

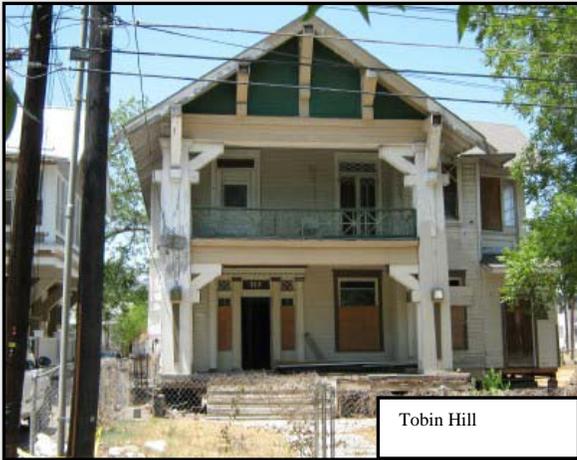


SAN ANTONIO

PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

April 2010 Edition

Several Rehabilitation Projects Currently Underway Throughout City



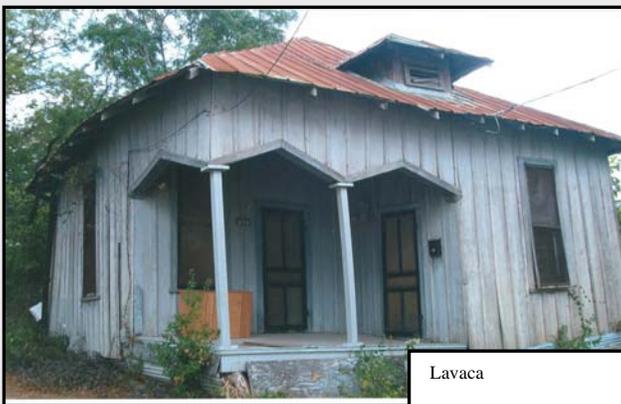
Several property owners have completed or are undertaking extensive restoration and rehabilitation projects of historic structures throughout San Antonio. A few of these projects are within the Tobin Hill, Dignowity Hill, and Lavaca Historic Districts. Restoration and rehabilitation of these homes help strengthen neighborhoods and re-establish the importance of our city's unique heritage.



Many of these homes were built nearly a century ago and have retained much of their original architectural features and materials. The restoration of these structures is important because in many instances these original elements are no longer available. The craftsmanship of these homes makes them irreplaceable pieces of our past.

Over the years, we have seen many homes that have been neglected. But more and more property owners are putting time and effort into preserving these historic structures so that they may live on for another century.

Our office is excited to see so many projects and looks forward to the progress and final outcome!



Occasionally we will be highlighting some of these restoration projects. If you would like to share your story please contact us at OHP@sanantonio.gov or at 210-207-7244.

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) 207-7244 for more information or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter.

