

### **Peter and Elena Mauri Grocery & Dwelling**

1201 Postoffice (Avenue E)

North Part Lot 7/ Block 432

Built 1893

Italian immigrants Pietro and Elena Mauri contract to build this two-story frame store and dwelling in 1893. The building's insurance record, dated 13 March 1902, described a building elevated two feet on brick piers with a first floor utilized as a combination store- dwelling and a second floor used as a continuation of the dwelling. A fifty-eight foot frame awning over the north and east elevation originally covered the main entrance. The record notes the building was repaired/painted in 1901 and 1909. Remodeled in 1941, notes indicate when completed the first floor supported two rooms, plus a store room and bathroom with four rooms, one hall and a bathroom on the second floor. The lot also included a wood cistern and two one-story frame dwellings repaired after the 1900 Storm. These two small dwellings were demolished and replaced by the current two-story house (511 12<sup>th</sup>), built by Elena Mauri and completed October 1915.

Pietro "Peter" Mauri (1860-1903) and Elena Martinelli (1871-1953) married in Galveston in 1888. Mauri emigrated from Lucca, Italy, during the 1880s and Martinelli followed the year they wed. Between 1889 and 1903 the family would grow to include five children- Dante (1889-1934), Victor (1892-1943), Etta (1894-1971), Columbo (1899-1966) and Virginia (1903-1998).

Peter Mauri's first listing in the Galveston city directories was in 1888 when he was noted as proprietor of a store that sold groceries, oysters, fish and beer on southwest corner of Winnie and 13<sup>th</sup>. After he acquired the lot on the southwest corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Postoffice in 1893, he contracted to build the current building at 1201 Postoffice. Completed in late 1893, the first directory to record Mauri at his new store and dwelling was 1895-96 indicating he had relocated by 1894. Mauri continued to sell groceries, oysters, fish and beer but by 1903 he only advertised groceries and beer. The family temporarily relocated to Italy in 1899, where son Columbo was born, but they returned to Galveston after the 1900 Storm. In November 1903, Mauri died at the family store and residence at 1201 Postoffice. His funeral was held there and afterwards, Elena managed and operated the family grocery. When the house at 511 12<sup>th</sup> was completed Elena retired, relocated to the new house, and leased the corner store at 1201 Postoffice to other grocers until she sold it in 1927.

Subsequent owners utilized the building as rent property, leasing it to independent grocery merchants as well as a baker. The Sabanovich family purchased the building in 1940 and for a short time operated their family grocery there. By 1950, the East End Radio shop occupied the building, advertising repairs available for radios and televisions as well as used radios for sale. During the 1990s, the building was listed for sale and described as a duplex within the "hospital

district." Later occupants included the Tyler Gallery in 2017. The Mauri building is located in the East End Historic District, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

*Researched and Written by  
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July 2025*

Chain of Ownership, 1201 Postoffice Street

Peter Mauri, January 1893. Purchased lot from J. Chubb.  
Eleanor Mauri, November 1903  
Theodore T. Herzog, October 1927  
John Sabanovich, September 1940  
Geoffrey T. Grubb, September 1973  
Eric Nelson Avery, May 1995  
Cartus Financial Corporation, March 2013  
Susan C. Tyler, June 2013  
Cindy Lin, November 2017  
Current, October 2022