

★ THE HERITAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ★

HERITAGE HOMES

TOUR

FEATURING TONEY HOMES IN...

**GYPSY GROVE!
PENN ADDITION!
OAKWOOD!**

HOMES TOUR NO. 14

HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006

**SHOCKING
N'HOOD
SECRETS
EXPOSED!**



BEWARE!

OF CARS & ENJOY YOUR STROLL
THROUGH THE LOVELY & HISTORIC
HERITAGE NEIGHBORHOOD!

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OFFICIAL TOUR SHIRT



QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED AND ARE AVAILABLE AT THE INFO TENT



WELCOME!



THE BELMONT-COGDELL HOUSE ON 31ST STREET

PLEASE REMEMBER WHILE INSIDE THE HOMES:

- ★ No smoking ★
- ★ No food or drink ★
- ★ No photography ★
- ★ No strollers ★



<p>HERITAGE HOMES TOUR</p>	<p>FEATURING TONEY HOMES IN... GYPSEY GROVE! PENN ADDITION! OAKWOOD!</p>
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★ THE HERITAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ★

The Heritage Society of Austin invites you to explore the story of the Heritage Neighborhood, with its colorful cast of characters who played out their lives amongst a charming assemblage of homes. The 2006 Heritage Homes Tour will celebrate the past and present of this beloved Austin neighborhood.

The Heritage Neighborhood presents a pleasant mix of early 20th century architectural styles. While at least two stone farmhouses (the Penn and Lesser Houses) long predate the developed area and some later intrusions are found, the neighborhood is characterized by comfortable and handsome homes from the 1910s and 1920s. Most are one or two stories in height with wood or stuccoed exteriors, sometimes with limestone details. The most popular architectural influences are Craftsman and Colonial Revival. While a number of homes were planned by architect, artist and educator Raymond Everett and avocational architect Ada Read Penn, the design of other homes likely comes from lumberyard designs or popular home plan books of the day. At least one substantial home was said to have been designed by its owner, Texas Secretary of State Jane Yelvington McCallum. Several homes in the neighborhood have City of Austin Landmark status, including the McCaleb House on W. 32nd St. Tall trees and mature vegetation, sidewalks and access to urban amenities further enhance the area.

By Peter Flagg Maxson, Architectural Historian





NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

Gypsies and judges. Professors and professional gamblers. Cowboys and Comanches. Students, actors, musicians, architects, lawyers.....and a lot of feisty women! They've all left their mark on the Austin Heritage Neighborhood, which extends from 29th Street north to 38th Street, and from Guadalupe west to Lamar Boulevard.

One of those feisty women was actually the developer of much of the neighborhood. In 1902, Judge Robert Penn bought, for back taxes, the 1840s house at 3112 West Avenue, now a historic landmark known as Heritage House, from which the neighborhood takes its name. Penn's purchase included the dwelling and a large tract of land extending west to Shoal Creek. Seven years after the judge and his family moved into the house, Robert Penn died, leaving his widow, Ada Caroline Read Penn, with nine children, \$10,000 and their ten acres. Ada faced the challenge of supporting her family by buying a T-square and enrolling in night school, where she learned to make blueprints and planned the development her property. After persuading Austin City Council to rename Asylum Avenue (leading to the State Lunatic Asylum) as an extension of the fashionable West Avenue, Ada subdivided her



ten acres into forty lots, and, acting as architect and contractor, designed and built or remodeled some forty houses in the next thirty years, without cutting any of the neighborhood's beautiful oaks. It was her intent that university professors and their families would occupy these homes. Mrs. Penn also arranged to have Grandview Street cut and named it for the beautiful view of the western hills, then referred to as Austin's "Violet Crown."

By the end of World War I, the Penn Development was still quite rural, with an active farm just north of 34th Street. The main attractions on the northern edge of the city were the State Lunatic Asylum, a soap and candle factory, a horse racetrack (in what became Hyde Park) and a gypsy camp, now referred to as Gypsy Grove. The proximity of the gypsy camp to the racetrack was likely due to the skill of the gypsy men with horses and the women with telling fortunes.

Many University of Texas faculty members purchased homes Ada Penn designed and built for them, including Daniel Pennick, the tennis coach and professor of Greek, as well as the University's first director of athletics, Theo Bellmont. Among other faculty who resided in the neighborhood was architect Raymond Everett, who also designed some homes in the neighborhood. Another well-known former resident was Johan Udden, a brilliant scientist, whose work using seismology led to the discovery and development of the Permian Basin oil field in West Texas. After his published account of discovering dinosaur bones in Big Bend, Texas Memorial Museum was built to house his finds. Another well-known couple in the neighborhood were "feisty woman" Jane Yelvington McCallum, Texas Secretary of State and suffragist leader, and her husband, Arthur Newall McCallum, long-time superintendent of Austin's schools.

The neighborhood is still home to many University of Texas professors and students, as well as artists, musicians, architects and writers, who enjoy its central location, its unpretentious homes and its interesting history.

by Marty Moulthrop, with acknowledgement to Anne Boyer from "Writing Austin's Lives: A Community Portrait", UT Humanities Institute and Waterloo Press

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

WASHINGTON SQUARE!