April 2010

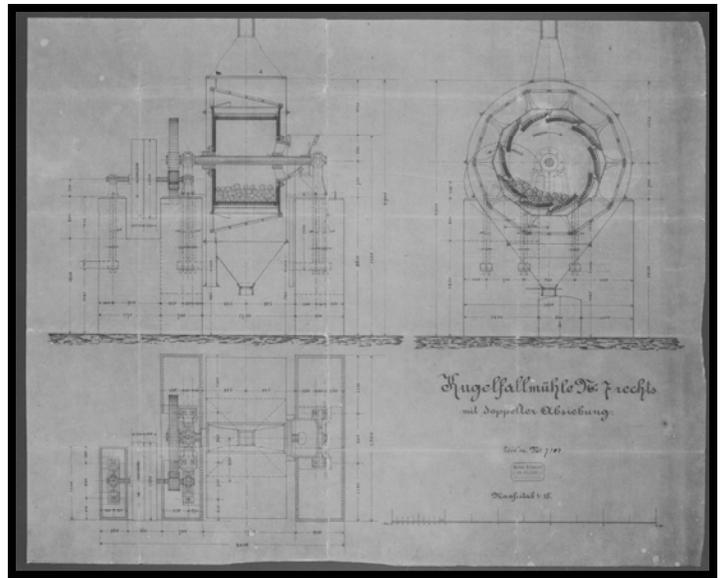
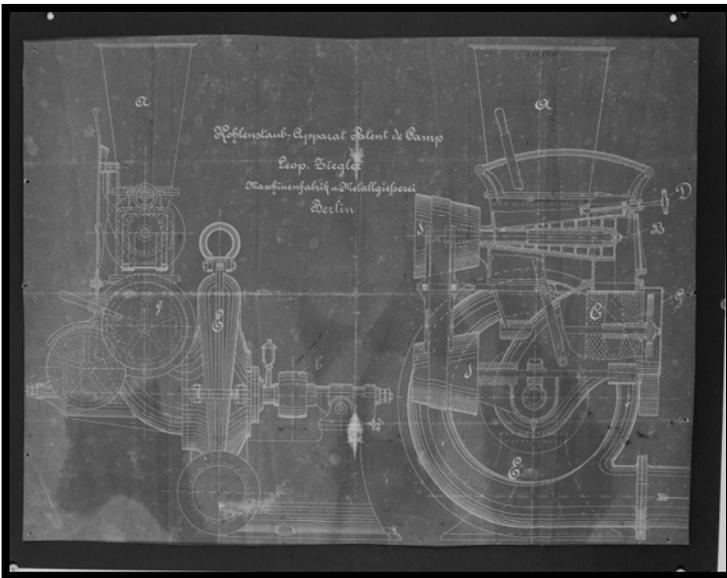
Archaeological Discoveries at the Jingu House

In April 2010, during rehabilitation work for the Jingu House located at the Japanese Tea Gardens, archaeological features were discovered that are directly related to the 19th century Alamo Cement Company, which was located at this site between 1879 and 1908.

Incredibly, beneath the floor of the structure were features that are believed to represent machinery associated with the rock crushing operation as well as a kiln structure. The San Antonio Parks Foundation is currently in the process of an extensive rehabilitation of the original house. The plan is for the Jingu House to once again open as a tea room. The site is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and is a Texas Civil Engineering Landmark.



Photograph of Archaeological Features found at the Jingu House. Photograph taken by Kay Hinde, OHP.

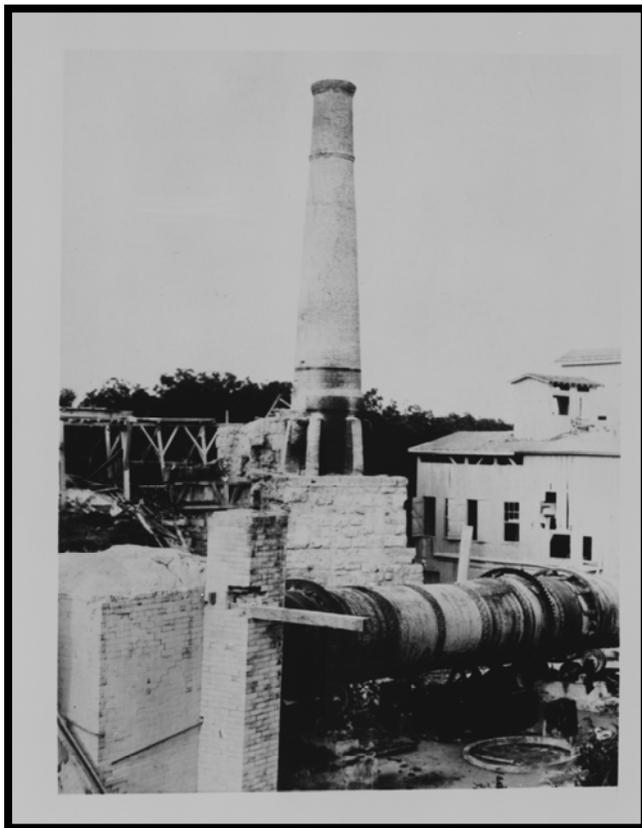


Schematics for Machinery Design, Germany. Photograph courtesy of Dixie Watkins III and Associates

