



SAN ANTONIO PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

February 2011 Edition

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer



Across the country, states are struggling with budget challenges brought about by the recent economic recession. In Texas, State legislators must make difficult choices as they grapple with the state's projected \$15 billion shortfall. Unfortunately, current budget proposals include drastic cuts in funding for the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the state agency that oversees historic preservation.

Historic preservation is economic, environment and cultural sustainability. Preservation is a proven economic development tool because it creates local jobs, enhances heritage tourism initiatives and promotes high quality urban redevelopment and reinvestment. It is environmentally sustainable as the ultimate in recycling of both existing buildings and infrastructure. Finally, by protecting our built environment and that which makes us unique, it achieves cultural sustainability.

No example in this country of successful central city revitalization has occurred without preservation as a component. Now is the time to reinvest in our existing infrastructure and our historic built environment. A report regarding the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit released last year shows that since its inception the program has created 1.8 million new jobs or about 58,000 annually and has leveraged over \$85 billion in private investment. Locally, our historic tax incentive has leveraged over \$16 million in investment in mostly small-scale projects. These projects are good for the local economy. Historic preservation is generally more labor-intensive than new construction and utilizes more local materials. This creates jobs for skilled trades and puts money back into our local economy. Studies have shown that a million dollars spent on rehabilitation yields between 5 and 9 more local construction jobs and creates 4.7 more jobs elsewhere in the community. It also provides more in overall community income.

Now is a critical time for preservation programs at the state and federal levels. Make your voice heard on these issues.

—Shanon Peterson Wasielewski



Lambertmont Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Preservation Networking Event - February 23rd

Join us in celebrating the grand re-opening of Lambertmont, the newly rehabilitated former home of Edwin Terrell. Designed by Alfred Giles and built in 1894, the impressive Romanesque Revival-style home is one of the finest examples of Giles's residential work in San Antonio. After the ceremony, the Office of Historic Preservation will host a preservation networking event. We look forward to seeing you there!

Date: Wednesday, February 23rd

Ribbon Cutting: 4:30pm

Preservation Networking Event: 5:00pm

Location: 950 E. Grayson in the Government Hill Historic District

February 2011



Blas Herrera Ranch Named to Texas's Most Endangered List

On February 8th, Preservation Texas announced the Blas Herrera Ranch, located in southern Bexar County, as one of ten sites named to the 2011 Texas' Most Endangered Historic Places list. Preservation Texas, a non-profit preservation advocacy group, selects its annual list of threatened sites in an effort to assist owners and create public awareness. Owners of sites named to the list will receive counseling in a variety of

areas, include preservation planning, fundraising, partnership development, and building community support.



Blas Herrera, known as the "Paul Revere" of the Texas Revolution, rode to San Antonio in February of 1836 to warn the town of Santa Anna's impending approach. The ranch, located near Von Ormy, is believed to have been in the Ruiz-Herrera family since the late 1700s. Originally covering 800 acres, the 30-acre property includes a number of important historic resources, including two circa 1840 jacales possibly built by Blas Herrera. One of the earliest building types found in Texas, jacales are difficult to maintain due to the materials and techniques used to construct them. As a result, few colonial era jacales survive today.

Since 2003, the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) has been working with the San Antonio Conservation Society to identify historic farm and ranch properties within Bexar County that may be threatened by suburban expansion and development. As a result of this effort, over 115 historic Texas vernacular farm and ranch complexes within the City of San Antonio's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction have been surveyed and researched. Six of the properties surveyed have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and 10 properties are now designated as City of San Antonio local landmarks.

Learn more about the Blas Herrera Ranch and Texas's Most Endangered List by following the links below.

[Preservation Texas – 2011 Most Endangered Places List](#)

[Preservation Texas – Blas Herrera Ranch press release](#)

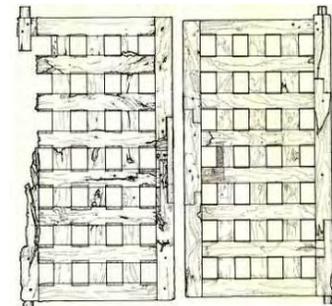
[Alamo scout's ranch is one of 10 most endangered sites](#) – *San Antonio Express-News*

[Historic ranch structures merit protection](#) – Rollette Schreckenghost, President, SACS

Blas Herrera Day - 175th Anniversary of his "Ride to the Alamo"

State Representative John V. Garza and the Texas House of Representatives will honor Blas Maria Herrera on February 22nd at the Texas State Capitol, with an event to follow sponsored by Los Bexarenos Genealogical Society at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum. All are welcome to attend.

