



PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —

FORMERLY HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Fall 2014 ★ Volume 18 No. 4



54th Annual Preservation Merit Awards Celebration

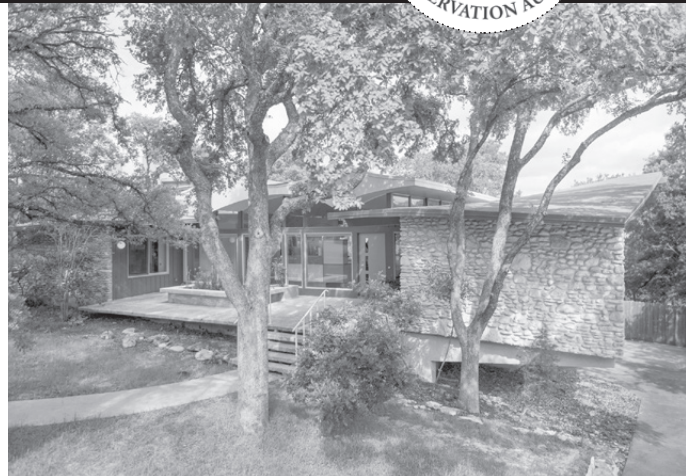


Friday, November 21, 2014
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
The Driskill Hotel



Preservation Austin will celebrate its 54th annual Preservation Awards ceremony on Friday, November 21st, at the Driskill Hotel, with featured speaker Johnny K. Campbell, President and CEO of Sundance Square in Fort Worth. The Preservation Awards are presented annually to honor individuals and organizations whose vision and commitment to preservation have had a lasting impact on Austin's diverse and unique cultural heritage.

We are delighted to feature Johnny K. Campbell, President and CEO of historic Sundance Square in Fort Worth, who will present *Preservation, Planning, and Profit: a Long-Term Success Story*. For over thirteen years, Campbell has guided both the growth and preservation of Sundance Square, a multi-block downtown mixed-use development in Fort Worth, internationally recognized for its restored historic buildings and known as a case study of successful downtown revitalization using historic preservation as its centerpiece. In 2010, Sundance Square received the Urban Land Institute's International Award for Excellence. Campbell's presentation will be a timely reminder of how Austin can integrate historic preservation in the future of our urban design, as we embark on revision of our Land Development Code.



A.D. Stenger House

Preservation Austin holds this annual celebration to express our appreciation to preservationists who have contributed their hard work to protect and promote Austin's history. Individuals and organizations are honored for their projects, talents and skills in preservation. Seven awards are selected by a special Awards Committee made up of historians, architects, and preservationists who are members of the Preservation and Education Committees. See the Preservation Merit Awards article on page 3 that lists all award winners. Sponsorships for the Awards Celebration Luncheon are available now and \$100 tickets go on sale October 31st, at PreservationAustin.org/events. ★



**Austin's 10-1 Council Update:
Don't forget to vote for preservation
on November 4th**

If you follow Preservation Austin's emails and Facebook page, then you know that we submitted a questionnaire to all candidates for their responses prior to early elections. If you have not yet voted, be sure to check PA's website blog for candidates' responses to preservation questions before you head to the polls. Go to Preservation Austin's website to see which candidates responded to the questionnaire and how they stand on preservation issues: PreservationAustin.org/blog ★



Get the earliest notice of event ticket sales and updates on the latest preservation issues in Austin.

Like us at facebook.com/PreservationAustin



**PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —**

★ STAFF

Kate Singleton, Executive Director

Mailing Address - P.O. Box 2113, Austin, TX 78768
Physical Address - 500 Chicon, Austin, 78702
Ph. (512) 474-5198 Fax (512) 476-8687

www.preservationaustin.org info@preservationaustin.org



**PRESERVATION
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2014-2015 Board of Directors

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| Samantha Davidson | Richard Kooris | Bratten Thomason |
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Michelle Slattery, Inherit Austin
John Rosato, Landmark Commission
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| Beth & Tom Granger | Carol Carpenter Winkel |
| Debbie & Mark Hanna | Patricia Winston & Bill Head |
| | Eva & Marvin Womack |



Preservation Merit Awards

Merit Awards for Properties



A.D. Stenger House

312 Ridgewood Road
Josh and Erin Bernstein

Jeffrey's Compound

1204-A West Lynn Street
Larry McGuire,
McGuire Moorman Hospitality

Sampson-Nalle House

1003 Rio Grande Street
Karey Nalle Oddo, 1003, FLP

Wooldridge Park

900 Guadalupe Street
Sarah Hensley, Director
City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Friends and Neighbors

2614 E. Cesar Chavez Street
Jade Place-Mathews, Greg Mathews, Jill Bradshaw



Friends and Neighbors



Merit Awards for Individuals or Organizations



Michael Barnes

Media

Texas Historical Commission

Stewardship of Austin Properties



Gethsemane Lutheran Church



PRESERVATION
AUSTIN




HERITAGE QUIZ

by Rebekah Dobrasko

The first Friday of every month, Preservation Austin presents our Heritage Quiz on Facebook. We post a photo clue of an Austin historic site and our Facebook friends commence to offering their best educated guesses. The first responder to identify the site wins a gift certificate to Cenoté Coffeehouse. Look for our quiz and show all of your Facebook friends how much you know about Austin's landmarks. Then, once caffeinated with your free cup of coffee, tell everyone about it.