HISTORY OF WASHINGTON SQUARE

Platted in September, 1912 by Washington Allen Harper, a local physician (ear, nose and throat) and real estate developer who named the subdivision after himself, Washington Square is one of Austin's most unusual streets – notable for its 90-foot width, broader than any other residential street in the city. Washington Square was developed contemporaneously with other subdivisions near the University of Texas campus such as Aldridge Place, and incorporated the idea of a boulevard or esplanade from the City Beautiful movement of the early 20th century to create a suburban ideal of substantial homes in a pleasant and exclusively residential area designed to attract businessmen, professionals, and University of Texas professors. In comparison to older areas of the city which had a mixture of residential and commercial uses, mansions and shacks, Washington Square offered home-buyers stability and security in their investments by promising that every house on the street would be of similar quality and size. The street, shown as Nicollet Court on 1922 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps (although this name was never used), contained generous-sized lots. Washington Square was marketed by the real estate firm of Pitts and Corwin as a “strictly first-class” residential area close to the Guadalupe Street streetcar, and having all of the modern conveniences of electricity, gas, water, sewer, telephone, sidewalks, and curbs.

The house at 3008 Washington Square is the oldest on the street, completed in late 1912 or early 1913 for UT zoologist Carl G. Hartman. The houses at 3001, 3006, 3007, and 3014 Washington Square were completed by 1920, as the street developed its character as the home of UT professors, religious leaders, and businessmen. By 1935, all but three of the houses on the street had been built. Theo Belmont, Athletic Director of the University of Texas, built two small rental houses at the southeast corner of Washington Square and 31st Street in 1936, as well as two houses around the corner on W. 31st Street. No other building occurred on the street until 1991, with the construction of the house at 3000 Washington Square.

PLEASE BE COURTEOUS. THESE ARE ALL PRIVATE RESIDENCES. DO NOT TRESPASS OR LITTER IN YOUR EXPLORATION OF ONE OF AUSTIN'S MOST BEAUTIFUL AND INTERESTING STREETS.

★ 3000 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Texas Vernacular Revival **BUILT:** 1991. **HISTORY:** Built by local developer Muskin & Company.

★ 3001 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Mission Revival-style concrete house notable for its round-arched arcade across the front, red tile roof, and ornate parapets at each end of the house and in the center of the front roof. **BUILT:** CA. 1917. **HISTORY:** Built for Herman and Genevieve James. Professor James taught government at UT and was the director of the university's Bureau of Municipal Research and Reference. Edward J. and Ravenna Mathews purchased the house around 1925. Mathews (1878-1964) was the registrar and dean of admissions at the University of Texas. The Mathews family still owns this property.

★ 3002 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Colonial Revival with a full-width front porch. **BUILT:** ca. 1923. **HISTORY:** Prominent UT sociology professor Warner Getters rented this house from 1929 to 1932; Fred and Bess Beeman, who rented the house in 1935, appear to be the first double-income family on the street. Fannie Elizabeth Hatchford (1887-1974), who lived here from 1953 to 1967, was the director of the Rare Book collections at UT, and contributed significantly to the understanding of the writings of the Bronte sisters. The house was converted into a triplex in 1975.

★ 3005 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Severe Colonial Revival with full-height columns, a “broken pediment” over the front door, and a small balconet at the center of the second story. The house was remodeled in the 1970s. **BUILT:** ca. 1928. **HISTORY:** Built for traveling salesman Robert Akin, the house was a rental unit from 1932 through the mid-1960s, with tenants ranging from the pastor of Central Christian Church to the State Dental Health Director, the operator of a bottling plant, and a salesman. Ronald and Susan Driver, proprietors of the Flower Bucket on North Lamar, have owned the property since 1974.

★ 3006 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: The two-story Colonial Revival wood-frame house with a full-height front porch burned in 2001. Only the front wall of the house remained until it was demolished in 2004. The only buildings remaining on the site are the outbuildings at the back of the lot. Note the porch brackets on the guest house. **BUILT:** ca. 1915. **HISTORY:** Rev. William A. Hamlett, the pastor of the First Baptist Church, was the first owner of the house. James Blanton Wharey (1872-1946), professor of English at UT and a leading authority on the work of John Bunyan, purchased the house around 1921 and lived here until his death, when the house was donated to University Presbyterian Church, which used the house as a parsonage. Around 1953, Hubert W. and Catherine Smith purchased the house. Smith (1907-1971), was one of the nation's leading proponent of law science, dedicated to legal medicine education for doctors and lawyers. Smith came to UT in 1952 to direct the Law-Science Institute. He lived here until 1968. Richard and Jane Fish, who raised show dogs, lived here in the 1990s.

★ 3007 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Late vernacular Victorian with hipped-roof dormers and belvedere. Note the fanlight above and the sidelights framing the front door. **BUILT:** ca. 1915 **HISTORY:** William and Stella Felsing purchased this house around 1921; Mrs. Felsing remained in the house for some 35 years after her husband's death. William Felsing (1891-1952) was influential in military research, working on the properties of mustard gas during World War I. He taught chemistry at UT and was the coordinator of the freshman chemistry course for many years.

