



PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —

# PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Winter 2017 ★ Volume 21 No. 1



## The Meridian Highway

By Rebekah Dobrasko, Education Committee

**L**ong before our travel woes on Interstate 35 and Mopac, long before Austin's development into a tech and live music mecca, the capital of Texas was just another stop along the Meridian Highway. Stretching from Winnipeg, Canada to Monterrey, Mexico, the Meridian Highway presaged the construction of I-35 and our modern highway system. In the early twentieth century, Texas' roads were often impassable due to weather or poor construction. A movement first spearheaded by bicyclists, known as the Good Roads movement, led to the formation of national groups dedicated to improving roads across the United States. Ultimately, the federal government stepped in to provide funding, and the Texas Highway Department (THD) came into being in 1917 to tap those federal dollars.



Hill's Café: 4700 South Congress Avenue. Charles Goodnight opened Hill's Café in 1947 to serve patrons at the adjacent Goodnight Motel. The café began as a small coffee shop and restaurant named after Goodnight's business partner, Sam Hill.

The Meridian Highway, however, predates the formation of the THD. In 1911, Kansan John Nicholson decided the nation needed a good north-south highway. Other national highways, such as the Lincoln Highway, the Bankhead Highway, and the Old Spanish Trail, reached from coast to coast, but none stretched from Canada to Mexico. Nicholson aimed to change that, and founded the Meridian Road Association in Salinas, Kansas. Over time, the Association routed the highway along the Sixth Principal Meridian, thus giving the road its name. The Meridian Highway entered Texas from Oklahoma near the town of Bowie, and then headed south through Fort Worth, Waco, Austin, and San Antonio to Laredo. Ultimately, the Meridian Highway was absorbed into the development of Interstate Highway 35.

Recently, the Texas Legislature tasked the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) with identifying, designating, interpreting, and marketing historic roads and highways in Texas. The first project under this program surveyed routes and sites along the Bankhead Highway. THC recently completed survey work along the Meridian Highway, the second project in the program. Although no remnants of the original road itself remain in Austin, there are small pockets of roadside businesses that still tell the story of the Meridian Highway through our city.

The Meridian Highway entered Austin from the north along what is now North Lamar Avenue and crossed east to Guadalupe Street

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# Amplify Austin Day 2017: March 2-3



Preservation Austin is participating in Amplify Austin Day on March 2-3! This community-wide day of online giving has helped hundreds of local nonprofits raise over \$24.7 million since 2013 through donations as small as \$10. Last year PA raised \$2,000 to pay for a

new laptop, one year's worth of Adobe Creative Cloud, and a new version of QuickBooks for our office. Glamorous? Maybe not, but these fundamental tools have greatly enhanced our ability to fulfill our mission through education and advocacy. But there's more to be done!

This year's goal is just \$2,500 and we need your help to get there. **First, share, share, share!** Amplify Austin Day relies heavily on word-of-mouth, so we need our members to share PA's fundraising posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. And if you donate on March 2-3, share that too, and tell your followers why supporting our mission is so important. **We're also challenging five members to become Individual Fundraisers.** You'll set up a fundraising page, set your own goal, and then promote our campaign to your social network. Have a cute dog? Make it your fundraising mascot! Love Austin's historic parks or neighborhoods? Take pictures of yourself in each one and say why it's important to you. Your followers will be inspired and you'll help us raise the funds we need to propel the organization forward. Have fun with it!

Email Programs Coordinator Lindsey Derrington at [programs@preservationaustin.org](mailto:programs@preservationaustin.org) for more details, and check out our Amplify Austin donation page at [amplifyatx.livehereigivehere.org](http://amplifyatx.livehereigivehere.org). ★



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Goodnight Motel: 4702 South Congress Avenue. Opened in 1941 to catch the tourist trade between Austin and San Antonio, the Goodnight family ran this motor court-style resting place for decades. Now known as the Classic Inn, the individual buildings of the motor court and the mid-century modern office building still welcome weary travelers.

at The Triangle. Travelers had a choice to stay on Guadalupe Street until its intersection with West First Street (now West Cesar Chavez Street) and head east to Congress Avenue, or to head east on Nineteenth Street (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard) and then turn south on Congress Avenue and go through Capitol Square. The Meridian Highway then followed South Congress Avenue out of town toward Buda and San Marcos.

As roads improved across the state and more people began to own cars, travel and car-related businesses began springing up along highways and at important intersections. Tucked away among new condominiums, restaurants, and other recent development are gas stations, auto repair shops, motels, restaurants, and tourist courts that continue to tell a story about early travel and tourism through Austin. The route of the Meridian down Congress brought travelers to the state capitol, as well as down one of Austin's main business streets, demonstrating the importance of cultural and historic sites to the routing of these early highways.