★ Like us now at facebook.com/PreservationAustin

Congratulations to our recent winners to date, who correctly identified the following properties:

 **Deep Eddy Bathing Pool** _____ ◇
401 Deep Eddy Drive Winner: Karen Kocher

The Deep Eddy Pool opened in 1902 on the Johnson family land outside of Austin. The Johnsons built campsites, rental cottages, and a cable ride on the Colorado River for visitors to enjoy. The beach expanded a few years later into a resort with a Ferris wheel, carousel rides, trapeze swings, and diving towers. Deep Eddy Bathing Beach was destroyed by a flood in 1934. The original bathhouse was destroyed in the flood, and the Works Progress Administration built the current bathhouse, which is a great example of New Deal architecture in Austin. The City of Austin rebuilt the concrete pool after the flood. The area reopened in 1936 as Eilers Park and Deep Eddy Swimming Pool. The pool and its surroundings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are a City of Austin Landmark.



 **Royal Arch Masonic Lodge** _____ ◇
311 W. 7th Street Winner: Kim McKnight

The Royal Arch Masonic Lodge is a three-story Beaux Arts brick building designed by Texas architects J.B. Davies and W.E. Ketchum. Stephen F. Austin was the first to organize a Masonic lodge in Texas in 1828, even though Mexican law forbade the practice of Masonry. After Texas independence, the new nation issued charters to 21 lodges across the state. Austin's Lone Star Chapter No. 6 received its charter in 1872. The Lone Star Chapter constructed its own purpose-built masonic lodge, which opened in 1926. The Royal Arch Masonic Lodge had space for commercial rentals on the ground floor and meeting and gathering space on the top two floors. The building continues to serve the Masons today and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance to Austin and for its architecture.



 **Edward E. Zimmerman Cabin** _____ ◇
9019 Parkfield Drive Winner: Leslie Wolfenden

The Edward E. Zimmerman Cabin is one of the oldest houses in Austin. Built in 1854 by German immigrant Zimmerman for his family, this house is of a rare construction style of stone and wood. When first constructed, the Zimmerman house was five miles from the City of Austin. Zimmerman served as the area's first postmaster and ran a general store. Zimmerman later built a stone house nearby once his family outgrew the small stone and wood house. The property stayed in the Zimmerman family until the early twentieth century. Now, the house is a Registered Texas Historic Landmark and an example of early settlement in Central Texas. ★





President's Message

★ Shelly Hemingson



It is with great honor that I address Preservation Austin's membership for the first time as President of the Board of Directors for the 2014-15 year. I began my tenure with Preservation Austin as an office volunteer in 2006, and then served on the Board and as Chair of the Historic Home Tour, Rebranding and Education Committees. I am excited to take on this new responsibility of leadership, and I look forward to this coming year with great enthusiasm.

As I consider the many changes Preservation Austin has gone through in recent years - our change in name, our rebranding efforts, Pioneer Farms moving to its independent status, and our Executive Director of ten years having moved on - my goal as president this year will be to bring stability to Preservation Austin as we take a deep breath and move forward with deliberate confidence. I am proud of the changes our organization has successfully embraced and they have shown positive results: Our budget is growing stronger, our membership continues to increase, and our programs and advocacy have proven effective. As president in the midst of these changes, my initiative is to promote our existing strengths, continue to focus our Board resolutely toward our refined mission, and to do my part in carefully guiding Preservation Austin through the transition of our new Executive Director. Stability is critical this year, because despite these changes, our mission does not waver, and my intention as President is to maintain that focus as we navigate change.

One of the great successes I am happy to report is that through the combined advocacy of the Preservation Austin Board and our membership, City Council voted to approve the budget for an extensive city-wide Historic Resources Survey, which hasn't been updated since 1984. This survey is a critical first step in recognizing our historic sites in Austin before they are threatened by development and as our city revises the Land Development Code. I want to thank our membership who answered the call for advocacy and sent personal letters to our Council. This is but one example of the many successes Preservation Austin has celebrated recently. I urge you to monitor the blog on our website and to read the Preservation Committee update in this newsletter so you're aware of Preservation Austin's continued advocacy.

In closing, I'd like to welcome new Board members, and some who have returned after years away, all of whom I am thrilled to work with this year; Chris Hendel, Lauren Smith Ford, Sam Davidson, John Donisi (Board President, 2007-08), John Rosato (Board President, 2011-12), Clay Cary, Richard Kooris, Dennis McDaniel (Board President 2005-06), Jerry Harris, Vanessa McElwrath and Ken Johnson. Each brings their personal skills and talent to our shared work in protecting Austin's treasured historic places. As we welcome new board members, I also want to acknowledge those who have finished their terms and will be leaving the board. All will be greatly missed; Jim DeCosmo, August Harris, Emily Little, Melanie Martinez, Peter Flagg Maxson, Maureen Metteauer,

Marion Sanchez, Tammy Shaklee and Tere O'Connell (Board President 2012-13). I hope you join me in thanking each of them for their many contributions and great commitment to Preservation Austin.

