



SAN ANTONIO

PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

March 2010 Edition

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer, Shanon Peterson Wasielewski



Last week I was in Washington, D.C., for Historic Preservation Advocacy Week. More than 370 people attended this year's event which included Preservation Action's Lobby Day, the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the National Historic Tax Credit Conference. The overarching theme this year was "**Preservation Equals Jobs.**"

Among the highlights were an address from Representative Russ Carnahan at the Advocacy Luncheon; the [Preservation Action Foundation](#) (PAF) Award for Distinguished Service presented to National Trust for Historic Preservation President Richard Moe, who is set to retire by June of this year; and a press conference announcing the release of the first annual report on the historic rehabilitation tax credit.

At Tuesday's Advocacy Luncheon, Rep. Carnahan, Co-Chair of the bi-partisan, 166-member Historic Preservation Caucus, and a resident of a National Register Historic District, delivered an eloquent case for the passage of his bill, the Historic Homeowner Revitalization Act. He talked about how this bill, modeled after the Missouri state historic homeowner tax credit passed by his late father Mel Carnahan when he was Governor, can be used to not only save old buildings, but to create jobs and improve communities.

At Tuesday evening's Preservation Action Reception, held in the Rayburn House Office Building, I had the honor, as the Chair of PAF, of presenting Richard Moe the Foundation's first-ever Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his 17 years as President of the National Trust and his eloquent advocacy for historic preservation.

Following the annual Congressional Breakfast, held this year in the Reserve Officers Association building, hundreds of preservationists from around the country delivered our message to their members of Congress:

- Preservation equals jobs;
- Save America's Treasures, Preserve America, and National Heritage Areas are core Park Service programs and funding should be restored;
- Support historic tax credit bills H.R. 3670 and H.R. 3715/S.1743;
- Recognize the need of SHPOs and THPOs to have adequate funding; and
- Support full funding for the Historic Preservation Fund.

On Wednesday at lunchtime, we attended a press conference on the Hill regarding the release of the "First Annual Report on the Economic Impact of the Federal Historic Tax Credit." The report shows that since its inception the credit has created approximately 1.8 million new jobs and has leveraged over \$85 billion in private investment nationally. You can view the full report on the National Trust's website at www.preservationnation.org/issues/community-revitalization/jobs/

Finally, I presented on Wednesday afternoon at the tax credit conference about how local preservation programs can assist with federal tax credit projects.

If you're interested in learning more about federal preservation issues, you can download the one-pagers and briefing guide directly from the Preservation Action website at www.preservationaction.org.

Contact Us!

The Office of Historic Preservation is dedicated to improving public outreach and awareness of preservation issues and events in San Antonio. Please contact us at OHP@sanantonio.gov or call (210) 207-7244 for more information or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter.

March 2010

River Road Historic District

Congratulations to the River Road neighborhood for becoming San Antonio's 26th local historic district! The district, which was designated on February 4th, 2010, consists of approximately 160 parcels nestled between the San Antonio River, Highway 281, and the Brackenridge Park Golf Course. The quiet, secluded neighborhood is characterized by tree-shaded streets and a distinctive collection of early 20th century residences including Bungalows, Tudor Revival cottages, minimal traditional houses, and other eclectic styles. Read more about the River Road Historic District on our website at www.sanantonio.gov/historic under Historic Districts.



Volunteers needed for 36 Square Mile Historic Survey

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



The [uncertain] Future of our Cultural Heritage



On **Wednesday, March 31st, 2010**, Gustavo Araoz, President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) will speak at UTSA. His 30-year architectural career has focused on the management and conservation of the historic built environment. Mr. Araoz holds a Bachelor in Architecture from the Catholic University of America, a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University, and has completed the international post-graduate program in Architectural Conservation at the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Mexico City. He is the 2009 recipient of the Beinecke-Reeves Award for Achievement in Historic Preservation.

Where: UTSA DOWNTOWN CAMPUS
501 W. Durango St.
Buena Vista Bldg. Auditorium # 1326

When: Wednesday, March 31st, 2010

Time: 5:30 pm

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

Experience the restoration of Villa Finale in progress!

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

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

Dates:

Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 1:30 pm*

Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 10:30 am

Friday, April 9, 2010 at 10:30 am

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 1:30 pm

Thursday, May 6, 2010 at 11:00 am

Friday, May 28, 2010 at 10:30 am

**This is a Spanish-language tour*

Price: \$35 general admission (includes tax). Friends of Villa Finale, National Trust Members, and full-time students with a

valid I.D. receive a 10% discount.

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



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

May is Preservation Month

With May fast approaching we are in the beginning stages of planning for Preservation Month. Join us at Tycoon Flats on March 25th, 2010 and help us come up with a few ideas!

PRESERVATION NETWORKING EVENT



Where: Tycoon Flats, 2926 N. St. Mary's

When: March 25th, 2010

Time: 5:30 pm-7:00 pm

We're on the web:



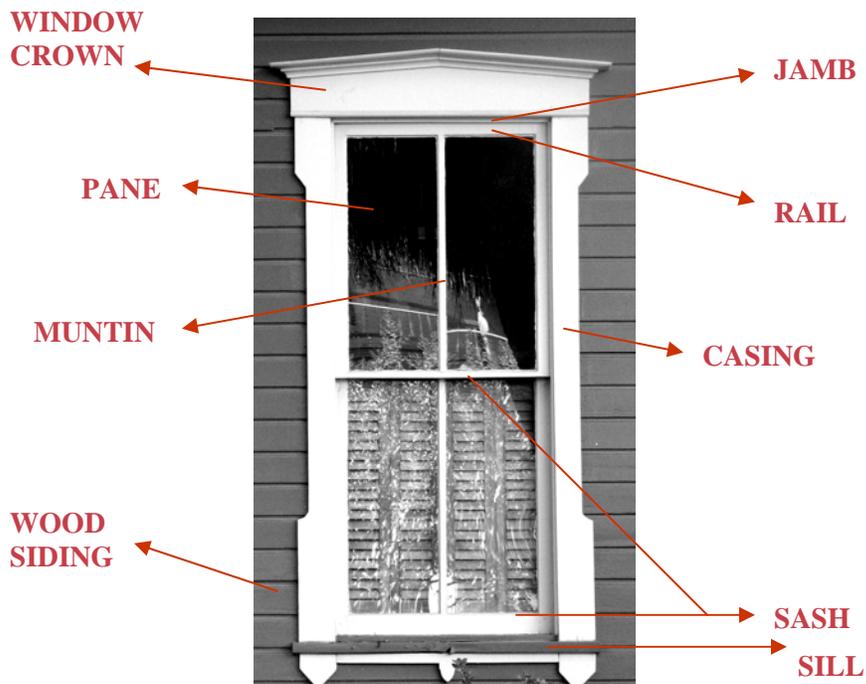
Check out the new historic preservation blog on the San Antonio Express-News website at

<http://voices.mysanantonio.com/swasielewski/>



The Office of Historic Preservation is on Facebook! Click the Facebook icon to add us as your friend. Facebook is a great resource for promoting preservation events and networking with other people in the community interested in preservation topics. If you are unable to open the link, simply login to www.facebook.com and search for "City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation".

Anatomy of a Window



Stay tuned for information about our next Hands-On Window Rehabilitation Workshop in May. This is a great opportunity for small business development (small contractors can learn a marketable skill) or do-it-yourself homeowners.

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



Historic House Rescue List



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