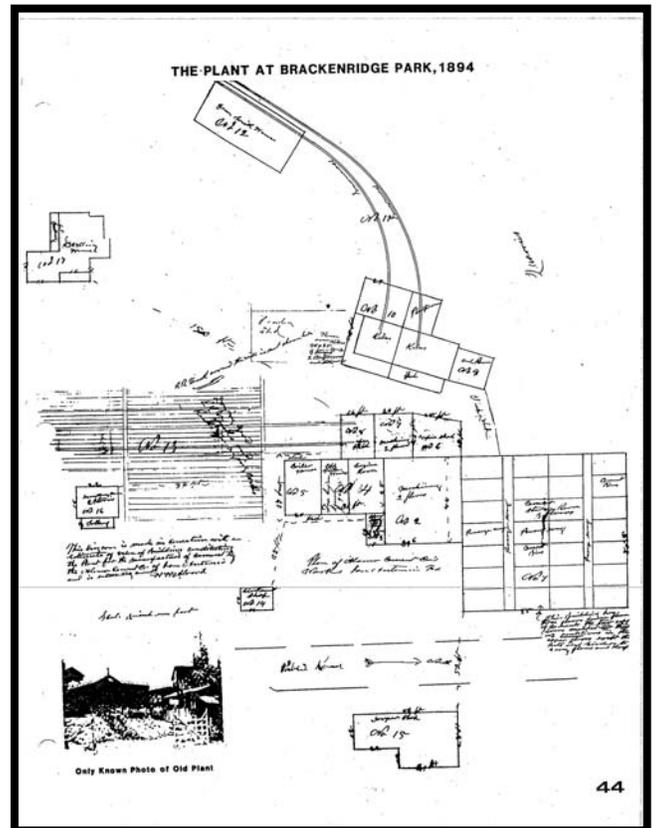
The history of the site dates to 1879 when Englishman William Loyd discovered a blue argillaceous limestone he believed to be a natural cement rock. San Antonio druggist and chemist George H. Kalteyer performed an analysis of the rock and confirmed that it contained proper proportions of lime and clay to produce portland cement. (National Register Nomination: *Alamo Roman and Portland Cement Works*, 1976. Texas Historical Commission, available at: <http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/index.asp>).

The Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Company was chartered in January 1880 by Loyd and Kalteyer, along with other investors. This was the first portland cement plant west of the Mississippi. The first kiln was an intermittent pot kiln; in 1881, a second kiln was added, and in 1889 a tall stack Schoefer-type kiln was added and the name was changed to Alamo Cement Company. The State Capitol and the Driskill Hotel in Austin were both built using cement from this plant. In 1908, the plant moved to a site later known as Cementville near Alamo Heights. The original quarry became the Japanese Tea Gardens in Brackenridge Park (NR Nomination).

The Jingu House was built ca. 1921. In 1926 Kimi Eizo Jingu, a local Japanese-American artist, moved to the garden and opened the Bamboo Room, a restaurant and tea room. Mr. Jingu’s family continued to operate the tea garden after his death and remained there until 1942. Between that time and the early 1960s, the site was operated by a Chinese-American family and was known as the Chinese Sunken Garden (<http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapar/japanhis.asp?res=1280&ver=true>).



Historic Photograph of the Alamo Cement Plant 1892. Photograph courtesy of Dixie Watkins III and Associates.



Sanborn Map images, 1894. Courtesy of Mariah Pfeiffer.

