

July 2012 Edition

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer



As we move into the summer months, I am excited to announce our fourth annual Historic Homeowner Fair, coming up on Saturday, August 25. This year's fair will once again take place at the beautiful Thomas Jefferson High School in the Monticello Park Historic District. The past three fairs were very successful, and each year the event keeps growing as more and more San Antonians want to learn about caring for the city's historic resources (which happen to be their homes!). This is a great opportunity for those who live in historic homes or have an interest in historic preservation to learn from preservation professionals in a variety of fields. There will be a number of educational sessions offered. In addition to the scheduled sessions, there will be a wide variety of vendors and building trades representatives on hand featuring home improvement products and preservation services, including historic window restoration. The exhibit hall will also feature "ask the expert" opportunities for assistance with project design challenges and historic house research so be sure to bring your questions. If you haven't had the pleasure of being inside Thomas Jefferson High School, you should make plans to attend in order to see how amazing it is. This year's fair, as always, is free and open to the public and will have fun activities for the kids! Keep reading for more details and I hope to see you there!

Sharon

City News and Events

The 411 On This Year's Historic Homeowner Fair - Saturday, August 25



Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend the fourth annual Historic Homeowner Fair on Saturday, August 25, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm at Jefferson High School in the Monticello Park Historic District. This free event brings homeowners together with preservation experts, City departments, and knowledgeable tradesmen to discuss how to care for and maintain historic homes. Additional information will be available on our website soon at www.sanantonio.gov/historic. If you have any questions, please call Sara Luduena at 210.207.4680 or e-mail sara.luduena@sanantonio.gov for more details.

July 2011

SAVE THE DATE!

Get Involved! Become a Historic Homeowner Fair Volunteer

Your participation in the Historic Homeowner Fair will further preservation education and awareness in San Antonio and help protect the unique character of the city we are all proud to call home. Volunteers are needed to assist in the Exhibitor's Hall and presentation rooms. For volunteer opportunities, please contact Elizabeth Porterfield at 210.207.3327 or e-mail at elizabeth.porterfield@sanantonio.gov.

Exhibit Your Product or Service at the Historic Homeowner Fair!

Do you provide a product, information, or service useful to homeowners or residents interested in owning a historic home? Exhibit at this year's Homeowner Fair and reach over 500 potential customers in one day. Booth registration fee is just \$75. For more information on participating as an exhibitor, contact Sara Ludena at 210.207.4680 or e-mail sara.ludena@sanantonio.gov for more details.

Saturday, August 25

**Join the Office of Historic Preservation for the
4th Annual Historic Homeowner Fair**

Thomas Jefferson High School

9:30 am to 3 pm

Free and open to the public, the fair provides residents and professionals with a unique opportunity to interact and discuss issues related to caring for older homes.

Educational presentations will cover topics such as preservation and sustainability, financing rehabilitation projects, landscaping for historic properties, preservation advocacy, repairing historic windows, planning appropriate repairs and additions to historic properties, and a presentation on mid-century modern architecture in San Antonio.

If you live in a historic district you won't want to miss the the midday **Keynote Session** as Clarion Associates will present the first public draft of the proposed **Historic District Design Guidelines**.

Be sure to visit the **exhibitor hall** to find products, services, and information targeted to residents interested in improving their older homes and preserving the unique character of San Antonio's urban neighborhoods. Design and preservation experts from the UTSA College of Architecture will be on hand to answer questions about your rehabilitation plans, and experienced researchers from local libraries and archives will offer advice on how to uncover the history of your home.

Bring the kids! Activities for school-age children will be hosted by the Jefferson High School Architecture students.

Visit www.sanantonio.gov/historic to learn more.

Questions? Email OHP@sanantonio.gov or call (210) 215-9274.

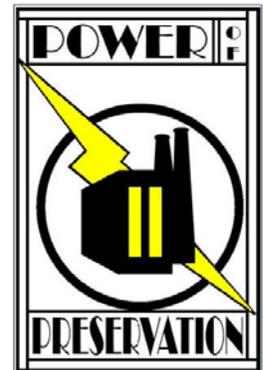


Get Your "Power of Preservation" Tickets and Tattoos Now!



Tickets for the inaugural "Power of Preservation PROMenade and Pachanga" are on sale now! The event will be held on October 25 at the historic Mission Road Power Plant. Be a part of history and the future of San Antonio. For information on individual tickets and tables, please contact Shanon Peterson at 210.207-8316 or shanon.peterson@sanantonio.gov.

