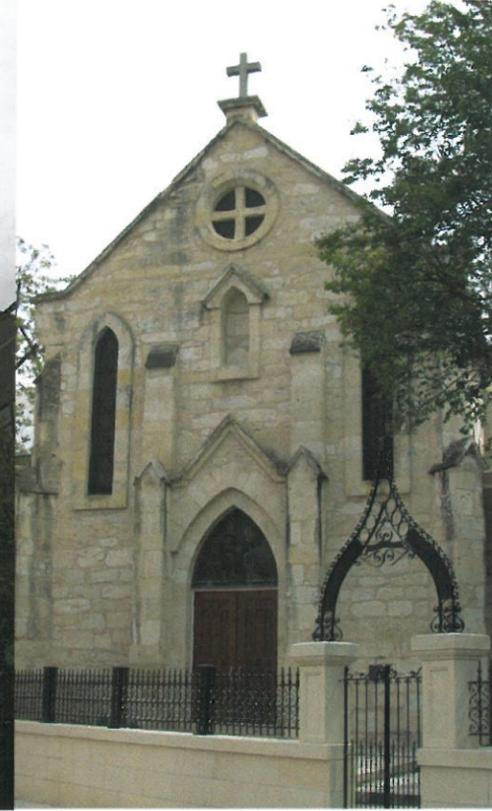
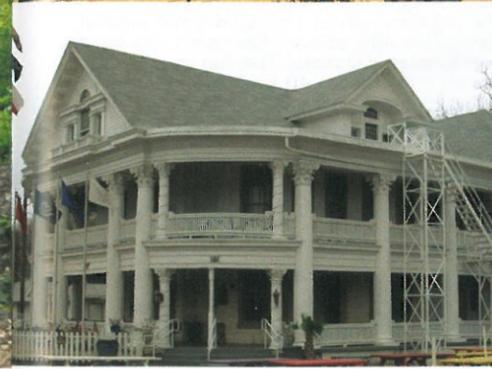


MUSEUM REACH

DOWNTOWN NORTH RIVER TOUR

article and photos by Elizabeth Porterfield, The City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation



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While visiting downtown take a stroll along the Museum Reach extension of the San Antonio River Walk. Extending north from Lexington Avenue to Hildebrand, the recent extension of walkways along the San Antonio River feature lush landscaping, art installations, a decorative grotto, and a number of spots of interest including restaurants, historic sites, interpretive signage, and museums. An informative way to experience the Museum Reach is through the Downtown North River Tour. This is one of three self-guided online San Antonio Neighborhood Tours provided by the City of San Antonio Office of Cultural Affairs. The Downtown North River Tour, available at [HYPERLINK "http://www.saculturaltours.com"](http://www.saculturaltours.com) www.saculturaltours.com, can be viewed online or printed out for easy reference along your walking route.

Be sure to visit the Southwest School of Art located at 300 Augusta Street. The historic campus was the former home of the Ursuline Academy, established in 1851 as a Catholic school for girls. The delicate Gothic revival style buildings nestled along the San Antonio River were constructed over the last half of the 19th century. The campus includes two former academy buildings, a dormitory building, a chapel, and a priest's house surrounding a large walled

courtyard. The quiet beauty of the landscaped gardens and historic limestone buildings are well worth a visit. Initial preservation of the historic complex began in 1971 with the San Antonio Conservation Society. The Southwest School of Art, which started in 1965 in La Villita as the Southwest Craft Center, later acquired the property and completed the restoration. Today, the Southwest School of Art is a non-profit organization dedicated to art education, exhibitions, lectures, and classes in a variety of media such as ceramics, sculpture, drawing, painting, and printmaking. Enjoy the exhibitions in one of several galleries, browse the gallery shop for unique artistic pieces, or have lunch at the cafe.

Further north along the Museum Reach is the historic VFW Post 76, reported to be the oldest VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) post in Texas. The former historic house at 10 10th Street with its wide porches and imposing classical columns was donated to VFW members in 1946. The VFW Post 76 itself, however, was chartered much earlier in 1917. Members of the VFW Post have ranged from veterans of the Spanish American War to recent veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq. The facility is open to the public and includes a bar, live music, and a large outdoor seating area along the San Antonio River.

One stop that you won't want to miss is the San Antonio Museum of Art at 200 W. Jones Avenue. The museum campus is housed within the historic Lone Star Brewery complex, constructed between 1895 and 1904. The ornate brick brewery buildings, modern museum additions, and shaded pavilion and terrace spanning the San Antonio River provide a picturesque setting for the renowned museum. The Museum of Art opened in 1981 after extensive renovation of the historic brewery. The museum includes an exceptional Latin American Folk Art collection, Egyptian, Greek and Roman art, an extensive collection of ancient Mediterranean art, and a nationally renowned Asian object collection. Additional collections include 18th through 20th century American and European paintings, decorative arts, sculpture, and photography. The pedestrian bridge behind the museum along the River Walk once connected the two towers of the brewery building.

Another destination along the Museum Reach extension of the River Walk is the Pearl Brewery. The elaborate 1894 Brew House and restored stable building are remaining legacies of the Pearl Brewing Company which was initially established in 1881. Although the company changed names a number of times before becoming the

Pearl Brewing Company, the facility produced Pearl Beer at this location for over a century. Today, the former brewery complex has experienced a renaissance and transformation into a "culinary and cultural destination." Amenities include several restaurants, numerous retail stores, a culinary institute, educational facilities, and new residential buildings. A local farmers market is held on Saturdays.

Other places of interest along the Museum Reach include the new lock and dam at Brooklyn Street that allows tour barges to travel up and downstream. A fanciful grotto and water feature at Camden Street and Newell Avenue provides a shady respite for passersby. Art installations are incorporated throughout the length of the Museum Reach and include sculptures, tile murals, and more. Unique art installations are also located below each of the river bridges. If you are out at dusk, you won't want to miss the illuminated F.I.S.H. sculptures below the I-35 overpass near Camden Street. There's much to see along the Museum Reach extension of the River Walk, so take your time and enjoy all of the amenities.