



**PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —**

FORMERLY HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Spring 2015 ★ Volume 19 No. 2



23rd Annual Historic Homes Tour

May 2, 2015 - Explore six outstanding properties representing “Austin Through the Ages” during the 23rd Annual Historic Homes Tour. Five private historic homes and one commercial property offer a timeline of Austin’s architecture from the City’s early days through its mid-century roots.

FEATURED HOMES

1870s - The Castle

1940s - Art Moderne

1900s - Craftsman Bungalow

1950s - Ranch Style

1930s - The Bull House

1960s - Mid-Century Modern

1870s: Castle on the Hill?

Newcomers and old Austinites alike have wondered – is that really a castle on the hill above Lamar Boulevard? During the 2015 Tour, you’ll discover not only how and when “The Castle” came to be, but how it survives today, serving as eclectic office space.

“The Castle,” originally The Texas Military Institute, Austin, was organized in Bastrop by R. P. T. Allen and was operating as the Bastrop Military Institute by 1858. Studies included mathematics, geography, the natural sciences, Latin, and Greek, as well as surveying and civil engineering. Student attendance grew until after the Civil War, when attendance dropped dramatically.

During the winter of 1869-70 leaders of the Institute decided to move the school to Austin, where the city had recently

raised a building fund of \$10,000 in gold. A 32-acre campus was purchased in 1870 and the new Texas Military Institute, Austin, opened the same year. By 1872 the Texas Military Institute had a cadet barrack large enough to accommodate

400 students. The institute modeled its disciplinary operations after the United States Military Academy at West Point, but it included instruction in literary subjects as well as the sciences. The military department existed only to provide exercise, not to train professional soldiers. By 1873 there were 150 students at the school. The institute operated successfully until 1879, when John Garland James, the president, and faculty were all employed by Texas A&M.

Noted Austin educator and first Superintendent of Austin’s public school, Jacob Bickler, purchased the Castle and established a German-English School on the site. The school operated there for more than a decade before Bickler moved it to another location. By the turn of the 20th century, the Castle had been reduced in



“The Castle” today

Preservation Austin
HISTORIC HOMES
TOUR 2015



AUSTIN THROUGH THE AGES

Continued on page 4

Photo by Rustin Gaudim



Preservation Austin "Heart-Bombs" the Elisabet Ney Museum

In February, Preservation Austin and supporters "heart-bombed" the Elisabet Ney Museum on behalf of the National Trust. We had good participation on such short notice, but it was a beautiful day to be outdoors! ★

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

Like us at [facebook.com/PreservationAustin](https://www.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

info@preservationaustin.org

www.preservationaustin.org



PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

2014-2015 Board of Directors

★ OFFICERS ★

Shelly Hemingson, President Lin Team, 2nd VP
Alyson McGee, President-Elect Kim McKnight, Secretary
Bratten Thomason, 1st VP Vanessa McElwrath, Treasurer
Tom Stacy, Immediate Past President

★ DIRECTORS ★

Paula Aaronson	Ann S. Graham	Jennifer Marsh
Sabrina Brown	Jerry Harris	Scott Mason
Lisa Byrd	Chris Hendel	Dennis McDaniel
Clay Cary	Ken Johnson	Andrea McWilliams
Danette Chimenti	Sandra Kirk	Lauren Smith Ford
Samantha Davidson	Richard Kooris	Bratten Thomason
John Donisi	Tim League	Stephen Webb

★ VOTING REPRESENTATIVES ★

Michael Holleran, UT School of Architecture
Michelle Slattery, Inherit Austin
John Rosato, Landmark Commission
Mike Ward, Pioneer Farms



