



PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —

# PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

SAVING THE GOOD STUFF

Spring 2018 ★ Volume 22 No. 2



## ◆ 26th Annual Historic Homes Tour

### Into the Woods: 26th Annual Homes Tour

Saturday, April 28 - 10am to 4pm  
\$25 for PA members, \$35 for non-members

Home Base at Mueller's Browning Hangar  
(4209 Airport Boulevard, off Mueller Central Drive)



PRESERVATION AUSTIN'S 26TH ANNUAL HOMES TOUR  
CHERRYWOOD, DELWOOD, & WILSHIRE WOOD

**E**very year our spring Homes Tour features a different part of Austin, celebrating the diverse histories and architectural eras that make our city so fascinating. This year is no different, and we're thrilled to explore Cherrywood, Delwood, and Wilshire Wood for the first time!

These East Austin neighborhoods largely developed during and after World War II, though their entwined histories date back to the 19th century. Defined by East Avenue (now I-35) and the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport (now the Mueller Community), they offered modern housing to accommodate Austin's skyrocketing growth in the postwar era. The tour area includes two National Register districts, the Wilshire Historic District and Delwood Duplex Historic District, and showcases an incredible collection of frame cottages, stone-fronted ranch homes, and unusual concrete-block bungalows that you won't find anywhere else. These tightknit

communities are also incredibly intact, with historic streetscapes defined more by large trees and well-tended gardens than teardowns.

The tour features seven beautifully-renovated homes that demonstrate the enduring strength and adaptability of our historic neighborhoods. Each one connects the past to the present, showing how modern updates can blend seamlessly with historic forms and materials. We're excited to share their stories with you, and to continue our tradition of telling neighborhood histories and the stories behind local landmarks in our special tour program.

Begin the day at our main ticket station at Mueller's 1943 Browning Hangar, and finish it with a cold beer at our after party at Batch Craft Beer & Kolaches! We can't imagine a better, or more fun, way to celebrate Austin's heritage on a beautiful spring day.

### CHERRYWOOD

Cherrywood is made up of numerous East Austin subdivisions between Manor Road and Airport Boulevard which joined to form the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association in the 1980s. Families such as the Giles (Delwood 3 and Giles Place), Schieffers (Schieffer Place), and Nowlins (French Place) developed the area between the 1930s and 1960s, turning farmland into bungalows, cottages, and ranch homes. Attorney Perry Jones developed the Willowbrook subdivision, and turned Chestnut Street north of Manor into Cherrywood Road in 1948. This remote lover's lane became a busy through street for which the neighborhood is named.

### 4017 BROOKVIEW, 1950

Odis and Nelda Sue Walker were the first owners of this 1950 ranch in Cherrywood's Schieffer Place addition. Both had grown up, quite poor, on farms outside Austin. Odis (1918-2011) moved to the city with

*Continued on page 3*



## Sustaining Memberships

Interested in increasing your contribution to Preservation Austin by making giving easier and more convenient? Our 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 us cut down on mailing and processing costs while providing steady, reliable support for our education and advocacy initiatives. See our website for details! ★



★

**STAFF**

**Kate Singleton, Executive Director**  
**Lindsey Derrington, Programs 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](http://www.preservationaustin.org)    [info@preservationaustin.org](mailto:info@preservationaustin.org)



# PRESERVATION — AUSTIN —

2017-2018 Board of Directors

### ★ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ★

Ken Johnson, President    Lori Martin, 1st VP  
 Vanessa McElwrath, President-Elect    Richard Kooris, 2nd VP  
 Clay Cary, Treasurer    Alyson McGee, Secretary  
 John Donisi, Immediate Past President

### ★ DIRECTORS ★

Clayton Bullock	Travis Greig	Mickie Spencer
Richard Craig	Chris Hendel	Michael Strutt
Samantha Davidson	Dennis McDaniel	Matt Swinney
Tara Dudley	Dewitt Peart	Caroline Wright
Eileen Gill	Ian Reddy	
Ann Graham	Blake Smith	

### ★ REPRESENTATIVES ★

Michael Holleran, UT School of Architecture  
 Charles Peveto, Austin History Center Association  
 Ellis Mumford-Russell, Inherit Austin  
 Bob Ward, Travis County Historical Commission

### ★ BENEFACTOR ★

Tim Cuppett & Marco Rini  
 McBee Family Foundation  
 David Wilson

### ★ WATERLOO CIRCLE ★

Paula & Lee Aaronson	Meta Butler Hunt
Suzanne Deal Booth	Ken Johnson & Norma Yancey
Sabrina Brown	Richard & Laura Kooris
Dr. Elizabeth Geddes-Bruce & Coleson Bruce	Lori Martin & Stacey Fellers
Clayton & Cora Bullock	Peter Flagg Maxson & John C. R. Taylor III
Robert & Mimi Buzbee	Dennis & Jill McDaniel
Jim & Donna Byerlotzer	Vanessa & Mac McElwrath
Clay & Karen Cary	Alyson McGee & Mark Wolfe
Erica and Damien Clark	Emily Moreland
Kent & Reenie Collins	George & Carole Nalle, III
Richard Craig	Dewitt & Jane Peart
Samantha & Ty Davidson	Joe Pinnelli
William Dickson	Matthew Redden
Michael & Tracy DiLeo	Ian Reddy & Angela Reed
John Donisi & Gina Hinojosa	Blake Smith
Tara Dudley	Charles Aubrey Smith, Jr.
William & Regan Gammon	Mickie Spencer
Eileen Gill & Kevin Pruitt	Michael Strutt
Ann S. Graham & Arlen Johnson	Matt & Kara Swinney
Tom & Elizabeth Granger	Mary Helen Walcutt
Travis Greig	Jill & Stephen Wilkinson
Susan Griffith & Curtis Fuelberg	Patricia Winston & Bill Head
Chris & Abby Hendel	Marvin & Eva Womack
Alex Herrera and Geoff Wellen	Caroline Wright
James Hillhouse, IV	

## Historic Homes Tour 2018



Lindsey Derrington

4017 Brookview, 1950



Joan Brook Photography

3210 French Place, 1960

his mother and five siblings in the 1920s, where he plucked turkeys, delivered telegrams, and sold newspapers on Congress Avenue to help support his family. The self-proclaimed pool hustler began working for his older brother's tire store as a teenager in 1933. He opened his own business, the Walker Tire Company, at 510 East Sixth Street in 1940. At the same time Nelda Sue McAnulty (1921-2016), the youngest of fourteen children herself, had graduated from high school and moved to Austin to work at the famed University of Texas Tea House. She and Odis met on a blind date and married soon thereafter. They were together for over 70 years.