★ 3008 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Modified American Foursquare. Note the stone sills below and lintels above the bands of windows. The front porch was enclosed in 1947. **BUILT:** ca. 1912 – this is the oldest house on the street. **HISTORY:** Carl Hartman, who taught zoology at UT, and is best noted for his research in opossum development as well as discovering ovulation time and its relationship to menstrual cycles in monkeys, was the first owner of the property. Eldred McKinnon, the vice president of the Citizens State Bank of Austin, owned the house in the 1920s. McKinnon narrowly escaped assassination while working as a bank examiner prior to purchasing this house. Professor George Hillis Newlove owned the house from 1930 to 1983; Newlove taught accounting in UT's College of Business Administration, and was renowned for his work in consolidation theory and practice as well as cost accounting. Mrs. Newlove was a counselor at Porter Junior High for many years.

★ 3009 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Tudor Revival-inspired cottage. Note the brickwork around the entry arch and windows. Additions were made to the house in 1954, 1960, and 1984; the second story was added in 1995. **BUILT:** ca. 1930 **HISTORY:** T. Neal and Edythe Porter were the first owners of the house. The Porter family lived here from 1930 to 1963. Neal Porter was the business manager and assistant superintendent of the Austin Public Schools; Mrs. Porter directed the Austin Volunteer Bureau in 1962. The house became a rental unit for about 20 years until purchased by clinical psychologist Douglas Keene in the 1980s.

★ 3010 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Tudor Revival-styled brick cottage. Note the slight “cat-slide” of the roof of the front gable toward the round-arched entry porch. **BUILT:** ca. 1930. **HISTORY:** Clinton and Mattie Pope purchased the house in 1930. Pope operated Hicks Rubber Company, selling tires, tubes, batteries, and Humble gasoline and oil at 325 Congress Avenue in the 1930s and 1940s. He went into real estate after World War II, then operated University Motors at 3005 Guadalupe Street in the early 1950s. John and Mary Waller, a retired couple, lived here from 1962 to 1983.

★ 3011 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Simple wing-and-gable frame cottage with a wrap-around porch. **BUILT:** ca. 1928 **HISTORY:** The house has had a varied group of occupants, ranging from the truck crop estimator for the USDA in 1930 to the female proprietor of the E-Z Finance Company (1937), osteophysician Dr. John Donovan in the late 1930s, office secretaries and students. Mrs. Millie Rubottom, who rented the house with her husband in 1941, was a stenographer for the National Youth Organization. Mrs. Mamie Smith, a widow, owned the house from 1948 to 1968. Mada Hester, who operated De-Viney Davidson Insurance on Lavaca Street, lived here from 1968 to 1986.

★ 3013 WASHINGTON SQUARE

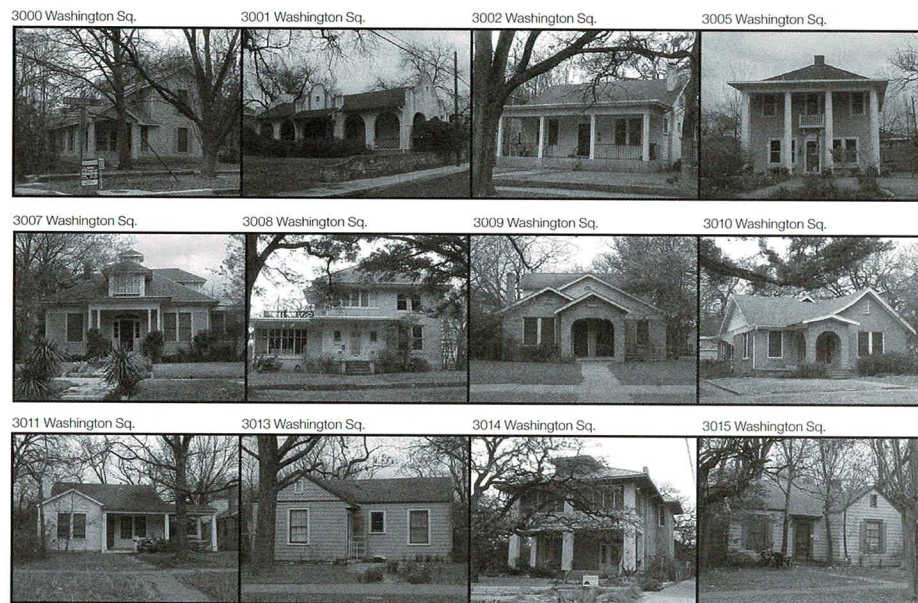
ARCHITECTURE: Simple wing-and-gable style frame cottage. **BUILT:** ca. 1936. **HISTORY:** Built as a rental property by UT Athletic Director Theo Belmont; tenants included state employees and teaching assistants at UT. See related house at 3015 Washington Square.