Kay Hinds, City Archaeologist, will speak about the Herrera Gate at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum as part of the program. Hinds and fellow archaeologist Al McGraw discovered the gate in 1984 on property owned by Adolph Herrera while surveying for the Applewhite Reservoir project in southern Bexar County. The gate may have come from the Alamo compound and is known as the "Gate to the Alamo."



Date: Tuesday, February 22nd

Location: Texas State Capitol, Austin, Texas

[Blas Herrera Day Flyer](#)

Severe Budget Cuts Proposed for Texas Historical Commission



On February 8th, Governor Rick Perry proposed suspension of the [Texas Historical Commission](#) (THC), which oversees statewide historic preservation programs, as a means of reducing the state's projected \$15 billion shortfall. While stopping short of suspension, the initial budget bill introduced by State legislators would provide funding for only the most basic functions of the THC. The deep budget cuts would severely impact historic preservation in Texas for years to come. In addition to the loss of more than 75 preservation jobs, a number of highly successful programs and functions could be suspended, eliminated, or lose substantial funding including:

- Funding for preservation assistance to architectural and archeological sites will be cut in half;
- Funds for the 20 **state historical sites** operated by the Commission will be cut by 73 percent from \$53 million to \$14 million;
- The State will no longer fund **County Historical Commissions**, grants to small museums, or historical highways activities;
- The **Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program**, a preservation success and economic boon for many communities, will receive no new money, not even for emergency repairs to courthouses waiting in line for restoration funds (a biennial cut from \$53 million to \$400,000);
- The popular **Main Street Program** that has revitalized community downtowns will have no money for additional communities to participate in the **program**;
- The **Heritage Trails Program** that has increased tourism visits and spending in hundred of Texas communities will no longer exist; and
- Grant funding from the **Texas Preservation Trust Fund** will be eliminated.

This is a critical moment for historic preservation in Texas. Contact your local legislator today and voice your opinion on this important issue. Find your [representative](#). Find your [senator](#).

Learn more about the proposed budget cuts by following the links below:

[Arts, historical leaders fear Texas budget cuts](#) – Associated Press

[Texas Historical Commission would see huge cut](#) – *Austin American Statesman*

smARTCHITECTURE Photo Competition Winners Announced



In April 2010 SMART, together with SAISD Foundation and SAISD, launched smARTCHITECTURE, a cutting edge photo competition with historic school architecture as the subject. On January 22, 2011, the winners were revealed at an opening reception in the SMARTart Project Space. Students received prizes such as digital cameras, a photography class from Southwest School of Art and art and architecture books. The reception was well attended by students, teachers, families and principals. Future plans include a second competition and book in 2012.



First place photos by Dylan Garcia, 10th Grade, Thomas Jefferson High School (left) and Autumn Oliva, 8th Grade, Longfellow Middle School (right).

Update on the River Improvement Overlay (RIO) Review

The Office of Historic Preservation, at the request of City Council, is assessing the need for amendments to the River Improvement Overlay (RIO) standards adopted in 2002. RIO standards affect commercial properties and multi-unit residential developments. Individual single-family properties are not affected by the RIO overlay. The purpose of this initiative is to assess the effectiveness of the current RIO regulations and recommend enhancements to ensure protection of the significant public investment that has been made to the San Antonio River. The OHP has assembled the RIO Task Force to work with local business leaders, design professionals, preservationists, public officials, and other interested parties to prepare recommended amendments to the RIO sections of the Unified Development Code (UDC) for City Council. At the final community meeting, held on February 17th, staff briefed the public on the changes proposed by staff and the RIO Task Force. A copy of the proposed changes will be available for review on our website beginning February 28th. The amendments will be presented to the HDRC on March 2nd and to the Zoning Commission on March 1st. Public comment is welcome at both meetings. Once approved by the HDRC and Zoning Commission, the amendments are anticipated to be adopted by City Council on March 17th. **View the Current RIO Guidelines here.** For more information, please contact Anna Glover in the Office of Historic Preservation at 207-7925 or anna.glover@sanantonio.gov.



