

December 2011 Edition



A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer

Happy Holidays! The holiday season is a time of sharing and helping others. We've seen a perfect example of this great sense of community recently in the Tobin Hill Historic District. I am excited to announce that our third S.T.A.R. Project focusing on the Tobin Hill Historic District on Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20, was a great success! This was the first time that S.T.A.R. was in the Tobin Hill Historic District and the residents couldn't have been more pleased. Over 100 volunteers from the UTSA College of Architecture and San Antonio College, along with volunteer contractors, assisted homeowners with the repair and maintenance of six historic properties in the neighborhood. S.T.A.R., which stands for Students Together Achieving Revitalization, utilizes the talents and hard work of volunteers to assist homeowners in local historic districts with basic home repair and maintenance. Services are free for

the homeowner and include window repair, painting, siding and porch repair, minor landscaping, and yard clean-up. Last fall and spring, S.T.A.R. volunteers successfully assisted residents of the Dignowity Hill Historic District in repairing 26 historic homes! The program has made a noticeable impact in these districts, inspiring others in the area to begin fixing up their own homes. We will be back in Tobin Hill again in the spring of 2012. If you live in a historic district in San Antonio and are interested in having your house or neighborhood included in future S.T.A.R. efforts, please contact Nicholas Fuqua at 210.207.0066 or nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov.



Thank you for your interest in preservation in San Antonio and your support of the work of the Office of Historic Preservation throughout the year. Please enjoy this time of year with your friends and families. We'll look forward to a new year full of exciting new initiatives such as the Historic Districts Design Guidelines, more S.T.A.R. projects, a bigger and better Historic Homeowner Fair and new offerings for Preservation Month in May to name a few. Also stay tuned for an exciting announcement in January as well (hint: prom)!

Please don't forget that City offices will be closed the week of December 26-30. We will be back in the office on Monday, January 2, 2012.

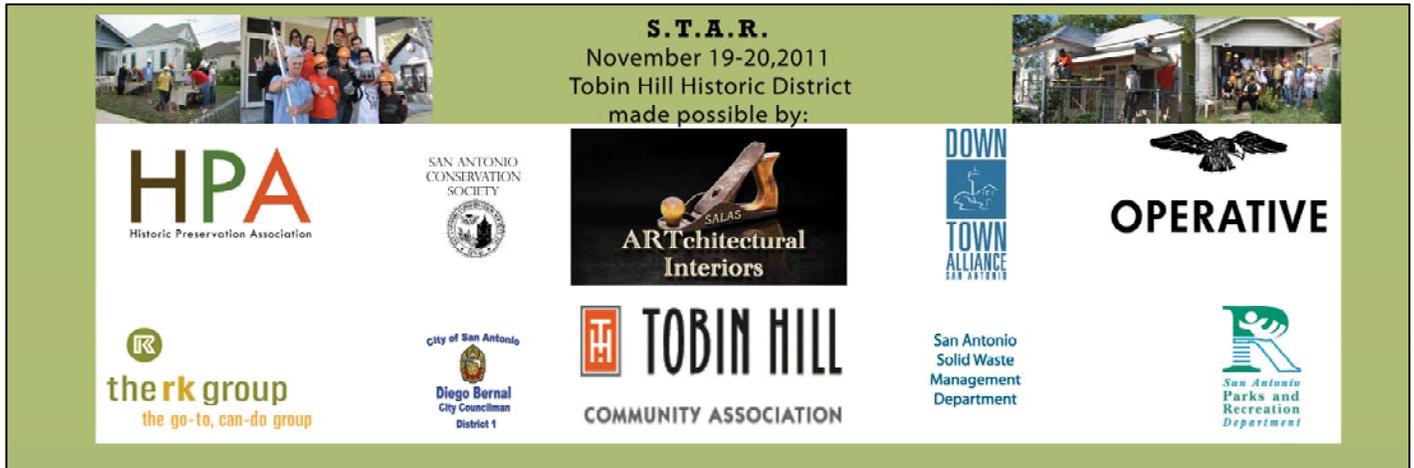
Enjoy the holidays!

Sharon

City News and Events

Thank You To Our S.T.A.R. Sponsors!

The Office of Historic Preservation couldn't continue our important education and outreach programs such as the S.T.A.R. project without the support of our sponsors. Thank you so much for your generosity and continued involvement. These programs wouldn't be possible without you.



