



SAN ANTONIO PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

July 2013

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer

Shanon Shea Miller, AICP



Earlier this month, the Governor signed the "Texas Prosperity Through Preservation Act," which will create a valuable incentive for private capital investment in the rehabilitation of historic buildings throughout the state. This type of investment drives economic development, creates jobs, brings underutilized and vacant buildings back to life, and revitalizes historic main streets and downtowns. State tax credits for historic preservation have proven to be extremely successful incentives for the rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings around the country, especially when coupled with the federal historic tax credit. This is a huge win for preservation in Texas and more specifically in San Antonio!

We're also very excited about the Power of Preservation Foundation fundraising event at the fabulously restored Cool Crest miniature golf course on Friday, July 12. It promises to be a spectacular evening, with food, music, prizes, and a mini golf tournament featuring local celebrities! Vintage golf attire is encouraged. For more information please contact Cory Edwards at 210.207.1496 or cory.edwards@sanantonio.gov. Proceeds from this event will go directly to the Power of Preservation Foundation. We are also selling tickets and have sponsorship opportunities for our second annual Power of Preservation PROMenade on October 24. Keep reading for further details on both of these exciting events!

As we move into the summer months, I am excited to announce our fifth annual Historic Homeowner Fair. The past four 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 houses 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. This year's fair, as always, is free and open to the public and will have fun activities for the kids! Stay tuned for more details on the date and location of the fair and how you can get involved.

Happy 4th of July!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shanon".

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Go! Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tours



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.

Different tours are offered throughout the year, so check out our calendar of [upcoming 2013 tours!](#) Our next tour

will take place on September 14, and will feature San Antonio’s historic Westside. Registration is \$15 and includes one of our new “Know This Place?” t-shirts. [Register online](#) keyword “Go! Historic SA” or in person the day of the event. For questions regarding the Go! Historic SA Guided Tours, please contact Nicholas Fuqua at 210.207.0066.



RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!
for PROM 2013



Individual tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available now! Reserve online at www.powerofpreservation.org/tickets.html or call 207-1496 for more information. Find your date to **PROM** and make plans to join us on October 24, 2013!

City of San Antonio Green Building Awards

The 5th Annual COSA Green Building Awards honored four historic projects for their commitment to environmentally conscious design and rehabilitation on June 19. There were four categories: Residential, Commercial, Practitioner, and the Bill Sinkin Solar Award. The historic winners were 310 Madison for residential; the Rinconcito de Esperanza for privately funded commercial; and the Hippolito Garcia Post Office on Alamo Plaza for publicly funded commercial and solar. For more information, [click here](#).



OHP Welcomes New Deputy Historic Preservation Officer Kathy Rodriguez



We are pleased to announce that Kathy Rodriguez has joined the OHP as Deputy Historic Preservation Officer. Kathy has recently served as District 5 Commissioner on the Historic and Design Review Commission and was Community Development Director for the City of Castroville, TX, where she also served as the city's first fulltime Historic Preservation Officer. Kathy's professional experience has been in the area of Construction Management, Historic Preservation, and Community Development. She completed her bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Texas at San Antonio, School of Architecture and is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in historic preservation. Kathy also worked in the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation as a planner, where she had the opportunity to be a presenter at local and national conferences, speaking on topics related to preservation work at the local government level, as well as on cultural diversity in the preservation field. Kathy also has served on the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals and the Building Standards Board for the City of San Antonio. "I feel a great sense of pride and gratitude to have the opportunity to serve my community" she says. Kathy is also an associate member of the American Institute of Architects, the American Planning Association, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Welcome Kathy!

OHP Planner Nicholas Fuqua to Attend London Summer School

OHP Planner Nicholas Fuqua was accepted to the Victorian Society of America's London Summer School with a scholarship. This architectural field school, which will take place June 28-July 14, is held in conjunction with the American Institute of Architects and will focus on Victorian and Edwardian era architecture in London and surrounding areas. Nicholas hopes to broaden his knowledge of the architectural and stylistic movements that have influenced San Antonio's 19th and 20th century architecture. Congratulations!



