



SAN ANTONIO PRESERVATION NEWSLINK

May 2010 Edition

A Message from the Historic Preservation Officer

It's officially National Historic Preservation Month, a month when communities across the country are celebrating the diverse and unique heritage of our cities and states and showcasing the cultural, aesthetic, environmental and economic value of historic preservation. I think we can all agree that nowhere is the value of historic preservation more apparent than in San Antonio

Many realize that historic preservation is about seeing historic buildings as limited resources and we must be careful to preserve those of value to the community. However, our goal this month is to encourage our community to broaden its understanding of preservation. Taking care of our built environment does more than just save old buildings. It provides a sense of belonging, a collective memory and a sense of pride in our past. Contrary to some opinions, preservation is not about longing for the past or resisting progress. It's about building on the past toward the future.



Shanon Peterson Wasielewski,
Historic Preservation Officer

I am particularly excited that 2010's national theme is "old is the new green." As many of you have heard me say before, historic preservation is green and sustainable. Rehabilitation and re-use of historic and older buildings, and reinvestment in older and historic communities, is the ultimate in recycling.

We kicked off the month with the “State of Historic Preservation” event held at the Spanish Governor's Palace on Tuesday, May 4th. OHP was joined by Mayor Castro, several members of City Council and many supporters of preservation. The event was a great success and enjoyed by all. The Mayor spoke eloquently about taking the long view of our city and valuing its rich heritage, and Councilwoman Cisneros spoke about the obvious value of preservation specifically in District 1.

We are grateful that strong leaders like Mayor Castro are determined to make San Antonio a model among cities for green initiatives – and that he, like many others, recognize that historic preservation can – and should – be an important component of any effort to promote sustainable development and create green jobs.



The many activities planned during Preservation Month this year would not be possible without our generous sponsors. Preservation Month sponsors are King William Realty, Steel House Lofts, Deco District CDC/Jefferson-Woodlawn Lake CDC, Alamo Hardwoods Inc., Lifshutz Companies and State Representative Trey Martinez Fischer. In addition, we have a number of event sponsors including Alamo Architects, Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros, the Friendly Spot, Ford Powell and Carson, and Dignowity Center.



Historic preservation is well served in San Antonio due to the strength of our partners including the San Antonio Conservation Society, UTSA College of Architecture, Villa Finale, Downtown Operations, Downtown Alliance, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, AIA San Antonio, Los Compadres, the National Park Service, Southwest School of Art and Craft, the Institute of Classical Architecture, Run Wild Sports, and the San Antonio Museum of Art. It is also served by the very dedicated staff of the Office of Historic Preservation. Preservation Month seems like the perfect time for me to thank them publicly!

Please take a look at the many events still to come throughout the month and mark your calendars:

- OHP is partnering with Run Wild Sports to host three 5k architectural running tours on. One was held on May 8th and two more will be held on May 11th and 22nd. Inspired by the City Manager’s commitment to health and wellness, we are offering an “active” way to learn more about San Antonio...and you will even get a great running hat!
- The 14th and 15th are packed full of activities. OHP and UTSA College of Architecture are hosting another hands-on window rehab workshop. In addition, the SACS is holding their awards program and presenting the symposium “Trabajo Rustico” at the Southwest School of Arts and Craft that same weekend.
- I am excited about our first attempt to reach out to the next generation of preservationists. We are partnering with Villa Finale and the Conservation Society’s Steves Homestead to host the “Amazing

Preservation Race” which will be held in the King William Historic District for elementary age children on May 22nd. The kids will use clues to get to historic homes in King William where they’ll complete physical activities or games in order to get the next clue. The purpose is to teach kids about preservation and architecture in a way that is fun and active. If you have children in your life, we hope you will come enjoy this with them.

I would also like to challenge you to participate in the two contests that kicked off on the 4th. The first is an architectural scavenger hunt in downtown. The entries with the most correct answers will be included in a drawing for the winner. Winners will be announced at the Downtown Alliance Golf Tournament at the historic Brackenridge Golf Course on May 24th. One of the winners will get to have lunch with Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros. We’ll be offering hints throughout the month on Facebook.