★ 3014 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Two-story Neo-Classical portico applied to an American Foursquare house. **BUILT:** ca. 1913 **HISTORY:** The house was built for banker James Keeble. By 1920, Marvin W. and Aline Lovell owned the property. Lovell was one of the partners in Bennett-Tarlton & Company, the city's largest cotton exporting firm in the 1920s. Alonzo Cox (1894-1968) purchased the house by 1927 and lived here until around 1951; Cox taught business administration at UT, specializing in cotton marketing. He established the University's Bureau of Business Research, and was renowned for establishing scientific cotton testing methods. His annual cotton clinics brought cotton producers, merchants, and researchers together to improve Texas cotton production and marketing. Calvin and India Newton owned the house in the early 1950s; Newton directed Texas Student Publications at UT. Ned Martin, a superintendent at the Steck Company, owned the house from 1955 to 1961. The house became the Friends (Quaker) Meeting in 1962; workshops and seminars held there were influential in promoting peaceful social activism. The Zen Center of Austin currently owns the building.

★ 3015 WASHINGTON SQUARE

ARCHITECTURE: Simple wing-and-gable plan wood frame cottage. **BUILT:** ca. 1936 **HISTORY:** Built as a rental property by UT Athletic Director Theo Belmont, the most famous resident of the house (1942) was Blair Cherry (1901-1966), head coach of the UT Longhorn football team from 1947 to 1950. Cherry developed the “T” formation, which propelled UT to a Southwest Conference championship and three post-season bowl games under Cherry's leadership. See related house at 3013 Washington Square, and around the corner on W. 31st Street, all built by Theo Belmont as rent houses.





HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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1208 Newning

RESTORATION

Von Boeckmann-Keeble House
4401 Avenue H

MAINTAINING AN AUSTIN CULTURAL LANDMARK

Dirty Martin's
2808 Guadalupe

PRESERVATION

Malcolm & Margaret Badger Reed Estate
2407 Harris Blvd

ADAPTIVE USE

3100 South Congress (formerly Trek Motel)
3100 South Congress

RESTORATION

Staveley-Kunz-Johnson House
1402 E. Cesar Chavez

RESTORATION

Split Rock (Burns-Klein House)
2815 Wooldridge

RESTORATION

Roberts Clinic
1174 San Bernard

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HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

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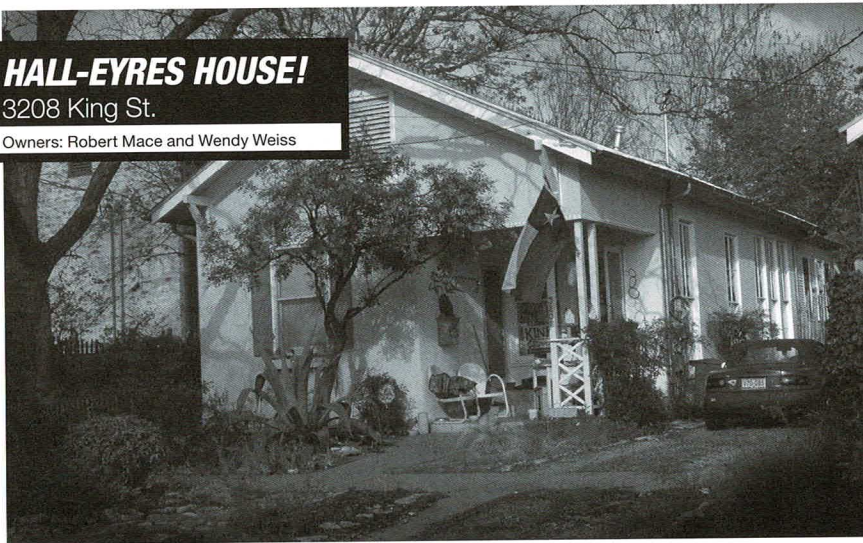
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HALL-EYRES HOUSE!

3208 King St.

Owners: Robert Mace and Wendy Weiss



This is one of the earliest dwellings in the Heritage Neighborhood, pre-dating most of the others by decades. Records show that carpenter/builder James M. Hall built the two-room "shotgun" house in 1894, and possibly the one next door, with one serving as his office and one as the family residence. His name is carved into the large stone step at the back door of this house, which may have been located at the front door in his time. Miles occupied the house about twelve years and after that it was primarily a rental until World War II. In the 1940s it was acquired by plumber George W. Eyres and the house remained in the family until 1976. There was another structure on the back of the property that was rented out from about 1922 to 1942 but this apparently was no longer the case after the Eyres family purchased the main house.