The 2014-15 Officers of the Board are the following: President, Shelly Hemingson; President-Elect, Alyson McGee; 1st Vice President, Bratten Thomason; 2nd Vice President, Lin Team; Secretary, Kim McKnight; Treasurer, Vanessa McElwrath; and Immediate Past President, Tom Stacy. These seven individuals are joined by several other Board members to comprise our Executive Committee, which assures the smooth operations of Preservation Austin between Board meetings.

Already our Board of Directors, PA volunteers and staff are busy assuring a successful upcoming year protecting and preserving Austin's cultural heritage. With their demonstrated commitment and with the support of our members, I look forward to this term with great confidence in our future successes to "save the good stuff."

Sincerely,

Shelly Hemingson





★ Travis Heights

by Emily Freeman Reed

Although the neighborhood south of Riverside Drive, west of I-35, east of Congress Avenue, and north of Live Oak Street is often generally referred to as Travis Heights, the area is comprised of at least eight separate subdivisions established between 1876 and 1930. Platted in 1913, Travis Heights is the largest of the subdivisions, located east of Blunn Creek. Blue Bonnet Hills, a subdivision encompassing about 115 properties north of Leland Street and west of East Side Drive, has applied for designation as an Austin Local Historic District. As some of the first subdivisions south of the river, the neighborhoods of Travis Heights figured prominently in the development of south Austin, and the city as a whole.

The Colorado River served as the southern boundary of the 1839 plat of Austin; the city limits were not extended south of the river until 1891. In 1852, James G. Swisher granted Travis County right of way through his farm for a road connecting Austin to San Antonio that would later become South Congress Avenue. Development was limited, however, by the lack of a reliable crossing over the Colorado River. After the collapse of several wooden bridges, an iron bridge was constructed in 1883, financed by a toll.¹ The City of Austin and Travis County purchased the bridge and opened it to the public free of charge in 1886.² At the time the free bridge was opened, two residential areas had been



Historic bungalows in the Bluebonnet Hills section of Travis Heights

platted south of the river in anticipation of the desirability of the area for development.

In 1876, James Swisher's son, John Milton Swisher, subdivided 180 acres of the family farm into lots along both sides of South Congress Avenue. Fairview Park, established by Charles Newning and his partners William Stacy and George Warner, was platted in 1886, north and east of the Swisher Addition. Newning established a line of horse-drawn omnibuses that carried southsiders across the bridge; the fare was exclusive of the bridge toll, which he subsidized.³ Although Fairview Park enjoyed some early success, including the construction of several large homes for prominent Austin businessmen, growth in the district was limited by two factors: the small market for large homes and lots as well as wealthy Austinites' disinclination to live south of the river, separated from the employment and political center of town.

Travis Heights, platted in 1913, was the next large subdivision to be developed in south Austin. The original subdivision plat included about 985 lots on 235 acres, located immediately south of Riverside Drive, east of Blunn Creek, and extending south to Bureson Road (Live Oak Street). Developer William Stacy secured a streetcar line in the neighborhood, which extended down Travis Heights Boulevard. The first electric streetcars came to Austin in 1891⁴ and service was extended to South Austin when a line was constructed across the Congress Avenue Bridge (completed 1910). At its largest, the streetcar system in Austin extended north to Hyde Park, across the river down S. Congress to Live Oak, and along Academy Drive to Travis Heights Boulevard.⁵

The late 1920s and early 1930s were an important period in the development of south Austin. The effects of the Great

Continued on page 7

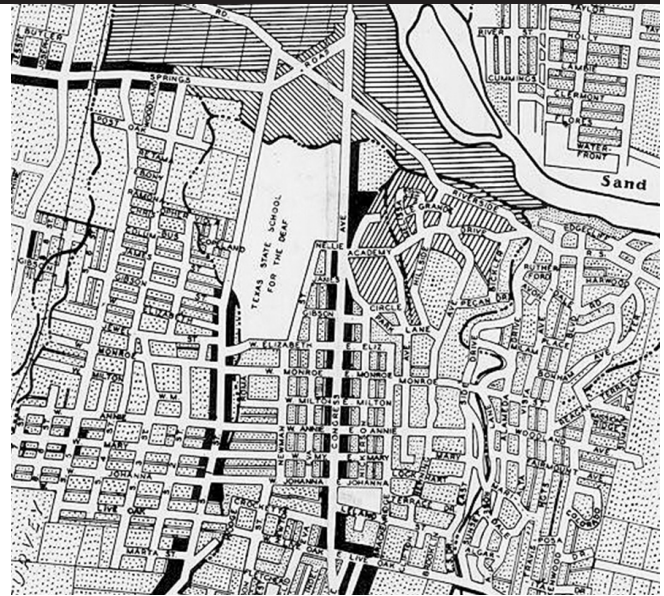
Neighborhood Series, continued from page 6

Depression were countered somewhat by New Deal programs, which worked to pave streets and build bridges and parks.⁶ Although citizens had been petitioning the City to pave South Congress since at least 1916, the 90-foot wide paving to Riverside was finally completed in 1931.⁷ In 1928, the Dallas engineering firm Koch and Fowler developed the first comprehensive planning document for the city of Austin, which recommended that all of the land along Blunn Creek between the river and East Live Oak Street become parkland. Much of the land that comprises today's Blunn Creek greenbelt was initially platted as part of residential subdivisions. In 1929 the City purchased almost all of the land that would comprise Big and Little Stacy Parks and the greenbelt from individual property owners as well as the developers of the Travis Heights subdivision.