Motels and restaurants catered to travelers along the Meridian Highway, while gas stations and auto repair shops catered to the travelers' vehicles. Early motels typically took the form of motor courts, with an office out front and individual buildings accommodating travelers needing a bed. As demand rose, these tourist courts morphed

into motel styles more typical of today. Some motels along the Meridian Highway in Austin include the Blue Bonnet Court (1929, 4407 Guadalupe Street), the Austin Motel "Tourist Court" (c. 1940, 1220 S. Congress Avenue), the St. Elmo-Tel (1940, 4501 S. Congress Avenue, now demolished), and the Goodnight Courts/Classic Inn (c. 1941, 4702 S. Congress Avenue). Restaurants served both locals and travelers, and some have become Austin institutions, such as El Patio (1954, 2938 Guadalupe Street), Martin's Drive-In (1926, 2808 Guadalupe Street), and Hill's Café (1941, 4700 S. Congress Avenue).

Gas stations usually followed architectural designs prescribed by the parent oil company, making them instantly recognizable in form. Travelers along the Meridian could also

*Continued on page 4*



James Hershel Service Station: 3512 Guadalupe Street. Now Flamingo Automotive Repair, this service station opened in the late 1930s with a distinctive Art Deco architectural style. The canopy over the gas pumps and the service bays are still visible on the building.



J.L. Teague Filling Station: 4401 Guadalupe Street. First opened along the Meridian Highway c. 1930, this gas station was independent from the larger oil companies. The station served Hyde Park and travelers along the highway through the 1960s.

*Meridian Highway, continued from page 3*

stop at independent gas stations, such as the J.L. Teague Filling Station at 4401 Guadalupe Street. Opened in the 1930s, this station served Hyde Park locals as well as visitors headed into town. One of the more well-known gas stations on the Meridian Highway is the Gulf station at 6416 North Lamar Street. Kenneth Threadgill opened this station in 1933 and served beer to thirsty travelers. Eventually, Threadgill's gas station became a beer joint and attracted local musicians to entertain bar customers. Further south, the Hershel James Filling Station (3512 Guadalupe Street) provided gas beginning in the 1930s, and partnered with the Stiles Tire Company in the 1950s. The building continues to house an automotive-related business.

Austin's early tourism and travel heritage can still be found along its streets, if one knows where to look. While many of these sites are vulnerable to development, others continue to serve automobiles and visitors as they have done for close to eighty years.

*Rebekah is a Historic Preservation Specialist at Texas Department of Transportation. ★*

#### For More Information

For more on the Meridian Highway, including a Google Earth layer showing the routes and stops along the highway, visit the THC's website at: [thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-texas-highways/meridian-highway](http://thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-texas-highways/meridian-highway).

For more on Texas gas stations and motels, visit TxDOT's website for gas stations ([ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/420-05-gui.pdf](ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/420-05-gui.pdf)) & Motels ([ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/420-10-gui.pdf](ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/env/toolkit/420-10-gui.pdf)).

## B'Nai Abraham: Austin's Newest, Oldest Synagogue

### Lecture & Tour

Sunday, January 15  
2pm - 3:30pm  
Dell Jewish Community Campus  
7300 Hart Lane  
FREE, RSVP recommended

**J**oin Preservation Austin for a lecture and tour of the B'nai Abraham (Children of Abraham) Brenham Historic Synagogue, built in 1893 to serve Jewish immigrants from Poland and Lithuania and moved from Brenham to Austin in 2015. Jay Rubin, former Shalom Austin CEO, and George Wilcox, AIA of Clayton & Little Architects will discuss this years-long feat of engineering, fundraising, and planning. Speakers will also discuss why, despite the

loss of its historic designations, longtime Brenham civic leaders and stewards Leon and Mimi Toubin spearheaded the move to ensure the synagogue would again house an active congregation after a half century of infrequent use. We'll learn about B'nai Abraham's history, the passionate (and sometimes colorful) individuals who made its move possible, and its new role on the Dell Jewish Community Campus. We'll also visit the nearby Gan Yaniv meditation garden, created from the remains of the historic Hart Family Ranch. Don't miss this opportunity to experience firsthand, Texas' oldest extant synagogue building, now part of the Austin community.

This event is free but RSVPs by Tuesday, January 10 to [programs@preservationaustin.org](mailto:programs@preservationaustin.org) are encouraged. The 40-acre Dell Jewish Community Campus is gated, but guardhouse staff will direct attendees to B'nai Abraham upon arrival. ★





# Raised on Music: Growing Up in Austin's Music Venues

Stacey Ingram Kaleh, Education Committee and Melissa Ingram

*Stacey Ingram Kaleh is a fourth-generation Austinite. She has served on Preservation Austin's Education Committee for four years, and is a PA Sustaining Member. Spurred by recent news of venue closures and moves due in part to rising rents and development pressures, she sat down with her mom, Melissa Ingram, to discuss their shared passion for live music, growing up immersed in Austin's live music scene, and the ways in which music venues shape the city's identity. They invite us to think about the venues' impactful contributions to our shared culture as a community, and to prioritize them before they slip away.*

**S**tacey: Live music and my experiences at local music venues have shaped my perspective on my hometown. I think, in large part, they contribute to my emotional attachment to Austin. I can only ever imagine living in a "music city."

