

HURRICANE HARVEY, IRMA, MARIA - ESHPF GRANT PROGRAM



John Howland Wood Mansion 1875 Bayside • Refugio County • Texas

History

Overlooking Copano Bay, the two-story Italianate Style frame house is based in a rectangular Greek Revival plan with a rear ell. The mansion was built in 1875 by Major John Howland Wood and Nancy Clark Wood. The structure is defined by a two-tiered, full-height projecting portico supported by Italianate columns and features pedimented window surrounds, bracketed eaves, balustraded roof, a widow's/captain's walk and on the southwest façade, a two-story porch with an exterior, open staircase. The Wood family resided at the property until 1900 when they moved to Rockport.

Rehabilitation Project

Hurricane Harvey twisted the west wing of the house causing the building to lean several degrees out of plumb. Additional hurricane damage included blown out windows and water damaged doors; torn off roofing and siding which caused extensive interior water damage; unstable foundation due to water saturation and pooling; collapsed fireplaces due to interior water damage and foundation instability; ruined plumbing and electrical systems.

With the owner at the time of the hurricane unable to secure the building, the Bayside Historical Society obtained permission to stabilize the west wing to prevent collapse and completed an HIM Grant application on behalf of the Bayside Heritage Society and prospective new owner. The community raised funds to board up the building to protect it from looters and emergency stabilization work was developed and conducted by volunteers. Grant funded work focused on measures to improve the resiliency of the building by straightening, weathering in the building, handcrafting historically accurate wood windows, and restoring the electrical system.

DESIGNATION: National Register of Historic Places, Registered Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL)

HISTORIC USE: Private Residence, Hotel

CURRENT USE: Bed & Breakfast and Bayside Historical Society Meeting Space

QUALIFIED EXPENSES: \$250,000

CERTIFIED: October 13, 1983

CONTACT: Jon Breeden, Owner / Bayside Historical Society – Tim Delaney, Chairperson