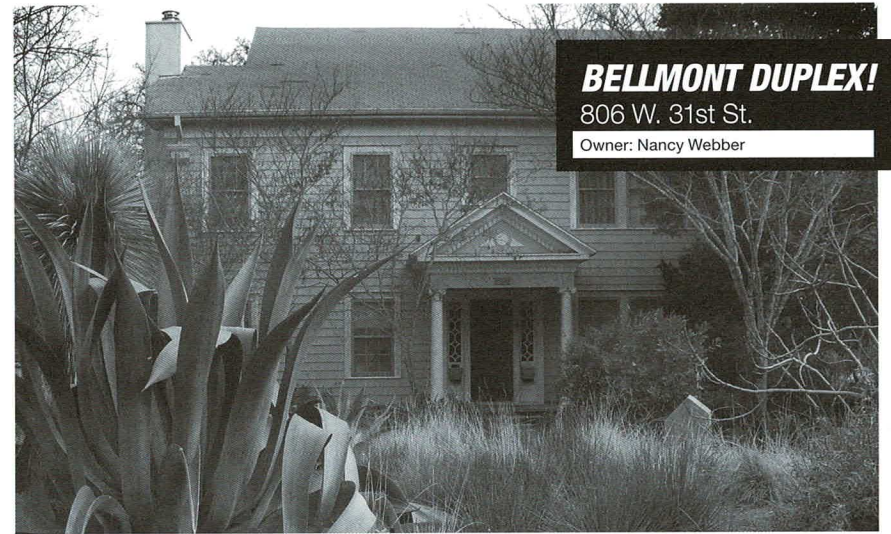
According to the present owner, the house was originally clad with board and batten, and consisted of a front room and a back room, with probably a small back porch. The rooms had eleven-foot ceilings, better for tolerating Austin's hot summers and there were two large double-hung windows on the north side of each room. The second room also housed a brick flue with a wood-burning stove to warm the house in the winter. The back porch served as a kitchen. By 1930 a master bedroom was wrapped around the corner of the original house, a bathroom was added to the side and the back room in the house was narrowed to accommodate a new second bedroom. The back porch was increased in size. This new construction was wood frame with the whole house clad in stucco. Although the original shotgun house was built on brick piers, cedar posts were used for this addition. The entire structure is now on modern cement piers. The current owners built the back porch in the 1990s, using boards from the 1930s porch. As you exit the rear porch, take a look back toward the house and see the "J. M. Hall" limestone step that must have greeted visitors to Mr. Hall's construction office. If he could only see it now!



BELLMONT DUPLEX!

806 W. 31st St.

Owner: Nancy Webber



In 1933, Theo Belmont, whose home is next door at 810 W. 31st, subdivided his property and built this two-story rental duplex. Built around the same time as the UT Tower, this house features some large slabs of sawn limestone that Belmont may have gotten from the Tower construction. (Note the limestone in the floor of the entry porch.) The wood siding on the exterior is carefully matched and mitred at the corners, something never seen any more. The house has its original double-hung windows, as well as solid doors, hardwood floors, glass doorknobs and longleaf pine throughout. The downstairs unit still boasts its original corner cupboards in the dining room.

The architectural style of this house is Colonial Revival, as indicated by its overall symmetry, hipped roof, and especially the entry porch supported by slender columns. The owner has the contracts and specifications for the house and also the blueprints. Although no architect's name can be found, it is known that architect Raymond Everett (whose home was at 903 W. 31st St.) was a friend of Belmont's and designed numerous homes in the neighborhood. In addition to his duties as University of Texas Athletic Director and membership in several campus and civic organizations, Theo Belmont was an avid amateur stone mason. Many examples of his handiwork are scattered around the adjoining Belmont properties, including stone columns with Mexican tiles, stone garden benches around a fire pit and walkways. Belmont and Everett often had friendly arguments about the best kind of mortar to use. An original path still exists on the west side connecting this property with Belmont's house next door, an indication of neighborliness and trust that vanished with the advent of the privacy fence.

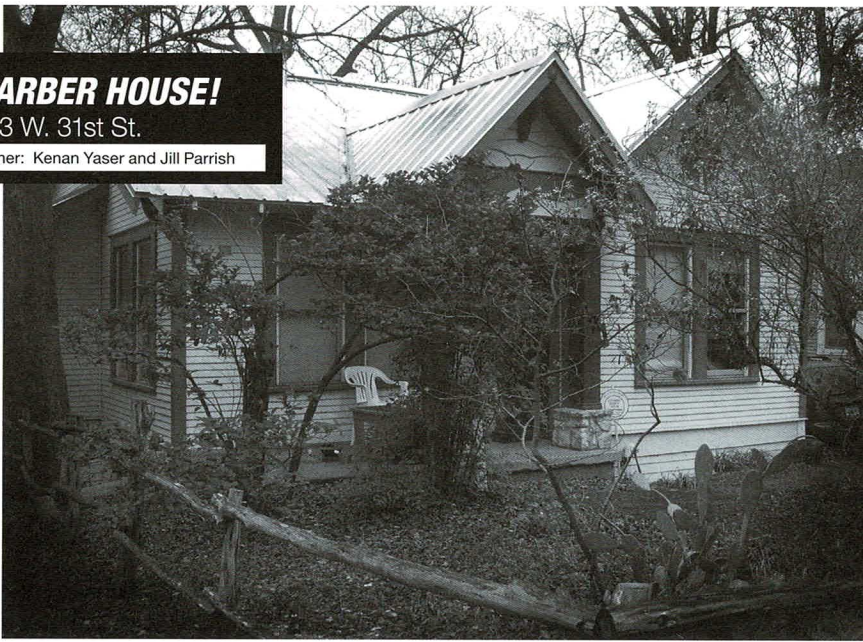
**FUEDING
NEIGHBORS?**



BARBER HOUSE!

613 W. 31st St.

Owner: Kenan Yaser and Jill Parrish



This charming bungalow is situated in an area once known as “Bachelors’ Row”, a series of two-bedroom/one-bath houses built as rentals on this block. Records indicate that it was built about 1931 by J. T. Barber, a State Highway Department supervisor, and subsequently was a rental for several decades. Among the many tenants was Tex (Pat) Robertson, who was an Olympic and UT swimming champion and later established Camp Longhorn at Inks Lake.

