


PRESERVATION

AUSTIN

Spring 2012, Volume 16 No. 2

20th Annual Heritage Homes Tour

April 28, 2012  10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



The Heritage Society of Austin proudly announces its 20th annual Heritage Homes Tour to be held on April 28, 2012, spotlighting Judges Hill, established in 1851 as Austin's original city neighborhood. Architectural gems will celebrate the preservation of its gracious homes nestled under heritage trees with views of the capitol dome and Austin's glittering downtown skyline.

Tour highlights will include the fabulously restored interior of an Austin landmark featured in the *Austin American-Statesman*, a renovation/addition featured in *TRIBEZA*, *Metropolitan Home* and HGTV *What You Get for the Money*, and the creative incorporation of architectural elements from prominent Austin buildings into another Landmark property. Judges Hill is bordered by Rio Grande Street, 15th Street, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd and Lamar Blvd.

The Heritage Society believes that one of Austin's great assets is the wealth of intact historic neighborhoods, such as Judges Hill, that stabilize and enhance our central city. The Heritage Homes Tour provides a valuable resource to our community by raising awareness and appreciation of these noteworthy neighborhoods. Attendees learn about our community's history and architecture and witness how residents value older neighborhoods, preserving the qualities that made them special.

Homes Tour Lectures

Protecting Heritage Trees

by City Arborist, Michael Embesi

Thursday, April 19, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Big Red Sun, 1311 East Cesar Chavez

\$15 per guest

Learn the history of these fragile giants and the importance of their care and protection. Reception to follow the talk.

Designing Historic Interiors

by Candace Volz, ASID

Tuesday, April 24, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

AMOA - Arthouse at Laguna Gloria

\$20 per guest

Learn about the special considerations and resources available when addressing interior design of historic properties. Reception to follow the talk.



Continued on page 3

Announcing the Heritage Quiz



Start honing your knowledge of historic Austin in preparation for the launch of HSA's new on-line Heritage Quiz.

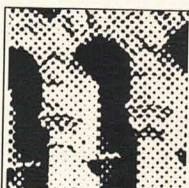
The first Friday of every month, we'll be posting on our Facebook page an image of an historic site in Austin. The first responder to identify the site will win a gift certificate to a local coffee shop.

Don't miss this opportunity for public glory and a gratis caffeine fix. Like us now at <https://www.facebook.com/HeritageSocietyAustin>.

To get you warmed up, identify the building below.



Answer: Deep Eddy Bathhouse, 401 Deep Eddy Ave.



HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

STAFF

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The Ghosts of Judges Hill: A Neighborhood History

by Phoebe Allen

Saturday, April 28, 11:00 a.m.,

1:00 & 3:00 p.m.

The Kozmetsky House, 1001 W. 17th St.

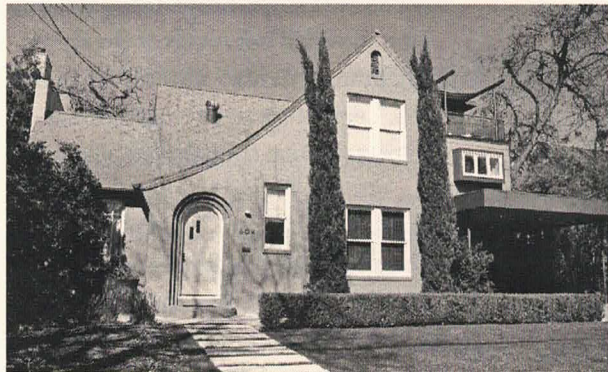
Free to Tour Ticket Buyers, Limited Seating.

Stroll back in time through one of Austin's earliest neighborhoods, using tools to unearth its phantoms and reveal stories of powerful residents who fashioned the foundations of our urban development and growth. Ghost Houses, now demolished, sheltered many forgotten but influential Austin families in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Tour and lecture tickets are available in advance on line. Tour tickets are also available (cash & check only) at the consignment locations: Breed & Co. (both locations), Zinger Hardware, Tarrytown Pharmacy or Restoration Hardware, or on day of event at Tour Headquarters at 16th & Rio Grande Streets. \$23 members / \$28 non-members/ \$23 Children 12 and under. To buy tickets or for more information on the tour, map, and FAQ, visit www.heritagesocietyaustin.org.