Eastside Reinvestment Summit – One Year Report Back Event



Join Councilwoman Ivy Taylor at the Eastside Reinvestment Summit – One Year Report Back Meeting Saturday, February 19th. Last January and February Councilwoman Taylor and Mayor Castro held the Eastside Reinvestment Summit, a series of three meetings to discuss challenges and opportunities facing the Eastside.

One year later, Councilwoman Taylor and Mayor Castro will host a meeting to report on the progress made during the past year. A representative from the Office of Historic Preservation will be on hand.

Date: Saturday, February 19th

Time: 8:30am – 11:30am

Location: Music Building, Sam Houston High School, 4635 E Houston St

HemisFair Park Area Master Plan Public Workshop



Be a part of the visioning process for the HemisFair Park area. Registration is now open for the Thursday, February 24th workshop. Mark your calendars and make plans to join the City as we continue the master planning process for this important historic area. The meeting is **free and open to the public**. Registration is not required but highly recommended.

For more information, contact Linda Vela at (210) 785-0888.

Date: Thursday, February 24th

Registration: 5:30pm to 6:00pm

Workshop: 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Location: Sunset Station Depots 1 and 3, 1174 E. Commerce St

Registration: To register for the workshop, please visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/hemisfair.

Westside Cultural Resource Survey Begins February 26th



The Office of Historic Preservation is partnering with the Westside Development Corporation, the San Antonio Conservation Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation Partner's in the Field Program, the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, the Westside Historic Preservation Group, and other members of the Westside community to launch the kick-off of a Westside Cultural Resource Survey. The Kick-Off Event on February 26th will be an introductory session to solicit interest and participation from the Westside community about places of cultural, historical, and architectural significance on the Westside of San Antonio.

There will be an opening presentation and several stations open throughout the event. The stations will include information on researching historic properties, truths and myths of historic preservation, historic preservation resources, and a station for collection of photographs, oral histories, and stories about places of cultural importance on the Westside.

With support from Westside Council offices (District 1, 5, 6 and 7) and the Mayor, this will be the first of many sessions held to proactively identify significant areas and places on the Westside and identify ways to protect and interpret those resources. Stay tuned for information about a follow up event to be scheduled in May for Historic Preservation Month.

For more information contact Elizabeth Porterfield at 207-3327 or elizabeth.porterfield@sanantonio.gov



WESTSIDE CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Kick-Off Event
Saturday, February 26, 2011
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Mexican American Unity Council Building
Community Room
2300 W. Commerce



Join the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation as we kick off a Cultural Resource Survey of the City's historic Westside! We need your input to identify places that are culturally important to the Westside community. Help generate interest in the preservation of these significant places.

The Kick-Off Event will open with introductions from Councilman David Medina (District 5) and Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros (District 1). Break out sessions will be held with representatives from the Westside Development Corporation, the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, the Westside Historic Preservation Group, the San Antonio Conservation Society, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and others.

Free and open to the public.

Bring your images, stories, and memories of places that matter to you on the Westside.



For more information contact:
Elizabeth Porterfield
Office of Historic Preservation
210-207-3327



Join Us for the Spring 2011 S.T.A.R. Project!

The next S.T.A.R. (Students Together Achieving Revitalization) service project will take place March 26 & 27 and April 2 & 3 in the Dignowity Hill Historic District. Students will provide assistance with minor repairs to windows, siding, porches, and general exterior yard maintenance and painting.

The OHP is seeking sponsors, volunteer contractors and building professionals interested in lending their support to this important program. Donations of building materials and supplies are especially needed, as well as professionals with expertise in home repair who are willing to assist the students during the event. To learn more about the many ways you can help support this program, contact Trisha Logan at 207-7244 or trisha.logan@sanantonio.gov.



a fundraiser event for **HISTORIC GREEN**

Historic Green's mission is to assist and lead in the transformation and restoration of under-resourced communities through education and service focusing on heritage conservation and sustainable design.