When the present owners bought the house in 1992, it was not much removed from its original state. A small pantry had been added on the back, probably in the late 1960s. In 1986 a previous owner remodeled the living room by having the ceiling vaulted and also added two decks, a small one in the back and a wrap-around porch in the rear apartment. The current owners upgraded the plumbing and wiring early on and then did a major remodeling later, using environmentally friendly techniques and materials. This included addition of a vaulted room in the back of the house and a new bath and loft with access to the attic. The foundation was shored up and new waste water lines installed, as well as a new metal roof. The original windows have been replaced and the kitchen and bath have been renovated. The bar counter in the kitchen and the bathroom counter were made from a black walnut tree that had to be cut down in the front yard. Note the two stained glass windows in the house, one of which was a house-warming gift to the owners. The pantry door is from Bali and is traditional Balinese style. All flooring and trim in the addition are longleaf pine salvaged from an old barn in South Austin.

**OLYMPIAN
LIVED HERE!**



IREDELL-TWIDWELL HOUSE!

616 W. 31½ St.

Owner: Jay Farrell

Although county records show that this house was built in 1924, city directories indicate that its first owner was engineer G. S. Iredell in 1920 and there is a hand-written date on a beam in the house reading “November, 1917.” Research indicates that this was a rental property in its early years. Later owner-occupants included a realtor, an accountant, and, for about 30 years, a supervisor at the State Water Resources Board, Dorsey Twidwell, and his wife.

The present owner, an architect, purchased the house in 1988. He describes the style of the house as transitional – a typical bungalow plan but with detailing that suggests an earlier period. The one-story frame structure is clad in original wood waterfall-type siding and has beaded board at the porch ceiling and bracketed soffits. Windows are nearly seven feet tall with antique glass—most of them are sixteen over one. A visitor immediately notices the wood screen reminiscent of New Orleans which provides privacy to the front porch while admitting air and breezes. The two doors to the porch are original, including the beveled glass.

Inside, the rooms are not large but the combination of their pleasing proportions, ten-foot ceilings and tall windows makes them feel larger than they are. The oak floors, interior trim work, five-panel doors and door hardware are all original, as are light fixtures in the living room, dining room, hall and bathroom ceiling. The kitchen and bath were remodeled about 1940, and the rear porch was partially enclosed. A patio added by the Twidwells separates the house from the board-and-batten 1940s garage. The present owner has made few changes to the plan, except to extend the enclosure of the back porch to make a larger breakfast area and small laundry room. He also changed the bathtub tile and lavatory trim and added central air/heat and insulation.

ARCHITECT OWNED!

This small house has a simple elegance in its detailing and proportioning and is a fine example of early twentieth-century residential design that has served its occupants well for almost 90 years.





SLOSS-HORVATH HOUSE!

700 W. 32nd St.

Owners: John Boardman and Mikal Grimes

This imposing two-story residence is a fine example of the American Foursquare style of architecture popular in the first decades of the twentieth century. It exhibits many characteristics of this style, such as the hipped roof, symmetrical façade with full-width front porch, square columns, and large multi-paned, double-hung windows. Note the sleeping porch above the side porch on the east side.

SIX CHILDREN!

Some interior changes were made to the house by the previous owner to accommodate his family of six children. One such change was the removal of a wall between the kitchen and dining room to provide a larger dining area. As the house then had no central heat or air conditioning, some partitions with sliding doors were enclosed, as the door pockets were a source of cold air in winter. Other modifications were made on the second story and an attic window was made into a door for access to the roof. The current owners have tried to restore the house to its original configuration as much as possible. Most of the windows are original, as are the front door and the two doors to the side porch. Only one original light fixture remains – in the downstairs bathroom. The owners have added a 1910-20s-era chandelier they purchased in Germany in the living room and a 1930s light fixture in the dining room. The major restoration by the current owners involved rebuilding the wall between the dining room and kitchen. In the process they found the original door jamb, as well as pieces of original trim, which they were able to recreate. When the partition was removed, they found cheesecloth and old wallpaper with outlines of the old molding on the trim.

It is believed that this is one of the homes designed and built by Ada Read Penn, who owned the house at 3112 West Avenue (Heritage House) as well as ten acres. When her husband died in 1909, she began to subdivide her land and over the next decades she was to design and build or remodel nearly forty homes in the neighborhood. This plan is strikingly similar to two other houses she is known to have built nearby, although the others have different porch layouts and building materials. County deed records indicate that the house was built in 1922; however, other records show that Milo and Sallie Sloss bought the property in 1919 and sold it the following year for \$9,500, a likely indication that there was a house here at that time.



BELLMONT-COGDELL HOUSE!

810 W. 31st St.

Owners: John and Ann Cogdell

This large, two-story house began life as a single story when it was built in 1915 by University of Texas Athletics Director L. Theo Bellmont and his wife Frieda. About 12 years later they added the second story, which was designed by their friend and neighbor, architect Raymond Everett. The house has only changed hands once, in 1974, when the Cogdells purchased it from the Bellmont estate.

SEE BELLMONT'S HALL!