By 1931, 600 lots had been sold in Travis Heights, with 171 homes built.⁸ By 1937, over 300 homes had been built, and developer Harwood Stacy described the year as the neighborhood's best to date.⁹ Meanwhile, in Fairview Park, sales had slowed since the initial opening, and parts of the neighborhood were subdivided to create smaller lots. Woodlawn and Norwood Heights were subdivided from Fairview Park in 1926 and 1930, respectively. Blue Bonnet Hills was platted in 1928, and the small Roy C. Archer subdivision was platted in 1935. Although early development in Fairview Park and Travis Heights was characterized by grand Victorian homes on large lots, more modest homes dominated development in the late 1920s and later. Within the earliest platted subdivisions, bungalows slowly

in-filled previously undeveloped lots, creating an eclectic mix of styles and periods of construction. Travis Heights area subdivisions platted in the 1920s and later reflected more rapid and uniform development in terms of style and scale. Blue Bonnet Hills was over 60 percent built out by 1935, with an overwhelming majority of the homes constructed in that period executed in the Craftsman and Tudor Revival styles. The demographics of residents also shifted; in contrast to the wealthy first residents of Fairview Park, Blue Bonnet Hills was a working-class neighborhood comprised of a mix of owners and renters.

A flood in June 1935 caused significant damage to South Austin. The Statesman noted in 1936 that the businesses that were destroyed "have been replaced by bigger, more attractive structures."¹⁰ South Congress Avenue continued to develop as a commercial corridor, including several roadside motels. The Austin Motel was established in 1938 and the San Jose Motel was built a year later. According to a 1939 issue of the South Austin Advocate reflecting on the history of South Austin, in 1909 "South Congress was a muddy lane with three grocery stores and one market"; by 1939 there were 13 groceries and markets and many other types of business.¹¹ In 1941, the South Lamar bridge was constructed, providing an alternative to the Congress



Historical map of Travis Heights*

Avenue bridge. Development in South Austin still paled in comparison to the growth of the city north of the river. In 1950, the population south of the river was only 15,000, compared to a population of 132,000 for the city as a whole.¹² The first high school in South Austin, Travis High School, was constructed in 1953, and in 1956 Oltorf Street was extended to connect Lamar Boulevard and the new Interregional Highway (I-35).

In recent decades, a renewed interest in the larger Travis Heights community has prompted an increase in demolitions, as buyers are willing to purchase developed lots and raze existing structures in order to build new, larger residences in this desirable location. The greater Travis Heights neighborhood has been working on Local Historic District designation for the past several years in an effort to protect the historic character of the community. Blue Bonnet Hills seeks to be the first of several subdivisions to gain designation in the neighborhood.

*"Early Austin Bridge," *The Texas Public Employee*, January 1969.

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Preservation Committee Update

Lin Team and Caroline Wright, Co-Chairs

The Preservation Committee meets twice-monthly to discuss preservation issues brought to our attention by the public, architects, developers, City staff, or planners needing assistance, as well as PA members and staff. Members of the committee are preservationists, restoration architects, historians, Realtors®, developers, planners, experienced neighborhood advocates, and other professionals with expertise in various aspects of historic preservation. We hear presentations from individual or groups who seek our advice or endorsement. The committee then discusses the items, recommends a position to the Executive Committee or Board and if approved, PA takes that position to City boards and commissions, City Council, or works with the individual or group requesting assistance. The committee frequently works in cooperation with other organizations that share our objectives.

The following are just a few of the projects the Preservation Committee has worked on:

- Preparations for Austin's 10-1 City Council elections, acquainting candidates with Austin's historic preservation needs and informing our membership of candidates' positions on preservation;
- Monitoring the Land Development Code Revision to ensure that preservation is part of the LDC Rewrite;
- Submitting a proposal to Austin Resource Recovery to support

retaining historic structures and their materials with demolition and recycling ordinances;

- Consulting with property tax officials to discuss assessments in Historic Districts;
- Meeting with a private consulting firm seeking stakeholders to improve Austin's Permitting and Inspections process for historic structures.

A few of our proposals and advocacy efforts recently implemented include:

- City Council approved City Historic Preservation Office staffing & funding for an updated city-wide Historic Resources Survey.
- The Dabney Horne House, a West Campus property we advocated for heavily over the past year for which Council upheld Historic zoning, has been sold by owners who wanted to move and alter the house, and it is now beautifully restored by new owners and used for an office and retail shop.
- The Clarksville Baylor House, under threat of demolition several months ago, is an important structure for Austin's African American history and a contributing structure to the Clarksville National Register District. It received public attention when the neighborhood and PA advocated for its Historic zoning. While it was not awarded H zoning by Council, the owner decided against demolition and hired a new architect who has worked with the neighborhood and will restore the house with sensitive

additions so it can retain its historic status.

- Committee members have spent months of work in public meetings and behind the scenes to try to save a significant and rare International Moderne Style house at 3805 Red River, which the owner, who never lived on the property, applied for demolition to leave an empty lot. At press time, this case is currently pending second reading at City Council. ★

Neighborhood Series, continued from page 7

²Ibid.

³*Austin Weekly Statesman*, Vol. 18, No. 27, Ed. 1, Thursday, May 23, 1889.