INCLUDES LIVE MUSIC + RAFFLE +
HAPPY HOUR DRINKS

\$10

DOOR OR ONLINE TICKETS
www.historicgreen.org

The Historic Sunset Station
at The Depot #4
Friday, March 4
6-11PM

you are invited to:

THE SECOND ANNUAL OF

the [hidden] talent

FEATURING TOP PROJECTS BY
UTSA STUDENTS FROM THE
COLLEGES OF ARCHITECTURE
AND BUSINESS

Southbound 281 / I-37.
Take the Commerce St. Exit (141A).
Turn Left onto Commerce St.
Turn Right onto N. Hoelgen Ave.
Find The Depot on the Left at 1174 E. Commerce.
For more information,
contact: HistoricGreenSA@gmail.com



Cuney Elementary Designated a Local Historic Landmark

On February 3rd, City Council designated the former African American Norris Wright Cuney Elementary School at 935 Iowa a local Historic Landmark. Constructed in 1932, the school is culturally significant for its association with African American education on the city's

Eastside. Architecturally, it is a fine example of the Art Deco style popular during the 1920s and 30s. Several prominent local architects contributed to the building's design including Harvey P. Smith, architect of the Sunken Garden Theater, Emmet T. Jackson, and Phelps and DeWees, architects of Freeman Coliseum and Thomas Jefferson High School. The twelve-room school replaced an earlier Cuney School that originated in the Baptist Settlement just south of downtown. The school was named for the well-known Texas politician Norris Wright Cuney, an activist for African Americans and a member of the Texas Legislature from the 1870s-80s. Since 1975, the former school has been home to the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

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 HOHP@sanantonio.gov for more information or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter.



Villa Finale to Offer French-Themed Events in March

Villa Finale will host a number of French-themed events in conjunction with the San Antonio French Cultures Festival in March. Enjoy a special tour of the collections conducted by Curator Meg Nowack followed by an intimate opera recital, a French wine tasting, or a meal at La Frite Belgian Bistro. These events offer a unique way to learn more about the home of preservationist and civic leader Walter Nold Mathis and his extensive collections. Other events in March include Art from Architecture, Jr., a program that invites children to create their own artistic interpretation of

historic architecture and a workshop on the care and preservation of textiles. Visit the [Villa Finale website](#) or call for more information on these events and more.

The San Antonio Black History Museum

in cooperation with the San Antonio Museum of Art presents

Great Conversations on Black History

Monday, February 28, 2011
 San Antonio Museum of Art - 200 West Jones Avenue
Program Begins at 6:30 pm
 Museum viewing from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Celebrate Black History Month with a special series of conversations to include:

- ~ The Harriet and Harmon Collection of African American Art
- ~ Faith Ringgold by David S. Ruben, SAMA Contemporary Curator
- ~ Archiving history in your family, Jerilynne Williams
- ~ The Buffalo Soldiers presence in Texas and the Southern United States
- ~ The Tuskegee Airman

RSVP is a must! Limited to 170 seating.
 Contact: Francesca Caballero (210-207-2122) or
Fracasca.caballero@sanantonio.gov

Reception to follow in Museum's Great Hall immediately after presentations



***Preservation Partners:
San Antonio Conservation Society***

HPTV, the new OHP half hour cable show, is now airing on the City’s **TVSA Channel 21**. In **February** Shanon talks with the San Antonio Conservation Society President, Rollette Schreckenghost, and Executive Director, Bruce MacDougal, about the important role the Society plays in promoting historic preservation in San Antonio. Stay tuned for our **March** show to learn more about the **HemisFair Park** master planning process currently underway.

See the show on TVSA Channel 21:
Tuesdays @ 9:00am
Wednesdays @ 1:00pm
Fridays @ 7:00pm

View past episodes of HPTV online (sorry, PC only)

- [October HPTV](#) [November HPTV](#)
- [December HPTV](#) [January HPTV](#)
- [February HPTV](#)



Historic Plaque Program

Owners of local historic landmarks and contributing properties within local historic districts can purchase official City of San Antonio Historic Structure plaques for \$95. Reserve your plaque today by contacting Trish Logan at 207-7244 or trisha.logan@sanantonio.gov.

We’re on the web:



The Office of Historic Preservation is on Facebook! Click the Facebook icon 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”.



