

**THE HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN
PRESENTS**

**1995 Heritage
Homes Tour**

**The Ways We Were,
1900-1940**

**FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY,
MAY 12-14, 1995**

Sponsored by

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The Heritage Society of Austin presents the 1995 Heritage Homes Tour — The Ways We Were, 1900-1940. This tour is the third in a four-year cycle showcasing the first 100 years of architecture in the state capital city.

Austin History, 1900-1940

Austin began the 20th century with a population of 26,000, and bragging rights to the largest and best power plant in the South and the second largest dam in the United States. But after two days of rain in April, 1900, a rampaging Colorado River swept through the city's million-dollar masonry dam. The losses included at least eight lives, 100 homes, 30-mile-long Lake McDonald and Austin's dream of becoming one of the country's leading manufacturing centers.

A granite dam across the river was completed in 1914, only to be washed away in a vicious flood a year later. In 1935 the river took out the Congress Avenue bridge and flood waters ranged into the downtown business area. It took the establishment of the Colorado River Authorities and the 1938 completion of Tom Miller Dam for Austin citizens to sense that at last the Colorado River had been harnessed

Three disastrous floods, along with a number of lesser ones, served to stifle Austin's plans for growth for four decades. In fact, it was not until the 1950s that the city retired the bond issue on the million-dollar Lake McDonald dam.



House going over dam in Austin, June 15, 1935. CO8484A Austin History Center.

Austin Architecture, 1900-1940

As the Victorian era receded, a proliferation of technological marvels became available to Austin households. City utilities, including electricity and running water. Telephones. Refrigerators. Gas cooking stoves. Automobiles. Paved streets. Moving pictures. And radio.

Average families built and bought homes. Planned neighborhoods and popular new architectural styles encouraged a variety of expressions. Residential architecture from the first forty years of the 20th century, along with the visionary 1928 City Plan, defined Austin well into the 1960s.

Bungalows, Craftsman Cottages, and the Prairie Style.

Embodying America's first wave of architectural experimentation, most of the houses in these three styles were built before World War I. The houses typically were one story high, horizontal in appearance, with encircling porches and widely overhanging eaves. Many were constructed of wood and local stone.

Revival Styles. During the heyday of residential architecture, the Revival styles — particularly Mediterranean, Tudor, Colonial, and Spanish Colonial — held great appeal for Austin's upscale families. This architecture combined the stateliness and tradition of earlier periods in massings and proportions suited to contemporary taste. Larger rooms reflected open planning and the emergence of informal lifestyles.

Moderne. The International style ascended after World War I, a complement to the machine age. Streamlined concrete, smooth-faced stone, glass and metal exteriors, and geometric Art Deco ornament provided a futuristic effect. Moderne reached Texas in the 1930s, however most of Austin's Moderne buildings were either public or commercial. Only a handful of homes were built in the style.

The Ways We Were, 1900-1940

Noon-6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14

Austin homes and neighborhoods in the early 20th century provided a sense of continuity during years of rapid social, economic and technological change. Spend one or two afternoons touring varied architectural styles and three neighborhoods which continue to influence the Austin lifestyle. Advance tickets, \$12.50 per person. Tickets during tour, \$15 per person.

Twilight Preview Tour

7-10 p.m., Friday, May 12

You are invited to step back in time to the Enfield Ramble, a garden party of the 1930s. Spend the evening strolling along old Windsor Road, which will be closed to traffic. Enjoy elegant hors d'oeuvres and drinks, served along the way at stately villas, olde English houses and colonial mansions. Admire dozens of vintage automobiles. Live big band music — aren't they playing your song? \$40 per person, reservations required.

Two Special Lectures

10 a.m., Saturday, May 13

Back-to-back, two special lectures to add to your understanding of The Ways We Were, 1900-1940. These illustrated discussions will focus on early 20th-century design in Austin, from perspectives of neighborhood development and eclecticism in architectural styles. The lectures will be held at the First English Lutheran Church, 3001 Whitis, an exemplar 1930s building in the Aldridge Place neighborhood. \$10 per person, reservations required.