We also have tattoos. That's right, tattoos! In support of our Power of Preservation campaign we are unveiling our custom (temporary) tattoos. They measure 2"x3" and last for about a week. They are only \$1 and all proceeds go to support the important education and outreach programs of the Office of Historic Preservation. Tattoos are available for purchase at 1901 S. Alamo Street. For more information, please call 210.215.9274. The tattoos are temporary...but their message is permanent. Get involved today!



Upcoming Go! Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tours

Join us on the upcoming **2012 Go! Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tours** offered this year. The 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. Runners and walkers of all abilities are welcome, and participants are divided into small groups according to experience. Tours are \$15 and include a San Antonio “Know Your Place” t-shirt. Upcoming tour dates and locations are listed below.

Our next tour will be of historic Fort Sam Houston on Saturday, September 13, at 8:30 am. This tour will be approximately 90 minutes. Participants will be broken into small groups based on running or walking preference. Come start your fall off at beautiful Fort Sam Houston! Registration is \$15, and a "Know Your Place" t-shirt is included in the registration price! [Register online](#) or in person the day of the event.

Upcoming Running/Walking Tours

<p>September 13, 2012 Fort Sam Houston</p> <p>October 27, 2012 Eastside Cemeteries</p> <p>December 6, 2012 Downtown Holiday Lights</p> <p>February 9, 2013 King William</p>



Volunteers Needed for Westside Cultural Resources

The Office of Historic Preservation continues to work with our partners on the Westside of San Antonio to identify cultural and historical resources on the Westside. We are looking for volunteers to assist with research on properties identified as potential historic landmarks. If you are interested in becoming involved with our designation efforts, please contact Elizabeth Porterfield at 210.207.3327 or elizabeth.porterfield@sanantonio.gov.



Local Preservation News

San Antonio Conservation Society Elects New Officers and Directors

The San Antonio Conservation Society's Board of Directors has elected its slate of officers—all of whom are volunteers—to hold office from June 2012 through May 2013:

- Nancy Avellar, President (re-elected for second term)
- Jody Williams, First Vice President – Assistant to President (Historic Structures, Landmarks, Research)
- Roberto Hinkson, Second Vice President (Missions, Parks-Plazas, Rivers-Waterways and All Natural Beauty)
- Barbara Hall, Third Vice President (Education, Public Relations and Public Affairs)
- Kathy DeWaal, Fourth Vice President (A Night In Old San Antonio® Chairman)
- Isabel Garcia, Fifth Vice President (Budget)
- Patti Zaiantz, Secretary
- Virginia Van Cleave, Treasurer



Nancy Avellar

As the 2012-2013 President, Avellar has appointed the following positions:

- Pat Jessee, Chaplain
- Chris Turner, Historian
- Ron Stinson, Parliamentarian
- Barbara Johnson, Presidential Advisor
- Barbara Machado, Assistant Treasurer, NIOSA

A member of the Conservation Society since 1974 and of the Board of Director since 1988, Avellar has been very active in the volunteer efforts of the Society and NIOSA since joining. She served as NIOSA Chairman (Society Fourth Vice President) from 2009-2011; Treasurer from 2007-2009; and Anticuchos Booth Chairman from 1980-2000. She served as the Society's Fifth Vice President overseeing the budget from 1993-1995, 1997-1999, and 2003-2005; and Society Treasurer from 1991-1993 and 1999-2001.

Founded in 1924, the San Antonio Conservation Society is one of the oldest and most active community preservation groups in the United States. Beginning with efforts to prevent historic structures from being razed and to preserve such unique features as the San Antonio River Bend and the city's Spanish Colonial missions, the Society has been responsible for saving most of the historic attractions that make San Antonio one of the top tourist destinations in Texas.

Since 1948, its annual fundraiser, "A Night In Old San Antonio®" (NIOSA®), is held during Fiesta week in April and raises funds necessary for its diverse activities. From only thirteen founders, all women, to a membership of more than 2,570 men and women, the Society's volunteers are committed to and actively involved in the preservation of history, structures, customs, green spaces, and the diverse cultural heritage of the community.

Besides purchasing historic structures which are threatened by demolition, the Society also conducts annual bus tours of historic sites for school children, offers grants for community preservation projects, sponsors cultural pageants, maintains two historic house museums, presents awards for restoration of the built environment, and numerous other activities.