City Archaeologist Kay Hinde and architect Jeffrey Watson, Alamo Architects, have been coordinating with Mark Denton and Kim Barker of the Texas Historical Commission to document the features discovered during the rehabilitation. In addition, Jay Loudon, Dixie Watkins, and Mariah Pfeiffer (Parks Foundation Board members) have provided important archival and historical data as well as other help. Ray Smith of Krisch Construction and Bob Kerr of Malitz Construction have provided invaluable insights into the features and have helped coordinate the overall efforts. The discovery, interpretation, and documentation of these archaeological features helps to shed light on an important industrial complex that not only helped build San Antonio but also our state capitol.

Cool Crest Miniature Golf Course Now a San Antonio Landmark

Cool Crest Miniature Golf was designated a local historic landmark on March 4th, 2010, and the designation marks the first of its kind in San Antonio. The 36-hole miniature golf maze, located at 1414 Fredericksburg Road, is situated upon a hilltop overlooking Interstate-10 west of downtown. Since 1937, when Harold Metzger opened the course, Cool Crest has provided a putter's paradise for generations of miniature golfers. Unlike many of the themed golf courses of its day, Cool Crest's unique design features natural hazards built around the slope of a hill with winding paths, streams, goldfish ponds, and lush landscaping. Cool Crest's neon sign, still located on Fredericksburg Road, was the largest in San Antonio at the time of opening.



So many San Antonians have fond memories of Cool Crest, whether golfing there as a child, meeting for a summer date, or as parents bringing their own children. Although currently closed, it is hoped that this lofty landmark will one day reopen for future fun.

Villa Finale – First National Trust Historic Site in Texas – 401 King William

Experience the restoration of Villa Finale in progress!

For a limited time, Villa Finale is offering the opportunity to visit Walter Mathis's home before it opens to the public in October 2010. Visitors will see the restoration in progress and will learn technical details of the project as well as philosophical approaches from the Villa Finale staff.

This is the public's one and only chance to see the home without its collection!

Dates:

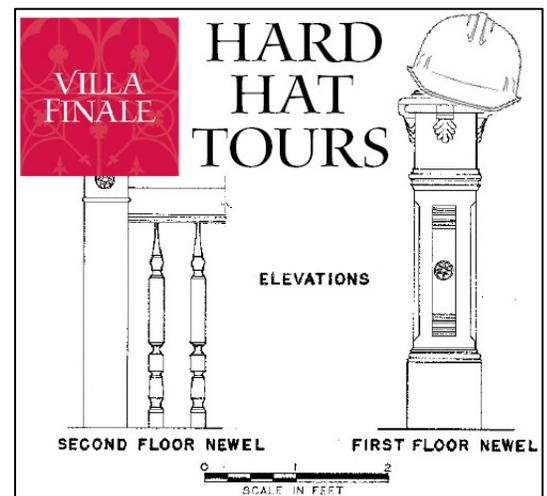
Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 1:30 pm

Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 11:00 am

Friday, May 28, 2010 at 10:30 am

Price: \$35 general admission (includes tax). Friends of Villa Finale, National Trust Members, and full-time students with a valid I.D. receive a 10% discount.

All Hard Hat Tours begin at the Villa Finale Visitor Center located at 122 Madison.



Call (210) 223-9800 extension 34328 to make reservations or come to the Villa Finale Visitor Center at 122 Madison during public hours.

April 2010

MAY IS NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH!

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recognizes May as National Preservation Month. Across the United States communities will celebrate historic preservation through activities and outreach programs. This year's theme, "Old is the New Green," focuses on the important issues of environmental sustainability and preservation's role in creating a more sustainable world.

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) has numerous activities planned for May so please visit our website (www.sanantonio.gov/historic) to view the events calendar for **Preservation Month 2010**. Look for a special edition of the Newsletter coming soon highlighting Preservation Month programs!

The OHP is looking for sponsors for Preservation Month and for prizes for several contests. If you would like to help promote Preservation Month by donating, please contact OHP@sanantonio.gov or 207-7925.