★ WATERLOO SOCIETY ★

Paula & Lee Aaronson	Dealey & David Herndon
Ann Ash	James Hillhouse, IV
Joanie Schoener Bentzin	Courtney & Clark Hoffman
Carrie Bills	Luci Baines Johnson & Ian Turpin
BlueCross BlueShield, Charles Stuart	Richard Kooris
Booth Heritage Foundation (Suzanne Deal Booth & David G. Booth)	Karrie & Tim League
Sabrina & Jay Brown	Christine & John Mattsson
Jan Burrow	John Taylor, III & Peter Flagg Maxson
Becky & Bob Buslett/Green Pastures	McBee Family Foundation
Ann Butler	Jill & Dennis McDaniel
Lutie Butler	Emily Moreland
Meta Butler Hunt	Rosemary Morrow
Mimi & Robert Buzbee	Carole & George Nalle, III
Karen & Clay Cary	Carol Corley Nelson
Danette Chimenti	Julie & Patrick Oles, Jr.
Richard Craig	Gay & Shannon Ratliff
Tim Cuppett & Marco Rini	Jerre & Fern Santini
The Driskill Hotel, Scott Mason	Tammy & Cliff Shaklee
Sam & Ty Davidson	Aubrey & Charles Smith
Jim DeCosmo	Lin & Lewis Team
Cissie & Dillon Ferguson	Randy & Bratten Thomason
Regan & Billy Gammon	Roxanne Varner
Ann & Arlen Graham	David Wilson
Beth & Tom Granger	Carol Carpenter Winkel
Debbie & Mark Hanna	Patricia Winston & Bill Head
	Eva & Marvin Womack

★ Historic Homes Tour

Reel Austin Lecture 2

April 8, 2015 • 6-8 p.m.

Stateside Theatre

719 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701

Light refreshments \$20

Tickets on sale **NOW** at preservationaustin.org/events



TEXAS ARCHIVE
OF THE MOVING IMAGE

Texans have been recording their lives on film since the 1890s, but every year moving image records of Texas—from home movies, TV programs, and feature films, to advertisements and

corporate training videos—are lost through decomposition or simple neglect. The Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI) is working against time to rescue these “orphan” films and to preserve this unique component of the state’s cultural history for future generations of Texans.

Join us on April 8th at 6 pm at the Stateside Theatre

as Dr. Caroline Frick takes us on a journey through “Reel Austin.” She will screen a curated reel of historic Austin area footage from TAMI’s archive, including a 1912 Circus Parade on Congress Avenue, 1940s Barton Springs, Willie Nelson at Aquafest in 1973, and ice-skating on Shoal Creek in the 1980s. See the Capital City in motion – like you have never seen before.

Founded in 2002 by film archivist and University of Texas at Austin professor Dr. Caroline Frick, TAMI is a non-profit organization working to discover, preserve and educate the community about Texas film heritage. By partnering with institutions and individuals across the state, TAMI digitizes and provides web access to thousands of moving images that offer insight to Texas history and culture. TAMI showcases its collection, located online at www.texasarchive.org, free of charge to the public. This ever-expanding archive of historical films and videos reinvigorates and reimagines Texas history through heretofore “lost” stories from across the state, nation, and world. TAMI also works with educators to use of Texas film in the K-12 social studies classroom. ★

TAMI and Preservation
Austin Present:

Reel Austin



Presented by Dr. Caroline Frick

Executive Director of the

Texas Archive of the Moving Image



Parade on Congress Avenue from 1914



The Paramount (then The Majestic) from 1929

Homes Tour, continued from page 1

size and transformed into a single-family residence. By the 1990s, the building deteriorated and had been vandalized. In 2013, Castle Hill Partners purchased the property and it now serves as a local office for the business.

1900s: Many Families, One Craftsman Bungalow

Built in 1918, the Craftsman bungalow on Highland Avenue is considered a contributing member of Austin's West Line Historic District. The West Line Historic District encompasses an approximately 90-block tract of land located west of downtown. The West Sixth Street streetcar line, commonly referred to as the West Line, extended into the district from downtown and contributed to the development of suburban tracts.

The home was likely built as a spec house. The first occupants were Allan and Ruby McLaughlin, who are listed at the address only in the Austin 1918 City Directory. Mr. McLaughlin was a printer for the *Austin American*.