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

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 Wasielewski at shanon.wasielewski@sanantonio.gov.

President's FY 2012 Budget Proposal Released: A Mixed Bag

The President released his long-awaited [FY 2012 Budget](#) proposal on February 14th. The outcome for historic preservation programs is extremely mixed. While the President proposes healthy and much needed increases for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs and THPOs) of approximately 9% and 37% respectively, once again (as was proposed in his draft FY 2011 budget) he offered the elimination of the Save America's Treasures (SAT) and Preserve America (PA) programs and a 50% reduction in funding for National Heritage Areas. Overall this represents a cut of about 23% to programs funded via the Historic Preservation Fund. A summary chart can be found below.

In anticipation of Wednesday's [America's Great Outdoors](#) report release, the President outlines the program's associated spending plan in the [Department of the Interior budget](#). Although a general reference to funding for "key grant and partnership programs, such as Challenge Cost Share and historic preservation programs" is made, the real stunner is full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million. [This represents a 50% increase](#). Further information is provided in the Department of Interior's [Budget in Brief](#) book (which essentially takes the President's budget, and breaks it down into more detail and provides the perspective of the Agency), that attempts to demonstrate a focus on historic preservation within the America's Great Outdoors program by characterizing the increases to SHPOs and THPOs as an increase of \$6.5 million for NPS historic preservation grants.

The justification language provided by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for this year's cuts has somewhat changed. Last year's language raised alarm among preservationists by declaring the SAT, PA and National Heritage Area programs not part of the "core mission" of the National Park Service (NPS). [This year's language](#) is much more nuanced, likely reflecting the substantial criticism levied against OMB for the statement. In justifying the cuts for SAT and PA, they say:

These historic preservation grants to non-Federal entities provide mostly local benefits and while there have been many high quality projects, at least half of SAT projects are annually earmarked by Congress, without using merit-based criteria. These programs contribute to community and State-level historic preservation and heritage tourism efforts, but in a time of difficult trade-offs funding is being focused on nationwide historic preservation goals, such as increasing grants-in-aid to States and Tribes to carry out Federal responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act.

The reason for cutting SAT and PA given in the Interior Budget in Brief document, however, is somewhat the same. They cite a need to "focus available resources on managing national parks and other primary responsibilities."

OMB's comments about Heritage Areas, did not escape last year's criticism:

The Administration proposes to reduce grants to non-Federal National Heritage Areas (NHAs) so the National Park Service can focus its available resources on managing national parks and other activities that most closely align with its core mission.

They go on to say:

To date, criteria have been not been established to evaluate potentially qualified NHA sites for designation. As a result, sites have been authorized that do not necessarily warrant designation. However, the Administration strongly supports the development of criteria to evaluate potentially qualified NHA sites for designation.

***House Appropriators Propose Sweeping FY 2011 Cuts;
Vote This Week Likely***

Just to recap, a FY 2011 Budget was never passed by Congress so we have been operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR). Simultaneous with the Administration's release of its FY 2012 Budget, Congress, specifically the House of Representatives, is working on a CR to fund the government for the balance of the year. House Republicans have been pushing hard for substantial cuts in the neighborhood of \$100 billion. After releasing a more modest schedule of \$32 billion in cuts the first week of February, Appropriators were forced to go back to the drawing board for more substantial cuts. Late Friday evening, they released this [document](#) accompanying a new CR. The House is expected to begin debating the CR tomorrow, and a vote could take place this week. Below is a summary table comparing the various funding levels proposed:

Account	Program	FY 2010	FY 2011			2012
			Enacted	Admin	Current CR	
HPF	SHPO	\$46.5	\$46.5	\$46.5	\$46.5	\$50
HPF	THPO	\$8	\$8	\$8	\$8	\$11
HPF	SAT	\$25	0	\$25	0	0
Total HPF		\$79.5	\$54.5	\$79.5	\$54.5	\$61
Pres/Rec	PA	\$4.6	0	\$4.6	0	0
Pres/Rec	Heritage Areas	\$18	\$9	\$18	\$18	\$9
Total Pres/Rec Acct.		\$22.6	\$9	\$22.6	\$18	\$9

For a complete update on the status of preservation-related legislation currently before congress, visit <http://www.preservationaction.org/states/archive.htm>