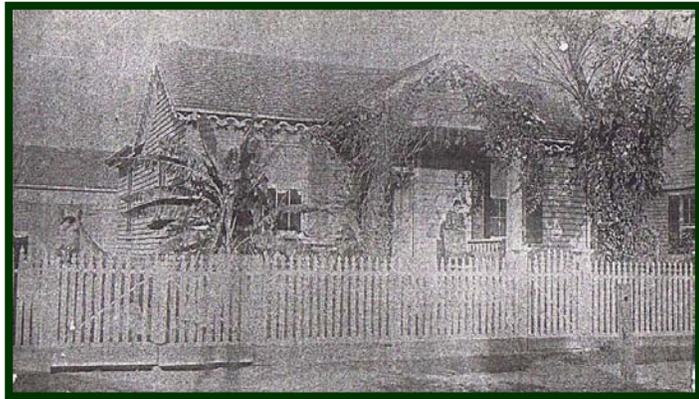


## Gottlieb Eisele House

716 Sabine Street (Formerly 22 Artesian Place)

The historic house that formerly occupied the site at 22 Artesian Place, in a lonely corner of the Sixth Ward, was built by a German immigrant named Gottlieb Eisele circa 1872. At that time, the area was known as Fourth Ward North, but later re-named the Sixth Ward by a vote of the City Aldermen in 1895 which formally separated the area north of Buffalo Bayou from the area south of the bayou which continued to be known as Fourth Ward. During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, this area of the Sixth Ward was characterized by narrow residential streets lined with small wood framed cottages and the occasional two story house with double galleries. The now forgotten Tin Can Alley and Vinegar Hill were nearby during this time period.

Fast forward 138 years later, to December 2010, when the Gottlieb Eisele cottage was the sole survivor of the eastern section of the neighborhood. Even the streets have long since been covered over by the asphalt parking lots of the HPD traffic courts and Central Booking facility. When the Houston Police Department purchased the land around and including the Gottlieb Eisele House, all of the original houses, save for the little house at 22 Artesian Place, were demolished and the entire site was renamed 61 Riesner. The little cottage survived amid a sea of parking lots and nestled in the shadow of the Pierce Elevated freeway because of a commitment the City of Houston made to the Eisele descendants that it would not be demolished.



In recent years the house has been used by HPD for community based programs and most recently for storage. In December of 2010, the Houston Police Department, no longer having a use for the building, placed the building for sale by sealed bid on the City of Houston surplus property list. The sales agreement stipulated that the successful bidder would be required to move the historic house to a new site, either within an existing historic district or to a new location

outside of an historic district and designate it as a City of Houston Protected Landmark, and then restore it

In January 2011, the historic house was moved by the successful bidder to its new location at 716 Sabine Street in the Old Sixth Ward Historic District, which is the surviving portion of the original Sixth Ward and contains one of the largest concentrations of Victorian era homes in the city. The new site for the house is on one of the original narrow Sixth Ward streets, still paved in brick with stone curbs. The house will now begin the long journey towards a full exterior restoration, including rebuilding the original gable roof which was destroyed in a tornado during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.