From 1920 to 1924, Kurt and Meta Schmedes owned the house. A "foreign exchange man" for the E.H. Perry Company, Kurt was a successful cotton merchant. He and Meta were active Austin citizens and are considered "parents" of the Austin Symphony. The Schmedes also built a three-story Prairie style home, at 804 Baylor Street in 1923-1924; which is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a City of Austin Historic Landmark. Kurt Schmedes emigrated from Germany to Austin in 1914. Meta Schutze Schmedes

was the granddaughter of pioneer Judge Julius Schutze.

Linn and Roxie Fertsch, teachers at Austin High School and Pease Elementary School respectively, and their daughter, Pauline, owned the home from 1926 through 1940. Mr. Fertsch became the principal of Matthews and Pease Schools.

Four more families occupied the house in the 1940s before William and Bertha Newark's residency in the 1950s. William was a driver for Southern Pacific; Bertha operated Kim's Beauty Shop out of the home beginning in 1958.

The current owners bought the property in 1999 and have spent 14 years renovating the house, which was in terrible condition. They lived in the home during all the construction, including almost a full year without heat or air conditioning.

1930's Paying Homage to "Old Main" and the "New Main"

According to a mechanic's lien filed for the property in 1934, The Bull House was originally built for E. B. and Annie Louise Snead, although it's not clear if the Sneads ever lived in the home. Plans were for a 10-room stone house at a cost of \$4,500.

The first known resident of the house was Adolph Goldman, a long-time wholesale and retail grocer who moved into the home around 1936. Goldman only lived in the home a short time before the home was sold to Alfred Bull.



Craftsman exterior

photo by Nick Deaver, Architect

Alfred Bull and his brother, Howard W. Bull were sons of R. P. and Margaret Castleman Bull. (The Castleman-Bull house still exists.) Alfred Bull was a prominent businessman in banking, insurance and mortgage lending. He was the president of the Austin Chamber of Commerce in 1934, a member of the Austin School Board and the Travis County Chapter of the Red Cross, as well as a member of the Texas Library and Historical Commissions.

Alfred Bull conveyed the house to his brother and sister-in-law, Howard and Sue. They purchased the house in 1947, where Howard lived until his death in 2004 at age 104.

In addition to prominent residents, The Bull House has unique architectural features that experts and family lore



University of Texas' "Old Main" in 1903

Continued on page 5

Homes Tour, continued from page 4

say pay homage to both the University of Texas' "Old Main" building and the school's "new" Main Building. Architectural details, such as stone brackets, ironwork and interior woodwork may have been salvaged from UT's original "Old Main" building which was deconstructed in 1934-1935. Old Main's materials were stacked underneath Memorial Stadium awaiting possible reconstruction by a group of prominent, preservation-minded alumni.

Reconstruction efforts failed and the materials were swept up by local builders and sentimental Austinites to incorporate parts of Old Main into their residences and businesses.

Architectural historian and architect, Blake Alexander found evidence in Old Main's original architectural drawings of repeated Masonic symbols and gothic flowers that also appear in the Bull House's stonework. He went on to identify forensic evidence of salvage as well. Some decorative brackets are chipped in visible areas, some very badly.

Professor Alexander also noted the house's repeating arch arcade is an



The Bull House today

almost exact match of the main façade of the then-new Main Building, designed by French-born architect Paul Cret. The Bull House architect may have been inspired by UT's new Main Building and incorporated the stone and brick arch design into a residential design.

1940s Art Moderne Gem

Originally built as a duplex, this home is now a single-family residence. The style, Art Moderne, was mostly used in commercial and public buildings of the time. A residence in this architectural style is rare, particularly in Austin.

The Art Moderne style has a distinctive streamlined appearance influenced by the industrial design of ships, airplanes and cars of the time. The style emphasizes curving forms, long horizontal lines, and sometimes nautical elements such as railings and porthole windows.

Features of the Art Moderne home include an asymmetrical facade and a smooth wall finish lacking surface

decoration, a flat roof with small coping, metal sash windows with horizontal panes of glass, a porthole window, unadorned pipe balcony supports and an archetypal Moderne-style steel balcony railing, reminiscent of ship railing. The two-story



Rare Art Moderne

duplex has had few alterations since its construction in 1940.