⁴A.T. Jackson, "Austin's Streetcar Era," *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 58, No. 2 (October 1954).

⁵Ben Wear, "Streetcars Redux" *Austin-American Statesman*, March 8, 2010.

⁶Elizabeth Smyrl, "Travis County," *Handbook of Texas*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hct08>.

⁷Austin City Council Meeting Minutes, March 7, 1929; *Austin Daily Statesman*, January 5, 1916, as transcribed in the 1916 Austin File Chronological, Austin History Center.

⁸"Stacy Firm Has Fostered Many Additions," *Austin Statesman*, August 12, 1931.

⁹"Travis Heights Develops Rapidly," clipping in Austin File Collection S6300: Subdivisions—Travis Heights, Austin History Center.

¹⁰Mike Clark-Madison, "Our Little Town," *Austin Chronicle*, December 4, 1998.

¹¹South Austin Advocate, Centennial Edition, #21, Vol. 3, April 28, 1939.

¹²Mike Cox, "South Austin Comes of Age," *Austin-American Statesman*, 1976, clipping in Austin File Collection S6290: Subdivisions—South Austin, Austin History Center.

*City of Austin, Tx, Use District Map, 1939, Map #452, Map Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin, TX

MEET PRESERVATION AUSTIN'S NEW DIRECTOR, KATE SINGLETON



Join us in welcoming Kate Singleton, Preservation Austin's new Executive Director starting on October 27th. Kate has over 30 years' experience in historic preservation, downtown revitalization and economic and community development. She served as Chief Preservation Planner for the City of Dallas, Planning Manager for Downtown Dallas, Inc. and State Coordinator of the Arizona Main Street program as well as Main Street Manager in Waxahachie and Grapevine.

Kate wrote design guidelines for

several of the historic districts, both commercial and residential, in Dallas and Plano. She also wrote preservation ordinances for cities, as well as revisions for the Dallas and Plano preservation ordinances. Kate was instrumental in the development of the highly successful City of Dallas Historic Tax Incentive Program. She also wrote amendments to the Dallas building code, some of which were codified into the International Existing Building Code. She completed over \$150 million in Federal Historic Tax Credit projects, and she conducted training for numerous historic

preservation commissions and downtown associations around Texas. She presented at several state preservation and downtown conferences including Texas, Arizona and Arkansas, as well as the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference.

Please help us welcome Kate when she joins office staff on October 27th!



★ ◇ Education Committee Update

Ann Graham, Chair

The Education Committee recently resumed its once-per-month meetings after the summer break. Their purpose is to develop new events and projects for the PA membership, and to partner with other organizations with similar preservation goals. Highlights of the committee's recent work include developing a greater social media presence for PA. Please visit and follow these new social media sites.



- Instagram: @preservationaustin.org
- Pinterest: look for Preservation Austin's Pinterest board and post favorite historic architecture images there.
- YouTube: Check out our YouTube channel for Preservation Austin upcoming videos, including a trailer for the Judge's Hill history video available for grade-school classes, and a message from Board member Tim League, founder of Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas, about Preservation Austin Business Memberships.

The Education Committee also helps to organize the Green Your Historic House series, the Historic Austin Tours iPhone app, and other special workshops and events. Committee members are often the volunteers at events who help set up, serve refreshments and stay late to clean afterwards. If you see a volunteer at one of our many PA social events please take a moment to say thanks! ★



Gregory Smith, National Register Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission



Gregory Smith

Gregory Smith, the National Register coordinator at the Texas Historical Commission (THC), likes to say he's from "far northeast Texas -- specifically Rochester, New York." He arrived in Texas in 1995 after working as a museum curator, a historian and a volunteer for preservation organizations such as Preservation Pittsburg. Smith studied art history, with a concentration in architectural history, as an undergraduate at the University of Buffalo, and earned his Master of Arts degree in history and a museum studies certificate from the University of Delaware. "I've always been interested in material culture, from small artifacts to buildings," he said.

During his first year at the THC in 1996, Smith surveyed and photographed hundreds (perhaps thousands) of official Texas Historical Markers, from the top of the Texas Panhandle to the southern tip of the Rio Grande Valley, as a travelling historian for the agency's Historical Markers 2000 program. The markers' locational data went into the THC's new

Texas Historic Sites Atlas. "It was a great introduction to the state's geography, cultures, and history," he recalled. "I've been to every county courthouse at least once." Smith has been the state's National Register coordinator since 1999.

What is the National Register?

The National Register is the national inventory of historic places, and its guidelines are used by various federal programs to evaluate historic properties. National Register listings are the culmination of research and written documentation that supports a property's significance and makes an argument for its preservation.

How many National Register properties does Austin have? How many statewide?

Each listing may include numerous properties (buildings, structures, sites, and objects, sometimes combined in districts), so it's difficult to determine the exact number of listed properties

in Texas. There are more than 3,100 listings statewide, and more than 180 in Austin. For instance, the Old West Austin Historic District -- 106 blocks of residential development and park land west of Austin's central business district -- includes more than 1,500 contributing buildings.

As coordinator, what are your main responsibilities at the Texas Historical Commission (THC)?