Walker Tire Company became an Austin institution, servicing cars, trucks, tractors, and more. The firm moved north to Cameron Road in 1965 where it remained for decades. Odis served in the United States Air Force during World War II; played baseball; wrote poetry, prose, and authored his own play; and was a highly-respected deacon and Bible scholar. He and Nelda Sue had three sons and were dedicated members of the Hyde Park Church of Christ. They remained in their Brookview Road home until 2002, when they passed it down to their grandson.

The home's current owners purchased it for their family of four in 2009. The two-bed, one-bath house had an updated kitchen but no air-conditioning or central heat. Today this warm, light-filled space has been lovingly renovated to embrace its midcentury aesthetic. A 2015-2016 addition by architect Craig Nasso replaced a garage with a 450-square-foot master suite and office. A new 250-square-foot terraced deck transformed the backyard. The family converted an enclosed porch into a sunroom, removing its drop ceiling and installing colorful Mexican tile flooring. New composite siding and insulation, along with energy efficient windows, updated the exterior while preserving the home's historic form. Sustainable systems throughout include ductless mini-splits and water-efficient toilets, faucets, and showers. Original hardwood floors and vintage Chambers stove lend texture and connect the current residents to the past.

### 3210 FRENCH PLACE, 1960

This gabled brick veneer ranch was one of the last homes built in the Forest Hills Addition, opened by J. H. French and his wife Olivia soon before her 1939 death. Olivia had inherited the land from her mother, whose grandfather Peyton Wade

Nowlin was one of Austin's earliest settlers. His descendants subdivided the estate, with Dancy and Robinson Streets representing different branches of the family. French developed many of the neighborhood's homes in the early 1940s, and this part of Cherrywood is still widely known as "French Place."

Pool-Strong built this house as an investment property in 1960. Oca Pool (1920-2010) and Albert Strong (1916-1995) were both raised in working-class East Austin households and served in the United States Army during World War II. Their wives were cousins, and Strong was best man at Pool's 1943 wedding. The men apprenticed as carpenters after the war and became house builders working throughout Central Texas. "Pool-Strong Homes" touted custom-built kitchen cabinets, large closets, and the "finest architectural designs." The firm was featured in Austin's first Parade of Homes in Allandale in 1953, and built not one, but two "Talking Houses" in Western Trails in the late 1950s. A popular phenomenon nationwide, these display homes were fully-wired to both explain and answer questions about cutting-edge design features to a wide-eyed public. Pool

*Continued on page 4*

# Historic Homes Tour 2018

and Strong's success led them to into development, as was the case on French Place.

The home's current owners purchased it in 2008. They rented out the property for three years, waiting for their youngest child to graduate from high school before downsizing. A 2011 renovation by architects Rick and Cindy Black, with Texas Construction Company, preserved the 1,400-square-foot home's footprint while transforming its cramped interior. Shifting the front door and removing several interior walls made space for an expanded kitchen and open living-dining room. These connect to an outdoor kitchen and patio beneath an elegant steel shade structure, perfect for owners who love to cook. Sustainable features include reclaimed pecan floors, native landscaping, and a drip irrigation and water reclamation system. In 2017, the same design and construction team added a 400-square-foot second story apartment to a detached storage structure for visiting children and friends. The owners can now age in place in their beautiful, ADA-compliant home.

## DELWOOD

Bascom and Effie Dean Giles coined the name "Delwood" and built four such subdivisions to either side of Airport Boulevard after World War II. The 1951 Delwood Shopping Center, the first of its kind in Austin, was their brainchild. Giles served as longtime Texas Land Commissioner before his 1955 conviction for bribery and theft put an end to the family's real estate endeavors.

The Giles completed their Delwood 2 subdivision north of Airport Boulevard

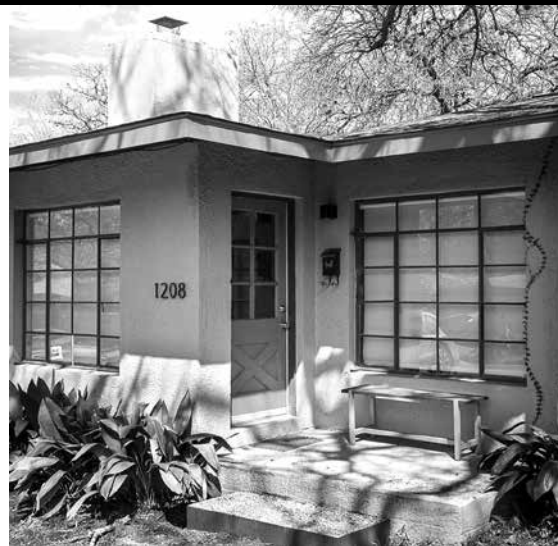
in 1947. Originally nestled next to the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport, it featured nearly 80 stuccoed concrete block bungalows amidst old-growth trees. These five-room houses featured steel-framed windows, wide chimneys, and deep eaves. More homes were added later, and today Delwood 2 is known for its roaming peacocks and Fourth of July Parade.

