

**The Bayboro House**  
**1719 Beach Drive SE**  
**HPC #93-04, Designated October 1993**



Built in 1909, the Bayboro House is a rare example of a Queen Anne style house located in its original setting, and for that reason has architectural significance to the City of St. Petersburg. Historically, the house is important for its association with Charles A. Harvey, who was instrumental in the development of the City's first deep water harbor, as well as focusing construction in the City to the south.

The Bayboro House was built on Beach Drive South East overlooking Lassing Park and the open water of Tampa Bay to the east. The building is indicative of the Queen Anne style, a type of architecture named and popularized by a group of nineteenth century English architects and led by Richard Norman Shaw. Queen Anne was the dominant style of domestic architecture from 1880 to 1900. The identifying features of the Queen Anne style are a steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, usually with a dominant front facing gable, patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows and other devices used to avoid a smooth-walled appearance, and an asymmetrical facade with a partial or full-width porch. This type of porch is usually one-story high and extended along one or both side walls. The Style persisted with decreasing popularity through the first decade of the twentieth century. This architecture is very rare in St. Petersburg, representing less than one percent of the City's inventoried historic structures. Most other examples of Queen Anne architecture in St. Petersburg were built in the downtown area, the most notable being the John Williams House. Through the years the structures have either been demolished to make room for new construction or the context of their surroundings has been altered significantly. The Bayboro House however, remains in its original single family neighborhood context.

The Bayboro House is a wood-frame structure originally covered with multiple finishes such as wood shingle and clapboard siding. Two noticeable features on the Bayboro House include its full-width, one-story porch that extends along the north side and its projecting bays. There are three of these bays, one on the south side and two on the north side. The bays extend through both the first and second stories. Randomly placed wood shingles cover the gabled end of the main facade.

The construction of the Bayboro House is the direct result of the work of one man, Charles Albert Harvey. In 1868, Charles Harvey was born in Jesup, Georgia, where he originally made his mark in the hotel business. After switching to the prosperous lumber business in the late nineteenth century, Harvey's business fell on hard times as the timber stock was overharvested. After 1903, Harvey migrated to St. Petersburg where he initially turned to the hotel business, but two years later he had given up and became involved in the rapidly growing real estate boom. He joined the likes of C. Perry Snell, F. A. Davis, H. Walter Fuller, C. M. Power and Charles A. Hall as they created a City out of the swamps, pine flatwoods and scrub land of the southern end of the Pinellas peninsula in 1905. In that year Harvey bought a large tract of land known locally as "Fiddler's Paradise." This land was located south of the City on swamp land created where Salt Creek and Booker Creek emptied into Tampa Bay. Over a period of a year or so, Harvey bought several more tracts of land in the general area until he owned most of the land between Big Bayou and the downtown. Harvey had grand plans for this land, but he lacked the capital to proceed with them.

Harvey chartered the Bayboro Investment Company in 1906 with the intent of creating a deep water harbor for St. Petersburg, and many prominent citizens invested heavily in it. As they dredged the bayou to make a harbor, the fill was used to create land for a residential development south of the harbor. It was on this land that Harvey built the Bayboro House in 1909 for himself and lived there until his death in 1914. The harbor was completed within a couple of years, but it had very little value since there was no deep water channel connecting it with Tampa Bay. In fact, it was not until after Harvey's death in 1914 that the Federal government recognized the harbor and dredged a deep water channel into the bay. Nevertheless, Harvey is credited with bringing the harbor to St. Petersburg.