Although the house appears to be almost colonial in style on the outside, the interior is basically craftsman style, with its built-ins in the dining room and kitchen, beamed ceiling in the living room and multitude of small-paned windows. Architect Everett loved arches and curved stairways, both of which are in evidence here. There are many original features, including the wood floors, bathroom tiles, many of the light fixtures, interior doors, hardware and windows. Outside one can see the original shutters and wisteria arbor, as well as examples of Bellmont's skills as an amateur stonemason. The extensive stone work around this residence and the duplex next door (built by Bellmont in the 1930s) attests to his extraordinary talents and vision. There are stone retaining walls, patios, gateposts--some with the original Mexican tiles, stone niches with tiles, a pool and waterfall, semi-circular bench with fire pit, and numerous stone paths gracing and connecting the two properties.

If the name Bellmont rings a bell, it should! Theo Bellmont was a young man working as director of the Houston YMCA when the University of Texas hired him in 1913 to organize its athletic program. He started by re-organizing physical and inter-collegiate training and adding an intramural program. In 1915 he helped organize the Southwest Conference. He conceived and ran the drive for the football stadium and oversaw its construction. He planned and created a baseball field for UT, as well as the Pennick tennis courts. Together with Clyde Littlefield he created the Texas Relays. Somehow he found time to serve on several University and city boards and was active in the American Legion, Red Cross, Rotary and the Masons. After thirty-nine years he finally retired. In 1972 the new building supporting the west side upper deck of Memorial Stadium was named for him.





AKIN HOUSE!

614 W. 31½ St.

Owners: Laurie Limbacher and Al Godfrey

This attractive and comfortable home has a colorful history. Built as early as 1907, it was apparently a rental for a number of years until purchased by the Robert H. Akin family in 1935. One of their children, Harry, had taken an abandoned fruit stand at South Congress and Riverside in 1932 and turned it into a little burger joint.

The following year he opened a second café on Guadalupe to serve the university area. He dubbed his restaurants Nighthawk #1 and #2, since they were open until the wee hours, when most local establishments closed shortly after dinner. He eventually opened a third location at Koenig Lane and Burnet Road in what was then far north Austin. From the beginning Harry Akin hired and promoted both blacks and women and in 1963 his restaurants were the first Austin eateries to serve black customers. Akin's pioneering efforts contributed greatly to the mostly calm and peaceful way integration was carried out in local businesses. During his forty-some years in the restaurant business he managed to find time to serve as mayor of Austin from 1967 to 1969.

NUDE BARBECUING!

After Robert H. Akin died, Mrs. Ollie Akin continued to live in the house for many years and operated a rooming house for girls attending UT. Upon her death in 1965, the house was acquired by Martin Wiggington and Bobbie Nelson, who were music fans and operated several local music clubs, including the Alamo Lounge and Emma Joe's. They converted the structure to a communal living space for musicians and it was featured on the cover of the first music issue of the Austin Chronicle, with a group of musicians on the front porch. Accord-

ing to neighborhood lore, it was the biggest, loudest party house on the street and residents were sometimes known for nude barbecuing in the back yard.

When the present owners purchased the house in 1994, they leveled the house, installed new wiring, heating and cooling systems and removed many of the infill walls that had been added during the commune era. The original chimney had to be demolished as its mortar had failed and it was falling down and dangerous. They have also removed the original garage, which suffered from the ravages of time and termites, and added a new, free-standing garage and carport. There is a small addition on the rear of the house containing a new laundry room and screened porch.

This structure can best be described as transitional – it contains elements of Victorian style, as well as Craftsman, Bungalow and Colonial Revival. All of the doors, hardware and windows are original, except those in the rear addition. During a remodeling in the 1940s, oak flooring was installed over the original longleaf pine in the living room and dining room.

HERITAGE HOUSE!

3112 West Avenue

Owner: Simon Atkinson



The history of this property goes back to the earliest days of Texas statehood. Old abstracts indicate that in 1846 Harriet Jaynes was given this parcel of land for services rendered to the Republic of Texas by her husband. It appears that she built a small structure and lived here for a year, which was required for homesteading.

The property changed hands several times and, finally, in 1872, William Smythe contracted with prominent local builder C. F. Millet for construction of a stone and wood dwelling in the amount of \$1,461.36. Five years later the home was sold at auction, due to Mr. Smythe's inability to pay Mr. Millet for his work. In 1883 William Baker acquired the house and is believed to have added the front upper and lower rooms to accommodate a girls' school run by his daughter. In 1903 Judge Robert Lee Penn purchased the property for \$3,730 and moved in, together with his wife, Ada, six children and a variety of livestock.

After Robert's death in 1909, as Ada began to subdivide her property and build homes on the

lots, the neighborhood was known as Oakwood and later Penn Place. At some point the Penn home became known as Heritage House and the neighborhood took its name from it. (An interesting footnote to the house's history is that Ada Penn claimed that the first part of the house, the kitchen, was built in 1839, by one of the Baker brothers, Indian fighters known to have come to the area in 1838. However, there is no documentation to support this.) After Ada Penn's death in 1955, the house was acquired by the Heritage Society and was our headquarters for almost twenty years. The present owner purchased it in 1988.