The home was built in 1940 by Dorothy A. Nichols who occupied one unit until at least 1945. Born in San Antonio, she attended Austin public schools, UT and received her degree in home economics from SMU. She played championship golf and worked for the Internal Revenue Service for many years. Mrs. Nichols retained ownership of this duplex at least through the 1950s. From 1945 to 1970, the duplex had a number of renters including a salesman, a purchasing agent and an architect. In 1967, the duplex was owned and occupied by Virginia Parton and Mrs. Florence Dunn. Virginia was the Associate Editor of the *Texas Bar Journal* for more than 34 years. She also worked for the Office of War Information and the Office of Price Administration during WWII. Ms. Dunn was an Accounting Clerk for the State Comptroller's Office.

1950s River Road Ranch-Style

In 1955, Rex Shields, president of Austin Beverage Co., Inc., owned this stunning River Road Ranch-style. Reverse directories indicate he was a resident until at least the late 1990s.

Continued on page 10



Preservation Austin presents a monthly online Heritage Quiz. The first Friday of every month, we post on our Facebook page.

Barton Springs Baptist Church and Cemetery (Goodrich Avenue) stands at the historic center of one of Austin's Freedmen's community. This community was populated by freedmen from the Goodrich plantation.

The cemetery dates to around 1866, while the first church building was constructed by 1870. Although the community designated land for a school, one was never built and the freedmen attended school at the church.

Unfortunately, the original church building burned in the 1940s, but the community replaced it with the cinder block church that stands on the site today. This historic landmark is the only visible remaining remnant of the Goodrich freedman's community in South Austin.

Winner: Amy Ruthrauff McWhorter

The Confederate Women's Home (3710 Cedar Street) opened in 1908 to care for those women married to honorably discharged Confederate soldiers. Women had to be at least 60 years old and without any financial support to live at the home. The United Daughters of the Confederacy began raising money for a Women's Home in 1903, and the UDC hired A. O. Watson in 1906 to design their building. The building is two stories with fifteen bedrooms. In 1911, the State of Texas became the owner of the Confederate Women's Home, which had 18 residents at that time. Further expansion of the home occurred in 1913 (24 new bedrooms), 1916 (brick hospital), and 1924 (hospital annex). In 1963, the state moved the last three residents to private homes and closed the facility. During its time as the Confederate Women's Home, the facility served over 3,400 women and continues to serve the community as the AGE of Central Texas.

Winner: James Canup

Are you an expert in all things Austin? Do you love learning about its history? Join us the first Friday of every month on Preservation Austin's Facebook page for our Heritage Quiz! We post a detail of a City of Austin Historic Landmark property, and the first person to identify the landmark correctly received a cup of coffee on us, and your name published in our newsletter!

★ Like Preservation Austin on Facebook at: [facebook.com/PreservationAustin](https://www.facebook.com/PreservationAustin)



Barton Springs Baptist Church and Cemetery



The Confederate Women's Home



President's Message

★ Shelly Hemingson

It's my favorite time of year again! Please join us for the 23rd Annual Preservation Austin Historic Homes Tour on Saturday, May 2nd from 10 to 4. This year's theme is "Austin through the Ages." The homes date from the 1870's to the 1960s, spanning a remarkable range of architectural styles and exploring the residential development of Austin. The Historic Homes Tour is our way of making historic preservation "real" for everyone. Austinites that would normally not get to enjoy these historic treasures, will be able to tour and learn about their history. We would like to thank the property owners for opening their homes for the public to see how historic homes and buildings can be great places to live, work and play.

We would also like to thank our home tour sponsors for their support. Without their generous donations, this event would not be possible. They are listed here in the newsletter.

If you would like to volunteer for the homes tour as a house docent, a ticket taker or part of the clean-up crew, please go to the website, preservationaustin.org and click on "Get Involved-Volunteer". Please join us for the second of two pre-Tour lectures! On April 8th, Dr. Caroline Frick will take us on a visual journey of "Reel Austin" through historic films. The curated footage will include a parade down Congress Avenue in 1912 and Willie Nelson's performance at Aquafest in 1973.