Walking/Driving Tours

Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14

Escorted walking tours will be offered in the Aldridge Place and Enfield neighborhoods. A self-guided driving tour will be provided for the hilly Travis Heights neighborhood. These tours provide overviews of the original neighborhood developments, with emphasis on planning, architectural styles, landscaping and social history. Biographical sketches of interesting neighbors from 1900-1940 will be provided.

The escorted walking tours will begin at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at specially designated booths in the neighborhoods. These tours will take approximately one hour. Tickets, \$5 per person.

The self-guided driving tour of Travis Heights is free with the purchase of a 1995 Heritage Homes Tour ticket. Pick up a map at any house on the tour.

Advance Tour Tickets

Phone (512) 476-TOUR or purchase advance tickets from Eden Box & Company, Heritage Society of Austin, Bank One (selected locations), Botanica, Whit Hanks at Treaty Oak, or Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Best Location—Summer and Winter

No Dust
No Mud

Tarvia
Streets

3 Blocks
From
Junior
High
School



No Glare
No Heat

Beautiful
Trees

3 Blocks
From
Primary
School

ENFIELD

"The Place You Will Eventually Live"

You have an ideal "All-Year-Round Home" when you build in the newly completed, wonderful Park Addition. Our restrictions guarantee that ENFIELD will always be Austin's most exclusive residential neighborhood.

ENFIELD REALTY AND HOME BUILDING CO.

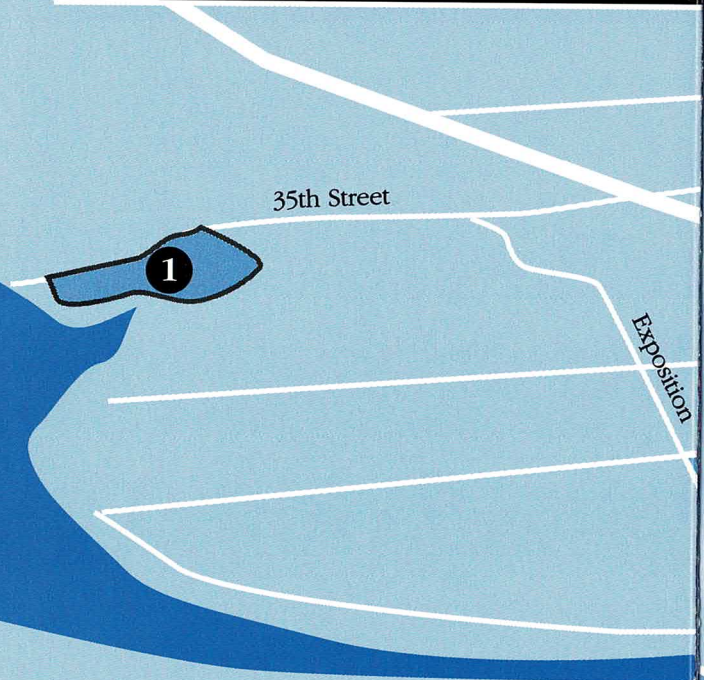
W. MURRAY GRAHAM, Pres. R. NILES GRAHAM, Vice-Pres.
Phone 189. 518-519 Littlefield Bldg.

We Shall Be Glad to Build Your Home.

Enfield Addition advertisement. "Gossip" newspaper, September 23, 1916.

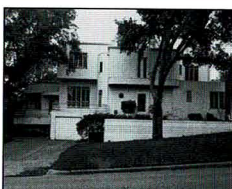
Heritage Homes Tour Map

The Ways We Were, 1900-



1

Mayfield-Gutsch
Gardens
(Sunday only)
Bungalow,
1870s/1926
3505 W. 35th St.



2

Bohn House
Moderne, 1938
1301 West 29th St.