*When I was a teenager, my friends and I were all about the venues on Red River like Stubb's, Emo's, and the Red Eyed Fly, as well as the venues located in what is now the 2nd Street District, La Zona Rosa and Austin Music Hall.*

*Tell us a little bit about your background with the Austin music scene and what it was like in the 70's and 80's. What were the popular music "districts," like Red River now?*

**Melissa:** I started going out to concerts and dance halls at age 12, and I've been hooked ever since. I can't imagine growing up without live music. It might sound cheesy, but it really has shaped the fabric of my life. I don't know how else to say it. Live music was just what you did. It was part of weekly life.

As far as music "districts," there were several. There were venues grouped

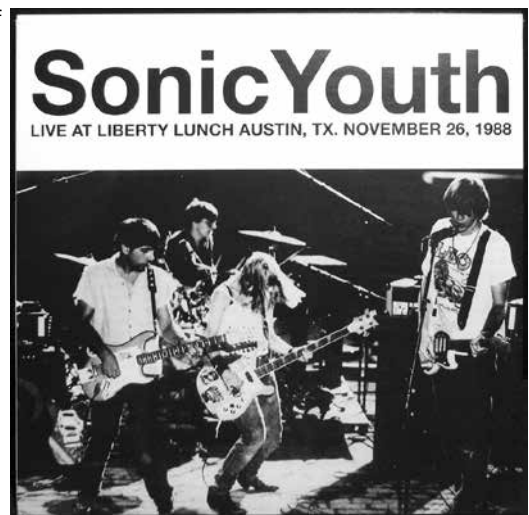
around South Congress, including Armadillo World Headquarters, Austin Opry House, and the Continental Club. Sixth Street had Steamboat, Maggie Mae's, and the Ritz. Liberty Lunch, Austin Music Hall, Club Foot, La Zona Rosa, and the Elephant Room were all between 2nd and 4th streets. A lot of venues flourished around the UT campus. College students have always been early adopters and a great fan base for up-and-coming musicians. We still have Hole in the Wall and Cactus Café, but there was also Antone's, Austin City Limits Studio 6A, Raul's, and others. Then, there were the dance halls like the Broken Spoke and Skyline that drew in country artists.

There were some venues located off on their own, like the Back Room, Backyard, and Soap Creek Saloon. We seem to have more destination venues that are not necessarily grouped near others now.

**Stacey:** How do music venues and iconic performances help establish Austin's unique identity? How do they contribute to a sense of community?

**Melissa:** Austin has never been about just one kind of music. Musicians of all genres have always been welcome, as have their diverse fan bases, and that is thanks to the diversity of the venues who purposefully created atmospheres conducive to rock, or blues, or two-stepping and invited a variety of artists to perform. We seemed to get a lot of touring bands from England, too, that were invited by the record stores like Waterloo, Inner Sanctum Records, and Sound Exchange. Post-Vietnam, places like the Armadillo brought people together. You'd be in a crowd with both cowboys and hippies to see Willie (Nelson). I think all of this has contributed

*Continued on page 6*



*Music Venues, continued from page 5*

to Austin's identity as a welcoming and weird place, a place where any interest and passion can be pursued, and you can feel supported by your neighbors.

One thing I was thinking about was the intimacy that many of the venues fostered. I think Austin is considered a place where up-and-coming artists can break out, which contributes to our identity as a hub for innovation, due to the intimate live performances that take place here. The smaller size of the venues, paired with the incredible number of venues, made Austin a place where musicians could play to packed rooms and fans always had a great view of the stage. These types of atmospheres help create an emotional connection between artist and fan, fan and artist.

Our venues are also uniquely suited to our physical climate here. Only in Austin do you see so many indoor/outdoor combination venues.

**Stacey:** *What stands out to you the most about a venue? What are the quirky things you remember that create a strong sense of place? I think about the mural at Emo's, the smell of BBQ and reddish gravel that dusts your jeans at Stubb's, or the open-duct ceiling at the Back Room that punk rockers would swing from.*

**Melissa:** Steamboat had a great balcony that allowed you to see the band from anywhere, and the limestone walls kept it cool inside. Armadillo had great crowd flow. It would be packed but you could still move around easily. You could see multiple bands at Maggie Mae's by walking from the downstairs stage to the rooftop stage. And you could see the stars during a performance

at Liberty Lunch, which used to be an old wagon yard.

**Stacey:** *Why do you think it is important to preserve Austin's music venues?*

**Melissa:** Our music venues have built the character of our city. We're known as the music capital because of the inclusive, diverse, innovative and entrepreneurial culture that the venues, businesses founded to support musicians, have established. Memories and nostalgia are tied to a specific place, and it's not the same when venues move to new locations. There's an emotional jogging in returning to a place and knowing what has happened there, who's performed there. I think we are also able to attract the highest quality artists because they enjoy being an extension of that history, performing in the same place as Stevie Ray Vaughan or Janis Joplin or Eric Johnson.