The Board of Directors and members of Preservation Austin have met with the new Austin City Council members and their staff to discuss the role of historic preservation in planning, neighborhood stability and growth, downtown revitalization, housing affordability and economic development. Preservation Austin also stressed the importance of implementing the comprehensive Historic Resource Survey which will



proactively identify historically and architecturally significant properties and areas across the city. This survey has not been updated since 1984 and is sorely in need of an update. Documentation of the historic resources assists in maintaining the cultural and historical character of Austin.

We would like to thank our wonderful accounting intern Morgan Hah who has worked in the office for the past two years. Morgan has been wonderful to work with and we will miss her. We wish her the best as she moves on in her career.

Sincerely,

Shelly Hemingson



Preservation Committee Update

Lin Team and Caroline Wright, Preservation Committee Co-chairs

Because so much of the work of Preservation Austin is supporting various policy changes or designation of local historic districts, it is important to be able to work with elected officials. Over the years our efforts have earned the respect of City Council members and gained credibility for our positions. With an almost-all new City Council in place, Preservation Austin leaders are meeting with each office to share information on our positions and preservation goals. Ten Council Members and one Mayor makes for a lot of meetings!

As we have done for years, we participate in City planning meetings to be sure a preservation perspective is present, and this go-around it is Code Next meetings. We are also engaged in dialogue about the newly-presented Cemetery Master Plan, and proposals for amending or replacing the historic bridge in Zilker Park.

We are also working with several neighborhoods on enacting Local Historic Districts, as well as promoting new procedures for producing the work required for Local Historic District applications. ★

Many Thanks to



Our New & Renewing Members



Advocate ★

Dr. Emma Linn
Rosemary Morrow

Business ★

Keli & Jan Sotelo
Kitty Henderson

Waterloo★

Kim & Jim DeCosmo
Ann Butler
Meta Butler-Hunt
Ann & Arlen Johnson
George & Carole Nalle, III

Friend ★

Julia & Stephen Wilkinson
Karen Saadeh & David Matthis

Partner ★

Tia Cripps
Kay Planting & Ken Pfluger
Robert Seidenberg
Elana Einhorn & Will Andrews
Colleen Crump & Maralyn Hare
Marty & Jim Moulthrop
Judy & Rudy Robinson, III
Michael Holleran
Carrielu & Chuck Christensen

Inherit Austin ★

Matthew Clites
Gilbert Christine
Kaleh Stacy
Derrington Lindsey

Family/Dual ★

Brigid & Klee Kleber
Rick & Cindy Black
Anita Erickson
Charlotte Lipscomb
Maureen & Michael Metteauer
Daniel & Selina Yee
Angela & Bob Ward
Sharon & Charles York
Connie & William Heyer
Janet & Bob Swaffar
Christie & Roger Binkley
Nannette & Gary Overbeck
Jean & Tracy Warren
Mary & David Sullivan

Contributor ★

Carol Pirie
David Crain
Kelsey Smith
Kelsey Smith
Nancy Harte
Barbara Langham
William Harris
Beth Johnson
Mary McRee
Judith K. Shipway
Jan Carrier
Don Garner
Elizabeth Hall
Dane Hersey
Barbara Houston
Eugenis Miller
Mary Helen Walcutt



Education Committee

Ann Graham, Chair

The goal of Preservation Austin's Education Committee is to increase public engagement in preservation, and knowledge of and appreciation for the benefits, tools and practices of preservation throughout Austin. That might sound a little dry, but the ideas we generate and the programs we support are anything but!

In February, PA and the Austin Energy Green Building Program co-hosted a talk entitled "Preservation Myths" presented by PA Director Kate Singleton, and Board members John Rosato and Ken Johnson. It was great to reach a new audience of curious

builders, architects, and contractors interested in issues around sustainable building and design.

We've been invited to be a part of Mathews Elementary School's 100th Birthday events beginning in 2016, are looking for ideas for the National Trust's upcoming 50th Anniversary of the National Preservation Act; we will be co-sponsoring with the Texas Historical Commission, a Tax Credit Workshop and are looking for enlightening and insightful speakers for our speaker series. We will host a "Greening Your Historic Home" hands-on workshop this summer, and will

be supporting the upcoming Homes Tour with volunteers, all the while as our active Social Media subcommittee peppers us with interesting articles, news and images for FB, Instagram and Twitter.