Texas Historical Commission 2010 Annual Historic Preservation Conference

The conference, hosted by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in association with Preservation Texas, will be held at the Westin Oaks Houston on April 22nd-24th, 2010. Sessions will focus on themes of Resource Fundamentals, Resource Development, Preservation Advocacy, and Public Engagement, while providing valuable information for preservationists in any community, large or small. The conference also offers opportunities to explore local community preservation efforts and sites and network with preservationists from across the state. For more information and to register please visit: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/annualconference/cof2010.shtml>

Texas Scholarship Program for 2010 National Preservation Conference

Preservation Texas is pleased to announce that **one hundred (100) scholarships are available to Texas residents** to attend the **2010 National Preservation Conference**. This year the conference will be held in Austin, TX, from October 27th-30th. These scholarships are intended to ensure that Texas's cultural, economic, and geographical diversity are well represented at the conference. Funded in part by the Texas Historical Commission, the Texas Scholarship covers the cost of registration for scholarship recipients, including all educational sessions and one (1) field session. The scholarship **does not** cover transportation, lodging, or additional ticketed events. The Texas Scholarship Program is administered through Preservation Texas. For questions regarding the scholarship program please contact Krista Gebbia at 512.472.0102 or info@preservationtexas.org. The deadline to apply is June 1st, 2010, and the scholarship recipients will be notified by July 1st, 2010. The application can be found online at: http://www.preservationtexas.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=43&Itemid=29



Volunteers needed for 36-Square Mile Historic Survey

With the approach of spring we are gearing up to begin surveying historic neighborhoods again. The Office of Historic Preservation's Historic Resource Survey began in 2002 and covers the original city limits of San Antonio as defined in 1856. This encompasses a land area of 36 square miles and an estimated 65,000 resources. To date our office has surveyed over 31,000 structures. In addition to resources within this area, we are also looking beyond the original 36-square mile boundary to some of our mid-twentieth century neighborhoods. We are in need of volunteers to help photograph and document these historic resources. If you're interested in architecture and would like to participate, please contact our office for more details (Elizabeth Porterfield at 207-3327 or elizabeth.porterfield@sanantonio.gov). Training will be provided. Visit our website at: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/historic/surveys.aspx> for more information about the survey.



Upcoming Wood Window Workshop



Our office, in conjunction with UTSA, will be offering a Wood Window Workshop in May. This is a great opportunity for small business development (small contractors can learn a marketable skill) or do-it-yourself homeowners. For more details call Elizabeth Porterfield at 210-207-3327 or visit our website at www.sanantonio.gov/historic for information.

When: May 14th, 2010, 9:00 am
May 15th, 2010, 9:00 am

Where: 323 S. Frio Street, Fire Station #11



We're on the web:



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 "City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation."

Historic Property For Sale in Beacon Hill



Watercolor by Ryan Schmidt, Intern, San Antonio Conservation Society

1002 W. Magnolia Avenue was recently designated as a local historic landmark and will soon be available for purchase. The house has sustained some damage due to a fire that occurred late last year. The house is sited on a prominent corner lot at W. Magnolia and Grant Avenue. The Neoclassical-style residence was constructed circa 1910 and features a hipped roof with two-story front, side, and rear-gabled projections, minimal wooden eave brackets, and a standing-seam metal roof. A two-story porch wraps around the façade and east elevation and features fluted Ionic columns and a wooden balustrade at the second floor. Small Palladian-motif windows are located in the gable ends. The house is sheathed in wood clapboard siding, and a wide wood band molding separates the first and second floors. A small, hipped-roof outbuilding is located behind the house and appears to have been constructed during the same time period as the

Please visit our new website at www.sanantonio.gov/historic. Updates and improvements are being made continuously.

Historic House Rescue List



The Office of Historic Preservation maintains a list of individuals or organizations that are interested in acquiring dilapidated and endangered historic properties in need of repair and rehabilitation. If you are interested in more details about this list or would like to be added to the list to be notified of potential properties that require assistance, please contact Larry Gutierrez at 207-7902 or by email at larry.gutierrez@sanantonio.gov.