Can You Dig It?

*Uncovering South Texas with
City Archaeologist
Kay Hindes*



Southern Texas Archaeological Association

It's been a long time, but the Southern Texas Archaeological Association (STAA) is going back to Victoria! The STAA will hold their summer meeting in Victoria, Texas, on July 14, 2012, at the Museum of the Coastal Bend. Attendees will be treated to a special demonstration and instruction of atlatl throwing by the Atlatl Club, arranged by Sue Prudhomme of the Museum of the Coastal Bend at Victoria College.



Dr. Robert Ricklis of TRC Solutions will speak on the question of long-distance contact and relations between Archaic cultures of the Texas coastal plain and the Eastern U.S. His presentation will incorporate findings from the Buckeye Knoll site, as well as later materials reported from the Allen's Creek area, plus the Jonas Short mound in east Texas. Ricklis earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, where his thesis and dissertation topics were centered upon the archaeology and ethnohistory of the Karankawa Indian groups of the Texas Coastal Bend. He has worked as an archaeologist for The University of Texas at Austin (TARL) as well as for private contracting firms. He is currently a Senior Archaeologist and Project Manager for TRC Environmental Corporation in Austin. Ricklis is author of articles in peer-reviewed journals, chapters in edited volumes, numerous archaeological contract reports, as well as a book from the University of Texas Press entitled, *The Karankawa Indians of Texas: An Ecological Study of Cultural Tradition and Change*. His interests include the application of cultural-ecological principles in archaeology, prehistoric human adaptations to coastal environments, and most recently, the relationships between the ancient cultures of Texas and the eastern United States.

Frank Condon, Chairman of the Jackson County Historical Commission, will also speak on archaic indian sites in the coastal bend. The coastal bend of Texas has been home to many people for centuries. Frank's presentation will focus on the native peoples who lived in the Guadalupe River Valley. It will cover three of the major archaeological excavations in that area, with emphasis on 41VT141, the McNeill Ranch. Details of the excavation and the organization that conducted the work there as well as their synergistic relationship to the Museum of the Coastal Bend will be covered.

Condon's archaeological work includes field and lab work for the excavations at 41VT4, the Fort St. Louis project; nine years with the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) excavating at site 41VT141, the McNeill Ranch; and doing lab work at Museum of the Coastal Bend. Condon is a member of Texas Archeological Society (TAS), the STAA, and is an Archeological Steward with the Texas Historical Commission (THC). He is an Archeological Director on the Advisory Board to the Museum of the Coastal Bend.

The STAA summer meeting schedule in Victoria is as follows:

11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Registration, Social Hour, and Atlatl Demonstration
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	STAA Business Meeting
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Dr. Robert Ricklis
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Frank Condron
3:00	Adjourn

We are excited to once again see many of our old friends and long-time STAA members, plus new faces! Please join us for a wonderful opportunity to hear about some of the significant work occurring on the Texas Coastal Plains. Hope to see you there!

The Museum of the Coastal Bend is located on the campus of Victoria College at the corner of Ben Jordan and Red River in historic Victoria, Texas. Free visitor parking is available. Victoria College is located at 2200 East Red River, Victoria, TX. For more information on the college, go to www.victoriacollege.edu. Museum admission fees are waived for STAA meeting attendees. Participants can contact the museum's front desk at 361.582.2511 for additional directions. Parking on campus is free and is available immediately adjacent to the museum off of Red River and Ben Jordan streets. More information on lodging, shopping, and dining can be found by going to www.visitvictoriatexas.com.

For more information on upcoming archaeological events and activities, contact City Archaeologist, Kay Hinds, at 210.207.7306 or kay.hinds@sanantonio.gov.

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. Villa Finale was the home of Walter Mathis for nearly 40 years. Mr. Mathis was a leading preservationist in San Antonio and within the King William neighborhood. The home and its spectacular collection of over 12,000 objects were given to the National Trust in 2004. 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.



New Director Hired for Villa Finale

The OHP would like to congratulate Jane Lewis on her promotion as director of Villa Finale! Jane is the current president of the Monte Vista Historical Association and is involved with the Historic and Design Review Commission, as well as serving on the steering committee for the design guidelines. Jane has an extensive background in management, with particular knowledge in managing budgets, staff, and complex organizational operations. Her experience also includes over 20 years in service to a preservation non-profit that saves adobe structures in New Mexico. You may recognize Jane as she has also been volunteering at Villa Finale as a Tour Guide and with several of their events over the past two years. Congratulations, Jane!

