

SAN ANTONIO PRESERVATION NEWSLINK *October 2009 Edition*



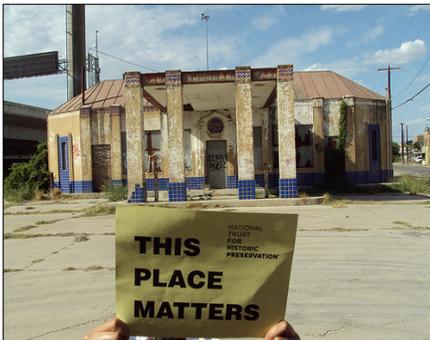
Celebrate Texas Archeology Month!

Friday, October 30th, 2009

11:30 am - 12:00 pm

Main Plaza at Dwyer Ave and the Old Dolorosa promenade

October is Texas Archeology Awareness Month and in celebration, the Office of Historic Preservation and the Bexar County Historical Commission would like to invite you to attend the grand rededication of the Official State of Texas Historical Marker for the "Storming of Bexar" and the unveiling of the new Main Plaza Interpretive History sign for the Texas Revolutionary Period fortification entrenchment found in 2007 during the Main Plaza renovation. In addition, artifacts from a number of excavations including Main and Military Plazas and the la Villita Earthworks site will be on display at the Bexar County Courthouse. For additional information about the event, please contact Molly Matthews at 207-1460.



Preservation Networking Event

The Friendly Spot Ice House, 943 S. Alamo

5:30 pm - Thursday, October 29th

Join us for a networking event for local preservationists. This event is open to anyone interested in preservation. We will use this opportunity to celebrate Audrey Zamora-Johnson's selection as a finalist (and hopefully the winner) in the "This Place Matters" photo contest.



Wood Window Workshop

Friday, November 13th

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Participation by Registration Only

\$95 per person (includes lunch and all materials)

Register today! Space is limited! The window workshop will be held at ARTchitectural Interiors, 1350 E. Southcross. Windows are often character defining features of historic buildings but people are pressured in the name of energy efficiency to replace them. Most of the time, however, the more cost effective and sustainable solution is the rehabilitation of existing windows. Many of the typical problems associated with wood windows can be handled with proper maintenance and repair, extending the life of the window for another 100 years. At this workshop,

participants will learn the basics of window repair and proper maintenance. This includes training in how to identify the main problems with the window and how to fix them. For additional information or to register, contact Molly Matthews at 207-1460.



Community Symposium: "Defending the Spanish Borderlands: Perspectives on the Massacre of the San Sabá Mission, Texas"

Saturday, November 7th

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Mission San José Visitor Center

6701 San Jose Drive

San Antonio, TX 78214

In celebration of the exhibition *The Arts of the Missions of Northern New Spain: 1600-1821*, SAMA will host a symposium on November 7th, 2009 at the Mission San José Visitor Center. The symposium will feature presentations from experts including city archaeologist Kay Hinde on the San Sabá Mission. Advance registration for the symposium is requested. Seating is limited. To register, please contact Katie Erickson at (210) 978-8151 or katie.erickson@samuseum.org

"Echoes of the Eastside" Architectural and Cultural Tour



Self-guided tour of San Antonio's Eastside Available Online

The Office of Historic Preservation has collaborated with the Office of Cultural Affairs to produce an online self-guided Eastside neighborhood tour. Visit Ellis Alley and St. Paul Square, the traditionally African American commercial and residential hub. Explore the City Cemetery District with its 31 public and private burial grounds spanning over one hundred and fifty years. Drive the streets of Dignowity Hill, a local historic district and San Antonio's first exclusive residential suburb. View public art, learn about local artists, and taste cuisine from some of San Antonio's eastside eateries. The tour is free of charge and available to download or view online at www.saculturaltours.com. Other neighborhood tours are also online. The "echoes" of the Eastside await!

Preservation Success Story



People throughout San Antonio are working to rehabilitate historic properties (some in extreme disrepair due to a sudden act or from long-term deterioration) that have significance to the community. The house located at 921 Burleson in the Dignowity Hill Historic District is great success story for the district and historic preservation. The property has a long history of code compliance issues and neglect. In 2005, the Dangerous Structure Determination Board (DSDB) identified the property as a candidate for the historic stabilization program - giving the house another chance to be saved from demolition. The property owners, Thomas and Lydia Fonseca, started the renovation process with the help of the stabilization fund. The Office of Historic Preservation commends the property owners for their contribution to San Antonio, Dignowity Hill, and historic preservation. The completion of an extensive rehabilitation process is nearly finished, which shows that even homes that are considered by some to be “lost” can be saved and preserved for generations to come—contributing to the neighborhood once again.