Vote for Woodlawn Lake Park as America's Favorite Park!



Your support is needed! The City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department is mounting a campaign to win a \$100,000 grant for Woodlawn Lake Park in Coca-Cola's *America is Your Park* contest. Your vote is needed to make it happen! Go to www.coke.com/parks for more information!



Draft Concept Plan for Travis Park

The City of San Antonio's Center City Development Office has engaged Project for Public Spaces Inc. (PPS) to assist the City of San Antonio, the community and area stakeholders to create a concept plan for Travis Park. Initial meetings were held in March of 2013, and PPS returned in May of 2013 to present a draft concept plan. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend a meeting or workshop and comment on the draft concept plan.

Attached for your convenience is a link to the draft plan by PPS. Please click on the link below to view the draft concept plan and to answer a short survey designed to obtain your recommendations for improving Travis Park. Please complete the survey at the link below by **July 7, 2013**. For additional information, please contact Colleen Swain at 210.207.4089 or email at colleen.swain@sanantonio.gov.

[Travis Park Concept Plan Survey](#)

Local News and Events

STAA Quarterly Meeting

The Southern Texas Archaeological Association Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2013, at the Institute of Texan Cultures located at 801 E. Caesar Chavez. The meeting will be held in the Connally Room on the 3rd floor. There is limited free parking in Lots 7, 8 and 9 (in front by the flag poles) and there is a city parking lot as well. Presentations will include *Interpreting Archaeological Features Through Experimental Archaeology: Burned Clay Features along the Upper San Antonio River Drainage* by Dr. Steve Tomka, and *Settling the Land: A Photographic Essay of Historic 19th Century Vernacular Farms and Ranches* by Kay Hindes. A social mixer will be held at El Mirador, 722 S. St. Mary's Street after the meeting. Please join us for food and fun. This promises to be an exciting meeting with great presentations, so make plans to attend. Hope to see you there!

Meet the STAA Meeting Presenters:

Dr. Steve Tomka



Dr. Tomka has been actively involved in Texas archaeology for over 25 years and leading figure in the San Antonio area and regional archaeology for over 15 years. He received his M.A. and PhD in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin. He has over 20 major publications 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).

Steve 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 published numerous reports and volumes on prehistoric archaeology. His specialties include Spanish Colonial Period and Urban Archaeology and Lithic Analysis. In 2009-2010, he served as a member of the Statewide Plan Advisory Council of the Texas Historical Commission (THC). From 2002-2007 he served as a member of the National Register of Historic Places State Board of Review. In 2007, he was appointed Commissioner of the THC and served in that capacity until 2009.

In 2002, Steve became the Director of CAR. The Center, under his leadership, has been under contract with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) since 2004 to oversee work on the San Antonio River Improvements Project. 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. Dr. Tomka was presented the *Jimmy L. Mitchell Award for Outstanding Contributions to Southern Texas Archaeology* in January, 2013.

Kay Hindes



Kay Hindes is currently the City Archaeologist for the City of San Antonio. She has a degree in Anthropology from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Kay has conducted cultural resources investigations for over 25 years working with universities, cultural resources management firms, and as an Independent Research Consultant. She is a co-discoverer of the Mission Santa Cruz de San Saba located in Menard County, Texas, and served as Co-Project Historian for LaSalle's Fort St. Louis located in Victoria County, Texas. She oversaw the extensive archaeological investigations at Main Plaza during plaza renovations and has provided management and coordination for cultural

resources for such projects as the Mission Trails, Museum Reach, and the Linear Creekways projects for the city. Kay has received numerous awards for her work, including most recently, an *Award of Merit for Archaeological Preservation and Public Outreach* (2011) from the Texas Historical Commission, and a *Texas Preservation Hero* award from the San Antonio Conservation Society (2012). Kay currently resides in San Antonio, Texas. Her most recent projects include the Historic Texas Farm and Ranch Complexes in Bexar County, Texas.