Upcoming Tours

February 18, 2012
Fort Sam Houston

Downtown Holiday Lighting Guided Tour A Great Success!

Our Downtown Holiday Lighting tour, which allowed participants to experience the holiday magic of Mayor Castro's Light-Up Downtown Holiday Contest and the spectacular new Riverwalk lights, was attended by over 70 runners and walkers. Participants enjoyed the festive atmosphere of downtown while stopping at some famous illuminated landmarks, like San Fernando Cathedral and the Tower-Life Building. Casa Navarro opened its doors to warm the guests with snacks and hot coffee as they braved the chilly night. A wonderful time was had by all! Join us again on February 18 for our tour of Ft. Sam Houston. **Go! Historic SA Guided Running & Walking Tours** are open to runners and walkers of all skill levels. Participants will be divided into small groups based on experience. Routes take approximately 1-1/2 hours to complete. Registration is only \$15. Please bring your own water bottles. Print out the registration form from our website at www.sanantonio.gov/historic and submit it to the Office of Historic Preservation or register online at www.active.com. Call 210.215.9274 for more details.

OHP Networking Event and Book Signing



The Office of Historic Preservation and the APA hosted a book signing event and networking event for authors of the newly revised 3rd edition of *Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians*. The event was held at the Liberty Bar at 1111 S. Alamo on Dec. 14, 2011. The book is co-authored by E. Sue Turner, Thomas R. Hester, Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus, University of Texas at Austin (UT, Austin), and former Director of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, UT, Austin, and Richard McReynolds with a forward by Dr. Harry Shafer.

Over 80 persons turned out to purchase their copy of the book and to get it autographed. Authors Ellen Sue Turner, Dr. Thomas R. Hester, and Richard McReynolds were on-hand to autograph copies of their new book. In addition, Dr. Harry Shafer, Professor Emeritus, Texas A&M University and member of the City of San Antonio's Historic Design and Review Commission (HDRC) wrote the forward to the book and was present to autograph. The book signing was a resounding success!

Featured Articles

Be a Tourist in Your Own Town: San Antonio Self-Guided *Elizabeth Porterfield, OHP*

During this holiday season when family and friends are visiting, why not spend some time exploring our historic downtown? From the iconic Alamo to the scenic Riverwalk, San Antonio boasts many significant structures, sites and places that are well worth visiting or stopping to admire as you stroll the city streets. Take time to explore and share the history of our city with one of several self-guided tours.

Beginning in Alamo Plaza and working your way west, you can explore the history and architecture of many of San Antonio's historic treasures along the Commerce Street corridor through the **Texas Star Trail Downtown Walking Tour**. This self-guided walking tour brochure by the San Antonio Conservation Society features over 75 historic downtown sites and is available at the San Antonio Visitor Center at 317 Alamo Plaza (or on the OHP website at: www.sanantonio.gov/historic under Events). The 2.6 mile route through downtown can be started at any point along the way. Texas star medallions are located in the sidewalk in front of each building on the tour, and smaller sidewalk medallions connect the sites. Stops in Alamo Plaza include the Alamo, the Gothic Revival-style Medical Arts Building (now the Emily Morgan Hotel) and the 1930s Post Office and Federal Courts Building with interior fresco murals depicting "San Antonio's Importance in Texas History."



The Texas Star Trail continues to the heart of the city at Main Plaza where the first Canary Island settlers established homes in the early 18th century. San Fernando Cathedral in the Plaza was originally founded as a parish church in the 1730s, but the Gothic Revival style façade was added in the mid 19th century. The oldest portions of the church are visible at the rear of the building. San Fernando Cathedral continues to serve the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio. Across the Plaza is the imposing Bexar County Courthouse constructed between 1891 and 1894 of Texas granite and sandstone.

Continuing west on the Texas Star Trail is Plaza de Armas, or Military Plaza, where Spanish military troops once drilled. Prior to civilian settlement, the Spanish military garrison, or Presidio de Bexar, was established in this location in 1722. The Spanish Governor's Palace on the western edge of the plaza was the residence and headquarters of the captain of the Presidio and is thought to have been completed ca. 1749. Designed around a central courtyard, the Spanish Colonial style structure was saved and largely reconstructed in the early 20th century. It now serves as a museum. At the center of Military Plaza is San Antonio's City Hall, completed in 1892.