First Annual Historic Homeowner Fair A Great Success!



On August 29th the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) hosted the first annual Historic Homeowner Fair. Over 300 people from all over the city participated in the fair. The fair featured presentations on a variety of topics ranging from appropriate landscaping and additions to material selection and window restoration. There were also over 30 different exhibitors featuring products and services for historic homeowners. The OHP would like to thank our sponsors: The Pearl, BeatyPalmer Architects, RVK Architects, Home Depot, Kuper Sotheby's, Urban Development Services and Seventh Generation Design for their generous support.

HDRC Application Deadline to Change

Applications submitted for the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) will be due further in advance starting in October. Applicants will be required to turn in the complete packet on the Friday three weeks prior to the hearing. This change is required for public noticing

purposes. If you have any questions regarding the the application deadlines and/or the HDRC public noticing policy, contact OHP staff at 207-1460.

2009 APPLICATION DEADLINE DATES

2009 Application Deadline Dates	Meeting Dates
Friday, October 2, 2009	October 21, 2009
Friday, October 16, 2009	November 4, 2009
Friday, October 30, 2009	November 18, 2009
Friday, November 13, 2009	December 2, 2009
Friday, November 27, 2009	December 16, 2009



Historic House Rescue List

The Office of Historic Preservation maintains a list of people interested in acquiring historic properties. Many of these properties are in a dilapidated state and require significant investment. The people on this list can be contacted regarding moving a house to a more secure location to prevent demolition or to purchase the property if the current owner cannot or does not want to maintain the property. If you are interested in more

details about this contact list or would like to be added to the list to be notified about potential properties that require assistance, please contact Larry Gutierrez at 207-7902 or by email at larry.gutierrez@sanantonio.gov.



Educational Opportunities for Students

The Office of Historic Preservation provides educational opportunities for students through hands-on classes, lectures from nationally recognized experts, and internships. Laura Carrera, a student at UTSA, writes about her recent participation and experience in preservation.

My interest in historic preservation began during last semester when I took a graduate course in Preservation taught by

Professor William Dupont. We worked with Professor Gale from UT Austin researching materials of a 1900's Fire Station and developing a feasibility analysis for its future purpose. During spring break, I traveled with Professor Dupont to New Orleans where I worked with a team of students restoring a 1920's house located in Lower Ninth Ward through an organization called Historic Green. With a few tools, I discovered my true passion and I began a deep and sincere appreciation for the buildings left to us by previous generations. A few months later while attending a Window Workshop held by the San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation, I had the honor of meeting Walter Sedovic, AIA, LEED, an expert in the field of Historic Preservation, and Rudy Christian, founding member of Preservation Trades Network. Besides teaching us about wood work and windows, their lectures clearly expressed the importance of traditional construction methods in order to successfully preserve a building. As a result of my

involvement in the window workshop, I was offered a summer job as an architectural intern at Walter Sedovic Architects in Irvington, NY. After spending an entire summer working on historic projects on the outskirts of New York City, I am eager to further my education through a deep understanding of historic materials and restoration techniques.



Are you frustrated with your high energy bill? If so, you may want to check out the "Weatherization Guide for Older and Historic Homes" available through the National Trust's Website at www.preservationnation.org. The guide discusses everything from diagnosing energy waste areas of your homes to how to take advantage of energy incentives from the state and federal governments. Before you start considering your options for increasing energy efficiency, it is important to understand how your home is currently performing. Most heat loss in a building occurs through the roof and other gaps in the walls and foundation. The best way to identify these problem areas by conducting an energy audit. Professional audits in the San Antonio area generally cost between \$250 and \$500 depending on the services performed (www.cpsenergy.com). A professional audit will help you identify sources of energy loss and the most cost-effective options for sealing off leaks. If the primary source of heat loss is air leaking through an attic hatch or a poorly-fitted fireplace damper, replacing your windows is not going to help and could actually cost you thousands more. The Office of Historic Preservation is working with CPS energy to develop information and resources for historic properties.



Check out the new historic preservation blog on the San Antonio Express-News website at <http://voices.mysanantonio.com/swasielewski/>.



The Office of Historic Preservation is on Facebook! Click the Facebook icon to add us as your friend. Facebook is a great resource for promoting preservation events and networking with other people in the community interested in preservation topics. If you are unable to open the link, simply login to Facebook.com and search for us under "City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation".

Contact Us!

The Office of Historic Preservation is dedicated to improving public outreach and awareness of preservation issues and events in San Antonio. Please contact us at OHP@sanantonio.gov or call (210) 207-1460 for more information or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter.