



SAN ANTONIO PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

February 2013

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer

Shanon Shea Miller, AICP

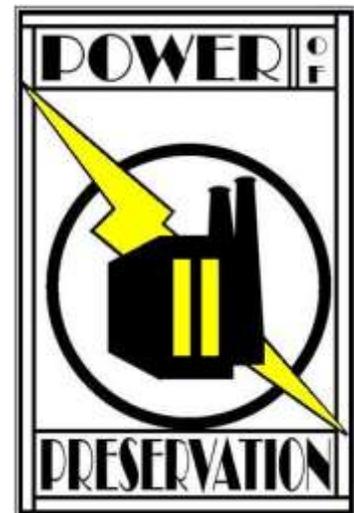


The New Year is in full swing and the OHP is busy promoting preservation in San Antonio. I am pleased to announce that the Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) approved a finding of historic significance for 24 properties on the Westside of San Antonio on January 16. This is a significant step in protecting the important historic and cultural resources on the Westside of San Antonio. Please keep reading for further details about the continuing **Westside Cultural Resource Survey**.

Our annual **Window Restoration Workshop**, held February 1-2, at the Acosta-Halff House in Hemisfair, was a great success. Participants came from several Texas cities to learn the craft of proper window care and restoration. This popular workshop keeps growing every year and has become a valuable resource for homeowners and preservation enthusiasts alike.

Finally, I would like to invite you to our second annual **Power of Preservation/ PROM Press Event and Social**. Join us on **Tuesday, February 19, at 4 p.m.** at the iconic **Inter-Continental Motors Building (3303 Broadway)** as we celebrate the success of PROM 2012 and announce this year's PROM venue, date, and theme. From 4:30 to 6:30, Glazer's Distributors will join us in hosting the first PoP social of the season. I hope to see everyone there!

Thanks.



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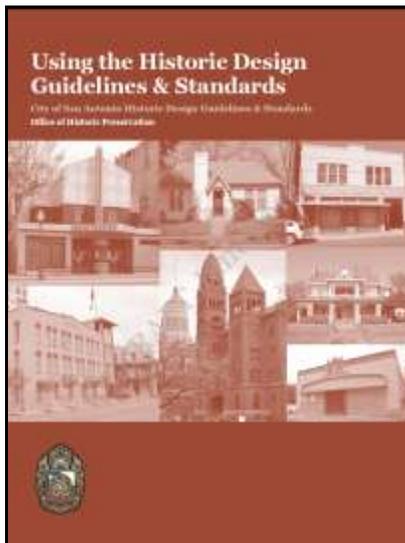
PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

Phase I Westside Landmarks Approved by HDRC

The Historic and Design Review Commission (HDRC) approved, on January 16, a finding of historic significance for 24 landmarks on San Antonio's Westside.

The action taken by the HDRC is the first step of the landmark designation process. These properties will now be reviewed by the Zoning Commission and City Council for final approval and landmark designation.

These potential landmarks represent the first steps in protecting the important historic resources of the Westside of San Antonio. [Click here](#) to view the complete list of Phase I properties. The Office of Historic Preservation will now begin work on Phase II of the initiative. For dates of the Zoning and City Council meetings, or for more information on the landmark initiative, please contact Elizabeth Porterfield at 210.207.3327 or elizabeth.porterfield@sanantonio.gov.



Historic Design Guidelines Available

We currently have hardcopies of our Historic Design Guidelines available for purchase at \$20 each. This is a useful tool for historic property owners, contractors, and design professionals. Pick up your copy from OHP staff at 1901 S. Alamo today!

Go! Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tours



Join us on the upcoming **2013 Go! Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tour**. Our guided tours are a great way to experience San Antonio's historic sites and get fit. At various stops along the routes, tour guides share stories behind the buildings, homes, neighborhoods and parks of our historic city.

Our next tour will feature the beautiful King William Historic District on

Saturday, February 9, at 9 a.m. Groups will meet at the City Marina, 202 E. Nueva. Registration is \$15. [Register online](#) or in person the day of the event.

Past tours have included the Monte Vista Historic District, the downtown sites of the Texas Revolution and the downtown Holiday Lights tour. Different tours will be offered throughout the year, so stay tuned for more information and a calendar of upcoming tours! For questions regarding the Go! Historic Guided Tours, please contact Nicholas Fuqua at 210.207.0066 or nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov.



Local News and Events



Jose Antonio Navarro 218th Birthday Celebration!

Join the staff of the Jose Antonio Navarro Historic Site on February 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a "Pioneer Party" celebrating Navarro's 218th birthday. [Click here](#) to view their website for additional information.

Archaeological Public Service Award 2012

The STAA **Archaeological Public Service Award** recipient for 2012 is the San Antonio River Authority (SARA). This award honors “SARA’s commitment to the preservation of San Antonio’s history and prehistory.”