If you have program ideas you want to share, please reach out to director@preservationaustin.org and share your thoughts. We're interested in programs for all ages and residents and visitors alike!

Thanks for your interest in Preservation Austin and for getting involved! ★



JOURDAN-BACHMAN PIONEER FARMS

APRIL 2015 UPDATE ABOUT GOINGS-ON AT CENTRAL TEXAS' PREMIER LIVING HISTORY PARK



Pioneer Farms

Excited children line up last year at the starting line.

SUNRISE SERVICE, BIGGEST EGG HUNT SLATED FOR EASTER FESTIVITIES ON APRIL 5.

HOLY WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH TO CONDUCT SERVICE; BUNNIES, HORSE RIDES TO BE HIT FOR AFTERNOON FAMILY FUN.

Special to the Gazette.

Easter weekend will bring a variety of old-fashioned events at Pioneer Farms.

At daybreak on Sunday, April 20, Holy Word Lutheran Church will hold a Sunrise Easter Service in our Sprinkle Corner town square, just like the ones that Texans used to celebrate in the late 1800s. Admission is free.

That afternoon, the city's largest Easter Egg Hunt will take place, with starting times staggered for younger children.

Crafts, historical activities for families and horse rides will also be offered. Bunnies (real and stuffed-toy variety) will be available for petting and (the latter) for purchase.

See more details at PioneerFarms.org.

WILDFLOWER BLOSSOMS PROVIDING A MOST COLORFUL SPRING SHOW.

Special to the Gazette.

Our fence lines and pastures are ablaze in color this spring, thanks to a gift last fall from Marianna and James Lombard of Houston, and Merian and Paul Klein of Austin.

Their donations allowed us to complete a wildflower seeding project started three years ago, so the grounds are like the 1800s.

With all the recent rains, the flowers are just now starting to come out in full color. Great spots abound for that spring family photo.

PIONEER WEATHER REPORT ANYTIME

Check SPRINKLE TX on Yahoo! or Google Weather to see the weather conditions at Pioneer Farms.

FAMOUS RE-ENACTOR GROUP SETS BIG 1800s SHOW WITH MUSKETS, MARCHING, MORE ON APRIL 18.

FUN DAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

Special to the Gazette.

The famous Texas Rifles re-enactor group is planning a special history show at Pioneer Farms on Saturday, April 18, featuring frontier military life in the Lone Star State.

More than 100 costumed members of the group are expected for the day, organizers said. It should be an amazing display, a must-see event in the Austin area.

Imagine seeing Central Texas' largest living-history re-enactment of the year on historic grounds. It will be an amazing display, featuring musket shooting, military drills and interactive historical exhibits.

Regular admission will be charged, an old-fashioned bargain for a show like this. See PioneerFarms.org for more details.



Martha Schreffler

Pysanky dyed egg have a history as colorful as they are.

EGG-DYEING CLASS SET APRIL 26; HISTORICAL CLASS LISTS GROWS.

URBAN FARMING, CULINARY ARTS, MORE.

Special to the Gazette.

Central Texans wanting to learn Pysanky, the historic egg dyeing from Ukraine, and backyard farming just got a big boost.

We've added the egg class in time for Easter, along with Three-Sisters Gardens, Native Texas Plants, Fruit Trees, Medicinal Plants and Beekeeping classes later this spring.

Classes in Spinning and Leatherwork are also now enrolling, along with Sewing Plain & Fancy, Basketmaking, Cast-Iron Cooking, Decorative Metalworking and Restoring Antique Tools.

Many classes now include take-home books. Look for the expanded Pioneer School class schedule listed at Pioneer Farms.org.

MOTHER GOOSE.

FAIRY TALE CHARACTERS COME TO LIFE IN NEW FESTIVAL ON MAY 2.

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S FUN FEST.

Special to the Gazette.

Characters from the historic Mother Goose fairy tale will occupy our historic sites in a special festival for children of all ages on Saturday, May 2.

