

SAN ANTONIO PRESERVATION NEWSLINK *November 2009 Edition*



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 identifying the main problems with windows and how to repair them. For additional information or to register, contact Molly Matthews at 207-1460.



Realtor Training - Historic House Specialist
Tuesday, December 15th 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
1901 S. Alamo, Training Rooms A & B
TREC # 06-00-061-8153 Provider # 0008

This course is open to realtors and the general public by registration only. Anyone interested in historic real estate is welcome to register to attend. The City of San Antonio has 25 historic districts and over 2,000 individually landmarked properties. Selling homes in a historic district presents its own set of challenges and opportunities unique to San Antonio. This course will teach you to research historic properties, identify important architectural features and materials, and explain the economics involved in historic properties. You will learn how to market a historic home and highlight some of the benefits of owning a historic property. The City's Office of Historic Preservation will also discuss what it means to own a historic home in terms of renovations and alterations and the permitting process. 6 MCE hours, no legal credit. To register for the class, please contact SABOR at (210) 593-1200 or dina@sabor.com.



Save the Date! Preservation Networking Event
Tuesday, December 15th 5:30 pm
Location To Be Announced

Join us for a networking event for local preservationists. This event is open to anyone interested in preservation. For more information, please contact Molly Matthews at the Office of Historic Preservation 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 to 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 Hindes 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!



The National Trust Conference 2009

Several members of the Office of Historic Preservation staff had the opportunity to attend the National Preservation Conference in Nashville, TN, in October. The conference featured numerous

opportunities for staff to learn about preservation activities and challenges in other parts of the country. San Antonio is a city that takes great pride in its history. Our city has a national reputation for its commitment to history, archaeology and historic preservation and San Antonio has a long history of active citizen involvement in historic preservation efforts. Historic preservation is an on on-going community process that is never complete so it is important for the Office of Historic Preservation to continue looking for ways to improve and expand historic preservation efforts in San Antonio. Attending the National Preservation Conference helps staff develop new approaches to accomplishing our mission and implementing the Strategic Historic Preservation Plan.

Preservation Success Story – 324 Leigh



Bob Coker spent nearly two years restoring this beautiful home in the Lavaca Historic district. The Office of Historic Preservation commends his restoration efforts. This is his story on rehabilitation and preservation.

According to deed records this house was built about 1900 with only three rooms, a living room, bedroom, and kitchen, no bathroom though it probably had an outhouse. Over the years, several rooms had been added on including a bathroom and more bedrooms, but the whole structure was literally falling down. We bought the house with the initial thought of demolishing the house, but as we examined it further and spoke with Larry Gutierrez from the Office of Historic Preservation, we decided to try and restore it to it's original charm and beauty since it has so much character and history. As we began work, we were completely surprised that the house never had hot water! During the restoration process, we discovered all kinds of wonderful features like beaded wood ceilings, longleaf pine floors, and gingerbread porch trim. We also discovered that the entire house was built with square cut nails! The restoration process began literally from the ground up since the floor joists were half buried in the dirt. We had a structural engineer design and plan a new foundation, but in the process of raising the house during the rainy summer of 2007, it actually fell off the blocks twice! Finally, it was placed on new concrete piers and leveled. Then the tedious process began of rebuilding, including a new standing seam metal roof, installing new electrical and plumbing, insulation, heating and cooling system, new insulated wooden windows to match the originals, and of course, a new water heater! No more cold baths in that old cast iron clawfoot tub which we had restored and reinstalled. Little by little, what was a shack began to transform back into what was once a charming home. It was our goal to maintain the original look and feel as well as attention to detail and craftsmanship while incorporating modern comforts and conveniences. We are very pleased with the result and have no doubt this home will easily last another 100 years.



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.



GO GREEN! Do you want to do something good for Planet Earth? Interested in shrinking the size of your carbon footprint? Believe it or not, the best place to start is at home. The greenest house is the one that is already built and there are plenty of resources available in the San Antonio area to improve your historic home. Even if you only have five minutes and ten dollars, there are more ways than you might expect to go green at home. Check out the resources and tips available online at <http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/sustainability/> or contact Build San Antonio Green for upcoming workshops and events. They also have a list of green building professionals, rebates and incentives, and educational material available on their website at <http://www.buildsagreen.org>.



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 www.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.