Cherrywood's Delwood 3 came next, comprised of two-story concrete block duplexes now listed in the National Register. Fort Worth civil engineer Marshal R. Sanguinet designed Delwood 2 and Giles Place, and may be responsible for Duplex Nation as well. His uncle was famed architect Marshall R. Sanguinet, who designed countless North Texas landmarks along with Austin's Scarbrough Building. The younger Sanguinet died in 1969 while working for the Agency of International Development in Pakistan.

### 1208 BENTWOOD, 1947

The Bettis family spent four happy decades in this Bentwood home starting around 1952. Their story echoes the statewide movement of thousands of young people from rural areas to urban ones during and after World War II. 1950 was the first year in which a majority of Texans lived in cities, relocating for education and employment and shaping their new homes for years to come.

Jimmie Rufus Bettis (1911-1992) was raised on a farm in southeast Oklahoma. He made his way to Houston and there met Vivian Louise Spell (1918-1945), who had



1208 Bentwood, 1947

Casey Woods Photography

moved from her family's farm in Shiro to work as a stenographer. They married in 1941, a year before Jimmie joined the United States Navy. He was a Ship's Cook 2nd Class, and in 1945 served on the USS Burleson attack transport which traveled to Okinawa, Guam, and Guadalcanal until the war's end.

The Bettises ultimately settled in Austin and moved to the new Delwood 2 subdivision to raise their two sons. Jimmie worked as a coffee salesman, then as a longtime accounts examiner for the state. Louise continued her career as a stenographer and secretary, one of the many women who defied the typical narrative that postwar wives stayed at home regardless of their skills, drive, or financial need. During the 1950s, for example, she worked for the Air Reserve Center in O. Henry Hall, a Cold War training facility that taught courses in radio transmission, intelligence, and more to ensure reservists would be ready for mobilization.

Camille and Bryan Jobe purchased the house for their family of four in 2004. Over the years they restored its steel

*Continued on page 5*

## Historic Homes Tour 2018



Casey Woods Photography

1305 Bentwood, 1947



Joan Brook Photography

1414 Bentwood, 1947

casement windows, oak parquet floors, and stuccoed concrete block walls. In 2013 they welcomed Vivian Bettis for an unexpected visit, during which she happily toured the house and told stories of her time there! Three years later Camille, co-founder of Jobe Corral Architects, completed a stunning 550-square-foot living room and master suite to replace a 1970s addition. Working with Clean Tag as general contractor, the project connected the new and the old with an elegant open kitchen. Bryan's JobeFabrications executed the home's steel details. Today the house presents a striking harmony between its historic fabric and contemporary spaces inside and out.

### 1305 BENTWOOD, 1947

Delwood 2's concrete block homes offered a handful of floor plans with subtle exterior variations and identical interior fixtures. Most were about 1,000 square feet with five rooms and a bath. This made them attractive starter homes for young families, some of whom later moved to larger houses elsewhere. Those who stayed often enclosed their one-car garages or built rear additions for more space. Families past and present have worked within the neighborhood's unique

architectural language to pursue creative ways to expand these homes while preserving their historic appearance.

Joseph and Louise Gurkin were this Bentwood home's longest-tenured residents early on. Joseph Gurkin (1911-1982) grew up in rural North Carolina but by the 1930s was working as a shoe salesman in Virginia and Philadelphia. He made it to Washington, DC to manage his own store, and there married Louise Turek (1918-1985) in 1941. The 1950s brought the Gurkins a new promotion and a new city. They headed west to Austin where Joseph was district manager for the Saint Louis-based International Shoe Company, the world's largest shoe manufacturer at the time. The family lived at 1305 Bentwood from 1955 to 1966. Their three children reached high school age during these years so it may have been the Gurkins who enclosed the home's garage. They were followed by a string of families over the years.

Ada Corral, co-founder of Jobe Corral Architects, and her family purchased the home in 2005. Early projects included uncovering, patching, and refinishing badly-damaged 1947 parquet floors

and removing period-inappropriate trim throughout. They renovated the original bathroom themselves, and in 2008 remodeled the kitchen. By 2015 the family of five was in real need of additional space. Ada designed a gorgeous 800-square-foot rear addition with a new master suite, storage, additional bath, and covered porch overlooking the back yard. These connect to the original home via a light-filled, shed-roofed living room with double-height ceilings. Today modern textures and materials complement the home's historic features, with practical updates that have enabled its family to stay here as they grow.

### 1414 BENTWOOD, 1947

Living in the shadow of the Robert Mueller Airport could be stressful. The airport opened for commercial service in 1936 and was significantly expanded in 1941 and 1956. Low-flying planes and roaring engines were part of daily life for adjacent neighborhoods.

City directories show a dozen families moving in and out of this Bentwood home between 1949 and 1985, usually living here for just one or two years. Among them were US Armed Forces recruiter Jesse

*Continued on page 6*

## Historic Homes Tour 2018

Hollingsworth and his wife Kathryn, who lived here from 1949 to 1951 and 1957 to 1961. Vail and Betty Jo Logsdon rented the house for \$75 month while Vail studied architecture at the University of Texas from 1951 to 1953. J. Hubert and Frances Wilson lived here in 1954; he was a state securities commissioner, and she was the first woman in Austin to be a registered representative of the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1984 residents of more than fifteen neighborhoods, including Delwood 2, Cherrywood, and Wilshire Wood, joined to form Citizens for Airport Re-Location, or C.A.R.E. Their years-long advocacy led the City of Austin to finally close the Robert Mueller Airport in 1999. C.A.R.E.'s vision also shaped today's Mueller, the Catellus Development Group's 700-acre, LEED-certified mixed-used community that took the airport's place. These grassroots efforts and the ensuing Mueller project ultimately improved the quality of life for over 10,000 surrounding households.