July 14 and July 21 - A Curator's Look at Villa Finale, 10:30am-12:00pm

The most common question Villa Finale gets during tours is, “who cleans all this?” *A Curator's Look at Villa Finale* answers this question and more. Curator Meg Nowack will give visitors an overview of the daily maintenance required to keep the collections clean, the danger signs staff look for in historic house museums, and the process each piece goes through to become an official part of the museum's collection. This is a unique experience for the serious heritage site visitor. \$15 general admission, \$5 for Villa Finale and National Trust members. Register now for either date.

July 19 - Collections Care Workshop: Silver, 3:30-4:30pm

Meg Nowack, Manager of Curatorial Resources at Villa Finale, will conduct a workshop concentrating upon the handling, care, and storing of silver items in the home. The workshop will take place at the Villa Finale Carriage House, 401 King William Street. Some materials are included. Prepaid admission is required. \$20 general admission, \$5 for Villa Finale and National Trust members.

Statewide Preservation News and Events

Preservation Texas Announces Honor Award

Preservation Texas announces ten awards and a special commendation recognizing the best of preservation in Texas. The Annual Honor Awards program recognizes accomplishments in historic preservation that inspire Texans and encourage them in their efforts to protect the irreplaceable resources of the state.

“Preservation Texas recognizes these significant contributions to historic preservation in order to provide local communities the opportunity to honor their preservationists and share their accomplishments,” said Krista Schreiner Gebbia, executive director of Preservation Texas.

The 2012 Honor Awards were judged by an independent jury of distinguished professionals representing a cross-section of disciplines within the field of historic preservation. These final ten recipients were selected from a pool of worthy candidates to win the following awards:

Clara Driscoll Award: For their significant contributions to the community of Fayetteville and in appreciation of their contribution to Texas preservation movement, the winners are Clovis and Maryann Heimsath.

Heritage Education Award: The San Juan Economic Development Corporation detailed the history of San Juan—for the first time collecting images of the city into an archival document—through the creation of a book, *Images of America: San Juan*.

Texas Media Award: Awarded to Hotel Galvez Centennial in recognition of its creation of a commemorative book, *Hotel Galvez: Queen of the Gulf*; the opening of a permanent Hall of History in the hotel; walking tours and community celebration; and the extensive collection of personal stories about the 100-year history of the hotel.

The following projects are awarded the **Historic Rehabilitation Award** for successful rehabilitation of a historic residential, commercial, or institutional building or structure:

- Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Police Headquarters at Illinois Station
- McGarrah Jesse Building, former American National Bank Building in Austin (formerly a *Texas' Most Endangered Places* site from the 2009 list)
- Texas Quilt Museum, La Grange

Historic Restoration Award: Recognizing historic residential, commercial, or institutional buildings or structures that have been restored to a selected period, awards went to:

- Harris County Courthouse, Houston
- Mission Nuestra Senora de la Purisma Concepcion de Acuna Interior Restoration and Mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo, San Antonio
- University United Methodist Church, Austin

Additionally, Preservation Texas wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum for the preservation of the former Knights of Pythias Hall in Cuero. For volunteer efforts to preserve the heritage of the region's rich ranching legacy, Preservation Texas awarded the Heritage Museum with a special commendation.

Preservation Texas, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization that advocates for preserving the historic resources of Texas. The annual award program encourages the preservation of Texas' significant historic sites. Preservation Texas honors individuals, government officials, businesses, organizations, and news media that have made significant contributions to preservation efforts in Texas.

For more information, visit the Preservation Texas website at www.preservationtexas.org or call Preservation Texas, Inc. at 512.472.0102.

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 directly from the Preservation Action website www.preservationaction.org.

Transportation Deal Reached - What Does it Mean for Preservation?

