

Lord-Higel House

As the oldest surviving early settler home in the Venice area, the Lord-Higel House stands as a charming and historical example of the architectural style of the period. Built in 1896 by Joseph H. Lord, the two-story house was designed in the Queen Anne vernacular style.



Lord-Higel House with Nadine Henderson Leach on steps, circa 1948

In 2005, it was saved from demolition by the City of Venice's Historic Preservation Board and moved to 409 Granada Avenue, just behind City Hall. Previously known as the Stone Grove House, it was renamed the Lord-Higel House in honor of Joseph Lord, who built it, and George Higel, its first occupant.

Once restoration is complete, the site will serve as a satellite location for the Venice Museum and Archives. It will provide much needed space for exhibits, special events, and educational programs that keep the pioneering spirit and history of Venice's early settlers alive.

Joseph H. Lord

- Purchased ninety acres in 1892 and built the house, four years later, on the highest ground within the acreage fronting Roberts Bay
- Purchased the acreage to establish a citrus grove
- The house and acreage's original location is now known as Bayshore Estates in Venice; prior to that it was called Stone Grove
- Lord operated a real estate office in Chicago to sell the large, undeveloped tracts of land he had been acquiring since 1885 in the Sarasota, Venice, and Myakka area
- His 1910 ad in the *Chicago Tribune* for land for sale in Sarasota County attracted Bertha Palmer to the area



Clyde Victor (left) and William Donnelly (right), sons of George and Abigail Higel on porch of Lord-Higel house, circa 1919 Venice Museum and Archives Collection (MS.136)

George Higel

- George Higel moved into the house in 1905 and stayed until 1919 while he worked as a manager for Joseph Lord's citrus grove. During that time, he married Abigail Williams Higel.
- Four of the Higel children were born in the house.
- In 1950, the house was moved to LaGuna Drive by George Higel's son, George Wesley.



Left: Lord-Higel House, 2014— James Hagler met with Jack Bauer, Pat Ball and Sam Holladay to discuss restoration plans

Restoration Update

- Currently, restoration and fund raising efforts continue through Venice Heritage, Inc.
- Restoration has included installing second floor windows, the south gable roof, and reroofing. Exterior painting of the second story has been completed thanks to the donated time of Eric's Painting and donated supplies by Sherwin-Williams.
- Current projects include recreating the wraparound porch and installing the first floor windows.
- The City of Venice is planning a visitor parking lot and public restroom.
- Later phases will include air conditioning, plumbing, electrical installation, general interior work, exterior shutters, and the exhibit installation.

Visit Venice Heritage, Inc. at VeniceHeritage.org to find out how you can help support restoration efforts