

March 2013

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer

Shanon Shea Miller, AICP



Spring is almost here, and the OHP has a lot in store as things warm up. I'm excited to announce our first S.T.A.R. project of the year. We will be in the Knob Hill Historic District for the first time for two weekends: April 6-7 and 13-14. The S.T.A.R. project is now in its 4th year and is fast becoming a fixture of the San Antonio preservation calendar. Keep reading for more details on the project and how you can get involved.



I am also thrilled to announce that we have kicked off our 2013 Power of Preservation campaign leading up to the second annual PROM in October. This year we will have a ["Mad Men"/ Mid-Century Modern](#) theme, and the Inter-Continental Motors Building on Broadway will serve perfectly as the venue for the gala fundraiser (please see the end of this newsletter for a fascinating history on the building).



We held our first Power of Preservation Social there on Tuesday, February 19. Stay tuned for details as we gear up for another exciting PROM. For updates keep checking the Power of Preservation Foundation [website](#).

Happy Spring!

Shanon

March 2013



S.T.A.R.

STUDENTS TOGETHER ACHIEVING REVITALIZATION

S.T.A.R. in Knob Hill Historic District

The S.T.A.R. Project will be in the Knob Hill Historic District April 6-7 and 13-14. This will be the first time that S.T.A.R. will be in the Knob Hill Historic District. Since the S.T.A.R. project's inception in 2010, student volunteers from UTSA College of Architecture and San Antonio College have helped to restore dozens of historic properties in the Dignowity Hill and Tobin Hill Historic Districts and the Five Points neighborhood. If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a sponsor, contact Adriana Munoz at 210.207.0166 or adriana.munoz@sanantonio.gov. [Click here](#) for more information on the upcoming S.T.A.R. project in Knob Hill.



Go! Historic SA Guided Running and Walking Tours



Join us on an 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. Different tours will be offered throughout the year, so stay tuned for more information and a calendar of our upcoming 2013 tours! Registration is \$15. [Register online](#) or in person the day of the event.



Past tours have included the King William Historic District, the Monte Vista Historic District, the downtown sites of the Texas Revolution, and the Downtown Holiday Lights tour. For questions regarding the Go! Historic Guided Tours, please contact Nicholas Fuqua at 210.207.0066 or nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov.

Travis Park Revitalization



Travis Park is a historic center in downtown San Antonio, and is surrounded by a number of local historic landmarks, including the St. Anthony Hotel and St. Mark's Episcopal Church. In the center of the park stands the Confederate Monument. In recent years the community has begun looking at possible revitalization of the 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 vision and concept plan for the revitalization of Travis Park. The goal of the project would be to envision and transform this underutilized space into an active park for many users and a destination and asset for downtown San Antonio.

A Community Meeting will be held on March 7 from 5:30-8 pm at the St. Anthony Hotel located on 300 E. Travis in the Peraux Room. For additional information, please call Colleen Swain at 210.207.4089 or email at colleen.swain@sanantonio.gov.

Ximena Copa-Wiggins Joins OHP



We are pleased to announce that Ximena Copa-Wiggins has joined the OHP as Public Relations Manager. She will also be supporting the offices of Planning & Community Development, and Development Services. Ximena grew up in Brazil and came to San Antonio for college, where she graduated from St. Mary's University. Her background encompasses Communications, Public Relations and Marketing. Ximena worked for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) as their Public Information Officer and, most recently, was the Intergovernmental Liaison for the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA). If you have questions regarding public relations with the OHP, please contact Ximena at 210.207.0221 or at ximena.copa-wiggins@sanantonio.gov.

Local News and Events



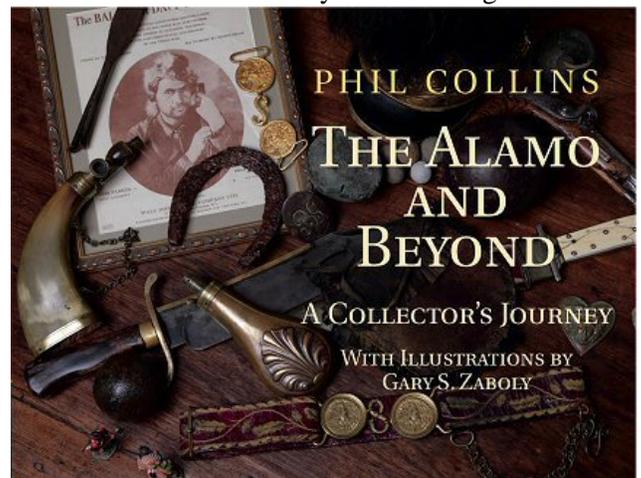
Conservation Society Honors Historic Preservation in the Written Word

Publications relating to Texas history were recently honored by the San Antonio Conservation Society's 2013 Publication Awards.

Held every other year, the Conservation Society recognizes the authors of the best recently published works on Texas history. The winning authors will be honored at a luncheon and award presentation

ceremony Friday, March 22, at The Argyle, 934 Patterson Avenue. Reservations are \$35 per person; seating is limited.