The house is an accumulation of stone additions to a small one-room stone house, most probably built in the 1840s of hand-hewn logs and local limestone. Whether this original stone room was built by the Bakers or Harriet Jaynes is open to speculation. The main portion is a two-story vernacular building with an attached, columned two-story open porch across the entire front façade, and topped by a hipped standing-seam metal roof. A one-story stone section forms an L-shaped wing and borders the courtyard. It is partially topped with a wood frame portion in the rear. The pool was added by a previous owner.

INDIAN FIGHTER?

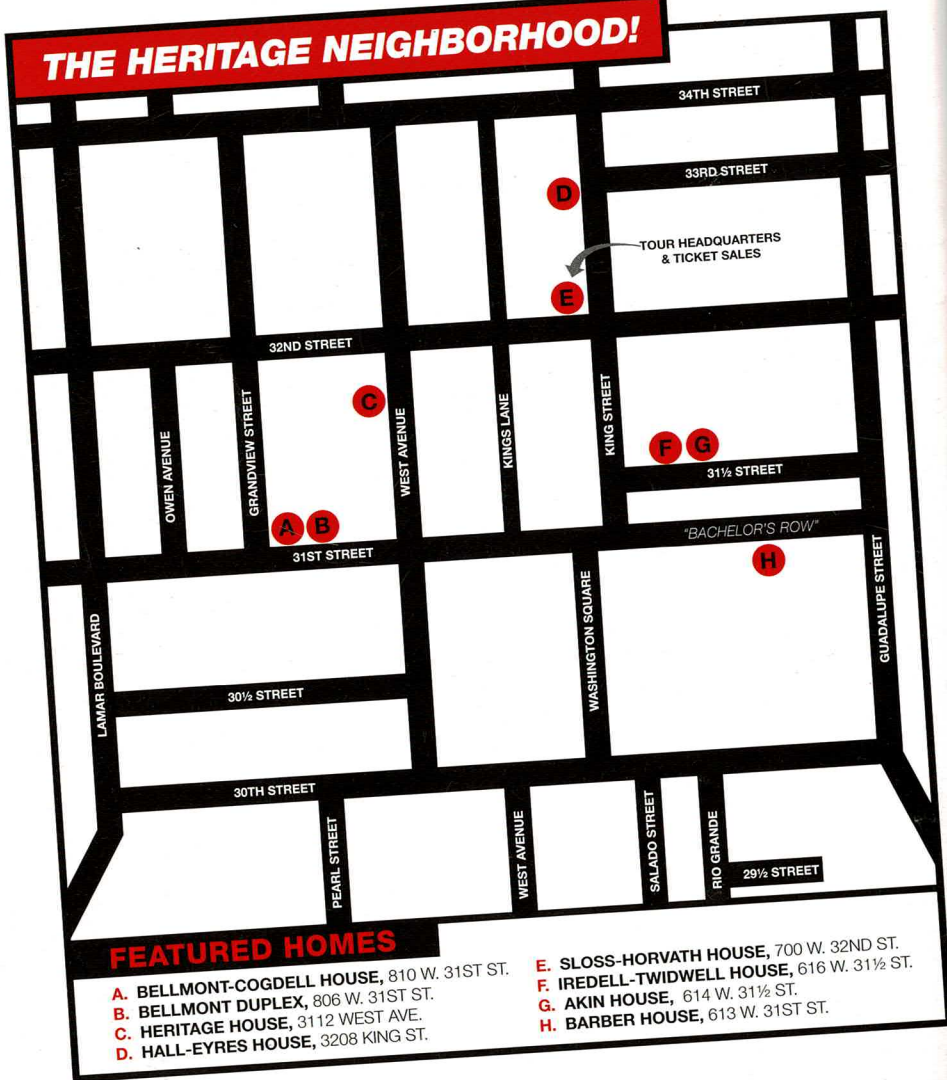
MAYBE, MAYBE NOT!

Old photographs indicate that all of the stone structure existed when Judge Penn purchased the property in 1903. He had the second-

story wood frame rooms added above the current living and dining rooms to accommodate his brood. In 1907, the two-level front porch was added, fulfilling Ada Penn's dream of an old colonial home similar to those of her Virginia ancestors. She also planted the magnolia trees in the front yard. Interviews with some of the Penn children featured lively stories of many a dance given by the Penn boys and girls in the large, rectangular living room, with its fireplace at one end, to which the girls brought their dancing slippers in bags dangling from their arms.

HOMES TOUR MAP!

THE HERITAGE NEIGHBORHOOD!



FEATURED HOMES

- A. BELLMONT-COGDELL HOUSE, 810 W. 31ST ST.
- B. BELLMONT DUPLEX, 806 W. 31ST ST.
- C. HERITAGE HOUSE, 3112 WEST AVE.
- D. HALL-EYRES HOUSE, 3208 KING ST.
- E. SLOSS-HORVATH HOUSE, 700 W. 32ND ST.
- F. IREDELL-TWIDWELL HOUSE, 616 W. 31½ ST.
- G. AKIN HOUSE, 614 W. 31½ ST.
- H. BARBER HOUSE, 613 W. 31ST ST.