SARA has provided project and technical management, as well as overall project coordination, between the partners for the San Antonio River Improvements Project (SARIP), a \$358.3 million on-going investment. Partner for this project include the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the San Antonio River Foundation. The project will include improvements for flood control, new amenities, ecosystem restoration, and recreational improvements along a 13-mile stretch of the San Antonio River, from Hildebrand Avenue to South Loop 410. SARA will also be responsible for the on-going operation and maintenance once the project is concluded. SARA also serves as project manager for all sections of SARIP and as the local sponsor with USACE for the Mission Reach.

As part of the River Improvement projects, extensive archaeological investigations were conducted by various cultural resources consulting firms under contract to the USACE. However, because of the known historical significance of the project areas (including the Mission Reach and Brackenridge Park) and additional improvements and enhancements to be constructed, SARA hired UTSA to conduct archaeological investigations and monitor construction activities for the various components of the locally sponsored segments.



STAA Officers: (L-R) Lee Gummelt, Candy Smith, Dr. Harry Shafer, Dr. Tom Hester

Work to date has resulted in the discovery and reassessments of over 15 archaeological sites. As a result of SARA’s dedication to the preservation of the region’s historic heritage, significant archaeological discoveries have been made along the entire reach of the project. In the Urban Reach, the project aided in the discovery of the remnants of the Alamo Mills Dam, a flour mill that operated in the late 1880s and 1890s. Numerous historic finds, including a bottle still containing beer from the 1880s, helped document the brewing heritage of downtown San Antonio. A second bottle containing three hand-written pages of notes written by the commander of the first encampment of the Texas Volunteer Guard, on the occasion of their having just concluded training at Camp Stoddard in July 1890, traces the roots of San Antonio’s military history well back into the late 19th century.



Presenters: (L-R) Charles Koenig, SHUMLA School; Dr. Steve Black, Assistant Professor, Texas State University; Ashleigh Knapp, SHUMLA School

Work conducted in Brackenridge Park revealed the presence of a St. Mary’s Hall component dating more than 10,000 years old. Work along the banks of the San Antonio Rive within Mission County Park has resulted in the discovery of burned clay or daub features that are believed to represent the remains of Archaic earthen houses, or *jaca*les, ranging from 3,500 to 5,900 years in age. Research of the materials recovered from these sites is on-going and, if it confirms that the features are indeed the remains of structures, the features will be the oldest known manmade structures in modern day Texas.

Overall, the long-term archaeological investigations sponsored by SARA, including survey, construction monitoring, eligibility testing, and data recovery, along the 13-mile long stretch of the river have allowed archaeologists an in-depth look at the upper reaches of the San Antonio River. The discoveries made during the project have yielded details of life along the river that will help rewrite our views of prehistoric adaptations in the region and are dramatically reshaping our understanding of hunter-gatherer adaptation. In addition, SARA has been one of the prime sponsors of a three-month long exhibit at the Witte Museum of artifacts and finds recovered during the River Improvements Project.

Dr. Steve Tomka is 2012 Jimmy L. Mitchell Award Winner

Dr. Steve Tomka is the recipient of the **Jimmy L. Mitchell Award for Outstanding Contributions to Southern Texas Archaeology** for 2012. Dr. Tomka has been actively involved in Texas archaeology for over 25 years and is a leading figure in the San Antonio area and in regional archaeology. He received his M.A. and PhD in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin and has authored over 20 major articles in professional journals and peer reviewed academic publications. In addition, he has made over 25 presentations to such groups as the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), the Texas Archeological Society (TAS), the Plains Conference, Southern Texas Archaeological Association (STAA), and the Hill Country Archaeological Association (HCAA). Our award winner has served as Principal Investigator on numerous cultural resources investigations in San Antonio, including excavations and investigations into Spanish Colonial sites such as the San Antonio Missions, the Alamo, and Presidio la Bahia. He is the author or co-author of numerous publications pertaining to Spanish colonial archaeology and has also published numerous reports and volumes on prehistoric archaeology. His specialties include Spanish Colonial Period and Urban Archaeology, and Lithic Analysis.



Jimmy L. Mitchell Award winner Dr. Steve Tomka with STAA Award Chair Kay Hines, City Archaeologist

Dr. Tomka has worked with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) since 2004 to oversee work on the San Antonio River Improvements Project. This includes work for the Museum Reach, the Urban Reach, and the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River. Work conducted in Brackenridge Park and along the banks of the San Antonio River south of town and within Mission County Park are shedding new light on prehistoric lifeways and subsistence, and providing some of the most provocative archaeological interpretations in over two decades.

Roy Banning is 2012 Outstanding STAA Member of the Year

Roy Banning is the 2012 winner of the **Outstanding STAA Member of the Year Award for 2012**. Banning has been a member of STAA and TAS for over 20 years. He has worked at numerous Archaeology Day Events at Mission San Jose, helped organize other volunteers, and assisted with many other STAA events. He has also served as Membership Chair for the STAA and has been a loyal and dedicated supporter of Texas archaeology for the past 20 years.