3

Bailey-H
House
Bungalo
4110 Sp

Enfield

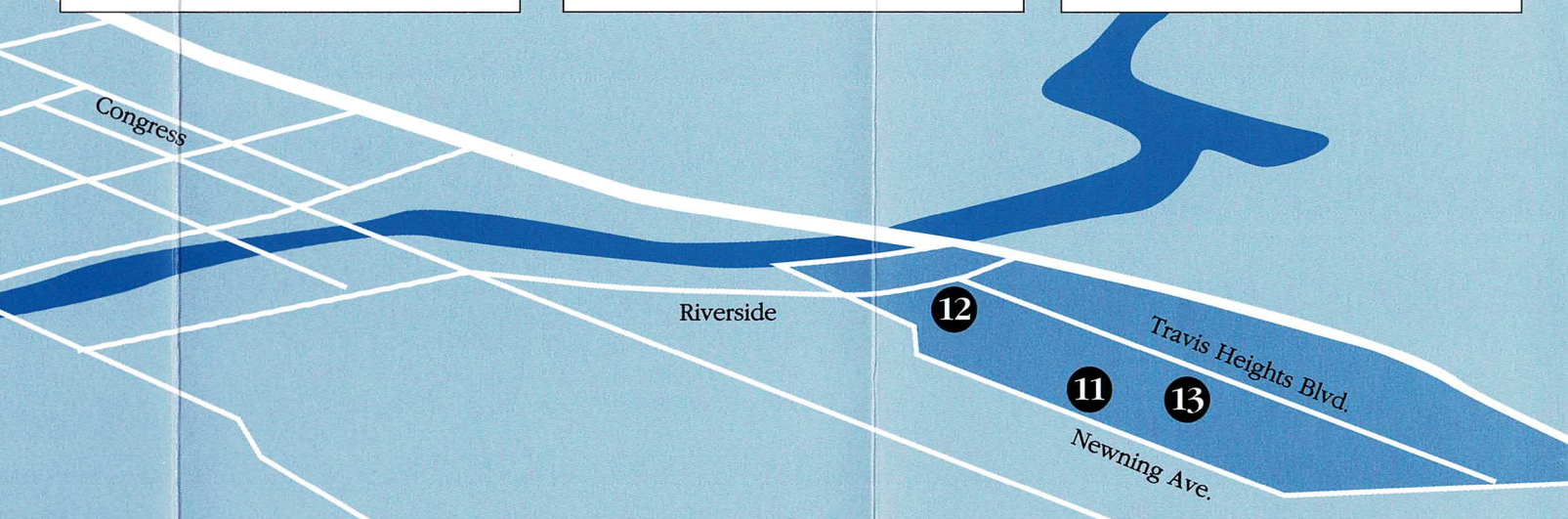
Enfield, dedicated in 1916, was part of the estate of Gov. Elisha Pease. The 320-acre subdivision was developed by Pease's grandson, Niles Graham, and Niles' first cousin, Murray Graham. Pease Park, on the east side of Enfield, bears the family name. Many Enfield houses are in the fashionable revival and eclectic styles of the 1920s and 1930s. The Grahams also opened Westfield, Westenfield, and Tarry-Town.

Aldridge Place

Aldridge Place opened in 1912. Attorney Lewis Hancock, mayor of Austin (1895-97), was the developer of this 40-acre neighborhood. Immediately north of the University of Texas, Aldridge Place was advertised as "The Place to Build a Home." Many UT faculty members did so. This enduring neighborhood is home to Hemphill Park and to a mixture of architectural styles representative of the 1920s and 1930s.

Travis Heights

Travis Heights was launched in 1913. Gen. William H. Stacy, who served in the Spanish-American War and later organized the Texas National Guard, was its developer. He selected 235 acres on a high bank south of the Colorado River. By the 1920s, the curving and grid streets of Travis Heights were lined with a mix of 20th-century houses. Stacy Park provided a shady greenbelt along Blums Creek.

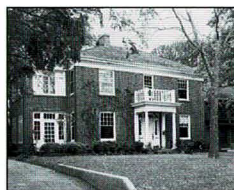


Wrenbaum House
Twilight Tour only
Colonial Revival,
1923
108 Windsor



9
Sims-Diller House
Tudor Revival, 1923
212 West 33rd St.

Aldridge Place



10
Templin House
Colonial Revival,
1928
109 West 32nd St.



11
Fairview
(Sunday only)
Colonial Revival,
1910
1304 Newning Ave.

Travis Heights



12
Norwood Cottage
Bungalow, 1922
1000 Blk. Edgecliff
Terrace



13
Reuter House
Spanish Colonial,
1934
806 Rosedale
Terrace