Featured Article



Historic Travis Park

Elizabeth Porterfield and Nicholas Fuqua
City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation

Take a stroll through historic **Travis Park**, located in downtown San Antonio between Travis, Jefferson, Pecan, and Navarro Streets. The land originally belonged to Samuel Maverick, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, and was deeded to the city in 1870 after Maverick's death. By 1876 the City had made upgrades to the park, including installing painted wooden benches and enclosing the area with a fence. A bandstand was also constructed on the southwest corner of the park. The fencing was removed in 1891 and the bandstand demolished in 1937.

The development of Travis Park into a formal urban square was a result of the City Beautiful Movement, which sought to integrate beauty and order into the urban landscape during the 1890s and early 1900s. This coincided with an increase in the establishment of memorials to the Civil War following the death of Robert E. Lee in 1870 and the end of Reconstruction in 1877. Cities throughout the South began memorializing their Confederate

dead.

The focal point of Travis Park is the **Confederate Civil War Monument** in the center. The monument was erected in 1899 and was funded by the Barnard E. Bee Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy. The park had served as a camp for Confederate soldiers, and reportedly, a hospital for wounded soldiers was located on the site. The Confederate monument did face some resistance during construction. An April 1, 1898, *Daily Light* article indicated opposition on the grounds that the "monuments erected today will be the scoff of a later generation." Despite controversy, the monument was completed in 1899 at a cost of approximately \$3,000. The ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone on June 4, 1899, was attended by veterans of both the Union and Confederate armies.

In 1953 an attempt was made to build an underground parking garage directly beneath the park. The venture was stopped by heirs of the Maverick family. Today, a concept plan for Travis Park is being developed to rehabilitate this historic urban space.

At the northern edge of the park, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** congregation was established in 1858, and the cornerstone of the church building was laid in 1859. The outbreak of the Civil War and the following years of Reconstruction delayed completion of the church until 1875. St. Mark's Church was designed by Richard Upjohn, one of the nation's leading church architects working in



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the Gothic Revival style of the 19th century. Gothic Revival style elements include the buttresses and window tracery. Originally, wooden louvered openings were located below the stained-glass windows on both sides of the sanctuary, allowing for cross ventilation. A cannon found on the grounds of the Maverick homestead was donated to create the original church bell. Elaborate wooden trusses, octagonal wooden columns, and stained glass windows adorn the church's interior.

The Parish Hall and Education Building additions on the west side of the church were completed in 1926-27. In 1949, the church was enlarged when the original side entrance was enclosed with a stained glass window and a Gothic Revival style tower entrance was constructed. A recent restoration has returned the church's interior more closely to Upjohn's original design.

Samuel and Mary A. Maverick were founding members of St. Marks's and donated the first stained glass church window. Robert E. Lee and Lt. John B. Hood were also members of the early congregation. Future President Lyndon B. Johnson and Lady Bird Taylor were married at St. Mark's in 1934. Today, St. Mark's Episcopal Church continues to thrive as an active urban parish in the heart of historic San Antonio.



Flanking the southern edge of Travis Park is the elegant **St. Anthony Hotel**. The first section of the hotel at the corner of Travis and Navarro Streets was constructed in 1909 for Texas cattlemen B.L. Naylor, A.H. Jones, and F.M. Swearingen. An adjacent addition to the hotel, connected through the first floor lobby, was constructed shortly thereafter in 1910 and featured a rooftop terrace. Both hotel "towers" were originally eight stories in height with Mission Revival style parapets gracing the rooflines.

An extensive renovation undertaken in 1935 transformed the St. Anthony into a luxury hotel. Two additional stories were added giving the roofline its current appearance, the Travis Street façade was unified, an elaborate lobby known as Peacock Alley was designed, and the interior spaces were lavishly upgraded. A writer dubbed the renovated hotel as "the Waldorf on the Prairie." A 1941 addition at the eastern edge of the building expanded the hotel across the entire city block and included a parking garage with drive-up reception desk, additional guest rooms, and a new ballroom.