**Stacey:** *I agree. I think preserving our venues helps preserve the authentic spirit of Austin. It gives us credibility when we call ourselves "the live music capital," and our unique history does attract high caliber artists. For example, when Dave Grohl chose Austin as a source of inspiration for the Foo Fighters' "Sonic Highways" documentary and album, he chose to record at Studio 6A even though we have the Moody Theater now. He wanted to feel the history in that space.*

*And one of the coolest things about talking about music in Austin is that, undoubtedly, everyone around you will start chiming in on your conversation to share their favorite memories. I love how people are coming up to us as we talk even now.*

**Melissa:** Yes, I love that, too. Venues and performances give our community these shared experiences. These are the stories



Elvis Costello playing with The Skunks at Raul's we keep telling. Concert experiences are a topic of conversation that doesn't have generational boundaries - Austinites of all ages who love music want to see great artists perform in legendary spaces. And, as you can see, talking about these experiences connects you with your fellow Austinites. Years from now you will have a connection with a stranger who was at the same show. I believe the audiences that patronize venues now will one day be able to financially support them again, and they will want to do so because of the impactful communal experiences they've enjoyed there, if the venues are able to stick around long enough.

**Stacey:** *Okay, I have to sneak this one in! What is one of your most memorable moments at a venue? Maybe something that's become Austin legend?*

**Melissa:** Joe "King" Carrasco laid down in the middle of Congress Avenue during his show at the Continental Club. I can't choose just one! I remember Elvis Costello playing with The Skunks at Raul's. The Police played at Armadillo World Headquarters for \$2 and everyone in the crowd got a whistle. And, when the Rolling Stones finally made it to town, going with you and your brother to see them at Zilker. ★



**P**reservation Austin presents our Facebook Heritage Quiz the first Friday of every month. The first respondent to correctly identify a local landmark receives a \$5 gift card to East Austin's Cenote café, housed in the 1887 McDonald-Cain House, courtesy of your favorite preservation organization!



🎉 Congratulations to our fall winners for correctly spotting the following properties:

### October 2016 – Wooldridge Square (900 Guadalupe Street)

One of Austin's original public squares, Wooldridge Square has been home to political speeches, government campaigns, weddings, and picnic-ers for hundreds of years. The park originally flooded for part of each year and became a neighborhood dumping ground until Mayor A.P. Wooldridge funded improvements in 1909. These included drainage, the erection of a Charles Page-designed gazebo, and later a concrete path through the park. Noted as one of Austin's premier civic spaces, the Square is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a State Antiquities Landmark, and a City of Austin Landmark.

★ **Winner: Kimberly LeBlanc**



Wooldridge Square

### November 2016 – Old Depot Hotel (504 East 5th Street)

One of the last remaining remnants of Austin's downtown railroad industry, the Old Depot Hotel housed travelers and visitors for many decades. The hotel opened in 1872 shortly after the Houston and Texas Central Railroad entered Austin. Developer Carl Schaeffer hired master building Abner Cook to design and construct a combination railroad station and hotel for rail visitors to the state's capital. Eventually, the Old Depot Hotel served passengers from multiple railroads and stagecoach lines. Now converted into Carmelo's Ristorante Italiano, the Old Depot Hotel still serves Austin's visitors and is a reminder of the state's early transportation history.

★ **Winner: Anne-Charlotte Patterson**



Old Depot Hotel

### December 2016 - Lundberg Bakery (1006 Congress Avenue)

Lundberg Bakery, located in the shadow of the Capitol, was opened by Swedish immigrant Charles Lundberg in 1876. Lundberg hired Anton Schaefer as the general contractor for the project and John Didelot as the stone carver. Significant stone features on the building include the carved limestone eagle on the gable roof. After Lundberg's passing in 1895, his wife sold the bakery to Henry Maerki, who continued to operate a bakery here until 1906. This distinctive building, constructed of Austin buff brick in decorative patterns, has multiple landmark designations and is open to the public as a consignment shop, visitor center and museum.

★ **Winner: Kristina Kupferschmid**



Lundberg Bakery



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The Preservation Committee meets monthly to discuss projects brought to our attention by the public; by architects, developers or planners needing assistance; or by PA members and staff. This working committee provides advocacy, recommends policy positions, and forms partnerships with other neighborhood or preservation groups working on preservation issues. Members are restoration architects, historians, realtors, developers, planners, experienced neighborhood advocates, and other professionals with expertise in various aspects of historic preservation. Our process is to discuss and sometimes debate these items, then vote on a position for approval by PA's Board or Executive Committee.