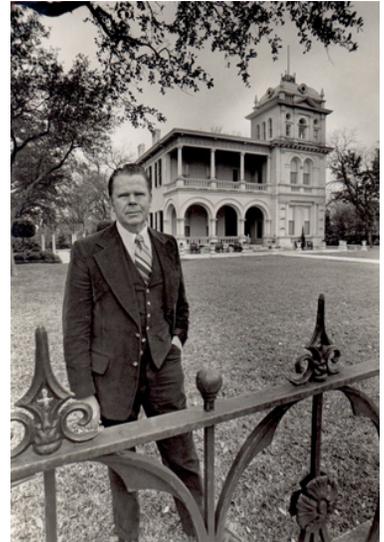
Starting at 10:30 am, authors will sign and sell copies of their award winning books; guests may bring their own copy to be signed. Lunch begins at 11:30 am, followed by the award ceremony from 12:30 to 1 pm. Book signings will continue after the award ceremony. The public is invited to the event. For a list of the winners [click here](#) or visit the [San Antonio Conservation Society website](#) for more details.



The Alamo and Beyond by musician Phil Collins is just one publication honored

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 or call 210.223.9800. [Click here](#) for current events, exhibits, and activities.



Preservation Links

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

Click on the titles to view the links.

[*Downton Abbey in America: San Francisco's Haas-Lilienthal House*](#)

[*Preservation Texas*](#)

[*Giving Gullah/Geechee Culture a Home at "The Little House"*](#)

[*Travis Letter May Signal New Alamo Era*](#)

[*Eva Garza Comes Home*](#)

[*Mission San Juan Shows Off Facelift*](#)

History, Culture, Community - San Antonio's Westside City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation

The Westside of San Antonio represents a significant part of San Antonio's identity as a center for Hispanic culture. The area prospered during the early 20th century as immigrants fleeing political unrest in Mexico made their homes on San Antonio's Westside. Small corner stores or *tienditas* served the neighborhoods, and families walked to church and to each other's homes. Guadalupe Street developed as a thriving entertainment and commercial "main street" with movie theaters, restaurants, and local merchants. Much of the domestic architecture included small shotgun houses - now a rare find in San Antonio.

The construction of the interstate highways in the 1960s physically cut off the Westside from downtown and led to a decline. Urban renewal efforts in the late 20th century razed entire blocks of historic houses that had supported Westside families for multiple generations. Many residents began to move away, and as a result the historic fabric of the community was compromised. The vibrant culture that once sustained the area was displaced as older generations passed away and younger generations relocated to find new opportunities elsewhere.



La Gloria

In 2002, a commercial structure built in the 1920s and known as *La Gloria*, that housed a service station and roof-top dance hall, was demolished. The demolition of this cultural center of the community unleashed widespread opposition to the destruction of Westside history and galvanized a grassroots preservation movement on the Westside. Subsequent threats of demolition of other important structures served to highlight the urgency of protecting the historic and cultural resources of San Antonio's Westside.

Shotgun houses along Guadalupe St.



The City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation became actively involved in the preservation movement on the Westside. In 2011, the Westside Cultural Resource Survey was undertaken to inventory the rich architectural and cultural history of San Antonio's Westside. With the help of many community partners, including the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center, the Westside

Preservation Alliance, the San Antonio Conservation Society, the Old Spanish Trail Centennial, and the Westside Development Corporation, the Office of Historic Preservation has identified over 90 Westside properties and sites that are of historic and cultural significance. Each property has been photographed and researched to understand its unique history, the events and people associated with each place, and the role each property has played in the story of San Antonio's Westside development. The goal of this initiative is to help proactively identify and ultimately protect these important places that make the

Westside a vital part of San Antonio. Through a series of public meetings, many community residents and others have shared their memories and experiences about these Westside properties.

A wide variety of property types have been identified through the Westside Cultural Resource Survey including historic commercial buildings, residences, churches, gas stations, and parks. Two small concentrations of surviving shotgun houses, on Smith Street and Fite Alley, are vestiges of typical Westside housing of the early 20th century. Portions of the Prospect Hill neighborhood, with Queen Anne style homes from the turn-of-the-century, reflect some of the more elaborate Westside residential construction. The 1930s former Prospect Hill Library and the mid-century “modern” former Las Palmas Library, now home to City health facilities, were identified as significant public buildings. Many architecturally significant historic churches, including Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Alphonsus, and the Mexican Christian Church, are some of the important religious strictures that have served generations of Westside residents.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

Small historic commercial structures lining Guadalupe Street and small corner *tienditas* reflect the former glory days of small business within the Westside community. Contreras Ice House on West Commerce Street is typical of the former neighborhood ice houses where residents would stop by for a cold drink and a bit of local gossip. The former Key Hole Club, a thriving nightclub venue throughout the 1940s and 50s, is another significant Westside institution. The Elizondo Flower Shop on Castroville Road has for generations provided flowers for visitors to nearby San Fernando Cemetery No. 2. Bakeries, including La Perla and La Chiquita, have played an important role in the Westside community offering *pan dulce* or “sweet bread” and other treats. Other identified Westside places include a historic fire station, several historic schools, and a number of significant historic homes.