Yesterday, the Conference Committee charged with working out a compromise for a new national Transportation Bill [released their final report](#), clearing the way for votes in the House and Senate today - only 24 hours prior to the expiration of the existing law. After weeks of speculation, the key issues to preservationists - funding via the Transportation Enhancements program and exemptions and substitutions to environmental and cultural review processes now have some clarity. **Thanks in part to the strong advocacy by Preservation Action, our members, and our national partners, the news may not be perfect - but it is not entirely bad.**

Preservation Action and its partners are still analyzing the 550+ page bill, but below is an overview of some of the key issues:

Transportation Enhancements (TE)

After several attempts to eliminate TE, or at least remove preservation activities from the list of eligible projects, a compromise renames TE as "Transportation Alternatives," and reduces the number of eligible activities - but **retains "historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities."** **It also seems as if basic "Main Street" improvements might be covered as well.** However, TA **must compete with other programs for total of \$700 million** - the total amount TE received in 2009. Half of the funds must be made available directly to certain metropolitan/local governments on a competitive basis. **The States will have some added flexibility** on how they use their portion, but we are still reviewing the language.

Substitution of Section 106 for 4(f), or State Environmental Laws

The proposal to permit Section 106 Review in lieu of 4(f) was not included in the final bill - preserving the stronger standards present in the latter review process. Instead of substituting state laws, **The Secretary of Transportation is required to perform a study of the various state review processes to determine where duplication might be eliminated.**

Arbitrary Time Limits for Review

House language would have deemed projects "approved" if NEPA reviews were not completed within 270 days. **This was not included.** Instead there are a number of provisions included that outline a **mediation and consultative conflict resolution process to accelerate project completion.** The Secretary is also required to establish rules to **encourage programmatic agreements that eliminate duplication.**

Exemption from Section 106 Review for disposal/sale/lease of property

This provision was not included.

Exemption from NEPA Review for advance acquisition by States of property

This proposal unfortunately survives. The ability for States to purchase property (for an anticipated federally funded transportation project) in advance of full reviews can easily bias/limit alternatives. Acknowledging this, the language at least requires that the states certify in writing that the acquisition will not have an adverse environmental impact, and will not limit alternatives. It also appears that Section 106 would still apply. More analysis is going to be necessary to determine the final impact.

Categorical Exclusions from NEPA Review in Emergencies

Provision included, but slightly more specific. Previous language seemed ambiguous, seemingly allowing for disaster recovery construction and repair without any review. **As written this provision exempts from Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statements the reconstruction or repair of roads, highways and bridges if in the same location, is of the same design, capacity, and dimensions.** Materials, however, are not mentioned. **The Secretary is instructed to propose rules** as to how to accomplish this categorical exclusion.

Other Categorical Exclusions From Project Review

The bill instructs the Secretary to develop regulations for the categorical exclusion of projects from Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement requirements if they are in an existing "right-of-way." Section 106 would still apply. It also similarly instructs the Secretary to **develop regulations for the establishment of other categorical exclusions.** Fortunately this affords a chance to compromise in the regulation writing process, but it could open the door for potentially inadequate review.

Exemption from NEPA Review of projects \$10 million or less, or if only 15% or less federally funded

Modified. **Projects of \$5 million or less or 15% of total cost is federally funded are exempt from Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment requirements under NEPA.** Unless the project costs more than \$30 million. Then exemption does not apply. **Section 106 still applies, and the Secretary is required to promulgate regulations for how to carry this out.**

We are still analyzing the bill, and will report more as details emerge. **But the bottom line seems to be we will still have access to funding for preservation via the Transportation law,** however greater competition with other programs for a capped pot of money, and the flexibility of states to make some other choices, means **without advocacy at the State and Local levels, reduced funding is very likely.** Additionally, **many (but not all) of the most damaging provisions that would have substantially gutted the project review process have been either defeated or modified.** Still others have been punted to the Secretary for the establishment of regulations - meaning there could be an opportunity to work through very specific issues during that process.

Interior Appropriations Bill Passes Full Committee

Yesterday the House Committee on Appropriations passed the FY 2013 spending package for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. Although a number of amendments were included to strip the EPA of funding and limit their regulatory powers, for preservationists, the bill is almost identical to the one the [subcommittee passed last week](#). (Summary below). The only change was reauthorization of some expiring National Heritage Areas which was added to a Manager's Amendment.

There is still no companion Bill in the Senate and, given the fact that body is using a higher top-line spending number (established during last year's debt-ceiling negotiations), there is not widespread optimism that agreement will be reached prior to the end of this fiscal year.