The other is the local *This Place Matters* photo contest and the *Why This Place Matters* video contest. The Mayor and City Council members have already participated...thank you all!

This Place Matters is a campaign started by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. *This Place Matters* showcases the diverse places that matter to all of us. People are honoring their favorite places, making a call to appreciate the places that matter. This includes not just major historic sites but neighborhood schools and parks, streets lined with bungalows, theaters, small-scale commercial buildings, homes, gas stations and towering downtown landmarks. We are inviting the citizens of San Antonio to call attention to the places that matter to them.



Please visit our website at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/historic/Events.aspx> for information about all events listed

State of Historic Preservation: May 2009 to May 2010
--Shanon Peterson Wasielewski

Many exciting things have happened since May 2009. Most notably, with the strong guidance and support of the City Manager, we completed the Strategic Historic Preservation Plan, unanimously adopted by City Council in August, including recommendations in six major areas (Planning, Zoning, Economic Development, Historic Resources, Incentives, and Education/Advocacy) with input from a 31-member steering committee, three community workshops, and several focused stakeholders discussions.

The plan reflects input from a broad range of partners, not only traditional preservation advocates but business interests and development advocates as well. Good preservation and new development go hand in hand. One supports the other. The plan recognizes this and finds methods to foster both in ways that benefit the whole.

Since the adoption, the Office of Historic Preservation began implementation of the Strategic Historic Preservation Plan by establishing both internal and external Implementation Task Forces.

In addition, OHP launched an extensive outreach program to promote historic preservation to the community including launching this newsletter, a Facebook page and Twitter account, hosting regular preservation networking events to promote preservation activities in San Antonio, offering hands-on workshops and Realtor trainings.



Since last May, four new historic districts have been designated and ten new historic landmarks. We are also conducting an ongoing assessment and comprehensive designation initiative in River North.

At the national level, City Council joined the Coalition for Full Funding of the Historic Preservation Fund as part of the legislative agenda. The HPF is the source of the vast majority of preservation related funding in this country and has never been fully funded as authorized. If fully funded, direct grants to certified communities like San Antonio would increase many fold. Preservation is also facing a major challenge this year in that the President's budget zeros out two very successful grassroots preservation programs—Preserve America and Save America's Treasures. What Congress should understand is that these programs are economic stimulus...for much less cost per job.



A report regarding the federal historic tax credit released earlier this year shows that since its inception the program has created 1.8 million new jobs or about 58,000 annually and has leveraged over \$85 billion in private investment. The report goes on to discuss the cumulative impacts to the national economy of the tax credit. Proposed improvements before Congress now would enhance these benefits. Locally, our historic tax incentive has leveraged over \$16 million in investment in mostly small-scale projects in our historic neighborhoods.

These projects are good for the local economy. Historic preservation is generally more labor-intensive than new construction and utilizes more local materials. This creates jobs for skilled trades and puts money back into our local economy. Studies have shown that a million dollars spent on rehabilitation yields between 5 and 9 more local construction jobs and creates 4.7 more jobs elsewhere in the community. It also provides more in overall community income.

We strive to preserve our history for so many reasons. We do so for the proven economic benefit, but we also do so to protect our quality of life, our pride of place and our sense of community. We preserve so that we can pass on to future generations San Antonio's rich past. In order to do that, we, of course, need to save local landmarks, but also we need to preserve the eclectic mix of residential and commercial architecture, the fabric that provides context for our stories, that is unique to our community. At the end of the day, we want our built environment to continue to tell the story of our

history to those who come after us. This can best be done by preserving the condition and context of our historic resources and by giving them new life and new purpose by making them our homes and places of business

To this end, we are excited about two new programs that will be offered by the Office of Historic Preservation. The first, which will be available this month, is a new Revolving Fund for Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation. The program will be available to homeowners that live in local historic districts or landmarks in order to encourage ongoing viability of historic homes. The second is an Acquisition and Rehabilitation Revolving Fund where OHP will work with local partners to purchase historic homes that are in jeopardy, rehabilitate them and then resell them. Both of these programs will not only extend the life of historic resources but also inspire additional reinvestment in the surrounding areas.