The historic buildings and neighborhoods of San Antonio’s Westside provide a sense of place and community. They remind us of the way San Antonio was and provide the chance for future generations to understand our diverse history and culture as well as our city’s Hispanic heritage.

By gathering the memories and knowledge of the Westside citizens through the Westside Cultural Resource Survey, the Office of Historic Preservation is committed to preserving our historic community and our Hispanic history. Visit the Office of Historic Preservation website for more information and to view photos of all of the Westside properties identified to date at:

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/historic/events.aspx>.



P R E S E R V A T I O N

Action

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

Historic House Rescue List

The Office of Historic Preservation keeps a running list of historic homes that can be moved. These homes are often threatened with demolition or are in the way of potential development. Historic houses like 219 4th Street (seen at the right) are available to move. The former residence at 219 4th Street was constructed c. 1885 and is documented on an 1896 Sanborn map. The lot was sold to Olive Coulson in 1885, with a mechanic lien issued that same year. The property was purchased by Mary A. Rigsby in 1899, who lived at the house through at least 1915. Her son, William C. Rigsby, was one of the major investors in the development of Highland Park. Rigsby Street is named for this family. The property remained in the family until 1944. Despite asbestos siding, which can easily be removed to reveal the original wood siding underneath, the house retains a high degree of architectural integrity and is one of the oldest surviving residences in the area.



[Click here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page for the complete Historic House Rescue list. For more information, please contact Nicholas Fuqua at 210.207.0066 or nicholas.fuqua@sanantonio.gov.



“Know this Place?” Contest!

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

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.

March 2013

HPTV: Historic Preservation Television

HPTV is back with all new episodes!
See the show on TVSA Channel 21:

Tuesdays @ 9:00am

Wednesdays @ 1:00pm

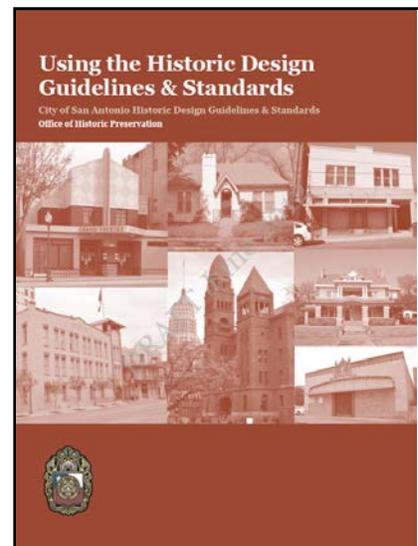
Fridays @ 7:00pm



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

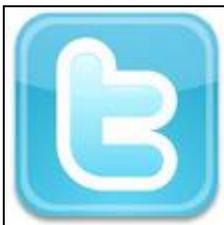
We currently have hardcopies of our Historic Design Guidelines available for purchase at \$20 each. This is a useful tool for historic property owners, contractors, and design professionals. Pick up your copy from OHP staff at 1901 S. Alamo today! The guidelines are also available to view and download for free from 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 www.facebook.com and search for “City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation” and “Power of Preservation San Antonio”



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Patio provides an outdoor display area for new vehicles separated by a high glass wall from indoor display room.

In SAN ANTONIO

One of the World's Most Beautiful Dealerships

Take the Texas climate, a Texas imagination and a sizable hunk of Texas geography, spice it with a modern concept of customer conveniences and sound management principles and you have a description of the spanking new Inter-Continental Volkswagen dealership in colorful San Antonio.

Set in a park-like location, the dealership blends with the natural beauty of the oak and elm-shaded

site. Its modern design gives it a welcoming and cheerful ready-for-business appearance.

A magnificent showroom, framed by towering window-walls and covering 2,790 square feet of display area for new Volkswagen models, provides the focal point of interest for the growing number of VW owners in that part of Texas. Special lighting permits no-glare viewing from both inside and outside, day or night.

Related positioning of customer service areas, business offices and cashier promotes speedy and efficient handling of all transactions. Through a window-wall, the customer can watch his car being serviced while he sits in a comfortable waiting room.

The service areas are ample and so designed as to provide top efficiency in that all-important part of the operation. The comfort of



High ceiling and glass walls that seem to bring the outdoors into the showroom combine to give the dealership a clean, modern atmosphere.



Customers' waiting area is elevated above the workshop so owners can see work being done on their cars. Television, magazines and comfortable chairs make waiting time seem shorter. Display of accessories is kept dustfree behind glass.



Covered service reception area can handle four cars at a time with service advisors' desks in central island. A pneumatic tube system carries repair orders to the work distribution center inside. Not visible is the service advisors' outdoor hoist.

Workshop has 21 workstalls and each is equipped with a lift and overhead lubrication equipment. To the left of open door at rear is the work distribution center on the upper level so entire shop area can be seen without difficulty.

the 79 employees was also taken into consideration evidenced by a tastefully decorated lunchroom and relaxation area.

In short, customer conveniences, pleasant employee working conditions and an artistic but functional design have been combined to make Inter-Continental a new star in the Lone Star state of Texas.