Today's homeowners at 1414 Bentwood are among them. Both are architects, and have designed a series of renovations since purchasing the house in 2013. Early projects included remodeling the kitchen and connecting it to the dining room by removing an interior wall. The remodeled bathroom features an original tub. The back porch became a sunroom, and the garage became a sleeping room to accommodate their growing family. Owner Frank Farkash's Moontower Design Build added a two-story, 430-square-foot detached studio in 2016. It faces the home's rear façade across a newly-landscaped backyard. The home's historic

features include the original fireplace, doors and hardware, and steel-framed windows.

### WILSHIRE WOOD

Bradfield and Brush subdivided Wilshire Wood

on Giles land beginning in 1941. The neighborhood's entrance gates faced East Avenue, a beautiful thoroughfare soon replaced by I-35. Wilshire was one of Austin's first neighborhoods with winding roads and cul-de-sacs. Large lots and large trees complemented unusual deed restrictions mandating that all homes be architect-designed. This National Register-listed neighborhood is unusually cohesive, dominated by one-story, limestone-vener ranch homes mostly built between 1945 and 1950. The developers claimed to "seek simplicity and architectural harmony" for "gentle folk of limited budget but of unlimited taste." The dark side of their vision was the deed restrictions' exclusion of minority homeowners, as was the case with many Austin neighborhoods at the time.

#### 1313 ARDENWOOD, 1952

Completed in 1952, this sleek limestone-vener home's low-pitched roof and wide eaves epitomize the midcentury ranch. Oscar and Idalee Ulit were the first owners. The Ulit family had emigrated from Germany in the 1850s, and Oscar's father opened a successful meat market downtown in 1891. Oscar Ulit (1896-1969) ran the family business for decades until making a seemingly abrupt career change



1313 Ardenwood, 1952

Lindsey Derrington

at middle age. By 1953 he was working as an architect for the Kuntz-Sternberg Lumber Company, which offered residential design services alongside a full range of homebuilding materials. Oscar likely designed this home, where he and Idalee lived until 1964.

Dr. Marshall R. Wheeler (1917-2010) purchased the house in 1966. He'd left his native Illinois in the 1930s to study biology and entomology first at Texas A&M University, then at the University of Texas. He joined the Navy after the attack on Pearl Harbor, putting his studies on hold to study parasites in the Pacific and teach Malariology at the School of Tropical Medicine. He completed his doctorate in Zoology in 1947.

Dr. Wheeler joined UT's faculty and became a renowned geneticist, insect taxonomist, and a favorite instructor. He was the world's authority on fruit flies, insects which share much of the same DNA that causes human diseases and are crucial a host of genetic studies. Dr. Wheeler discovered over 250 new species of fruit flies worldwide, eight of which are named for him. The National Institutes of Health and The Atomic Energy Commission

*Continued on page 7*

## Historic Homes Tour 2018

supported his work, and his specimens are housed in the Smithsonian and American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Wheeler turned to hybridizing daylilies after his 1977 retirement, hoping to discover the “elusive” blue daylily. In 1982 he and his then-wife Linda built the home’s distinct two-story rear addition to accommodate this passion.

By 2011 the home’s yard was overgrown with daylilies and large hackberry trees that entirely obscured its façade. Developers were targeting it for a teardown because of its condition and prominent double lot. The current owner stepped in and undertook a gorgeous renovation that transformed the home into a neighborhood showplace. The original double-sided fireplace graces the spacious living room, along with reclaimed hardwood floors and wallpaper reproduced from midcentury designs. The yard includes lush native plantings and a new Palm Springs-style pool.

### 4001 LULLWOOD, 1957

Merle LaRue Olson (1929-1998) and his wife Donna (b. 1932) built this stylish mid-century modern home in 1957. It was one of the last constructed in Wilshire Wood, with a sweeping angled roof and expansive windows that set it apart from its predecessors. According to the Olsons’ daughter, her father designed the house himself, working with builder Welsey E. Johnson. While Wilshire’s deed restrictions required that all homes be designed by licensed architects, homes such as this could be built with neighborhood approval.

The Olsons were members of Austin’s tightknit Swedish community. Most of



Joan Brook Photography

4001 Lullwood, 1957

these families immigrated here during the 19th century at the urging of Swante Magnus Swenson, widely considered Texas’ first Swede, who established the “Swedish Pipeline” by paying his countrymen’s passage in exchange for two years’ work on Govalle, his East Austin ranch. They then settled in East Austin’s Swedish Hill neighborhood and in rural enclaves east and north of the city. Many moved to the Cherrywood area after World II.

Larue Olson was raised in Cherrywood; his father Oscar hailed from Swedesburg, Nebraska and his mother was raised in a Swedish farming community between Manor and Elgin. Donna Mae Lindgren grew up in Hutto’s Swedish community before her family moved to Austin. They married in 1952 and were members of the Swedish-American Gethsemane Lutheran Church. The Olsons raised three daughters in their Lullwood home before moving in the 1970s.

Larue joined his father’s businesses, the Southern Investment Company and Olson Motor Company, in 1951 after graduating from the University of Texas. Located in the heart of the East Sixth Street

commercial district, the Olsons sold and financed cars, appliances, and televisions – all necessities of postwar American life. Larue ultimately ran both companies himself, and upon his passing in 1998 they were two of the oldest businesses on historic East Sixth.

4001 Lullwood features incredibly intact historic fabric, including clerestories, casements, and broad plate glass windows, along with original bathroom tile and a sunken tub. A previous owner remodeled in the kitchen around 2002 and replaced most light fixtures. The current owner, who purchased the home in 2013, has worked to bring the house back to its 1950s roots through period-appropriate lighting and extensive vintage furnishings and art. ★



# Saving the Good Stuff: Restoring Historic Windows

By Tere O'Connell, AIA

**O**riginal windows are one of the most significant distinguishing features of a historic building. Over time, their beauty can be obscured and overlooked beneath layers of paint and poor (or no) repairs.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to match the character, materials, and craftsmanship of historic wood windows with replacements. Most historic windows were handcrafted of old growth timber, using mortise and tenon joinery, and are proven to last more than 100 years. Many of the replacement aluminum or vinyl-clad windows come with a warranty of just 20 years. Proper care and maintenance can keep historic windows operating for another 100 years, but when repairs are needed there are a range of methods to be explored.