Processing National Register nominations is just a small part of what I do. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the federal programs staff in the THC's History Programs Division (of which I am a part) reviews the National Register eligibility of non-archeological properties that may be affected by federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects, from cell phone towers licensed by the FCC to highways funded through the Federal Highway Administration. We also review eligibility

Continued on page 11

Preservation Heroes, continued from page 10

for the federal and (after January 1, 2015) state preservation tax credit programs.

I spend the good part of a typical day responding to phone and email inquiries from people who want to preserve or research a place that's important to them. My goal is to give them some direction and lay out their options. Sometimes the National Register is part of a recommended course of action, but I routinely refer them to other people or programs that can best address their needs. Depending on their situation, I might suggest that they talk with local officials, preservation groups such as Preservation Austin or Preservation Texas, or THC staff in the Main Street program or the Division of Architecture.

What's one of your favorite Austin properties on the National Register?

I always bring visitors to the Briones House at 1204 E. 7th Street, which was built by Genaro Briones as a home for him and his wife Carolina beginning in 1947. By day he was a mason and bricklayer, but in his spare time he designed and built the concrete block house and covered it in tinted and sculpted stucco, inspired by the work of his friend Dionicio Rodriguez. It's a hidden gem in plain sight.

What Austin property on the register has the most unusual story?

I think each one has a good story to tell, but I'm not sure which ones qualify as being "unusual" in a city that unofficially promotes itself as a being weird place. The variety of listed properties might be considered unusual by some; the list includes an early motel (Bluebonnet

Tourist Camp), a segregated public housing project (Santa Rita Courts), two swimming pools (Deep Eddy and Barton Springs), the Moonlight Towers, a German beer hall (Scholz Garten), a 1960s high-rise (Westgate Tower), and Seaholm Power Plant. It's not just the Capitol and assorted mansions.

Where can readers go to learn more about Austin's National Register properties?

Visit the Texas Historical Commission's website at thc.state.tx.us, and explore the Historic Sites Atlas, atlas.thc.state.tx.us. The THC's National Register page features recently-listed properties with links to the nominations, thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/national-register-historic-places. We are working with the National Park Service to scan each nomination for posting online.

Since you deal with the entire state, can you offer a comparison of how Austin approaches historic preservation ethics as opposed to other major Texas cities?

Each city is different. In places like Austin, it's a constant struggle to find balance between preservation and the desire of developers to maximize return on investment. We (and by "we" I'm stressing that preservation is a group effort) must continually educate ourselves to capably explain the benefits of historic preservation, which positively effects the overall quality of life and makes good economic sense. However, many Texas cities are facing the opposite dilemma, with blocks of empty historic buildings and no way to stem the loss of population. I'm constantly reminded that not every Texas city is Austin.

What is something you think most Austin residents don't know about the architectural history of their city?

The variety of Austin's historic architecture is amazing; people should set aside the time to explore the city's neighborhoods on foot, especially the ones you don't routinely experience. I live in Crestview, but I'm especially drawn to East Austin.

Are there any recent trends in the particular properties people are seeking National Register listings for?

Many buildings of the 1960s and 1970s are now considered historic or potentially historic. There is also a great interest in preserving places that represent our ethnic and racial diversity.

What are the top things people should consider before they decide to pursue a National Register listing?

There are many misconceptions regarding the National Register, so we begin the consultation process by explaining the benefits (and limitations) of designation. We also describe the nomination process, determine if a property is eligible for listing, and also whether or not listing it would serve the needs of the applicant. Our recommended course of action is tailored to each situation, and the National Register listing may be just one part of the solution.

How much time should someone expect to put into it?

It takes about a year to go through the process; sometimes a bit less and often more, depending on the complexity of the property and its history. I've written a

Continued on page 12



Formosa - Elisabeth Ney Home & Studio

**5th Annual Somewhere in Time
Dinner Party
At Formosa - Elisbet Ney
Home & Studio**

**Sunday, November 16
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
304 E. 44th Street**

INHERIT AUSTIN is Preservation Austin's young professional membership level whose purpose is to cultivate an emerging group of preservation enthusiasts, by hosting social networking, cultural and educational events, including family activities. Inherit Austin's vision shares that of Preservation Austin's—preserving Austin's architectural and cultural past by protecting the city's important landmarks and historic fabric, and safeguarding its unique character.

Annual membership dues for Inherit Austin include all the benefits of PA membership, plus additional Inherit Austin member-only events.

Individual membership - \$65,
Couple's membership - \$90

To join Inherit Austin please visit PA's membership page of our website, preservationaustin.org/get-involved/inherit-austin

Sponsorships and \$100 tickets available, at preservationaustin.org/events. ★

Enjoy a fabulous gourmet dinner and drinks under the stars at Formosa, Elisabet Ney's historic studio and home. In 1892, European portrait sculptress Elisabet Ney (1833-1907) purchased property in Austin, established a studio she named Formosa, and resumed her career as a noted sculptor of notables. At the turn

of the 19th century Formosa became a salon - a gathering place - for influential Texans drawn to "Miss Ney" and to the stimulating discussions of politics, art and philosophy that took place there. Following Ney's death in 1907, her friends preserved the studio and its contents as the Elisabet Ney Museum.

Preservation Heroes, continued from page 11

nomination for a well-documented building in two weeks, but the review process added another five months to the timeline.

Are there any public misunderstandings about National Register properties that you often have to correct?