Humpty Dumpty, Jack and Jill, Little Bo Peep, Jack Be Nimble, Mary Mary Quite Contrary and other characters from the storied fable that was popular in the 1800s will also be present.

So, too, will a fiddler and other music, food, crafts and other fun activities for all ages.

See PioneerFarms.org for more details.



'SUNDAY AFTERNOON SOCIALS' A SUCCESS; APRIL EVENT SET.

Special to the Gazette.

Our new "Sunday Afternoon Socials" series of historical lectures got off to a great start in March, with noted author Carmen Goldthwaite presenting a fascinating program on "Famous Texas Women."

Patterned after the Victorian parlor discussion gatherings, the series continues in April. See PioneerFarms.org for the time and date.

ORGANIC EGGS AT WEEKEND FARMSTANDS.

Special to the Gazette.

Our weekend Farmstand has added organic eggs to the list of produce for sale, and Fridays have been added to the days the market is open.

The organic eggs are \$5 a dozen, and our regular natural, free-range eggs are \$3 a dozen.

Most weekends, we offer a variety of potatoes, fruit, onions, tomatoes, peppers and other veggies.

Check PioneerFarms.org for a weekly list.

You don't have to pay admission to get in.

Homes Tour, continued from page 5

Born in 1906 on a farm near Mineola, Texas, Mr. Shields taught school for three years before attending UT Austin. He graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1931 and joined the UT Oil and Gas Royalty Department as an auditor – a position he held for nine years. In 1940 he joined the Navy as an apprentice seaman and left military service as Aerographers Mate.

After World War II, Mr. Shields bought the Austin Beverage Company, a beer distributing business from which he retired in 1973. Shields was a very active Austinite, participating in many civic and Masonic activities including the Austin Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Austin Kiwanis Club, the Better Business Bureau, the Sales Executive Club, Goodwill Industries, the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation; was President and part owner of SeaArama Marineworld in Galveston. Shields was also past Master of Austin Lodge No. 12; past Master of all Scottish Rite Bodies, attaining the honorary 33rd Degree. He was past Potentate of Ben Hur Shrine Temple, and played trombone in the Shrine Band for over 40 years. He was also a member of Royal Order of Jesters. He served on the Boards of Directors for



Unique rooflines on the Phillips-Fletcher house for a living area that is warm, low-scaled and that connects front and back yards and exterior views.

Lamar Savings Association which he helped to organize and name, and was an Honorary Lifetime Director of the Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas. Shields was a Director of the Wholesale Beer Distributors Association, a Director of the Texas Golf Association, and was named by that organization a “Prince of Good Fellows.”

For updates to the exterior walls and a rebuilt fireplace, the plans used ledgestone, closely matching the original Arkansas ledgestone exterior.

The current owners worked with Tom Hurt Architecture to remodel this house into a family home of an adequate, but not wasteful, size. The owners resisted the urge to add space to the house, leaving it at its original 3100 square foot size.

Tom Hurt Architect restructured the roof and ceiling framing over the living area, repositioned horizontal carrying

members to the attic, allowing the ceiling to appear to extend seamlessly from the inside of the house to the porch outside. An 8-foot ceiling, a key feature of the 1950’s Ranch-style house; became a focal point

1960s “Butterfly House”

The Phillips-Fletcher House or “Butterfly House” was constructed in 1964, and its first known occupants were University of Texas Graduate Studies Chair Willard Fletcher and his wife, Jean. The architect, Arthur Dallas Stenger (1922-2002), a larger-than-life architect-builder, reportedly designed over 40 houses on Ridgewood Road and Brady Lane in Rollingwood, and perhaps 50 in Barton Hills. His client list included notables such as John Henry Faulk, Cactus Pryor, and Frank and Sue McBee. Stenger’s own home was nearby at 442 Ridgewood. His work has been compared to the work of noted California architect Joseph Eichler, as both designed many fine, affordable houses for creative clients. The Fletcher House is particularly noted for its scalloped roof, evocative of the Fehr and Granger design for Austin’s Robert



Photo by Mareen Mattheur

River Road Ranch-style

Continued on page 11

Homes Tour, continued from page 10

Mueller Airport (closed in 1999). To some, the scallops also resemble butterfly wings, resulting in the house's nickname.

