



1450 Moss St.

Daniel Samuels & Dr. Nona Epstein

By Valorie Hart

Research by Valorie Hart and Sharon McManis

WHERE ARCHITECT DANIEL SAMUELS and his wife Dr. Nona Epstein saw the potential of the c. 1912 raised shotgun on the banks of the bayou, their family and friends saw rot, unfortunate façade proportions and an outdated shotgun floor plan. Despite protests that they were crazy, the Samuels bought the house in 1992.

The renovation was major — 40 percent of the sills and 60 percent of the floor joists were replaced, but with the expertise and skill of contractors such as Abry Brothers, Inc., the Samuels transformed the dilapidated shotgun into a warm family home.

Other improvements during the initial renovation included replacing the pediment and columns, moving the front door to the side gallery and redoing the façade with more Neo-Classical and refined architectural details. The Samuels also raised the house two feet in the hopes of, someday, building additional living space on the ground floor. These changes led the house to visually “grow up” to match the grandiose stature of its neighbors. Beyond that, the family lived in the house much the way a family in 1912 had, making the most of the great room proportions, high ceilings, cypress floors, pocket doors in every room, claw-foot bathtub, and, of course, that view of Bayou St. John.

After returning from Austin, Texas following

windows and striking modern iron and cable stair banisters.

The elegant living/dining room has a set of original bay windows overlooking the side gallery and a decidedly Southwest-style fireplace that Samuels clad in plaster over brick. The house is eco-friendly with bamboo floors used in the new addition and Marmoleum floors, a type of sustainable linoleum, in the kitchen. Windows have been liberally added so that every room has a view of the bayou, while providing extra light to the house.



1260 Moss St.

Sara & Mark Landrieu

By MaryNell Nolan-Wheatley

“WHAT MAKES THIS HOUSE is all the windows,” noted Sara Landrieu, owner of the one-bedroom shotgun house situated on Bayou St. John. Indeed, the abundant fenestration expands the walls of the charmingly diminutive house. The rhythmic frequency of windows and glass-paned doors connects the interior spaces with the exterior views, but it is Sara and Mark Landrieu’s aesthetic that distinguishes the house. Their design instinct and attention to detail during a 2008 renovation revealed much of the historic structure hidden by earlier additions and modifications.

The shotgun home was originally built on the neighboring property at the corner of Desoto and Moss streets between 1883 and 1895 but by 1908 owner Daniel Moriarty had moved the house to its current location. The property changed hands once more before it was sold to Otto John Rees at the onset of World War II. His son, Otto Albert Rees, who lived there until his marriage in 1955, remembers rearing chick-

originally divided the front space into two rooms and added a small guest bathroom with a skirted tub, a design that predates the more common claw-foot version. The removal of a dropped ceiling in the bedroom (which had been converted into a kitchen) and the linoleum flooring uncovered original wood floors and ceilings. A bookcase attached to the wall in the current kitchen hid a brick chimney. Other treasures uncovered on-site include a porcelain kitchen sink, a seed bin that Sara incorporated within a bookcase in the bedroom and three glass etchings found in the attic, now framed in the front room. All of the art on display was created by artists who reside within a mile of the house.



908 North Rendon

Ben Gauslin

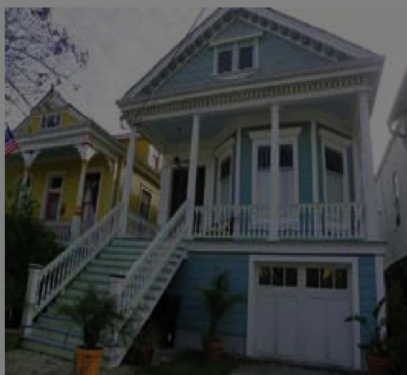
By Gabrielle Begue

THIS MODEST, TWO-BAY shotgun was likely built as a rental house around 1906 by French Quarter travel agent Albert Ducombs, whose residence was one block away at 3230 Dumaine, but the property’s chain of title originates with entrepreneur and philanthropist John McDonogh. Upon his death in 1850, McDonogh donated his vast real estate holdings to the City of New Orleans, which parceled the land in 1859 and sold it off to various parties, who in turn divided up and sold their parcels as smaller lots.

Due to its long-term use as a rental, this bargeboard single saw numerous interior alterations, yet its simple, sturdy bones were still evident to first-time homeowner, architect and Web developer Ben Gauslin, who purchased

and gutted the house to its worn, glowing pine floors and bargeboard walls. Gauslin recovered most of the boards with insulation and plaster but chose to leave one interior wall exposed as a celebration of the house's humble architectural roots. Its dark wood adds warmth and texture to the expansive parlor at the front of the house, which Gauslin created by knocking out an original non-supporting wall that had cut the space into two smaller living and dining areas. A streamlined, chrome-and-white IKEA kitchen with ample storage space now stretches the length of one wall, offering a study in how to creatively use the challenging, narrow spaces of the shotgun layout.

While most buildings of this type feature a small backyard and side alleys, this house's unusual off-center placement on the 28-foot-wide lot provides an ample side yard, which Gauslin is currently converting from a cracked concrete driveway to a landscaped patio for grilling, lounging with friends, and playing with his Catahoula-mix dog, Calvin.



3104 Desoto St.

Kenny & Aimeé Gowland

By Charlotte Jones

THIS NEO-CLASSICAL HOUSE is decorated with a balustrade, modillions and white Doric columns that contrast with stained-glass transoms and brilliant blue walls. The property shares some early history with 3100 Desoto St., also featured on the tour, and was once owned by the Queyrouze family, which included champion fencer, Maxim, and famed Creole essayist, Leona, whose compositions were performed at the 1884 World Cotton Centennial Exposition. Current owners Kenneth and Aimeé Gowland purchased the home in June of 2005 and com-

The Gowland's renovation incorporated some major structural work, including the replacement of the original brick foundation, and provided an opportunity to raise the height of the basement ceiling by approximately one foot, allowing the family of four to create two additional bedrooms and a bathroom.



3100 Desoto St.

Missy & Bill Dalton

By Angela Timberlake

Research by Missy Dalton and Angela Timberlake

MISSY AND BILL DALTON are celebrating an anniversary this month. Ten years ago they spent an idyllic weekend at a neighborhood bed and breakfast and vowed then that they would live in Faubourg St. John. Their dream came true in early 2004 when they purchased this lovely shotgun.

Missy's extensive research found that the home was likely constructed in 1892 by George William Bertoniere and changed hands fewer than five times before it was sold to The Fairgrounds Corporation in May 1984 for use as a groundskeeper's residence.

1996 renovations to the home by then owners Laura and Jim Elm included updating



after removing the rickety outdoor stairway, the Daltons were able to enclose the small back porch for a cheery sunroom that looks out onto a newly built, larger back porch situated under a shady tree. Despite renovations through the years, the house maintains many original features such as the pocket doors between the parlors.



2918 Esplanade Ave.

Booth Pohlmann & Dr. Kenneth Sumner

By MaryNell Nolan-Wheatley

THIS TENDERLY DECORATED house is intimate and refined, though the unassuming homeowner, Booth Pohlmann, is likely to describe the space as comfortable and functional. Pohlmann and his partner Kenneth Sumner purchased the