

## TIMELINE

# PEACEFUL PELICAN

**1909**

The McGuires spent summers in Palacios and moved there in 1909, at which time they started construction of their new home.

**1910**

The house was completed, and they moved in May of 1910 along with their four children. Their fifth child was born that August. Many of the fixtures in the house can be found in the 1910 Sears Roebuck Home Builder's Catalog. Mr. McGuire had an artesian well drilled where the windmill stands today. They also used a cistern, which was located just behind the house near the kitchen.

**1910-1918**

A barn in the back of the house was converted into the first private school in Palacios and Matagorda County called Palacios Preparatory School. In addition to academics, it offered courses in cultural arts. Music lessons were taught upstairs in the house by Martha herself. Several other teachers assisted her at the school and taught academic subjects.

Along with the family, there were two women who lived in the house, one who helped with Mrs. McGuire's younger children and one who was a piano teacher. Piano lessons were taught in the living room of what is now The Peaceful Pelican.

**WORLD WAR II**

During World War II, Palacios was home to about 7,000 troops when housing was in short supply. Because of this, the house was split into apartments. It was probably around this time the first floor suite was added on.

**1961**

In 1961, Palacios was hit by Hurricane Carla, leading to several new additions to the house. The stained glass windows of The Peaceful Pelican came from the local Methodist Church, which was destroyed in the hurricane.

Also, the lamp on the post in front of the house is one of three original weather warning lamps formerly located on a high tower on 5th Street.

**1970**

Clayton and Libby Lee purchased the home in 1970 and became the longest owner of the house.

**2005**

In 2005, Edith Gower and Margaret Doughty purchased and renovated the home for two years before opening it as The Peaceful Pelican in 2007.

**2023-2024**

Another small house was moved onto the property in 2023 and opened as the Kingfisher Cottage in 2024. Paula continues to make improvements to the Main House, preserving The Peaceful Pelican for the enjoyment of future guests for many years.

**1987**

Clayton added the lovely brick patio, and his wife, Libby, spearheaded a successful campaign to have the house registered with a Historic Marker for the Palacios Preparatory School in 1987.

**2014-2021**

Paula Whitney purchased The Peaceful Pelican in 2014. She had a house moved onto the property from 2nd Street in 2019 that opened as the Sassy Seagull Cottage in 2021.