Here are just a few of the projects PresCom has worked on over the last several months:

- The committee met with residents of the Aldridge Place neighborhood, within the North University Neighborhood Association, to hear about their efforts towards completing an application for a Local Historic District and discuss how PA could best support them. Following our committee meeting, PA submitted a letter to the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) formally supporting the neighborhood's application and requesting that it be approved. Individual committee members and PA staff have attended neighborhood meetings as well as HLC meetings to publicly voice our support. At the October HLC meeting, there were not enough commissioners present to garner the 6 votes necessary for approval of the item and it was postponed. In November, it passed with 6 votes in support and 0 against (with 1 recusal). The item now moves to the Planning Commission but, as of the writing of this report, that meeting has not yet been scheduled. Final approval by City Council could be in December or January.
- Aldridge Place residents leading these efforts are commendable in their dedication to educate neighbors, provide a transparent process, and garner support. The proposed historic district includes 89% contributing properties, with demonstrated support from a large majority of property owners. PA wholeheartedly supports the designation of local historic districts as a means by which to preserve more historic properties in our city, including those that do not merit status as individual landmarks, and to allow residents a greater role in the process of preservation. We applaud the efforts of the Aldridge Place neighborhood and will continue to support them at public meetings as the process moves forward.
- After a PresCom discussion, PA issued a letter to the Texas Facilities Commission requesting that redevelopment of the Austin State Hospital site include designation and protection of significant historic buildings and landscaping. The main building is a State Antiquities Landmark (the highest level of protection a building can have) but no other resources on the campus are designated. The Texas Historical Commission has issued a letter and report recommending a National Register of Historic Places district for additional areas of the campus, which we support in our letter to the TFC. PresCom will continue to monitor this potential project.
- PresCom has had multiple presentations by Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) staff and contractors regarding the Wooldridge Park master planning process. We have voiced support for specific design elements, related primarily to accessibility issues, and expressed professional concerns for other design elements. PARD has another presentation scheduled for our December meeting. PresCom has been especially aided in this effort by committee member Charles Peveto, who is also an active member of the Friends of Wooldridge Square.
- PresCom met with members of the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association regarding a demolition permit application filed for the home at 1112 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. This vernacular board and batten house with simple Queen Anne details was home to Arturo Aleman, a historian of Austin's Mexican American communities. The East Austin Historic Resources Survey and the city's Historic Preservation Officer

*Continued on page 10*

both recommended it for designation as a local landmark for those reasons. Before the case could be heard by the HLC in September, the property owners withdrew the demo permit application, opting instead to renovate the existing house with an addition to be reviewed by the city's preservation staff. At the time this report was written, no renovations plans have been reviewed.

- This summer, members of the PresCom advocated to City Council for inclusion of two items in the city's 2017 budget. One was for funding to complete the next phase of the citywide historic

resources survey, possibly to include areas of South and West Austin, following the successful completion of the first phase in East Austin. The second budget item would have provided for a new position within PARD for a cultural resources/planner position to supplement the department's existing Preservation Planner. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts and support from some Council Members, neither made it into the final city budget. We intend to pursue these items in 2018, as appropriate. Already, we have found the first phase work to be extremely helpful to preservation planning and development projects in East Austin. ★



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PHOTO BY TODD MAPNE



**DRISKILL GRILL**

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# President's Message

★ John Donisi



**P**reservation Austin's 56th Annual Preservation Merit Awards were a great success. We want to thank all our sponsors, including Underwriters Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau, Heritage Title, and the Driskill Hotel. These awards are an opportunity to celebrate and honor the individuals and organizations saving Austin's unique architectural and cultural history. Our speaker, Paul Gunther, Executive Director of New York City's Gracie Mansion, discussed the importance of historic preservation as an economic development tool but also cautioned that displacement can occur as we strive to save our historic places, and that preservation of legacy businesses and local culture that contribute to the authenticity and vibrancy of a city are equally important.

The recently completed East Side Historic Resource Survey is an important planning and policy tool for the City, neighborhoods and Preservation Austin. (see page 14 for more) In anticipation of the results of the survey, Preservation Austin applied for and received a generous grant from the Butler Family Foundation to develop and hold workshops on the local historic district process. These workshops, free and open to all, explain the City's process for designation of local historic districts and give detailed instructions and information on developing design standards. Also included is information about increasing energy efficiency in historic buildings. The first workshop, held in early December, had 30 people including representatives from neighborhoods identified as potential historic districts in the East Side Survey. We will be holding another one in early 2017 so watch our Facebook page and website for more information.

Preservation Austin encourages the City to use the survey as a resource and tool to make planning and policy decisions regarding neighborhood stabilization, transportation, redevelopment and other such issues. We will also keep advocating for additional funding to continue surveying the rest of Austin including encouraging the City to apply for Certified Local Government grants from the Texas Historical Commission to augment local budget funding.

The Texas Legislature has begun their 2017 session and Preservation Austin will be monitoring proposed legislation with partner and affinity organizations including the Texas Historical Commission, Preservation Texas, Texas Downtown Association, Texans for the Arts, and others to ensure that issues related to preservation are at the forefront and have a positive outcome. Preservation Austin advocated for the creation of the state historic tax credit, passed in 2013, and last session advocated for an important bill that allows nonprofit organizations to take advantage of this important tool. From January 2015 to January 2017, the state tax credit has generated over \$355 million in expenditures for 35 projects across Texas. This includes one of our 2016 Preservation Merit Award recipients, the Neill-Cochran House Museum. Preservation Austin encouraged the Neill-Cochran House staff to look into using the state tax credit since non-profits can "sell" the credits to businesses that need them. They have successfully completed their project and the sale of the credits. Federal funds and programs are also important, including the Certified Local Government (CLG) program and the federal historic tax credit program. Austin Parks and Recreation

Department used a CLG grant to help pay for the rehabilitation of the Oakwood Annex Ladies Restroom, another one of this year's award recipients. Across the state, the federal historic tax credit has been successfully used on 14 projects totaling \$176 million in expenditures.