Another stop on the Texas Star Trail is historic La Villita, established in the 18th century as a small residential village. The ca. 1800 Cos House is the oldest remaining structure, and many of the other 19th century buildings now serve as small shops. Further along the Texas Star Trail you'll also see historic churches, decorative bridges spanning the San Antonio River, and some of the remaining historic buildings of HemisFair Park.

Houston Street is another of San Antonio's historic downtown commercial corridors with many spectacular buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Don't miss the **Houston Street Kiosks** located at intervals along Houston Street between Alamo and Santa Rosa Streets. The eight former public telephone kiosks have been converted into sixteen interpretive panels highlighting the history of Houston Street's commercial past. Historic photographs and text capture the feeling of Houston Street during its heyday as the shopping and entertainment district of the city. Numerous department stores, theaters, and restaurants once lined the street. Sights to see include the 1930s Art Deco style Kress Building that has recently been restored and the imposing Central Trust Company Building, the tallest in the city at the time of construction in 1919. Don't miss taking in a show at the magnificent Majestic Theater, with its elaborate Spanish and Moorish style interior designed as a baroque courtyard. The elaborate façade of the former Texas Theater remains as a lasting tribute to Houston Street's entertainment district, and the 1949 Art Deco style Alameda Theater once served as a Mexican-American theater for Spanish film and live entertainment.

Stepping below street level, the San Antonio Riverwalk is one of the most beloved features of our city. Spanning the San Antonio River through downtown, the historic Riverwalk was envisioned by architect Robert H. H. Hugman in 1929. Formal development of the Riverwalk began in 1939 based on Hugman's earlier plans, and it officially opened in 1941. Much of Hugman's designs for the scenic bridges, stairways, walkways, landscaping, and the Arnesan River Theater were realized, although Hugman only served on the project for one year before being dismissed. In recognition of Hugman's significant role in the development of the Riverwalk, bronze plaques replicating the



architectural seal used on his drawings have been installed at original Hugman-designed features. A **Hugman Riverwalk Smartphone Tour** is now available for a self-guided Riverwalk tour highlighting twelve of the most significant Hugman features. Download the QR code or print a copy of the tour narrative and map at www.hugmantour.com and navigate your way along the Riverwalk with historic photos and commentary by renowned San Antonio historian Lewis Fisher. Enjoy the special magic of the season with the holiday lighting along the Riverwalk.

Don't miss a trip through downtown after dark to experience **Mayor Castro's Light-Up Downtown Holiday Contest**. Buildings and storefronts throughout downtown will be festively lighted for the holidays. 'Tis the season to discover and share the history and beauty of San Antonio!

Reporting Potential Violations to the Historic Building Enforcement Officer

To help protect the City's historic resources, residents are encouraged to notify the Office of Historic Preservation of potential violations. To report a concern:

- 1) Gather information. Be prepared to provide the address of the property in question and a brief description of the potential violation or concern. Photographs are helpful but not necessary.
- 2) Call 210.219.2093 or email ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov or OHP@sanantonio.gov during regular business hours (7:45 am - 4:30 pm) to report your concerns. After-hours complaints should be registered by phone through 311 or by email at OHP@sanantonio.gov.
- 3) You can report potential problems anonymously or provide contact information for follow-up.

Ron Meyers, Historic Building Enforcement Officer, will investigate and take the necessary action if a violation has occurred. If contact information has been provided, a report on the outcome of the investigation will be provided.

Historic Preservation How-To: Researching Your Historic House

Nicholas Fuqua and Edna Campos Gravenhorst, OHP

Have you ever wondered if George Washington slept in your house (not likely here in Texas!) or who used to slide down that beautiful banister that your children now enjoy? If you own a historic home, then undoubtedly some of these thoughts have crossed your mind, and a journey into your home's past may be just the ticket to answer those questions.

Every building, like every person, has a past. A historic home's past forms so much of its identity. Researching your home's history can be a fascinating way for you and your family to unlock some of its secrets and form a closer bond with the place where you spend so much of your time, energy, and money!

House histories, like any research, must be approached methodically. There are a few basic steps you can follow to begin uncovering your home's past and get you moving in the right direction.



1. Real Estate Deed Transfers and Title Search

A deed trace can be time consuming but very valuable to understanding the history of your property.