Preservation Partners

Local Preservationists Marty and Ricki Kushner



Marty and Ricki Kushner came to San Antonio from Arlington, Virginia. Marty is retired from the National Credit Union Administration, where he managed the training of credit union examiners. Ricki is retired from the Library of Congress, where she worked with archival materials. They became involved in historic preservation when they purchased a 1915 Craftsman bungalow at 405 E. Myrtle St. in what is now the Tobin Hill Historic District in 1998. The Kushners read as many books as possible on the Arts and Crafts Movement, which guided them in the restoration of their bungalow and in their work to preserve other historic buildings in San Antonio. After three years of restoration, they moved into the home in 2001, shortly after Marty retired, and had their home designated a historic landmark.

Ever since, Marty and Ricki have been advocates of historic preservation in the Tobin Hill Historic District and in the City of San Antonio. Marty and Ricki were instrumental in the subsequent designation of the Tobin Hill Historic District, and Ricki served as the chair of the Tobin Hill Community Association's Historic Preservation Committee. She is currently the president of the Tobin Hill Community Association. Marty spearheaded a tour of Tobin Hill Historic Places and Fantastic Spaces to raise money for street signs to mark the boundaries of the Historic District and also worked with the City's Office of Historic Preservation to develop historic plaques that could be placed on properties in designated historic districts and on local landmarks. Ricki served as a liaison with the OHP when the S.T.A.R. project came to the Tobin Hill Historic District in November of 2011. The couple has also instituted a neighborhood happy hour every Friday, often held on their front porch and is announced by a banner displayed at the chosen location on the day of the event. Both of the Kushners are members of the San Antonio Conservation Society, where Ricki serves on the board. She participates in the Historic Building Survey, a joint effort with the OHP targeted at surveying historic resources in San Antonio. She is also the head of a task force which is currently surveying old filling stations in the original 36 square mile city limits of San Antonio.

Marty and Ricki represent the true spirit of grassroots efforts and the passion of community members to initiate change in historic communities. We couldn't do it without the participation of residents like the Kushners!



Preservation Links

Preservation Stories and News from around San Antonio, Texas, the US, and the World

Click on the Titles to View the Link.

- [*Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar Stepping Down*](#)
- [*San Antonio Planning Board Approves Streetcar Funding Swap*](#)
- [*St. Louis Power Plant Repurposed*](#)
- [*National Trust Now Accepting Nominations for 11 Most Endangered Places*](#)
- [*Events at Villa Finale*](#)

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, 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.

A Message From Will Tippens, Chairmen of Preservation Action (taken directly from the Preservation Action website)

Dear Preservation Action Members:

Today I'm writing to you with very mixed feelings to let you know that our President, Erik Hein, will be leaving us in March to become the new Executive Director for National Conference of State Historic (NCSHPO) Preservation Officers. My feelings are mixed because Erik has been such an important part of Preservation Action's growing success and increased influence over the past 3 ½ years and we are very sorry to see him go. We will miss his passion for this organization and leadership. Yet, his new position is such an amazing opportunity for Erik that I hope you all share my excitement for him as he embarks on his new position at NCSHPO. In addition, if we are going to lose him to another organization, there is no closer partner to PA than NCSHPO and this opportunity for Erik will certainly continue a long and prosperous relationship for the two organizations.

With Erik's departure planned for March we will begin immediately our search for a new president. Preservation Action has gained a great deal of traction during Erik's tenure and we want to ensure our continued upward trajectory. Shanon Miller will be leading that effort and we will be posting a job announcement this week. If you know of any outstanding candidates please send them our direction.

Again, we thank Erik for his dedication and we wish him great success in the future.

Sincerely,

*Will Tippens
Chairman
Preservation Action*

[Click here](#) for the latest legislative update from Preservation Action.

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 Miller at shanon.miller@sanantonio.gov. For the latest Preservation Action update, follow the link below.

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's Historic Building Enforcement Officer 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, Historic Building Enforcement Officer, at ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov or OHP@sanantonio.gov during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) 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.

Historic Structure Plaques



Historic Structure Plaques are available for purchase for individual local landmarks and contributing properties within local historic districts. These plaques visually identify properties and districts that have been officially recognized by the City of San Antonio for their architectural or historical significance. They are available for purchase for \$95 and are of cast aluminum with raised silver letters on a dark grey background. The plaques are 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.

HPTV: Historic Preservation Television

HPTV is back with all new episodes!
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 [here](#) (sorry, PC only). Recent episodes include a look at the relocation of historic structures, including an 18th century Virginia log cabin relocated to San Antonio in the 1950s! If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to see covered on HPTV, contact Nicholas Fuqua at 210.207.0066 or nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov.

Office of Historic Preservation Online!



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. Go to www.facebook.com and search for “City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation” and “Power of Preservation San Antonio”



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