712 W. 16th St., Herblin-Meritt House



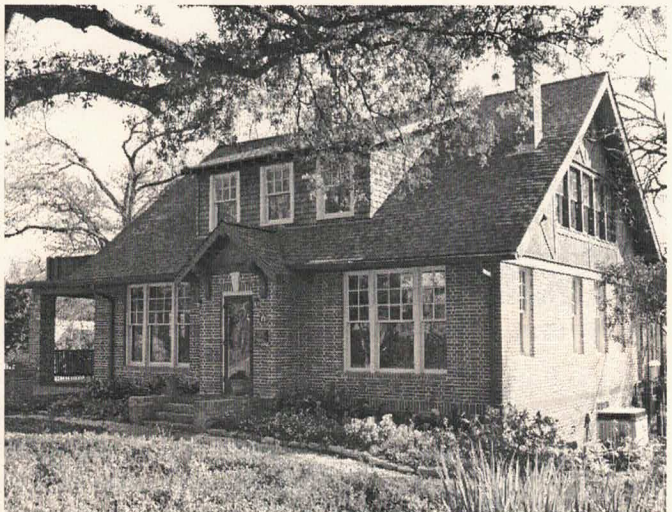
804 W. 17th St., Ahlgrimm House



1606 Pearl Street, McClendon-Price House



1603 Pearl St., St. David's Rectory



901 W. 16th St., Max Bickler House



The Fascinating Denizens of Judges Hill

The Marshall, the Cotton Builders, the Deal Maker, and the Murdered Mistress

The story of the Judges Hill neighborhood is told both by its historic homes and the fascinating people who lived in them. Learn more about the history of the neighborhood, and some of the homes that have been lost at “The Ghosts of Judges Hill” lecture by Phoebe Allen the day of the tour at 11:00, 1:00 & 3:00. Free to tour ticket buyers, limited seating.

The first house in Judges Hill was built circa 1851 by **E.S.C. Robertson**, the son of the Impresario of Robertson Colony. A number of early Judges Hill residents had connections to this colony. His residence later served as the home of **James Lucy**, former Texas Ranger and City Marshal, who stood about five



Edgar Perry House, 1611 West Avenue



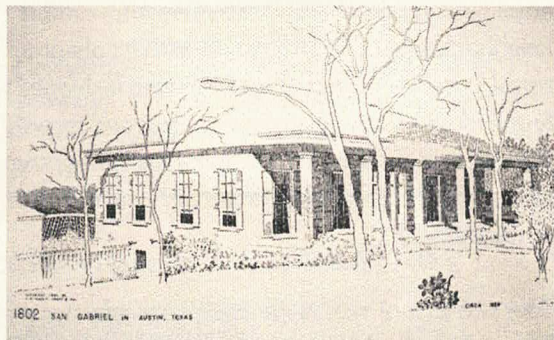
House House, 1704 West Ave. (Demolished)

feet tall and arrested the notorious gunfighter and gambler Ben Thompson. When Thompson became City Marshall in 1881, Austin’s crime rate dropped. The house at 1802 San Gabriel was demolished in 1966. **Judge W. St. John Garwood**, an associate justice on the Texas Supreme Court, built the current home at this address. His wife, Ellen Clayton Garwood, donated money to groups backing Nicaraguan Contras, testified in support of Oliver North, and bought a helicopter to evacuate Contra soldiers.

In 1891 **Colonel Edward Mandell House** built

a Shingle Style Richardsonian Romanesque home at 1704 West Avenue (demolished in 1967) which was arguably one of the most architecturally and historically significant residential buildings in Austin. House was a close advisor to President Woodrow Wilson, authored a novel considered to be a blueprint for the New Deal, and participated in negotiations during and after World War I. The site now houses condominiums.