- Property details, like assessed values and current owners, can be found at the Bexar County Appraisal District (BCAD) at www.bcad.org. Be careful, though. The year given for construction found here is only correct about half the time. Continue researching to nail down the accurate year of construction for your house.
- Property deeds from 1837-present can be found at the Bexar County Clerk's Office at www.countyclerk.bexar.landata.com

2. Building Permits

Building permits can be useful in determining dates of construction and modifications and can help you understand the physical evolution of your property.

- Research addresses and original owners using historic newspaper archives at www.newspaperarchive.com. This service is free at all city library branches but a paid subscription is needed for private use.
- Building permits issued from 1980-present can be found by contacting Anna Galimore at the City of San Antonio at 210.207.8270 or anna.galimore@sanantonio.gov. You will need to fill out an open records request for this information.
- Building permits issued from 1921-1980 can be found by contacting Donna Guerra, City Archivist at the Municipal Archives & Records Facility. Donna can be reached at 210.207.7029 or donna.guerra@sanantonio.gov. The Municipal Archives are open Monday-Friday, 7:45am-4:30pm. When you contact Donna, make sure you have the address and legal description for the property, including the New City Block (NCB) number.
- Once you have narrowed down the year, date and month the building permit was issued, you can continue your research at the Texana and Genealogy department at the Central San Antonio Public Library at 600 Soledad St. Contact Frank Faulkner at 210.207.2500. Be sure to call ahead, as this department has different hours from the library.
- You can also search for building information in the *Service for the San Antonio Builders Exchange*, which contains information from 1920-present.

3. Census Records

Census records are a valuable tool to find out when and where people lived and can give you insight into the occupant history of your house.

- The 1880 United States Census can be found for free at www.familysearch.org.
- The 1790-1930 United States Census can be found at www.ancestry.com. This service is free at the Texana and Genealogy department at the Central San Antonio Public Library. There is a \$300 annual fee for a private subscription.
- The 1860-1930 United States Censuses are available through the public library database "Heritage Quest." You can use this service from home with your library card.

4. City Directory Research

City directories contain listings of businesses, residences, and their occupants. City directories also list people's occupations and contain advertisements of the day.

- City directories from 1877-1970 are available on microfilm at the Central Library. Those from 1960-present are available in book form. The directories start listing residents by address in 1903. Remember to look for the residents by address a few years prior to the year that the city has on record in which the home was constructed



(found in BCAD). Sometimes the owner of the house is not listed as the resident in the city directories, as the property was a rental. Also, look for residents at an address every five years, as people were not as mobile as we are today. In many cases it is not necessary to look at every single year.

- For additional information on City Directory research, contact San Antonio Conservation Society librarian Beth Standifird at 210.224.6163.

5. Individual and Family Research

- These websites are helpful in researching individuals or conducting genealogical research on your family:

www.familysearch.org

www.pilot.familysearch.org

www.ancestry.com

www.newspaperarchive.com

- Obituaries are also very helpful sources of information and can be found in newspapers such as the *San Antonio Express* and the *San Antonio Light* at the Central Library and online at www.newspaperarchive.com.
- Other contacts include the San Antonio Conservation Society, the San Antonio Public Library Texana and Genealogy department, the Institute of Texan Cultures, and records collections at the Bexar County Courthouse.

6. Maps and Photographs

Maps and photographs are valuable sources for information that cannot be found in strictly text-based resources such as census records or city directories.

- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps were published from the 1880s-1970s. They are an excellent source of information on buildings and the historical evolution of cities. Digital Sanborn maps are available at www.mysapl.org. You will need a library card number to log in. When you access the website, click on "Database," then scroll down and click on "Texas Digital Sanborn Maps." You will then log in and can browse by city and date. Be sure to first review the key and index pages to find the street where your property is located. This will tell you the volume and sheet number of the map for your property.
- There are also a number of "bird's eye" maps from 1872 and 1886 of San Antonio at the Texana and Genealogy department at the Central Library, as well as street maps which start in 1865. There is a list of original maps at the desk.
- Vintage photographs can be found in the vertical files at the Texana and Genealogy department, at the Central Library, the Institute of Texan Cultures Library, and the San Antonio Conservation Society.

Researching your home's history takes time, but it is definitely worth the effort. For questions or more information on starting research on your property, contact historical researcher and author Edna Campos Gravenhorst at EdnaCampos.Gravenhorst@sanantonio.gov. You can also visit www.sanantonio.gov/historic/tools.aspx to get your own Historic House Research Guide and check out other helpful links to start your journey into the past. Happy hunting!