A window survey provides a guide to your restoration process. An architect or specialized restoration contractor can assess the condition of the window assembly and define a scope of work

for needed repairs. Wood window assessments include a review of glazing stops, rot, insect and damage, misalignment of sash, open joints, weatherstripping, and hardware.

A recent example is the 1881 Federal Courthouse and Post Office, now known as O. Henry Hall, which graces 601 Colorado. The new owner, Texas State University System, made it a top priority to restore the historic windows as part of its move-in program. The goal was to restore the original wood sash and frames while making improvements to energy efficiency, understanding that windows were an important part of the history and architectural character of this landmarked building.

The 160 windows were evaluated inside and out to define a comprehensive scope of work that all windows shared. From there, a palette of additional scopes was identified. A paint analysis was completed to determine the original paint

colors. Unfortunately the original wavy window glass had been removed during the building's last rehabilitation in 1968. The basic restoration process included removing the sashes from the jambs, taking off the finishes, making repairs, and bringing them back through the finish process using proven materials and methods.

Energy efficiency is often a common concern when it comes to older windows, but there are a number of ways to improve performance. Drafty windows are a common complaint as a building ages. Weatherstripping comes in a variety of shapes and materials, dramatically reducing air infiltration. Original wavy glass is quite a treasured commodity when found in windows. In these instances, there are several clear window film options that reduce heat gain and reduce or eliminate UV light, the major cause of sunlight damage to furnishings and fabrics.

*Continued on page 9*



O. Henry Hall windows before and after restoration

Photos by Tere O'Connell, AIA





Photos by Tere O'Connell, AIA

O. Henry Hall transom before restoration and after

Where historic glass is missing, there are additional options. Low-e film embedded in laminated glass can preserve the look of single pane glass while achieving greater energy efficiency. Insulated glass also improves efficiency, but requires

sash modifications to support the thicker glass assembly.

Historic windows are definitely “The Good Stuff,” including irreplaceable materials, nuances in original profile moldings,

muntin patterns, and glass. By choosing to preserve these original features, we can extend the life and efficiency our historic buildings to continue to beautify Austin. ★

**PHOENIX I** would like to recognize the other craftsmen who also worked on the **Texas State Capitol Exterior Preservation Project**

**Restorhaus**  
**BAD Company**  
**Hull Historical**  
**Mid-Continental**

recipient of the **Preservation Award for Restoration and Special Recognition Award for Craftsmanship**

**THE DRISKILL**  
*Austin, Texas*

Truly Texan. Authentically Austin. *Distinctively Driskill.*

604 Brazos Street, Austin, Texas | 512.439.1234 | driskillhotel.com

# Wood Street Settlement Honored with Historical Marker

By Charles Peveto and  
Joanna Wolaver, Executive Director, Shoal Creek Conservancy

**O**n February 23 the Shoal Creek Conservancy (SCC) honored Black History Month by unveiling a historical marker through the Texas Historical Commission's Undertold Marker Program for the Wood Street Settlement at Shoal Creek. This important designation honors the African American and Mexican American families who once lived on Wood Street on the west banks of Shoal Creek, an area that is now a commercial district. This western boundary of early Austin was where many formally enslaved people lived and raised their families following the Civil War. Around 1900, a Mexican American family purchased much of the original freedmen's settlement. Soon it developed into a Mexican American neighborhood of simple, wood-framed vernacular style homes typical of Austin's working class. Over the decades, Shoal Creek's periodic flooding, notably the 1981 Memorial Day flood, and demolition virtually erased the community.



Mitchell McGovern; Joanna Wolaver, SCC Executive Director; State Representative Gina Hinojosa; and Charles Peveto, SCC Historic Bridges Committee Chair.

Recently, the Historic Landmark Commission and other advocates attempted to preserve the last remaining structures on Wood Street, but the buildings were too structurally-compromised. The settlement's remnants were demolished and the property was subdivided and sold. It was important

for the Conservancy and other stakeholders to embrace this rich and diverse history with a commemorative marker.

SCC's mission is to enhance the cultural and natural assets along the creek, which includes capturing its remarkable stories through an interpretive plan. With the help of Ted Lee Eubanks of FERMATA, Inc., a narrative

of Shoal Creek is being developed as part of "Our Austin Story." This narrative also showcases historically-significant bridges that anchor the creek, and are within the boundaries of SCC's Shoal Creek Trail Plan. There is a need to continue this important narrative north to include Pease Park, a State Antiquities Landmark and National Register of Historic Places-listed cultural landscape. In the 19th century, the park was part of the Governor Elisha M. Pease estate. The area, northwest of the Wood Street Settlement, was also home to freedmen who continued to work for the Pease Family after the Civil War.

SCC's Historic Bridges Committee (Charles Peveto, Chair; Joanna Wolaver, Executive Director - SCC; Kate Singleton, Executive Director - PA; Kitty Henderson; Ted Lee Eubanks; Michelle Slattery; Chris Riley; Kelly Russell; Bob Ward; Chris Riley; and Kim McKnight - PARD) partnered with Austin's



State Representative Gina Hinojosa; Joe Ramirez, Travis County Historical Commissioner; Joanna Wolaver, SCC; Jeff Travillion, Travis County Commissioner; and Wallace B. Jefferson, THC Commissioner.

*Continued on page 12*

# Preservation Committee Update

Kate Singleton, Executive Director

The Preservation Committee has been working on several wide ranging issues. The committee monitors and recommends action to the Preservation Austin board on policy issues that impact preservation. It also serves as a resource to, and advocate for, historic property owners and neighborhoods.