The 1898 **Coon-Gilbert-Doggett House** at 1402 West Avenue, built by a gambler, was the home of City Physician



Robertson-Lucy-Vance House, 1802 San Gabriel (Demolished)

Dr. Joe Gilbert, who was a founder of the original, privately owned, St. David’s Hospital. A.O. Watson remodeled the home in the 1920s, removing a turret, wraparound gallery and Victorian gingerbread to reflect a



Coon-Gilbert-Doggett House, 1402 West Ave.

more modern Colonial Revival style. Dentist **Lloyd Doggett** bought the house in 1957 after a fire damaged the second story. **Lloyd Doggett, Jr.**, who shoveled out much of the debris as a young student, now serves in the U.S. Legislature as a Congressional Representative from Austin.

The 1906 Palladian Colonial Revival **Thomson-Alexander House** at 900 W. 17th Street is the only remaining home of three Thomson brothers

Continued on page 5

Austin Guitar Salon

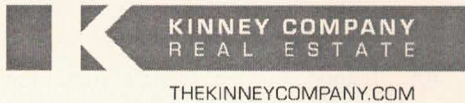
SPRING Series 2012



The Austin Classical Guitar Society and the Heritage Society of Austin continue their celebrated partnership to present this spring season of intimate classical guitar concerts in historic homes in Austin. These special evenings are made irresistibly delicious thanks to **Antonelli's Cheese Shop** and **Twin Liquors**, who are sponsoring wine and cheese receptions at each concert.

The Austin Guitar Salon spring series 2012 includes two concerts in unique, historic settings and feature two phenomenal artists. For tickets or more information visit AustinClassicalGuitar.org or call 512-300-ACGS.

The Austin Guitar Salon spring series 2012 is sponsored by **The Kinney Company**.



**Thomas Echols at the
McClendon-Price House (1906)**

Saturday, May 19 at 7 p.m.

The historic landmark McClendon-Price House (1906) has been the gracious venue for many social events hosted by some of Austin's most prominent residents, from a 1907 Governor's Inaugural celebration to this, the May 2012 Austin Guitar Salon event featuring Austin's own Thomas Echols! Tickets \$50 (\$40 ACGS/HSA members).



Judges Hill, continued from page 4



John Brady House, 1601 Pearl Street



H.A. Thomson House, 900 W. 17th Street

who lived in Judges Hill. All three were cattlemen and grandsons of a key player in Robertson's Colony. Horace Thomson's nephew, well-known Dallas architect **Henry 'Hal' Bowers Thomson** (who grew up in the Judges Hill neighborhood) designed this brick home shortly

after completing his studies.

The **Edgar Perry House** at 1611 West Avenue features Queen Anne and Victorian influences. Built by a cotton buyer and exporter in 1909, it was the home of **Liz Sutherland Carpenter** during her teenage years.

The Arts & Crafts Bungalow at 1601 Pearl Street was built in 1915 for **Judge John Brady**, who was convicted in 1929 of stabbing his young paramour after a football game. He served less than two years in prison and returned to live out his life here with his wife.

Preservation Champions

Dr. Michael Holleran

By Liz Carmack



Dr. Michael Holleran

Michael Holleran has served as an associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin's School of Architecture and director of its Graduate Program in Historic Preservation since 2006.

He leads his students in projects that tackle real-world issues addressing Austin's immediate preservation needs. This includes the development of the Austin Historical Survey Web Tool, an online application that brings together citizens' local knowledge and preservation professionals' expertise to improve the transparency, accuracy, and timeliness of historic survey information.

Holleran began his career as a partner and planner at Everett-Clarke-Holleran Associates in Providence, Rhode Island. The architectural firm primarily worked on preservation projects. He came to Austin from the University of Colorado College of Architecture and Planning, where he served as associate dean of research, associate professor of planning and design, and director of the Colorado Center for Preservation Research. He serves on the Heritage Society of Austin's Board of Directors as a voting representative of the UT School of Architecture.

You've worked in the field of preservation in Providence, in Boulder and now in Austin. How do Austin's historic preservation challenges differ from those faced by these other communities?

One thing that I'm conscious of from Boulder is it is such a small and utopian

community. Everyone is busy making everything perfect. It has tremendous preservation successes, but as someone who teaches preservation it's not the real world. Austin is a lot more like the real world. Problems here are problems other people have and things that work here are things that other people can use to solve these problems.

Can you please briefly describe the Austin Historical Survey Web Tool project, explain its purpose, and how close you are to scaling it city-wide?

