



# **Clayton's Galveston: The Architecture of Nicholas J. Clayton and His Contemporaries (Sara and John Lindsey Series in the Arts and Humanities)**

*Alice (Barrie) M. Scardino Bradley, Drexel Turner*

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The Queen of the Gulf that was Galveston in the late 1800s. Praised for its splendor and riches, its thriving commercial spirit, and its strategic location at one of the Gulf Coasts most accessible ports, the booming island city owed much of its glory, majesty, and confidence to architect Nicholas J. Clayton.

In *Clayton's Galveston*, Barrie Scardino and Drexel Turner chronicle Galveston's transformation from a faceless coastal village the blank canvas Clayton and his contemporaries used to create their masterpieces into the unique Galveston of today.

Clayton and other architects such as Nathaniel Tobey, Jr., Edward J. Duhamel, and Alfred Muller had ample opportunity to leave their mark on a city growing at a fevered pace. Waves of growth and destruction caused by immigration and the fires of 1877 and 1885 made innovation essential as well as inevitable. Clayton himself designed more than 150 of the buildings constructed from 1870 to 1900, including civic buildings, commercial projects for the Strand district, and special contracts for Galveston's elite, especially the palatial homes he built along East Broadway. The works closest to his heart, those awarded him by the Catholic Church, showcase his self-assured free eclecticism and his interpretation of contemporary French and British styles.

With the most complete and descriptive listing of Clayton's projects known to date, complemented by more than 250 photos and drawings, *Clayton's Galveston* provides an authoritative analysis of this era of Galveston architecture. The authors compare Clayton's work to that of his rivals and examine the theories, styles, and influences of the period. Peter Brink's foreword and Stephen Fox's afterword also contribute informed views of Clayton's life and work.

By presenting the history of Galveston's most admired edifices, assessing its remarkable architectural character, and recalling an era of invigorated thought and design, *Clayton's Galveston* pays homage to the architects who gave the Queen of the Gulf her crown jewels.

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