The Preservation Committee has continued reviewing the multiple drafts of CodeNEXT and making comments to ensure that historic preservation and neighborhood stabilization are an integral part of the new code.

Committee members have monitored the progress of the City of Austin's Visitors Impact Task Force to review current uses of local Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT) and their impact on tourism, as well as current tourist activity and what events, venues, or facilities those tourists attend while visiting. The group reviewed allowable uses of HOT revenues under the Tax Code including parks, historic preservation, cultural heritage, music, arts, downtown districts, venues and other facilities. The task force also looked at state and national best practices for tourism and grant programs. The Preservation Committee was briefed every month on the task force's progress, including its important recommendation to overhaul the Heritage Grant program currently managed by Visit Austin. The committee has noted that closer alignment to the state legislation which allows for the use of HOT funds for historic buildings in tourist destinations, including those that are privately owned, would greatly benefit not only preservation but heritage tourism and the local economy. The

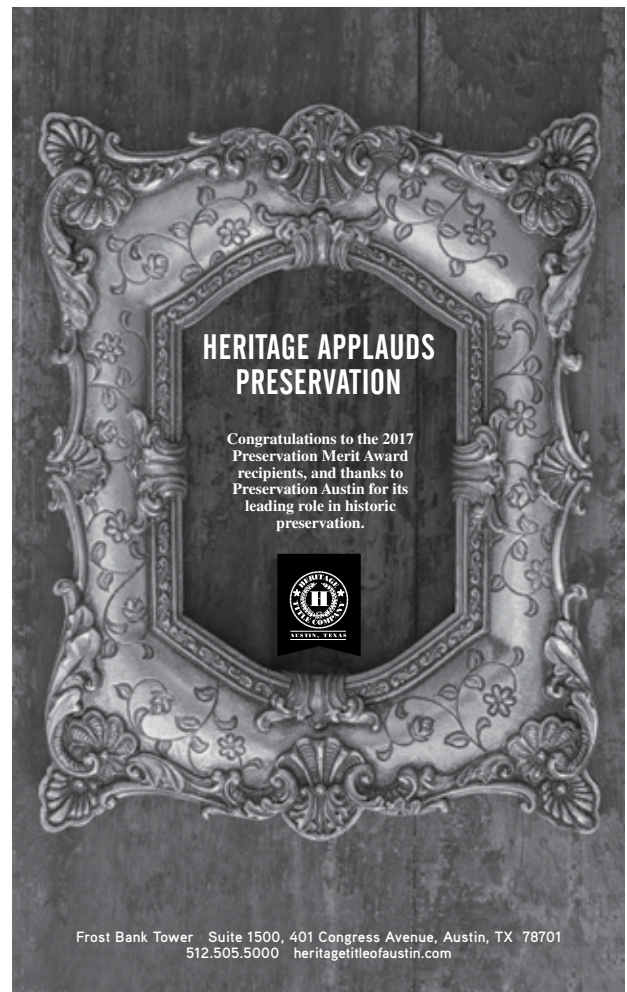
committee continues to monitor the Heritage Grant Working Group that will develop the new Heritage Grant structure and process.

The committee has recommended support for several important cases that have come before the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC), including the Smoot/Terrace Park, Rosewood Courts, and Mueller Control Tower designations. PA staff attended the HLC meetings to voice this support for these district and landmark designations.

Additionally, the HLC passed a resolution that detailed its budget requests, including needs identified in the city's February 2017 Preservation Program audit, along with other projects and goals. The Budget Resolution includes requests for four additional staff, funding for surveys, and preparation of citywide design standards for historic properties and districts. It also requests a study to evaluate the current fee structure for landmark and local historic district zoning applications, and to assess options for reducing those fees to increase equity. Importantly, the surveys would include an inventory and historic context developed as part of the citywide

survey that would be used to prepare future historic landmark and district applications, and provide an equitable solution for the designation of historic properties. Many of the items in the HLC Budget Resolution have been requests identified and recommended by the Preservation Committee.

If you are interested in preservation policy, the Preservation Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at noon. Come and join us! ★



Frost Bank Tower Suite 1500, 401 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701  
512.505.5000 heritagetitleleafaustin.com



# Inherit Austin

Haley Wilcox, IA Secretary

**I**nherit Austin was thrilled to continue to nurture our relationship with UT students at the Student Historic Preservation Association/Inherit Austin Happy Hour at Scholtz Garten on February 15. We love exchanging ideas about the future of preservation with the field's brightest rising stars! Most recently, IA held our annual Spring event-- the Egg-Stravaganza at the French Legation on March 24. Adults and kids alike shared in the fun with a petting zoo, egg hunt, cascarones, egg roll, and live music. Stay tuned for photos from

this egg-stra special event! Special thanks to our volunteers and sponsors.

Be sure to stop by the IA-sponsored house at the Preservation Austin Homes Tour on Saturday, April 28. We'll be happy to show you around the classic bungalow at 1414 Brentwood Road, rain or shine.

Find us on Facebook and Instagram (@inheritaustin) to find out about our upcoming events and campaigns! ★

## NEW INSTAGRAM CAMPAIGN ALERT!

Help us show some love to the historic signs of Austin by using the hashtag **#signsofthetimesATX** when you're around town and see a historic sign worthy of attention. And, continue to tag us in your posts of Austin culture & history, especially roadside resources using **#atxroadside**.