The National Register does not restrict in any way a private property owner's ability to alter, manage or dispose of a

property. That seems to be the biggest concern when we are working on district nominations. Also, listing does not require that properties be maintained. ★



Thank you to our Charter Business Members

This summer marked the launch of our new Business Membership and we'd like to acknowledge our very first Charter members who helped us get started by joining before August 31st.

Check out links to these businesses on the membership page of our website, and support the businesses that support Preservation Austin!



Business Ambassadors

- ◆ JobeFabrications Custom Furniture, Bryan Jobe
- ◆ Norwood Tower, LP
- ◆ Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas, Tim League
- ◆ Clayton & Little Architects, Emily Little
- ◆ Volz O'Connell Hutson, Architecture and Interior Design, Tere O'Connell, Candace & John Volz
- ◆ He's For Me, Offline Matchmaking Service for Gay Men, Tammy Shaklee
- ◆ Project by Project Marketing Communications, Tracy Sullivan

Business Leaders

- ◆ The Fairview Austin Hotel, James Ballard
- ◆ Corridor Title Company, Kim Fernea
- ◆ ARCHITEXAS, Stanley Graves
- ◆ Coldwell Banker United REALTORS®, Carolyn Grimes
- ◆ JBGGoodwin REALTOR®, Alyson McGee
- ◆ Asakura Robinson Company, Margaret Robinson
- ◆ Betty Saenz REALTOR®, Historic House Specialist
- ◆ The Broken Spoke, Annetta White
- ◆ Wilhelm Law Firm, Jack Wilhelm

To join as a business member, simply go to PA's website, preservationaustin.org/get-involved/membership and click on the membership of your choice.

Business Ambassador is \$500 and includes all the benefits of a \$500 Advocate membership, plus a website link to your business, PA social media support (Facebook and Twitter), a prominent listing in our quarterly print newsletter, and a PA window decal.

Business Leader level includes all the benefits of a \$250 Friend membership, plus a website link to your business, PA social media support (Facebook and Twitter), a new member listing in our print newsletter, and a PA window decal. ★



PIONEER FARMS GAZETTE

NOVEMBER 2014 UPDATE ABOUT GOINGS-ON AT AUSTIN'S PREMIER LIVING HISTORY PARK & MUSEUM.

FAMOUS TEXAS RIFLES MARCH IN NOV. 8 FOR MUSTER DAY 1800s MILITARY SHOW.

COUNT THE BUTTONS, SEE THE MUSKETS FIRE; FAMILY FUN AS FRONTIER LIFE RETURNS.

Special to the Gazette.

The well-known Texas Rifles group of Lone Star history re-enactors will return to Pioneer Farms on the weekend of Saturday, Nov. 8, for a historical show you won't want to miss.

Drills with black-powder muskets and other 1800s military equipment will be part of the show. Regular admission will be charged.

This is a weekend you won't want to miss.

PIONEER FARMS JOINS NATIONAL MUSEUM MEMBER NETWORK.

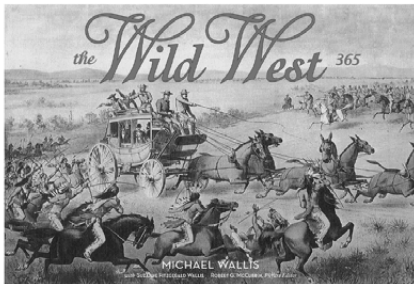
Special to the Gazette.

Pioneer Farms is joining the "Time Travelers" national membership network of museums, offering discounted admission and other opportunities for visitors.

More than 300 museums and historical sites nationwide are part of the reciprocal membership program, created in 1998 by the Missouri History Museum.

Austin's premier living-history park and museum will join 10 other Texas sites in the program, two of them in Austin — the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and the Neill-Cochran House.

SPECIAL FRONTIER ALMANAC NOW ON SALE IN EXCLUSIVE OFFERING FOR THE HOLIDAYS.



AbramsBooks.com

'The Wild West: 365' is a special offer at our General Store.



Pioneer Farms

Tiny Tim and Scrooge will be stars of the evening.

DECEMBER EVENTS TO FEATURE SPECIAL DAY, NIGHT SHOWS.

'PRAIRIE CHRISTMAS.'

'Prairie Christmas' will run two weekends, on Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 6-7 and 14-15, featuring 1800s home sites decorated just as they would have been in the 19th century, with festive activities, music and a Victorian Santa available for photos.

You will be able to walk our sites and see just how various early settlers would have decorated and celebrated the holidays.

Regular admission will apply, a family bargain for history and holiday fun all in one.

'EBENEZER'S JOURNEY.'

A special interactive program based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* will recreate the classic tale on four nights — on Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 5-6 and 12-13.

'Ebenezer's Journey' will display scenes from the 1843 story as they are acted out at our historic sites. In some cases, they will be able to participate, as well. Like Scrooge, they'll be able to journey back in time to see Christmases past.

In addition to the interactive tour, there will be crafts and other historical activities.

Tickets are \$12 per person. The event runs from 7-10 nightly, rain or shine.

URBAN FARMING PROJECT GETS STATE CERTIFICATION; FIRST STEP TO BEING ORGANIC.

FARMSTAND OPEN ON WEEKENDS.

Special to the Gazette.

Our new urban farming initiative has received a "Go Texan" certification from the Texas Department of Agriculture, officially linking us with the statewide network of Texas-produced products.