	2009	2010	2011	2012 (House Proposal)	2012 (Senate Proposal)	2012 (Enacted)	2013 (President Request)	2013 (House Proposal)*
SHPOs	\$42.5	\$46.5	\$46.4	\$42.5	\$47	\$47	\$46.9	\$42.5
THPOs	\$7	\$8	\$7.9	\$7	\$9	\$9	\$8.9	\$7
SAT	\$20	\$25	0	0	\$8	0	0	0
PA	0	\$4.6	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACHP	\$5.4	\$5.9	\$5.9	\$5.4	\$6.1	\$6.1	\$5.7	\$5.7
Heritage Areas	\$16	\$18	\$17.8	\$8.9	\$17.4	\$17.4	\$9.3	\$9.3

Historic Estate Tax Bill Introduced in House

Last week, Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC) introduced [H.R. 5982](#), the companion bill to the Senator Richard Burr's S. 2209 that would protect historic landmarks and property from "unfairly punitive" estate taxes. The language of both bills is identical and essentially provides a way for historic estates to stay family owned. [As we previously reported](#), the legislation would require that any estate taxes be assessed based upon an ongoing business valuation rather than simply one that is asset-based. To be eligible, the property must have been a private residence or farm that has been a National Historic Landmark for at least 25 years. Furthermore, the property has to be open for public visitation for at least 25 years after the death of the owner. Approximately 200 properties nationwide could benefit from this legislation.

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, S. 2074: Creating American Prosperity Through Preservation Act](#)

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

Sponsored by: Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)

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. 5930: Preserving America's Downtowns and Heritage Act of 2012](#)

Sponsored by: Rep. David McKinley (R-WV)

Summary: Would increase the existing commercial rehabilitation tax credit to 25% and increase the existing 10% "non-historic" tax credit for older buildings to 12%. Would also establish a historic homeowner tax credit.

Status: Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

[S. 1685: Rehabilitation of Historic Schools Act of 2011](#)

Sponsored by: Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA), Sen. Mark Warner (R-VA)

Summary: Would amend the existing commercial rehabilitation tax credit to allow rehabilitation expenditures for a qualified public educational facility (defined as a school facility which is part of a public elementary or secondary school and is owned by a private, for-profit corporation pursuant to a

public-private partnership agreement) to qualify for the rehabilitation tax credit.
Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Finance

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: AMENDED to removed maritime borders, and more narrowly focus eligible activities.
Incorporated into H.R. 2578 and PASSED HOUSE June 19, 2012. Moves to Senate.

H.R. 1734 & S. 1503: Civilian Property Realignment Act

Sponsored by: Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA)

Sponsored by: Sen. Scott Brown (R-MA)

Summary: Would establish a Civilian Property Realignment Board charged with, in consultation with local communities, identifying and analyzing surplus federal property for sale, transfer or disposal.

Status: PASSED HOUSE Feb., 2012. Referred to Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works.

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. Similar provisions have been worked into House and Senate Transportation Reauthorization proposals.

H.R. 4099, the National Heritage Area Act of 2012

Sponsored by: Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) and Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY)

Summary: Establishes program legislation and metrics for National Heritage Areas.

Status: Referred to House Committee on 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](#).



Historic Texas Courthouses Put On National Trust List of Most Endangered Historic Places

The county courthouses of Texas need your help! Recently, the National Trust for Historic Preservation added the Texas county courthouses to the list. Follow the link below to read more about what you can do to help save these magnificent structures for future generations of Texans! Learn more at:

www.preservationnation.org/travel-and-sites/sites/southwest-region/historic-courthouses-of-texas.html



Tax Credits for Designated Historic Structures

Are you planning substantial rehabilitation for your historic home or business? Before you get started, contact the Office of Historic Preservation to find out if the work may qualify for one of our local tax incentives or a federal tax credit. For more information on tax credits, contact us at 210.215.9274 or at OHP@sanantonio.gov. You can also visit our website at www.sanantonio.gov/historic for more details.



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, Historic Building Enforcement Officer, at ron.meyers@sanantonio.gov or OHP@sanantonio.gov during regular business hours (7:45am - 4:30pm) 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. 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 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 will be back with all new episodes starting in August! See the show on TVSA Channel 21:

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

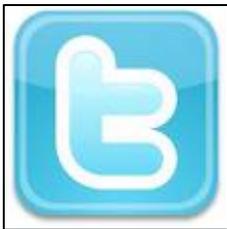


View current and past episodes of HPTV online at the OHP Website [here](#) (sorry, PC only). Recent episodes include a look at African-American history in San Antonio, information on our local historic districts, and much more! If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to see covered on HPTV, 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.”



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