### Wood Street, continued from page 10

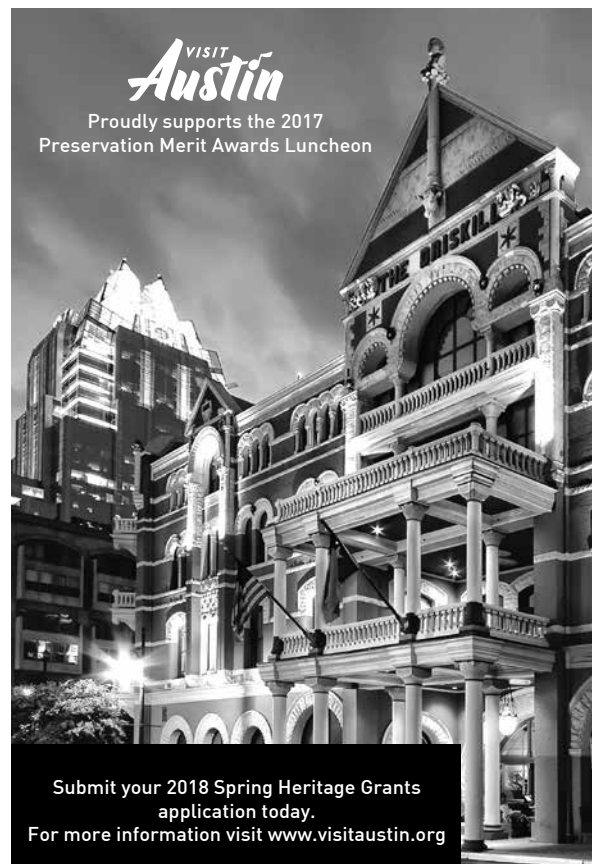
Parks & Recreation Department and the Travis County Historical Commission to work with historian Alex J. Borger, to develop the Wood Street marker nomination. The concept to commemorate this important history was brought to the Conservancy's attention by former Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association President and community activist Mitchell McGovern. This effort was four years in the making.

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Undertold Marker Program is a unique and fully-funded program. Featured subjects document Texans' under-represented and diverse histories. Texas has the largest marker program in the United States with approximately 16,000 markers, and the THC reviews over 300 marker applications per year.

The Wood Street Settlement marker unveiling event was hosted by the SCC Historic Bridges Committee and the Shoal Creek Ambassadors, a newly formed SCC group of young professionals with

a commitment to Shoal Creek. Due to inclement weather, presentations were moved to the Cirrus Logic event space, two blocks from the Wood Street Settlement Marker. Over 100 guests representing the larger community, preservation partners, THC, Austin Parks Commission, PARD and other stakeholders attended. Students from Headwaters School, within blocks of the original settlement, also participated. Michael Barnes moderated, with remarks by State Representative Gina Hinojosa; Wallace B. Jefferson, former Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court and current Commissioner of the THC; Jeffery W. Travillion Sr., Travis County Commissioner - Precinct One; Joe Ramirez of the Travis County Historical Commission; and Joanna

Wolaver, Executive Director, Shoal Creek Conservancy. ★





# President's Message

★ Ken Johnson



**C**oming off of a successful strategic planning retreat in January, Preservation Austin's Board of Directors has outlined organizational goals for the next two years. After we got through the necessary work of budgets, financial reviews and by-law discussions, the Board engaged in more exciting conversation focused on the heart of our mission – how to best tell our story and reach more Austinites. The foundation of Preservation Austin is the donors and volunteers who share our passion to “Save the Good Stuff” and we are always looking for ways to spread that enthusiasm.

We hear the statistics almost every day – so many new people are moving to Austin, so many houses are demolished each

year, so many changes are proposed with CodeNEXT, so many new developments are popping up. Austin is dynamic and beautiful, so it will continue to attract residents and change. How do we let new, and old, neighbors know about the history that made Austin wonderful? And the good work that continues to make it better?

To accomplish these goals, Preservation Austin has begun a story-telling and membership campaign. We recently selected a marketing team from solicited proposals and began the process to expand our outreach. If you are reading this, it means that you, a Preservation Austin supporter, will soon have new tools and information to share with friends

and future supporters. Our staff and volunteers work on advocacy and programs so varied in scope and depth that there is usually an issue we can share to pique a neighbor's interest, including the Homes Tour (April 28!), CodeNEXT advocacy, realtor training, and Preservation Speaker Night, to name a few.

Preservation Austin is fortunate to have traditionally been supported by a mature constituency; now we are seeing increasing support among a younger demographic as well. Knowledge and advocacy-sharing

opportunities between these groups is outstanding!



The National Trust commissioned a study in 2017 that found 97% of Millennials “feel it's important to preserve and conserve building, architecture, neighborhoods and communities,” 62% “believe this is important, but have not been involved in this cause,” and 53% are “very interesting in getting involved.”

Our goals are not without challenges. A 2016 Washington, DC preservation plan outlines concerns heard in that community: “poor understanding of preservation,” “negative attitudes about preservation,” and “opposition to historic districts” are among the topics discussed in listening sessions with residents. Here in Austin we can help tell the stories of our places and people to all audiences to counter similar sentiments. With an expansion in strategies and modes of communication, we plan to connect organizations and interested neighbors with resources to improve our reach.

Please, stay involved and get more involved! Use these places to show they are useful and spread the word!

**801 | BARTON SPRINGS**

**Essentially Austin  
EFFORTLESSLY AUTHENTIC.**

For leasing information visit  
801bartonsprings.com or call 512.684.3800

# ★ Education Committee

Ann S. Graham, Chair

**P**reservation Austin's Education Committee is as busy and productive as ever!

Our 3rd Annual History Hunt was a terrific success, held on February 10 in the Blue Bonnet Hills section of Travis Heights. With the support and assistance of the South River City Citizens Neighborhood Association, generous homeowners, twenty volunteers, and the talents of key committee members Sara Luduena and Maddie Clites, over thirty-five youth accompanied by enthusiastic family members raced through neighborhood streets looking for everything from parapets to balustrades, rubblework to Moorish Revival, hipped roofs to dormers. Special thanks to our sponsors Architexas and Vista Lending and to our prize donors Terra Toys, P. Terry's, Amy's Ice Creams, Lucy in Disguise with Diamonds, and Home Slice Pizza.