The Historical Survey Wiki is in beta testing now in East Austin and the North University area. It's a website that displays historical information, and allows users to update and contribute to it. It is funded by a Preserve America grant for initial roll-out in East Austin, which we plan for May. We're not yet funded to go citywide, but we hope we will be. You can find more information here, soa.utexas.edu/hp/austin_survey.

How do you envision this Wiki project will affect local historic preservation efforts?

The Wiki builds on the great grassroots organizing that has produced Austin's first local historic districts, and it builds on Austin citizens' great interest in our neighborhoods and our heritage. The Wiki can help preservation be better rooted in what really matters to people.

You encourage your graduate students to tackle real-life, local preservation projects. Why is this important?

Preservation means solving real problems. Some architecture studios can assign hypothetical sites; there's no such

thing as a hypothetical preservation project.

What are a couple of these projects (aside from the Wiki project) that you're most proud of and why?

Our Preservation Studio explored alternatives for the adaptive use of the American National Bank downtown, for the restoration of the Byrne-Reed House (the Humanities Texas headquarters). Both of those are now real projects, successfully completed. We can't take credit, but we hope we helped illuminate possibilities. Our students look at the real project and they keep learning.

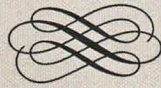
How specifically have your students helped the Heritage Society of Austin?

Our Preservation Planning class gathered data to inform revisions to the city's Local Historic District ordinance. Our Sustainable Preservation seminar looked at guidelines for one of the districts, and found that preservation and green building are largely compatible. Many of our students serve as volunteers with the society.

What is the best thing the average person can do to help ensure Austin's historic assets are preserved?

Know what you have, and take care of it. Preservation is not so special or mysterious. We take care of what we love. ♪

Legacy Preservation Partners



PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM OF THE HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

The Heritage Society of Austin is pleased to present a Planned Giving program to support our mission. The Planned Giving program will create a secure financial future to allow the Society to focus more time and attention on the preservation of Austin's shared heritage and less on fundraising obligations.

We hope you will name the Heritage Society of Austin as a beneficiary of your estate plan and be recognized as a charter member of the Legacy Preservation Partners. This esteemed group of donors pledge planned gifts of \$5,000 or more to the Society.

Making a planned gift to the Society bequeaths the legacy of Austin's unique and cherished character to future generations. Your support will ensure our ability to maintain constant vigilance over major threats to Austin's heritage. A gift will empower us to prevail on future challenges, as we have on maintaining tax abatements for City Landmark properties, the adoption of a Local Historic Districts program, strengthening Austin's Preservation Plan, and the ongoing effort to preserve the Capitol View Corridors.

The current and future work of the Heritage Society of Austin depends upon your goodwill. To that end, there are a myriad of planned giving options from which you can choose – from naming us as a beneficiary in your will to a gift of stock. Planned gifts are popular because they can provide valuable tax benefits and/or income for life.

Potential Benefits of Planned Gifts

- ◆ Increase current income for the donor or others
- ◆ Reduce the donor's income tax
- ◆ Avoid capital gains tax
- ◆ Pass assets to family at a reduced tax cost
- ◆ Make significant donations to charity



You can visit our website at www.heritagesocietyaustin.com/PlannedGiving to learn more about specific giving options.

To make a gift or receive more details, please contact Executive Director Jacqui Schraad at 474-5198, ext. 7728 or Jacqui@hsaustin.org.

PIONEER FARMS

AN UPDATE ABOUT ALL THE GOINGS-ON AT AUSTIN'S PREMIER LIVING HISTORY PARK.