In the coming year, you can also look forward to a proactive approach to identifying and protecting historic resources and the implementation of an early warning system to help identify properties in jeopardy before it's too late to save them from demolition that erodes neighborhood fabric.

As Donovan Rypkema says, "Place is not a synonym for location. Place is a location that has been claimed by feelings." Places like that add real economic and cultural value. As a community, we can lose that unique character one seemingly reasonable decision at a time.

Downtown Architectural Feature Scavenger Hunt: May 4th - 22nd

Join us in the first annual self-guided ***Architectural Feature Scavenger Hunt***. The *Hunt* includes 20 unique architectural features on buildings and structures downtown. All features are located within the boundaries of downtown and can be seen from street level. Put your observation skills to the test and identify historic architectural features in our city!



This Place Matters Photo and Video Contest: May 1st - 31st



One of the ways the Office of Historic Preservation has chosen to celebrate National Preservation Month is to encourage local participation in the *This Place Matters* campaign of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP). (<http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/this-place-matters/>). *This Place Matters* showcases the diverse places that matter to all of us. People from across the country are honoring their favorite places, making a call to protect, enhance, and enjoy the places that matter.

In addition to submitting photos to the NTHP for the national contest (via their website above), submit your photos to us at OHP@sanantonio.gov or to the Office of Historic Preservation Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=122487947762058> for the *local This Place Matters* photo contest. Councilman John Clamp; John Murphy, Dean of UTSA College of Architecture; and Audrey Zamora-Johnson, last years winner of the national contest, have all agreed to serve as celebrity judges! Additionally, our office is hosting a *Why This Place Matters video contest*. Tell us *why* a particular place matters to you. Video entries to be submitted by email at OHP@sanantonio.gov or to the SApreservationchannel on Youtube.com at <http://www.youtube.com/user/SAPreservation>.

Winners of the local photo and video contests will be announced in early June.

Guided Historic Running Tours: May 11th and 22nd

The Office of Historic Preservation is excited to announce Preservation Month 2010 guided architectural running tours. Runners of all levels are encouraged to attend. There will be three guides for each run, so no matter your pace you can enjoy a leisurely run and learn something new about our historic city!



Tuesday, May 11th @ 6:00 pm - Museum Reach Tour - Meet at 300 E Grayson (Run Wild Sports, free parking)

Saturday, May 22nd @ 8:00 am - King William/Lavaca Tour - Meet at 202 E. Nueva (City Marina, free parking)

May 14-15, 2010
Historic Firehouse #11
323 S. Frio Street

Workshop Details

Friday, May 14: This session will focus on the basics of repair and restoration using the Fire Station windows for a hands-on learning experience. Session is open to registered homeowners and contractors. Training begins at 9:00 am at the Fire Station.

Saturday, May 15: Encouraged for contractors or professionals interested in advanced training on wood window restoration. Participants will be certified by the City of San Antonio in wood window restoration at the end of the session. Training begins at 9:00 am at the Fire Station.



HISTORIC WINDOW WORKSHOP

Register today! Windows are a character-defining feature of historic buildings that can last for decades if properly maintained. This workshop, presented by the City's Office of Historic Preservation, the UTSA School of Architecture, and Alamo Hardwoods, Inc., is designed to teach the basics of wood window care and repair.

Homeowners register for a one-day course, and contractors and students register for a two-day course and certification in wood window restoration. The window workshop will be held at the historic fire station #11 built in 1925. The fire station was in service until the late 1990's when it was decommissioned and a new station was built to accommodate larger modern fire engines. The property is owned privately by the Steves family.

Participants will rehabilitate the existing windows of the building and gain valuable knowledge about wood window restoration. The workshop is a hands-on opportunity to learn how to save thousands of dollars through simple do-it-yourself techniques and proper window maintenance.