Preservation Partners: Meet Our Preservation Community

Beth Standifird, San Antonio Conservation Society Librarian



Beth Standifird is the librarian for the San Antonio Conservation Society. She received her master's degree in architectural studies from the University of Texas at Austin and worked for five years as a historic preservation planner for the City of Dallas before returning to UT for a master's degree in library science. In 2001, after her research internship at the *San Antonio Express-News* ended, the San Antonio Conservation Society hired her as the first paid staff person to oversee the daily operations of their library. She has been a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation since 1994 and belongs to both the Special Library Association and the Texas Library Association.

The Society Library, which supports the Society in its mission to encourage historic preservation and promote knowledge of regional history, is also open to the public. Beth has been working with a group of dedicated volunteers to expand the library's online catalog to include items from the library's collection of maps, photos, architectural drawings and oral histories. She is also the primary researcher for the steadily growing number of patron requests the library receives each year. Most of these requests come from local college students, property owners and preservation professionals, but the library also fields questions nationally and has even received a few international inquiries.

Beth has worked with the City's Office of Historic Preservation to provide research and fact checking assistance on a variety of endangered historic properties, including the Protestant Children's Home and Lerma's Nite Club, and on interpretive signage for both the Hays Street Bridge and the Houston Street Kiosks. She has also participated in OHP sponsored public workshops to provide advice on researching historic buildings. Many of these tips and online resources can be found on the library's web page: <http://www.saconservation.org/research/library.htm>. She enjoys the challenge of rediscovering the forgotten history of places through primary materials like city directories, Sanborn Maps, and deed records, as well as helping others to appreciate and preserve San Antonio's unique history.

Local Preservation Events and Announcements

Hannibal Pianta Tour

A special bus tour of 30 architectural sites, enhanced from 1908 to 1937 by the cast stone artwork of architectural sculptor Hannibal Pianta, will take place on Sunday, January 15, 2012 from 2pm - 5pm. This exciting event is part of the Old Spanish Trail Centennial Celebration. The tour will start at Thomas Jefferson High School at 723 Donaldson Avenue in San Antonio. This event is free, but seating is limited. Registration is required by Friday, January 6, 2012. To register, or for more information, contact Charlotte Kahl at OST100Kahl@aol.com or 210.735.3503.



Texas Archeology Academy – Lithics: Reading Stone Artifacts

The Texas Archeological Society will sponsor the Texas Archeology Academy titled *Lithics: Reading Stone Artifacts*, February 4-5, 2012. This workshop will provide hands-on experience in the recognition of stone artifacts, their manufacture, and how they contribute to our understanding of ancient people. Classes will be held at Quality Inn in Uvalde, 920 E. Main, from 9:00am-4:00pm each day.

Stone tools have been preserved longer than any other human artifacts. Much can be learned about people from the way they solved problems basic to survival. Stone tools often reveal tasks that were performed and reflect how ancient people lived. Dr. Harry Shafer, Professor Emeritus of Archaeology, Texas A&M University, will teach the academy with assistance from Paul Smith and David Calame. Two full days will be conducted in the classroom with lunch provided. The registration fee includes the two days of instruction, two lunches, and a manual CD. Fees are \$95 for TAS members; \$155 for non-members including individual membership; \$165 for family non-members including family membership; \$135 for student non-members including membership. A certificate of participation will be awarded to attendees. CPE credit will be available for teachers as approved by the Texas SBEC. Special room rates are available upon request from the Quality Inn at 830.278.4511. Registration deadline is January 22. Register online at www.txarch.org. For additional information call 800.377.7240.



Events and Exhibits at Villa Finale

Located at 401 King William Street in the beautiful King William Historic District, Villa Finale is the first National Trust for Historic Preservation site in Texas. For more information on the following tours, programs, and exhibits stop by the Visitor Center at 122 Madison, call 210.223.9800, or visit www.villafinale.org.

The following information is from the Villa Finale website at www.villafinal.org.