The Biscuit Brothers perform at Pioneer Farms

HUGE FAMILY MUSIC FEST

**BISCUIT BROTHERS, SWING BAND, FAMILY SINGERS,
UKELELES TO HEADLINE MUSIC FEST**

Mark your calendars: The Austin Family Music Festival is coming on Saturday, April 21 from 10:00-3:00, a bigger and better spring-time festival for children of all ages. Hosted once again by the Emmy Award-winning Biscuit Brothers, who film their PBS shows at Pioneer Farms, the event will feature a full slate of great musical acts that will be announced with a drum roll in coming weeks as the excitement begins building. Other headliners: The well-known, horn-driven Magnificent VII swing band and the hit 3rd Generation kids' band, the Snowy Days and the Austin Ukelele Society. Expected: More hands-on musical attractions for kids, more things to hear and do for visitors, more food and more musical activities. Also scheduled to perform will be the Austin Symphony Ensemble, the Taiko Japanese drums and Mariachi Relampago, among other local musicians. An Instrument Petting Zoo, Musical Hay-rides, pony rides, crafts and food will round out the big day of fun. Free music CDs for kids sponsored by Austin Family Magazine will be given out while supplies last. The popular event, the only children-oriented music festival in Austin, annually attracts thousands of people for a day of family fun. In addition to five hours of musical entertainment, your festival admission will get you into Pioneer Farms for the day.

Book at AustinFamilyMusicFestival.com.



WILDFLOWER RESTORATION PROJECT SETTING OUR TRAILS ABLAZE

Our year-long wildflower restoration project is paying some colorfully blooming dividends. In the 1800s, wildflowers were a common, seasonal burst of color along fence lines, trails and pathways across Texas. And the bluebonnets, coneflowers, coreopsis and other natives are now blooming just like a century ago — in a colorful spring vista. Come out with your camera for some history-filled shots while the wildflowers are out in full bloom.

CUB SCOUT EXTRAVAGANZA TO FEATURE WORKSHOPS, DEMOS ON APRIL 28

The Boy Scouts of America's Capital Area Council will hold a special field day for Cub Scouts at Pioneer Farms on Saturday, April 28 from 10:00-3:00. Armadillo District officials said more than 200 Cubs and their parents from the Austin area are expected. Events will include a fossil/artifact dig, animal tracks and leaf molds, a rain-gutter regatta, archery, rocket launching and a hike, among other activities. Cub Scout patches and pins will also be available.



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TEXAS RIFLES, CIVILIAN HOME FRONT GROUPS RETURN FOR MORE REAL 1800s SHOWS

Two well-known history re-enactor groups will turn back time on two weekends in April. The Texas Rifles that staged their annual muster at Pioneer Farms in January is returning for another historical show on Saturday, April 14 — in civilian, not military, gear this time. And the Civilian Home Front group that is reenacting Texas during the Civil War will perform “The War At Home: 1862” on Saturday and Sunday, April 28-29. If you have never seen them in action, they are amazing, with costumes and first-person interpretation that makes you feel like you’ve stepped back in time to frontier Texas. Both of these events are unique to the Austin area, a must-see for people of all walks of life. Both groups are recognized Texas history re-enactors that affiliated with Pioneer Farms as part of our expanding commitment to quality historical programming and events.



Civil War re-enactors at Pioneer Farms bring the Civil War era to life

FOUND: A VINTAGE DANCE HALL FOR OUR SQUARE

After a year of searching, we may finally have found an historic dance hall to be relocated onto our Sprinkle Corner Town Square. The long-abandoned West Point Hall near La Grange has tentatively been offered to Pioneer Farms by the descendants of the two men who built it. Now, we just have to raise the money to move it. The large wood-frame structure has a large open floor space, a stage area and a side addition (probably added in later years). It would be used as an events hall. Dance halls were a common feature of small towns in this area from the 1870s forward, serving as social centers, where events, meetings and dancing occurred. Most have been abandoned or torn down. Planning has started to raise money to move the hall. See PioneerFarms.org for details. ♡

Many Thanks

to our New and Renewing Members

CONTRIBUTOR

Penny Gonzales
Martha Lel Hawkins
Connie Moore

FAMILY

Margaret Menicucci & Michael Whellan
Barbara & Carl Daywood
Carol & Kent Hemingson
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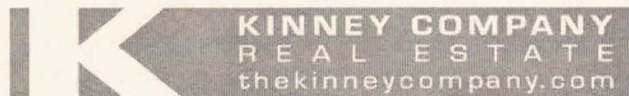
OPPORTUNITY ON JUDGES HILL



BRADY HOUSE AT 1601 PEARL STREET

The Brady House, a 1910 arts and crafts bungalow is a City of Austin Landmark. The two-story house of rock-face brick sits on a corner lot with porches on two sides. The interior needs complete restoration. A large rear garage and apartment were built in 2008. \$750,000