The St. Anthony Hotel was reportedly the first fully air-conditioned hotel in the world and was one of the first hotels to offer a drive-up garage registration desk and guest rooms outfitted with automatic doors and lights. Many significant guests have visited the St. Anthony Hotel including Eleanor Roosevelt, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Will Rogers. The historic St. Anthony Hotel was restored in 1983 and continues to provide luxurious accommodations for overnight guests, weddings, and events.

Near the St. Anthony Hotel is **Travis Park United Methodist Church**, whose Methodist congregation was established by missionary Rev. John Wesley DeVilbiss in 1846. Methodist missionaries were sent to Texas reportedly in response to an 1835 letter from Col. William B. Travis to a Methodist publication asking for the presence of the Methodist faith in San Antonio. Travis was



killed at the Battle of the Alamo in 1836, but Methodist missionaries, including the Rev. DeVilbiss, came to Texas shortly thereafter. He established the first Methodist church in San Antonio on Soledad Street in 1852.

The cornerstone of Travis Park United Methodist Church was laid in February 1883, with completion of the church in 1886. A large addition to the south side of the church was constructed in 1901-02 and included a small spire atop the existing tower. A larger spire added later remains today. The church reflects elements of the Romanesque Revival style with large rounded-arch windows, heavy limestone walls, and round tower.

An adjacent office building south of the church on Navarro Street, known as Harmony Hall, was purchased in 1910. An extensive 1948 renovation of Harmony Hall produced the mid-century modern façade and monumental stained glass cross of the church's Youth Building. The 4,700-piece stained glass installation was designed by the Jacoby Stained Glass Studio of St. Louis, Missouri, with stained glass pieces from many different countries. Travis Park United Methodist Church remains an active congregation in downtown San Antonio.

Travis Park and its surrounding buildings reflect the evolution of downtown San Antonio over the last 150 years. Enjoy a walk through Travis Park to experience a part of San Antonio's urban history.



State and National News

EXCITING NEWS: Texas State Legislature Passes “The Texas Prosperity Through Preservation Act”

Recently, Harvey Hildebran, Chairman of the Texas House Ways and Means Committee, introduced House Bill 3111, “The Texas prosperity Through Preservation Act.” This bill was passed and will create an incentive for private capital investment in the rehabilitation of historic buildings throughout Texas. This incentive provides a tax credit of 25% of the amount of qualified rehabilitation expenditures spent on qualified historic buildings and can be applied against either the franchise tax or the insurance premium tax.

Historic rehabilitations investment incentives have proven effective in 32 states, including New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. In Louisiana, each \$1 of tax credit leverages over \$3 of private investment, resulting in the creation of over 11,000 construction jobs and 5,700 permanent jobs statewide. Since 2011, over 140 projects have utilized the historic tax credit in Louisiana, with an average project cost of \$3.6 million.

These incentives drive economic development, create jobs, bring underutilized buildings back into active commerce, and revitalize main streets and downtowns. This incentive will bring more work to those involved with historic resources, including construction workers, contractors, trades people, architects, engineers, and real estate brokers. Without this incentive, many Texas buildings will continue to be neglected and eventually demolished which will destroy an important physical link to the unique heritage of Texas. This incentive will be vital for the transformation of San Antonio's historic urban core and encourage residents and business owners to become better stewards of the city's historic resources.

News Links

[Mad Men and Preservation](#)

[Perspective and the Experience of Place](#)

[Preservation Advocacy in Texas](#)

[11 Most Endangered Places for 2013](#)

Preservation Advocacy



Federal Historic Preservation Issues

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 America's 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 Miller at shanon.miller@sanantonio.gov. [Click here](#) for the latest legislative update from Preservation Action.