Villa Finale Concert Series 2011 - 2012

It is with great excitement that we invite you to enjoy our first classical concert series, Villa Finale Presents, beginning in December 2011! Following the lead of Walter Nold Mathis and his love of music in his home, we have planned three intimate concerts to be held in Villa Finale's Napoleon Parlors. The internationally themed concerts will feature young vocal talent from the University of Texas at San Antonio Music Department with accompaniment on Mr. Mathis's Bechstein-Welte reproducing piano. An optional tour focusing on the decorative and fine arts collection originating from each concert's featured country follows the performances. Light refreshments will be served throughout the evening. This concert series is made possible through the generosity of Laurie and Tom Saylak in honor of Jessie Kardys. Front gate of Villa Finale at 401 King William Street opens at 5:30pm and concerts begin

promptly at 6:00pm. Admission is \$15.00 for members of Villa Finale or the National Trust; \$25.00 for non-members. Space is limited, so call 210.223.9800 for reservations or for further information.

Thursday, February 16, 2012

"A Trip to Italy" Featuring music of Cilea, Donizetti, Mozart, Rossini and Vivaldi

Thursday, March 22, 2012

"From the French Salon to the Stage" Featuring music of Bachelet, Delibes, Duparc, Gounod and Massenet

Rockport Doll House

The miniature reproduction of the Mathis family home in Rockport, Texas will be on view at the Villa Finale Visitor Center beginning on November 22nd through the end of the year. The doll house, in a 1/12 scale of the original, has recently been repaired and includes miniature reproductions of some of the family's furniture now seen inside Villa Finale. The Visitor Center is open Tuesday, Noon-4:30pm, and Wednesday through Saturday, 9:30am-4:30pm. Admission to the Visitor Center is free.

***Villa Finale Cell Phone Audio Tour Now Available:
"The King William Homes of Preservationist Walter Mathis"***

Villa Finale is proud to introduce its first cell phone audio tour, *The King William Homes of Preservationist Walter Mathis*. The tour, supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, provides historic information and restoration details of each of the homes restored by Walter Mathis in the King William Historic District. The cell phone tour is free, and callers need only use their own cell plan minutes. People interested in experiencing the tour can pick up a complimentary cell tour card at the Villa Finale Visitor Center, with additional locations coming soon. The rack card provides the tour's phone number, a map of the neighborhood, and general instructions. Villa Finale would like to thank our King William neighbors who graciously donated their voices to this project, and Amy Unger for researching the properties and providing many of the original scripts. The tour is also available in Spanish.

Historic Structure Plaques



Historic Structure Plaques are available for purchase for individual local landmarks and contributing properties within local historic districts. The plaques visually identify properties and districts that have been officially recognized by the City of San Antonio for their architectural or historical significance. The plaques, available for purchase for \$95, are of cast aluminum with raised silver letters on a dark grey background. The plaque is approximately 7½ inches in diameter and ¼ inch thick. Fill out an application available on our website or stop by our office to purchase yours today. For questions, please call 210.215.9274.

OHP T-Shirts Still Available!

Show your support for preservation in style with the official Office of Historic Preservation “Know Your Place” t-shirt. The shirts are a dark gray cotton blend and are available in both men’s and women’s sizes and styles. The front features a map of downtown San Antonio in black with the river highlighted in light blue and our slogan “Know Your Place.” T-shirts are \$18 and all proceeds go to support the important education and outreach programs of the Office of Historic Preservation. The shirts are available for purchase at 1901 S. Alamo Street. For more information, please call 210.215.9274.



HPTV: Historic Preservation Television

HPTV will be back in January 2012 with all new episodes. Stay tuned!

See the show on TVSA
Channel 21:

Tuesdays @ 9:00am
Wednesdays @ 1:00pm
Fridays @ 7:00pm



View current and past episodes of HPTV online at the OHP website (*sorry, PC only*).

We're on the web!



The Office of Historic Preservation is on Facebook! Facebook is a great resource for promoting preservation events and networking with other people in the community interested in preservation topics. Click the Facebook icon above or go to www.facebook.com and search for “City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation.”

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

Preservation Advocacy

Federal Historic Preservation Issues

Provided by Erik Hein, President, Preservation Action

Note from OHP: The mission of Preservation Action is to make historic preservation a national priority by advocating to all branches of the federal government for sound preservation policy and programs through a grassroots constituency empowered with information and training and through direct contact with elected representatives. What happens in Washington directly impacts the work we do at the local level: grant funding to Certified Local Governments, Preserve America and Save Americas Treasures programs, federal rehabilitation tax credit policy, etc. This feature is intended to provide information to those who are interested about the status of current national legislative priorities within the preservation movement.

For more information about Preservation Action or current issues on the national legislative agenda or for information about becoming a member, visit www.preservationaction.org or contact Shanon Peterson at shanon.peterson@sanantonio.gov. The following information is taken from the Preservation Action website www.preservationaction.org.