Lin Team, *Old Austin REALTOR*® 512-472-1930
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Hospitality Committee – Volunteer Opportunity

The Heritage Society is looking for volunteers for the newly formed Hospitality Committee. This committee helps with logistics for HSA events such as the Homes Tour Volunteer Appreciation Party, Explore Austin Landmark events, Beyond Paint Chip lectures, Holiday Party, Annual Membership Meeting, etc. The volunteer work for this committee includes: ordering food, picking up food, setting up for an event, tidying up after an event, and helping with check-in at events. This is a great way to participate in the variety of events that HSA does and learn more about the Heritage Society! Contact volunteer@hsaustin.org if you are interested.

We started our 2012 season by expanding the Inherit Austin board, and we welcome new board members Anne Hebert, Sara Maffey, Luisa Mauro, Michelle Slattery and Caroline Wright. Adding these new members is great for Inherit Austin. Each of them has a unique background that adds diversity to our board and brings fresh new ideas to further our mission. We are already planning more events at both iconic landmarks and lesser-known local treasures that benefit our members and attract new members who are excited about exploring Austin's historic spaces.

We've had a fun last few months and look forward to more events like these:

- ❖ Inherit Austin wrapped up 2011 with a festive Cookies with Santa event on December 18th at the home of Inherit Austin board member Brandy Agnew.
- ❖ We enjoyed an evening outside at the new Easy Tiger Bake Shop and Beer Garden on February 28th. This happy hour drew a good crowd who was just as interested in patronizing the new concept of a bakery with beer in an area of



6th street they haven't seen in years as they were in seeing the much-acclaimed interior renovation of this historic space.

The Cynthia & Lowell Smith Family enjoying Cookies with Santa last December.



Guests at the "Somewhere in Time: Oakwood Cemetery" dinner enjoyed tours of the historic cemetery by costumed guides.

- ❖ The annual Easter Egg Hunt at Laguna Gloria on April 7th was once again a huge success and a fun outing for over 100 families. We appreciate the hard work of event chairs Heather Chesney and Natalie Kinsel.

2012 marks our tenth year for this event, and Inherit Austin is proud to host what has become local tradition — a picturesque holiday festivity on the grounds of the historic Driscoll villa on Lake Austin.

We'll soon be announcing dates and details for the Downtown Dillo tour, the annual "Somewhere in Time" fundraiser and movie night at the Paramount. We look forward to celebrating Austin's history and culture at fun, social events with our members throughout the year. ☺



Please call the HSA office or check out the website and to join Inherit Austin. Memberships: \$65/individual, \$80/couple-dual.

The purpose of Inherit Austin is to cultivate a new generation of HSA members by hosting social, cultural and educational events that appeal to singles, married couples and families roughly ages 20-45. ☺



HERITAGE
SOCIETY OF
AUSTIN

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information@hsaustin.org

⇒ HSA CALENDAR OF EVENTS ⇐

April 19 – **Protecting Heritage Trees lecture**
6:00-8:00 p.m. Big Red Sun, 1311 East Cesar Chavez,
\$15 per guest.

April 21 – **Austin Family Music Festival at Pioneer Farms,**
Tickets at pioneerfarms.org.

April 24 – **Designing Historic Interiors lecture**
6:00-8:00 p.m., AMOA-Arthouse at Laguna Gloria. \$20 per guest

April 28 – **The Ghosts of Judges Hill: A Neighborhood History**
11:00 a.m., 1:00 & 3:00 p.m., 1001 W. 17th St. Free to Tour Ticket
Buyers, Limited Seating.

April 28 – **Heritage Homes Tour featuring Judges Hill**
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tour Headquarters at 16th & Rio Grande
Streets

May 19 – **Austin Guitar Salon at the McClendon-Price House**
7:00 p.m., Tickets \$50 (\$40 ACGS/HSA members)

May 21 – **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for more
information.

June 25 – **Historic Landmark Commission Meeting**
7:00 p.m., Austin City Hall. Please call 512.974.3530 for more
information.

*Tickets to Events available at www.heritagesocietyaustin.org
or 474-5198.*