floor is a large space with two offices at both the front and back sides. Lighting is by a large skylight on the roof. Below the skylight is a mezzanine which allows the second floor space to receive light through the large open well.
2. Stairway: The stairs are enclosed on the ground level, being entered by a doorway on the sidewalk, but open above. They are straight wood stairs with turned newels.
3. Floor: Wood throughout.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceiling were originally plastered. Now in poor condition.
5. Doors: Four-paneled molded doors throughout.
6. Trim: The windows are trimmed in wood with classical cornices above each. Interior louvered blinds divided into two sections each side and three tiers, the lower tier is paneled. Molded

chair rails and upper rail provided.

7. Mechanical Equipment:

- a. Hardware: Mortice locks.
- b. Lighting: Modern electric fixtures.
- c. Heating: Modern natural gas.

D. Site

- 1. Orientation and general setting: The building occupies lots 8-11 Block 680 which is the northwest corner of Strand and Twentieth Streets. Its principal facade faces south of Strand.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.
Director
Galveston Architecture Inventory
March 23, 1967

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Galveston Survey was jointly sponsored by the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation and the Galveston Historical Foundation Inc., and developed under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1967 under the direction of Professor Melvin M. Rotsch, project supervisor (Texas A&M), John C. Garner, Jr., architect (University of Texas), by student architects Michael D. Casey (University of Houston), Larry D. Johnston (Kansas State University), James E. Murphy (Texas A&M), and Gerald R. Rapp (Texas A&M). The historical data was written by John C. Garner, Jr., acting as the Director of the Galveston Architecture Inventory. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of HABS staff. The photographs were taken by Allen Stross in the summer of 1967.