Mark Your Calendars for Preservation Advocacy Day, March 7th & 8th

This year's annual Advocacy Day (a.k.a. Lobby Day) will take place on March 7th and 8th, 2012, at the historic Fairfax Hotel in Washington, DC. As is tradition, Wednesday March 7th will include the Preservation Action and NAPC board meetings, policy briefings, training, and of course meeting face to face with participants from your state to talk strategy. Thursday March 8th will be devoted to meetings on the Hill.

In the coming weeks, many of you will begin hearing from your State Coordinator to start planning and scheduling meetings, talking strategy, and gearing up for a successful day on the Hill! If you are unable to come to the Hill next year, don't despair - your efforts in-district will be just as important! Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

New Board Members Elected At Membership Meeting in Buffalo, NY

On October 21, 2011, Preservation Action hosted its 2011 meeting of the membership at the National Preservation Conference. Among the items of business, the membership approved nominations to the board of directors. We'd like to welcome Brenda Barrett (Harrisburg, PA); Dr. Allyson Brooks (Olympia, WA); Suzanne Clary (Rye, NY); Greg Seymour (Las Vegas, NV); and nominated from the floor: Lee Anne Zeigler (Tulsa, OK) and Janet Matheson (Fairbanks, AK). Trisha Logan (NY, NY) was elected as the vice-chair for Membership and Development.

Serving on the Board is a great way to get involved with PA, to support its work, and to help guide our direction. If you would like to serve, please contact the PA office.

Grassroots Survey Closes

We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who participated in our grassroots survey this month. This was our most successful survey in recent years. Next up, the policy and program committee will be analyzing the results to help put together our 2012 legislative priorities.

Preservation Action Foundation Update

As many of you know, the Preservation Action Foundation (PAF) supports the work of Preservation Action by providing resources for educational and policy related materials. But what does that mean? PAF funds your weekly Legislative Updates, One-pagers and Briefings as well as research and administrative work. PAF provides the staff of PA with the resources they need to be able to stay informed and keep you up to date with highest quality information from Capitol Hill and beyond.

Additionally, the PAF provided the framework and staffing for the [Federal Historic Preservation Program Task Force](#) and will continue to play an active role as the Task Force moves into the implementation phase.

Year-End Donations to the Foundation

The end of the year is right around the corner. Consider helping to continue the good work of the Preservation Action Foundation by making a tax-deductible contribution. To make a donation [download a form](#) here.

Select Preservation Bill Monitor

[H.R. 2555: Historic Homeownership Revitalization Act of 2011](#)

Sponsored by: Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH), Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-MO)

Summary: Would establish a historic rehabilitation tax credit for homeowners and developers of historic homes.

Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

[H.R. 2479: Creating American Prosperity Through Preservation Act](#)

Sponsored by: Rep. Aaron Schock (R-OH), Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

Summary: Would amend the existing commercial rehabilitation tax credit to create a larger credit for smaller projects, improve usability by non-profits, clarify the age of eligibility, exempt state credits from federal income tax, and establish an energy efficiency supplement.

Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

[H.R. 709: Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act](#)

Sponsored by: Rep. Albio Sires (D-NJ)

Summary: Would require the Secretary of HUD to establish an urban revitalization and livable communities program to provide federal grants to eligible local governments for a variety of park-related projects, including rehabilitation and construction.

Status: Referred to House Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity

[H.R. 1505: National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act](#)

Sponsored by: Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT)

Summary: Would waive activities related to border security enforcement from several review laws, including NEPA, NHPA, the Antiquities Act and the National Park Service Organic Act. The waiver would cover "certain sections of the international border between the United States and Mexico and between the United States and Canada [and] shall be considered to apply to all sections of the international land and maritime borders of the United States within 100 miles of the international land and maritime borders of the United States."

Status: House Natural Resources Committee held markup first week of October, 2011.

[S. 1081: Project Delivery Improvement Act](#)

Sponsored by: Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

Summary: Eliminates several provisions dealing with and considering impacts to historic sites, exempting them from highway and transportation laws.

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

[S. 1265: Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act of 2011](#)

Sponsored by: Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)

Summary: Would provide full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Any Bill introduced in any Congress can be found on [Thomas/Library of Congress](#).

The full calendar for the House of Representatives can be found [here](#).

The full calendar for the Senate can be found [here](#).