These programs, both on a federal and state level, impact local historic preservation efforts and truly show that preservation does pay!

Sincerely,

John Donisi,  
President ★





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Preservation Partner

Preservation Austin's Planned Giving program helps to create a secure financial future which allows us to focus more time and attention on preserving our shared heritage and less on fundraising obligations.

Visit [www.preservationaustin.org/get-involved/planned-giving/](http://www.preservationaustin.org/get-involved/planned-giving/)



# Inherit Austin

Haley Wilcox, IA Secretary

Inherit Austin events throughout the year included a New Year's Happy Hour at Dart Bowl, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Egg Hunt at Laguna Gloria, sponsoring a house at the annual PA Historic Homes Tour, and hosting a movie night at the Blue Starlite Mini Urban Drive-In.

Most recently, Inherit Austin hosted the 7th Annual Somewhere In Time event at Huston-Tillotson University, a historically black university in East Austin founded in 1875. The event, which highlighted East Austin's rich cultural and architectural heritage, featured walking tours of the unique campus, a highlight of which was Anthony and Louise Viaer Alumni Hall, built in 1914 by bricks manufactured by students of the university, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1993. The campus also includes several stunning mid-century buildings, such as the administration building (pictured below), science building, and chapel. Historic Preservation Office staff were available to showcase the newly released *East Austin Historic Resources Survey*, an impressive effort by the City of Austin to identify potential historic districts in East Austin and, as a result, preserve the area's historic fabric.

The evening included drinks, live music, a silent auction, and a seated dinner of Freedmen's BBQ and Amy's Ice Cream.

Many thanks to the Ph.D Sponsor Gill Agency Residential Real Estate; Master's Degree Sponsor Black Sheep Unique; Bachelor's Degree Sponsors Crowell Builders, Limbacher & Godfrey Architects, McCann Adams Studio, SEEP Property Group, and Stellar Fitness, LLC; and in-kind sponsors Atelier Wong, Dynamic Reprographics, and Hops & Grain Brewery for their generous support.

Ticket sales and silent auction proceeds raised \$5,500 for PA's efforts to preserve and protect Austin's historic and cultural landmarks as well as support advocacy and education programs. A portion of the proceeds was donated to Huston-Tillotson, in hopes to further the preservation and maintenance of their remarkable campus.

Inherit Austin is looking forward to some exciting events and efforts in 2017! Be sure to check our Facebook page for announcements of our "Last Hurrah" events, in which we show some love to a long-time Austin business that will sadly be facing the wrecking ball. Inherit Austin started this new effort in December at Doc's on South Congress, housed in a historic automobile garage, which will be demolished in the Spring of 2017 to make way for new construction. Mark your calendars for our next event on January 19th,



Despite the rain, Somewhere In Time guests enjoyed the walking tour of the historic Huston-Tillotson University campus.  
*Photo by Aletier Wong*

"Austin's Roadside Relics," a family-friendly happy hour at the iconic Peter Pan Mini Golf. We'll have some (warm!) drinks, play some mini-golf, and learn about Austin's fantastic roadside architecture from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. You don't want to miss it! On the morning of Saturday April 8th you can look forward to Inherit Austin's 15th Annual Egg Hunt. This year we are thrilled to be on the beautiful grounds of the French Legation. This family friendly event will have many activities to keep the kiddos busy including family portraits, games, and of course the Egg Hunt!

Lastly, please consider upgrading or renewing your membership at the Inherit Austin Level to receive special discounts to our unique events. If you'd like to be involved in Inherit Austin at the Board level, please reach out to [inheritaustin@preservationaustin.org](mailto:inheritaustin@preservationaustin.org) for

more information and an application package.

Happy New Year! Let's continue saving the good stuff in 2017! ★



## ★ | 2017 IA Board

Michelle Slattery, Chair  
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# ★ Education Committee

Ann S. Graham, Chair

**P**reservation Austin's Education Committee continues to work up a storm! With a dedicated and tireless group of preservation enthusiasts across the professional spectrum, the Education Committee wows with the time, energy, commitment and good cheer they bring to a breadth of projects.

## **We've been honing in on three main areas for outreach:**

- Broadening our reach to people who love Austin and all that makes it special (including old buildings, iconic businesses, creative art forms, natural beauty and more) and capture their interest in our work - saving the good stuff and showing how preservation helps sustain, energize and enhance our daily experiences.
- Maximizing our human and financial resources while reaching the most diverse audiences.
- "De-siloing" our preservation work to reach other constituencies that support preservation through a different lens and may not realize our close ties.

