



THE HISTORY OF PEARL STABLE

Year Built: 1894

Architect: Otto Kramer, San Antonio TX

A HUMBLE YET ELEGANT BEGINNING

Pearl Stable originally served as a barn that housed the Pearl draft horses in relative luxury. The Stable's design is a reflection of a late 19th Century Victorian love of grandeur and ornament. Its graceful elliptical shape and intricate brickwork were a symbol of the Brewery's affluence and success. Two rings of box stalls surrounded a central stairway that led to a feed loft. Stable workers fed their charges via chutes that connected the loft to each horse's feed box.

JUDGE ROY BEAN AND JERSEY LILY

By the early 20th Century, delivery trucks replaced the horses and beer wagons as the Stable began to be used for storage. In 1950, the Stable was drastically altered to function as a banquet facility. Windows were bricked in, the hayloft was removed, and a suspended plaster ceiling was installed. Originally named the Pearl Corral, it was a western themed venue with painted murals and a stage. A replica of the front of the rustic home of Judge Roy Bean, known as the "Law West of the Pecos," was added to the stage as a backdrop. There was also a bar in what is now the pre-function area, called the Safari Room.

In 1971 the building was again remodeled, red velvet wallpaper was added, and the venue became known as the "Jersey Lilly" in honor of Lilly Langtry, an infamous British actress and courtesan born on the island of Jersey in 1853. Rumor has it that the Judge was utterly infatuated with her, so much so that he founded a small Texas town (his home) named Langtry, Texas.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

Over the years, many of the architectural features of the Stable were bricked over or removed. During the restoration effort, many of these features were recreated or uncovered, based on historical photos and the original architectural drawings of ink pen on linen. This effort also included incorporating items preserved from the Brewery throughout the entire renovation project.

- The cupola, which was originally used for ventilation and now crowns the event space, was replicated in 2006 using the original architectural drawings from the 1890s.
- Dramatic stonework at the entry pediment, missing from the building since the 1940s, was also replicated per the original drawings.
- Steel columns and beams framing the interior of the

structure were added in 1950 to support the wood framed roof, visible in the main room today, when the Stable was converted to the Pearl Corral.

- The rich dark wood roof rafters, beams, and wood decking on the ceiling are original from Ed Steves & Sons lumber company in San Antonio, circa 1894, a company still in operation today. You can still see several boards painted with that name. Back then, boards painted with the name of the lumber yard were placed on the sides of the wagons to serve as signs as the lumber wagons traveled through the city.

NEW USES FOR HISTORIC PIECES

A walk through the Pearl Stable is a nostalgic experience and a delight for history buffs. Many of the custom features throughout the Stable have been created and inspired with the Brewery's illustrious past in mind:

- The vintage bottle light fixtures in the pre-function area were designed by Chris Carson of Ford, Powell, and Carson and Hillary Conrey of Courtney Walker Company and manufactured by Texas Lightsmith in Austin. A few of the bottles were actually found on the property during construction excavation.
- The terrazzo tops of the bars in the pre-function area were made with broken glass found

in various places at Pearl during the construction excavation.

- The large chandeliers in the Assembly Hall were inspired by historic photographs of Pearl.
- The custom ironwork on the stage and mezzanine railings were hand forged by San Antonio craftsman George Schroeder and his company Metalmorphosis. He hammered each piece on an old anvil found at Pearl.
- The large cone shaped Bollards around the Pearl site are made from the "feet" that were originally used to support beer tanks in the cellars.

XX MARKS THE SPOT

When European royalty traveled the countryside in the 16th Century, a courier was sent ahead to sample beer at inns along the way. If the beer was average, the courier would mark the door of the inn with a single X. If the beer was good, it got two X's. The XXX mark has been part of the Pearl Beer logo since the early 1890s. Can you find all the X's in the Stable? Look closely!

RAILWAYS AND BEER DAYS

The train outside the Stable, Texas Transportation Company Electric Train Engine No. 2, was built in 1907 and was in service from 1949, hauling freight cars of barley, hops, and grain into the Brewery and hauling away cases of Pearl Beer, until the brewery closed in 2001.

Brief History of Pearl

- The Pearl Brewing Company was established in 1881 and began producing Pearl Beer in 1886. The Stable was built in 1894.
- In 1902, Otto Koehler became President and Manager of the San Antonio Brewing Association (aka Pearl Brewery). Under his leadership, the brewery set in motion strategic plans to grow in size and output.
- After Otto's death, his wife Emma Koehler succeeded him as the Chief Executive and under her direction, many of her husband's strategic plans were either started or fulfilled.
- Pearl was one of only five Texas breweries to survive Prohibition.
- Emma vowed not to let Pearl go under, and the Alamo Industries, as the complex was then called, bottled soft drinks, took dry cleaning, operated a small advertising sign division, ran a small auto repair shop, and entered the commercial ice industry to make ends meet.
- Minutes after Prohibition ended at midnight on September 15, 1933, 100 trucks and 25 boxcars of beer rolled off the Pearl lot.
- Tough times were not over – the nation was still deep in the grips of the Great Depression and beer was a luxury most could not afford. Several beers besides Pearl were produced at the complex.
- In 1985, Pabst purchased the Pearl Brewing Company. In 1999, Pabst began transferring its production to Ft. Worth, closing all of its breweries. Pearl beer is still in production in Ft. Worth, but the Pearl in San Antonio closed in 2001. Silver Ventures, Inc. purchased the brewery with a goal to bring Pearl back to its glory.
- Pearl's vision is to transform the 22 acre Pearl Brewery Complex to create a **culinary destination for the community** – a place where you can live, eat, play and learn on the banks of the San Antonio River!