The move is a first step for us to eventually get an organic certification for the eggs and vegetables we produce as part of our unique history programs.

The program employs "green" technology from the 1800s such as using manure and compost generated on site, and planting techniques that will reduce bugs and weeds.

Our farmstand is open every weekend with a limited variety of seasonal produce, soon to be expanded. Watch PioneerFarms.org to see what's for sale each week.



Pioneer Farms

Our blacksmithing students learn how to coil hot metal.

'OLDE SCHOOL' CLASSES EXPAND TO TEACH MORE PIONEERING SKILLS.

Special to the Gazette.

Our acclaimed Pioneer School classes and workshops are expanding again— this time with advanced-level instruction in a variety of 1800s crafts and skills.

The change includes one-day, short-course-style demonstrations and lecture-style classes, plus hands-on advanced instruction taught over several days.

New classes have been added to schedule. Check out the full list of upcoming classes on the Back Page, and you can enroll at PioneerFarms.org.



Our New & Renewing Members



Many Thanks

Waterloo ★

Sabrina & Jay Brown
 Karen & Clay Cary
 Sam & Ty Davidson
 Ann Graham
 James Hillhouse, IV
 Richard Kooris
 Karrie & Tim eague
 Carol Nelson
 Julie & Patrick Oles, Jr.
 Roxanne & Roxanne Varner

Business Ambassador ★

Nancy Burns, Norwood Tower LP
 Bryan Jobe, JobeFabrications
 Tim League, Alamo Drafthouse
 Cinemas
 Emily Little, Clayton & Little
 Architects
 Tracy & Michael Sullivan,
 Project by Project
 Tracy & Michael Sullivan,
 Project by Project
 Milad Taghehchian, Pioneer Wealth
 Candace & John Volz, Volz O'Connell
 Hutson

Business Leader ★

James Ballard, The Fairview Austin
 Hotel
 Kim Fernea, Corridor Title Company
 Stanley Graves, ARCHITEXAS
 Annetta White, The Broken Spoke
 Jack Wilhelm, Wilhelm Law Firm

Friend ★

Jeff and Toni Albrecht
 Robert Bass
 Christine & John Butler, IV
 Sue & Joe DiQuinzio, Jr.
 Carol & David Jones
 David West
 Alton White, Jr.
 Custis Wright

Partner ★

Jennifer Boerner
 Suzan & Charles Bradbury
 Robin Brown
 Gayle & James Browne
 Ila & John Falvey
 Maydelle & Sam Fason
 Alegria & Charles Hibbetts
 Lea & Paul Holubec
 Russell Korman
 Sally & John Nyfeler
 Karey & Chris Oddo
 Thomas & Lyn Phillips
 Kay & Leon Whitney
 Martha Withers
 Paul & Patricia Youngdale

Household ★

Peter & Patricia Andersen
 Kathryn & Larry Anderson
 Pam & Jeff Autrey
 Derek & Maureen Barcinski
 Mikal & John Boardman
 Judy & Doug Brown
 Johnsie & John Bryan
 Douglas & Margaret Danforth
 Suzanne Deaderick
 Gina & John Donisi
 Amy Evens
 Harmony and Jacob Grogan
 Rosemary & August Harris
 John C. Horton, III
 Kelly & Monte Hunter
 Penelope Hyslop
 Sara & Mark Kennedy
 Jeff Kerr
 Paul King
 Keith Lamy
 Sarah Marshall
 Vanessa & Mac McElwrath
 Lisa & Jim Perzan
 Linda & James Prentice
 Mary & Gregory Shattuck
 Janelle & Ted Siff
 Carey Smith

Gwendolyn & Stephen Webb
 Blythe and Chris Wilson

Contributor ★

JGordon Alexander
 Barry Beeson
 Betty Bird
 Terrell Blodgett
 David Conner
 Margaret Cowden
 Marie Crane
 Marcia Curtis
 Donald Davis, Jr.
 James Dick
 Rebekah Dobrasko
 Barbara Douglas
 Debra Drescher
 Donna Edgar
 Cora Jane Farmer
 William Garner
 Gay Gillen
 Floylee Goldberger
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Inherit Austin ★

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 Paul Knaus
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 Luisa Mauro
 Carolyn McFarland
 Rachael and Harold Reed
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 Sandra Shannon
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**PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —**

P.O. Box 2113
Austin, TX 78768

www.preservationaustin.org
info@preservationaustin.org

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PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2014

NOV
16

**Inherit Austin's 5th Annual Somewhere in Time
Dinner at Formosa**

Elisabet Ney Home and Studio, 304 E. 44th Street,
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, \$100 per guest

NOV
17

Historic Landmark Commission Meeting

7:00 pm, Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 W. 2nd
Street, austintexas.gov/hlc

NOV
21

54th Annual Preservation Merit Awards Ceremony

The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos Street, 11:30 am -
1:30 pm, \$100 per guest

DEC
15

Historic Landmark Commission Meeting

7:00 pm, Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 W. 2nd
Street, austintexas.gov/hlc

MAY
2

**23rd Annual Historic Homes Tour, *Austin through
the Ages***

10:00 am - 4:00 pm. \$23 Members/\$28 Non-members.
SAVE THE DATE.

★ Tickets to Events available at:
www.PreservationAustin.org or 512-474-5198.