## **How are we doing this? With an increasing breadth of ideas, many of which are underway now!**

**Ambassadors** - Developing and distributing Preservation Austin materials at targeted community events, realtor trainings and more. Our committee is excited to begin representing the

organization at the SFC Farmers' Market Downtown on a monthly basis, and hope that you'll come visit us!

**Historic Austin App Tours** - Expanding and growing our Historic Austin Tours series through the Otocast App, which is available for free in iTunes or Google Play. Our current tours have received 8,900 interactions from individuals in over a dozen states and seven countries this year alone! Armed with a grant from the Austin Foundation for Architecture, we are working on three new tours for Allandale, Brentwood, and Crestview; the Red River Cultural District, incorporating oral histories; and Mid-Century Austin with Mid Tex Mod.

**Children's Programming** - Recognizing that we need to develop and grow our future preservation leaders now through creative programs that pique interest and excite curiosity about the built environment, we are planning our next "History Hunt" set for June 2017 to in Travis Heights.

**Homeowner Resources** - Developing 'how-to' resources for homeowners looking to restore and preserve existing homes and businesses, including continuing with our "Greening Your Vintage Home" series set for summer of 2017.

**Advocacy Guides** - Writing and making accessible critically needed advocacy guides on how to both promote political and financial support for the City of Austin's Historic Preservation Office and Historic Landmarks Commission, and how to advocate for threatened historic buildings and neighborhoods.

**Blogging** - One of most effective and popular recent efforts, and sad that it even needs to be done, is the blogging about demolition permits of diverse homes across the breadth of Austin neighborhoods. As these homes are lost, we lose part of our history and the character that makes our city unique.

My guess is that there is something in this list that you think is pretty engaging and you'd like to get involved in. Don't be shy! Get in touch with Programs Coordinator Lindsey Derrington at [programs@preservationaustin.org](mailto:programs@preservationaustin.org) and roll up your sleeves with the Education Committee. ★



Education Committee Member Stacey Kaleh at the SFC Downtown Farmers' Market



# East Austin Historic Resources Survey: A Way Forward – If We Choose to Use It

In October 2016, the City of Austin and preservation consulting firm Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc. (HHM) completed a comprehensive historic resources survey of East Austin, documenting 6,600 buildings, structures, objects and sites. The boundaries of the survey stretched from Lady Bird Lake to Manor Road, and from IH-35 to Pleasant Valley Road/the Capital Metro rail tracks. For each resource, HHM provided thoughtful, consistent recommendations for eligibility for both individual and historic district eligibility, at both the local landmark level and for the National Register of Historic Places. These recommendations are detailed in the table below. To ensure that recommendations were reliable, defensible, and consistent, the survey report included a detailed historic context of East Austin, a discussion of architecturally significant property types within the area—including the folk and vernacular types that too often are overlooked—and then laid out the evaluation methodology used to link each resource to both the context and the property types discussion in order to define significance.

Too often in the past, Austin’s Historic Landmark Commission has debated significance from the dais, without access to research materials to inform them of how the history of the individual resource intersects with the history of the neighborhood as a whole, and without data management tools to compare the resource to other examples in the neighborhood or even similar examples that the HLC has recently reviewed and evaluated. This survey report provides the documentation necessary to ensure that the Historic Preservation Office and HLC make predictable and defensible decisions that streamline the process of preservation and the process of redevelopment – if they choose to use it. As preservation advocates and watchdogs, let’s hold the City accountable for using this report in their decision making, and for applying an equally rigorous evaluation methodology to their decision-making.

What’s more, the report provides a framework for evaluating historic resources citywide. In

addition to the historic context of East Austin, HHM completed a citywide historic context, going beyond the City’s requested scope for the project. We hope that, when evaluating demolition permits and landmark applications, the Historic Preservation Office and HLC will now use this citywide context to apply the same evaluation methodology that HHM used for East Austin, methodically linking each resource to identified historic trends and property types to understand the significance of Austin’s vernacular buildings of all eras. This citywide historic context also can be used to guide eligibility evaluations for future historic surveys, and for ultimately completing a comprehensive historic resources survey of the City as a whole – something that Austin hasn’t had since 1984. The time-consuming process of research and analysis is complete, so that only field documentation is necessary for the rest of the City. HHM’s report provides recommendations for a phased approach for future survey areas – again going beyond the City’s requested scope.

Completing the proposed future phases of the survey is essential for informed preservation planning. The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan notes the importance of preservation and affirms the need for a program of comprehensive historic resources survey. The City’s participation in the federal Certified Local Government program requires ongoing updates of survey data as well. Our role is to continually remind our City officials why survey is in the best interest of the City. ★

ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION	CITY OF AUSTIN	NATIONAL REGISTER
Individually eligible	99	136
Both individually eligible and contributing to an eligible historic district	199	201
Contributing to an eligible historic district	1,435	1,403
Non-contributing to an eligible historic district	977	977
Not eligible	3,864	3,863
Previous designation (no recommendation)	26	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,600</b>

Eligibility recommendations for local and national historic designation. (Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc., East Austin Historic Resources Survey, prepared for the City of Austin, October 2016. Available online at [www.austintexas.gov/page/east-austin-historic-survey](http://www.austintexas.gov/page/east-austin-historic-survey)).



