

The Clay Gallery

302 South Riverside Drive (at Douglas)

Teresa Bowen, Proprietor

386.846.8023 (call to confirm availability before visiting gallery)



The story goes that during the Second World War, practice flyovers and fake bombs were regularly dropped in the ocean off Coronado Beach. At least one of these bombs deployed early, badly damaging the general store located at Douglas and Riverside. Some years later, in 1949, a house was built, in part with materials recycled from that bombed out store. Both the attic and the crawl space evidence notches in the boards that suggest their former function. Removal of the current siding reveals diagonally attached, full-dimension boards that sport bright and varied paint colors. A well-built structure, lathe and cement, not plaster, form the interior walls and beautiful hardwood planks provide the flooring.

In 1995, Mark Chamberlain and Teresa Bowen tore down a shed at the rear of the property and built a 1000 square foot pottery studio. After Mark passed away unexpectedly in 1998, Teresa began the Clay Gallery to display not only her work, but also that of about 50 other craft artists. For over 20 years, Teresa lived in the front part of the building and managed the gallery at the back. She also improved the gardens surrounding the property by adding many trees and building out the patio area, outside bar and walkways. During those years—long before the advent of First Saturday Canal Street Art Stroll—many arts lovers enjoyed monthly evenings of live music that Teresa hosted, opening her gallery and gardens to those attending the dual gallery openings at Arts on Douglas and Harris House.

Before the recent recession, a developer approached Teresa with a healthy offer for purchasing her property. Learning that he would replace the house and studio with an apartment building,

she refused the sale. A firm believer in keeping and preserving historic buildings for the cultural value they provide, Teresa decided to relocate her home and began considering other uses for the gallery/house and gardens. She has continued creating pottery in the studio, joined there by longtime assistant Chas Mindigo who also produces his own ceramics. A former office space now serves as their sales area.

Today the original house and gardens boast a unique new eating establishment: [The Riverpark Terrace](#).