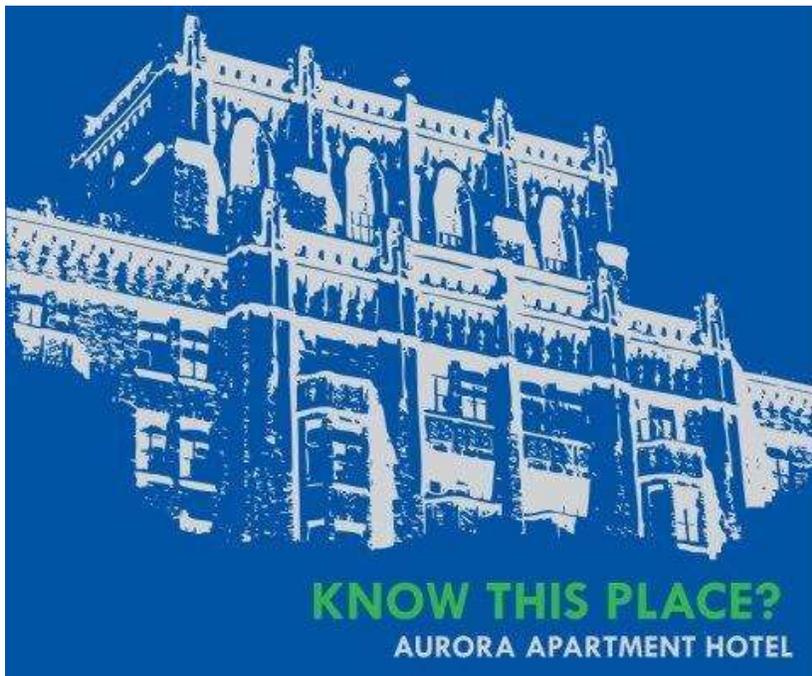


“Know this Place?” Contest!

If you can correctly identify this building in San Antonio, e-mail Nicholas Fuqua at nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov. The randomly chosen winner will be notified by Friday, June 14, and will win a complimentary pass for two to one of our popular **Go! Historic SA Guided Tours**. Please put “Know This Place?” in the subject line of the e-mail. Good luck!

Limited Edition “Know This Place?” T-Shirts

Get your *Know this Place?* t-shirt today! The OHP is offering the first in a new series of *Know This Place?* t-shirts highlighting historic sites in San Antonio. This debut t-shirt, featuring the beautiful Aurora Apartments, is only available while supplies last. Get it while it’s here! Look out for new designs in the *Know This Place?* series. T-shirts are \$15.00. Contact the OHP at 210.215.9274 for information or to purchase yours today.



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 am to 4:30 pm) to report your concerns. After-hours complaints should be registered by phone through 311 or by email at OHP@sanantonio.gov.
- 3) You can report potential problems anonymously or provide contact information for follow-up.

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:

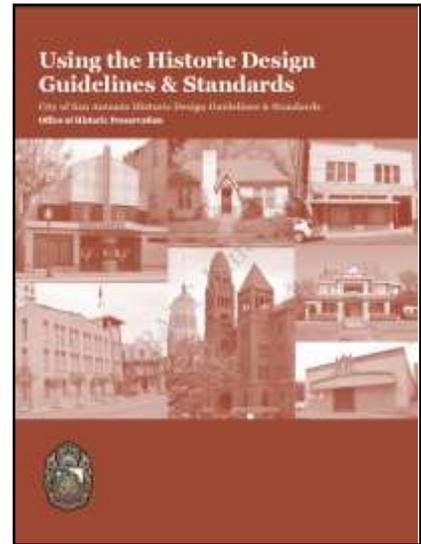
Tuesdays @ 9:00am
Wednesdays @ 1:00pm
Fridays @ 7:00pm



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.

Historic Design Guidelines Available

We currently have hardcopies of our Historic Design Guidelines available for purchase for \$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! The guidelines are also available to view and download for free on our [website](#).



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 Facebook and search for “City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation” and “Power of Preservation San Antonio.”



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