# Our New & Renewing Members



### WATERLOO CIRCLE ★

Dillon and Cissie Ferguson  
Peter Flagg Maxson and John C. R. Taylor, III  
McBee Family Foundation  
Jill and Stephen Wilkinson

### SUSTAINING ★

Connie Todd

### ADVOCATE ★

Patrick Worrall

### FRIEND ★

Mark and Rebecca Davis  
Frederick and Ann Dure  
Jeffrey Harper and Mark Seeger  
David and Carol Jones

### PARTNER ★

Heather and Michael Becker  
James and Gayle Browne  
Sherman and Julia Hart  
Susan Moffat and Nick Barbaro  
John Nyfeler and Sally Fly  
Karen and Alex Pope  
Jennifer Reiney

### IA COUPLE ★

Patricia and Peter Andersen  
Jane Bloor  
Susie Dudley and Salvatore Conti  
Mary Ann and Andrew Heller

### IA INDIVIDUAL ★

Paul Cato  
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Johnsie and John Bryan  
Jeremy Hunt  
Coleman and Lola Jennings  
Sara Kennedy and Mark Fries  
Robert Knight  
Peggy Pickle and Don Cook  
Mary Reed and Rodney Root  
Mary Ann Roser and Ted Thomas  
Jean and Tracy Warren  
Jonathan Williams

### BUSINESS AMBASSADORS ★

ABC Home & Commercial Services

### BUSINESS LEADER ★

ARCHITEXAS

### CONTRIBUTOR ★

Janice and Marc Burckhardt  
Richard Cleary  
Donald G. Davis, Jr.  
Jeanne and Karl Frank  
Gay Gillen  
Sharon and Jim Hornfischer  
Jo Sue Howard  
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Barbara Langham  
Annette S. and Henry Lucksinger  
Rick Mitchell  
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# Thank You!

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR PRESERVATION AUSTIN  
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ABC Home & Commercial Services  
Alamo Drafthouse Cinema  
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## Become a Sustaining Member

Interested in increasing your contribution to Preservation Austin by making giving easier and more convenient? Our new Sustaining Membership program allows you to set up automatic \$10, \$25, or \$50 monthly gifts through your checking account until you decide to make a change. You'll eliminate annual renewal notices AND receive one of our Sustaining Member shopping totes featuring beloved Austin landmarks! You'll also help Preservation Austin cut down on mailing and processing costs while providing steady, reliable support for our education and advocacy initiatives. See our website for details! ★





**PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —**

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Austin, TX 78768**

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## PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2017

**JAN  
15**

### **B'Nai Abraham: Austin's Newest, Oldest Synagogue**

Dell Jewish Community Campus (7300 Hart Lane, 78731), 2PM-3:30PM. Lecture and tour of historic B'Nai Abraham Synagogue, built in 1893 and moved to Austin in 2015. Free, RSVP recommended. See page 4 for details.

**JAN  
19**

### **Austin's Roadside Relics**

Peter Pan Mini Golf (1207 Barton Springs Road, 78704). Join Inherit Austin for this family-friendly happy hour featuring the history of Austin's mid-century roadside architecture. Additional details TBA.

**FEB  
11**

### **East Austin Church Tour**

Open house tour of historic African American churches in East Austin, with a student musical performance at Huston-Tillotson University. Details TBA!

**MAR  
2-3**

### **Amplify Austin Day**

Support PA during Austin's community-wide day of online giving starting at 6pm on Thursday, March 2. Find our donation page at [amplifyatx.livehereigivehere.org](http://amplifyatx.livehereigivehere.org).

**MAR  
15**

### **Spring Grant Deadline**

PA offers quarterly matching grants of up to \$5,000 for a variety of preservation projects. Nonprofits, neighborhoods, public entities, and building owners may apply.

**APR  
8**

### **15th Annual Inherit Austin Egg Hunt**

French Legation (802 San Marcos Street, 78702), AM. Welcome in the spring with this annual Inherit Austin tradition for families, reimagined at the historic French Legation! Details TBA.

**APR  
29**

### **25th Annual Historic Homes Tour in Bouldin Creek**

This year's tour features the rich and diverse history of Bouldin Creek neighborhood, seen through classic South Austin homes as well as the historic campus of the Texas School for the Deaf. Details TBA.

★ **Visit [www.preservationaustin.org](http://www.preservationaustin.org) for details and tickets today!**

### MONTHLY EVENTS

#### **Juggling and Jawing Historic Austin Happy Hours**

Our successful happy hour series with the UT Student Historic Preservation Association continues! Venues are announced monthly, check our website and social media to see where we'll be this spring.

#### **SFC Farmers' Market Downtown**

Our Education Committee is excited to represent PA at the Sustainable Food Center farmers' market in Republic Square on the first Saturday of each month, beginning in February. We look forward to meeting new friends and seeing old ones!