Aided by architects Rick and Cindy Black, the owners respected the integrity of the original Stegner design and preserved the original footprint of the house.

Elements within the house were restored or upgraded, usually with the design and period of construction in mind. ★

Sources

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbt17>, including the following bibliography:

Bastrop Historical Society, *In the Shadow of the Lost Pines: A History of Bastrop County and Its People* (Bastrop, Texas: Bastrop Advertiser, 1955). Bill Moore, *Bastrop County, 1691-1900* (Wichita Falls: Nortex Press, 1977). Texas Military Institute, *Annual Catalogue (1857-1858)*. Texas Military Institute, *Annual Register (1873-1874)*. Texas Military Institute, *Annual Register of Officers and Cadets (1872-1873)*.

Phoebe Allen, Preservation Austin member, Austin History Detective. Historical Research for City, State & National Landmarks

"A Field Guide to American Houses," Virginia and Lee McAlester, Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.

City of Austin Zone Review Sheet; Jan. 29, 2008; Case # CASE NUMBER: C14H-07-0017 (Art Moderne)

Edited from the City of Austin, Zoning Change Review Sheet, November 10, 2009, Case No. C14H-2009-0056 (The Bull House)

Edited from Preservation Austin's 2014 Merit Awards. Researched by Peter Maxson. (Phillips-Fletcher House)

Old Main Photo: "Oldmainbuilding". Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons - <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Oldmainbuilding.jpg#/media/File:Oldmainbuilding.jpg> ★



Homes Tour Sponsors

Preservation Austin
HISTORIC HOMES
TOUR 2015



Sponsors Make the Historic Homes Tour Happen

Preservation Austin recognizes our generous sponsors for their support of the Historic Homes Tour:

GOLD

★ **Bratten Thomason**
John Donisi & Gina Hinojosa ★
Shoehorn Design

SILVER

**Architects Clayton & Little
designhouse**
Shelly Hemingson, Your Central Austin REALTOR®
Keller Williams Realty
Tom Hurt & Kathie Tovo
Mark Seeger, Jeff Harper & IBM Matching Grant
NEST Modern
Prosperity Bank
Lin Team & Lazan Pargaman
The Kinney Company
Ken Turlington, CFA
Terry McDaniel & Co. Investment Counsel
David Wilson Garden Design

BRONZE

Gracy Title/Dan Nelson,
Attorney at Law
Dr. Brad and Colleen Theriot
Alyson McGee, JBG Goodwin REALTORS®

New and improved **SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES** are still available for the Homes Tour! You or your business have expanded marketing opportunities to support Preservation Austin's most visible and best-attended event.

Please visit www.presentationaustin.org/events. Click on Homes Tour for sponsorship packages. ★



**PRESERVATION
— AUSTIN —**

P.O. Box 2113
Austin, TX 78768

www.preservationaustin.org
info@preservationaustin.org

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT NO. 2100

★ ◆ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR 8 “Reel Austin,” Historic Homes Tour Lecture 2
6-8 pm; Stateside Theatre; 719 Congress Avenue
Presented by Dr. Caroline Frick, with the Texas
Archive of the Moving Image
Light refreshments \$20. Tickets on sale NOW.

MAY 2 23rd Annual Historic Homes Tour, *Austin Through
the Ages*, 10 am-4 pm. PA Member \$25; Non-
members, \$35. *Tickets on sale NOW.*

JUN 7 Inherit Austin ‘Dillo Tour – Save the Date!
Details to come!

★ For information, visit: www.PreservationAustin.org

★ ◆ CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Jump into making the 23rd Annual Historic Homes Tour the best yet! From event set-up to close-down and everything in between Preservation Austin needs your help. All volunteers donate a two-hour shift and receive free wristband admission to the Tour, before or after their shift.

To volunteer online:

- Go to www.preservationaustin.org
- Choose **EVENT** tab
- Choose **HISTORIC HOMES TOUR**
- Click **VOLUNTEER HERE**

Please respond by April 17, 2015.