A shout out to our EDU volunteers who helped promote PA at the screening of *Citizen Jane: Battle for the City* at the Paramount Theatre on January 24; who

staff PA's information table at the SFC and Texas Farmer's Markets; and who are gearing up to help at this year's Homes Tour!

In addition to the EDU's programming and volunteering, members do in-depth research and planning for our *Historic Austin Tours* app series, including our soon-to-be-unveiled tour of Allandale, Brentwood, and Crestview based on our 2016 Homes Tour. These self-guided tours include compelling histories, historic photographs, and more to uncover new aspects of our city's heritage. Available through the Otocast app, they draw international attention and thousands of visits! Make sure you check out all of PA's tours by downloading Otocast today through Google Play or the Apple App Store.

Next project is our annual summer time "Greening Your Vintage Home" workshop



History Hunt volunteers in Travis Heights' Blunn Creek Greenbelt.

exploring the intersection of preservation and restoration with sustainable building practices (or sustainable living practices). This year's event will focus on "Moving Not Demolishing" using examples here in Austin of the successful relocation and integration of vintage and/or historic homes giving them a second life, rather than becoming part of Austin's landfill. Stay tuned!

There is always room to join the EDU Committee! We meet the third Tuesday of every month from 5:30-6:45 p.m. at the

Preservation Austin office on 500 Chicon. If you have questions, please reach out to PA Programs Director Lindsey Derrington at 512-474-5198, ext. 7724.

Join us!



History Hunters tackle an architectural puzzle.



Penelope Otto, our first place History Hunt winner!

★ ♦ **Our New & Renewing Members**



**BENEFACTOR**

McBee Family Foundation

**WATERLOO CIRCLE**

Robert and Mimi Buzbee  
Erica and Damien Clark  
William Dickson  
William and Regan Gammon  
Meta Butler Hunt  
Emily Moreland  
Peter Flagg Maxson and John C. R. Taylor III  
Marvin and Eva Womack

**BUSINESS LEADER**

designhouse  
Dru Brown, Wilson & Goldrick REALTORS  
Eastside Lumber & Decking  
Project by Project Marketing  
Communications

**FRIEND**

Julia Clarke  
Joseph DiQuinzio, Jr. and Sue Littlefield  
Michael Holleran  
Dr. Emma Linn  
John and Cheryl Sauder  
Edward Tasch and Anne Crawford  
Chris Thomas  
David B. West

**SUSTAINING**

Rebekah Dobrasko  
Monica Garcia  
Leigh Raderschadt  
Katherine Raetz  
Charles M. Peveto

**PARTNER**

James Anderson and Sarah Dale  
Jeff and Pam Autrey  
Cynthia Brown and Robert C. Bass

Robert Duvic and Dianne Orbeck  
David and Diane Emmert  
Maralyn Hare and Colleen Crump  
John C. Horton, III  
John and Ila Falvey  
Harmony Grogan  
Marina Henderson  
Robert Mace and Wendy Weiss  
Susan Moffat and Nick Barbaro  
Susan Morrison and John King  
Kay Harvey-Mosley and David Mosley  
Brad and Heather Patterson  
Jason Blake Tollett

**HOUSEHOLD**

Roger and Christie Binkley  
Joe Bryson  
Paul Cato  
Bridget Gayle Ground  
Madison and Bess Graham  
Steve and Leslie McConnico  
Mary Reed and Rodney Root  
Alex and Karen Pope  
Bratten Thomason and Randy Dalton  
Tracy and Jean Warren  
Laura Wisdom and Thomas Durnin

**CONTRIBUTOR**

Mary Balk  
Janet Beinke  
Patricia Calhoun  
Donald G. Davis, Jr.  
Priscilla Ebersole  
Roland Galang  
Christine Gilbert  
Mary and Norman McRee  
Kelly Little  
Molly Martin  
Gail Minault  
Elizabeth Newton  
Michele Ramshur  
Barbara Surlis

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR PA BUSINESS  
AMBASSADORS!**

Alexander Marchant  
Catellus  
Clayton Bullock,  
Moreland Properties  
Diane Humphreys,  
Moreland Properties  
Generational Commercial Properties  
Green Mango Real Estate  
Harvey-Cleary Builders  
Limbacher & Godfrey  
ML&R Wealth Management  
O'Connell Architecture  
PSW Real Estate

Joe Thrash  
Michele Webre  
Ann Wheeler and Michael Smith

**INHERIT AUSTIN COUPLE/DUAL**

Patricia Albright  
Daniela Cantu  
Bradley Kennington  
Barbara Langham  
Rosemary Merriam  
Michael Meserole  
Elizabeth Porterfield  
Joelle Schulze  
Colette Tomasiak  
Ted Wasserman  
Haley Wilcox ★

*Thank You!*



**PRESERVATION  
— AUSTIN —**

P.O. Box 2113  
Austin, TX 78768

[www.preservationaustin.org](http://www.preservationaustin.org)  
[info@preservationaustin.org](mailto:info@preservationaustin.org)

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



## PA CALENDAR OF EVENTS • 2018



**Tickets are now on sale for our 2018 Homes Tour featuring Cherrywood, Delwood, and Wilshire Wood!**

See Page 1 for details.

**JUN  
15**

### **Summer Grant Deadline**

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

**AUG  
TBA**

### **Annual Membership Meeting**

Every August our membership meets to elect a new board of directors for the coming year. Have a drink, meet fellow preservation lovers, and learn more about PA's education and advocacy efforts.

**JUL  
TBA**

### **Greening Your Vintage Home**

Our Education Committee's annual sustainability workshop returns! We'll explore the intersection of preservation and sustainable building and living practices yet again, stay tuned for details.

### QUARTERLY EVENT

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

Our happy hour series with the UT Student Historic Preservation Association continues! Check our website and social media to see where we'll be this spring.

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