Registration Information:

Registration forms are available at www.sanantonio.gov/historic

Contact Elizabeth Porterfield at the City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation.

Phone: (210) 207-3327
Email: OHP@sanantonio.gov
Address: Office of Historic Preservation
1901 S. Alamo
San Antonio, TX 78204

Cost:

Homeowner \$195
(1 day course)

Students \$150
(2 day course and certificate)

Contractor \$395
(2 day course and certificate)

Registration fee includes window restoration materials, hands-on training, lunch, & tour of historic firehouse.

About the Instructors: Victor Salas, expert craftsman and HDRC Commissioner, will teach participants to assess a window's condition and provide basic to advanced repair. Mr. Salas is the owner of Architectural Interiors, a custom wood and metal work design company in San Antonio. William Dupont and Sue Ann Pemberton, architects and professors with the UTSA School of Architecture, will educate participants on the value of historic windows and the historical significance of the fire station.

The Future of the Past



Steven Semes will be lecturing on the ideas in his book, *The Future of the Past: A Conservation Ethic for Architecture, Urbanism, and Historic Preservation*.

When: Sunday, May 16th

Where: City Council Chambers in the Municipal Plaza Building, 114 West Commerce Street, San Antonio, Texas

Time: 2:30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Please visit <http://www.classicist-texas.org/chapter-events> for more information

Phil Hardberger Park Grand Opening
Saturday, May 15, 2010
10:00 a.m. • Park Dedication Ceremony

Dog Park • Walking Trails • Playground • Education Centers

Park Operating Hours:

Saturday, May 15 • 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 16 • 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Parking will not be allowed within the park. The public is encouraged to park and ride the shuttle from one of the following locations:

Alon Shopping Center – 11503 NW Military Hwy
Churchill High School – 12049 Blanco Rd

Organized Activities are Scheduled:

Saturday, May 15: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 16: 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Dogs on leashes are welcome.
Feel free to bring your picnic lunch.



For more information call (210) 207-8482.






THE AMAZING *Preservation* RACE



Historic Preservation Month Kids Event

Free! Open to Elementary School Age Kids.

Saturday, May 22, 2010, 9:30 AM

Registration begins at 9:00 at Villa Finale Visitors Center, 122 Madison St.
Drawing for Prizes at the Steves Homestead, 509 King William St.

Groups of kids with chaperones solve clues and complete challenges in the King William Historic District















Join us for a morning of fun activities, food, and prizes while learning about History, Architecture, and Preservation!

*Adult chaperones must accompany children through out the event

HISTORIC Farm & Ranch WORKSHOP

June 5, 2010

San Antonio, Texas



NATIONAL
TRUST
FOR
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION



Saturday, June 5, 2010
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Cliff Morton Development
and Business Service Center**
1901 South Alamo Street
(free off-street parking)

\$20 (includes box lunch)

Registration deadline:
Wednesday, May 26

Questions? Contact Stuart Johnson,
SACS Preservation Field Representative
at 210.224.6163 or sjohnson@saconservation.org.

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/>

facebook

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."

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

Historic Property for Sale on Fredericksburg Road



The building at 1909 Fredericksburg Road was completed in 1925 as the Parkmoor, a shopping center designed for owners J. Frank Gallagher (a former city treasurer and U.S.A.F. Major), and druggists J.W. Blaize and J.E. Gallagher. The structure housed the Gallagher-Blaize Drug Company, complete with a soda fountain, an ice cream manufacturing plant, and a refrigeration system in the basement. The building was designed by San Antonio architects Phelps and Dewees. The original design of the building featured a front-gabled section at either end separated by a linear multi-bay section with a flat roof and gabled parapets. Only the northern half of the building remains today. Although altered from its original size, the 1909 Fredericksburg Road building remains a good example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style popular in the 1920s and is one of the few buildings of this style surviving in the area. For information on this building please contact Roberto Hinkson at 210-287-5829

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 of potential properties that require assistance, please contact Larry Gutierrez at 207-7902 or by email at larry.gutierrez@sanantonio.gov.

