

Heritage

**HomesTour**

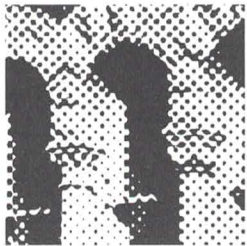
Presented by the Heritage Society of Austin  
Featuring the Robertson Hill/Guadalupe Neighborhood  
Preview Party May 10, Tour May 11

## ABOUT THE HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

Established in 1953, the Heritage Society of Austin was created to restore and preserve this city's unique architectural, historical and cultural treasures. As a preservation organization, our mission has evolved and expanded over the years to include educational programming, community activities and events, preservation awards and advocacy for Austin's past, present and future.

HSA has made grants and loans of over \$2.8 million for building restoration efforts, educational programming and other enhancement projects in Austin. Our mission is to promote the recognition and experience of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. The following landmarks represent a small portion of the buildings that have benefited from HSA funds: The Austin History Center, the State Capitol (Governor's Reception Room), The Driskill Hotel, The Governor's Mansion, Laguna Gloria Art Museum, and the Paramount Theatre. HSA also advocates on preservation issues and monitors the legislation and activities of City, State, and Federal governments in matters pertaining to historic preservation.

The Heritage Homes Tour is an annual program presented by the Heritage Society of Austin to promote historic Austin and encourage pride in its architectural heritage. The Homes Tour is HSA's biggest educational event for the community during the year, and it strives to increase public awareness of historic preservation and to raise funds for the continuation of the programs and projects of the Heritage Society of Austin.



HERITAGE  
SOCIETY OF  
AUSTIN

## ABOUT THE ROBERTSON HILL/GUADALUPE NEIGHBORHOOD

### East Austin's Urban Evolution

When construction of Interstate 35 began through downtown Austin in the 1950s, an ethnic barrier between east and west, first posed by public policy in the 1920s, was reinforced with concrete and asphalt.

Today, Austin's unprecedented prosperity is bridging this gap, and East Austin is becoming an integral part of the city's vision for growth and revitalization. Rich in cultural and architectural history—and a stone's throw from a gleaming central business district—East Austin is also a key transportation corridor to the new Austin airport and a central part of the city uniquely suited for small business, which has long been an East Austin mainstay.

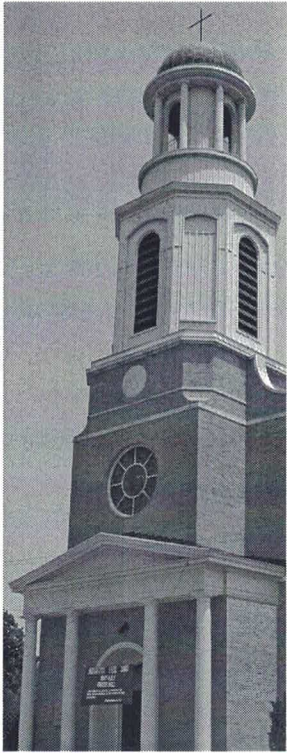
But with this growing attention on East Austin come new challenge: gentrification, traffic congestion and planning for preservation as well as prosperity. For generations, East Austin residents have lived, worked, raised families and dealt with the struggles of urban life with strength, dignity and an enduring sense of place. This legacy is a proud one, and the Heritage Society of Austin seeks to encourage creative thought about the community's future as well as a lasting appreciation of its storied past.

### Neighborhood History

Focusing on the Robertson Hill/Guadalupe neighborhood—bounded by I-35 to the west, 12th Street to the north, Comal Street to the east and 7th Street to the south—this year's Heritage Homes Tour pays tribute to one of the most historic neighborhoods in the city. Settlement of the area began in 1841, when Alphonse Dubois deSaligny, French chargé d'affaires to the Republic of Texas, bought 21 acres on a hill overlooking Waller Creek to build the French Legation.



## MORE ABOUT THE ROBERTSON HILL/GUADALUPE NEIGHBORHOOD



When Texas became a state, the land and the legation were purchased by Dr. J.W. Robertson, who moved his family and slaves to the former deSaligny "plantation" in 1848. In the years following Emancipation, Robertson and his descendants sold portions of the property to newly freed African Americans, many of whom were arriving in Austin to seek the security of federal troops still garrisoned in the city. The area became known as Robertson Hill in 1869, when it was established as one of the first freedmen towns in Austin. The tour area actually includes parts of three historic freedmen towns formed in the years following the Civil War: Pleasant Hill, Robertson Hill and Gregorytown.

Pleasant Hill, the oldest of the three, was located between East Avenue (now Interstate 35) and San Marcos, East 11th and East 7th streets. Established by freed slaves on a ridge west of the French Legation, Pleasant Hill initially consisted of tents as well as wooden structures. An 1887 bird's-eye map of Austin depicts the settlement, small but well established, as a row of little houses.

Robertson Hill, bounded by East 11th, Rosewood (formerly Chincapin), Leona and East 7th streets, was the second freedmen town in the area north of East 7th. The first person to buy property in the newly platted Robertson Hill subdivision was a freedman named Malick Wilson, who purchased a lot on East 11th between Curve and Waller streets in 1869. In 1884, a four-room elementary school for African American children, called the Robertson Hill School, was built at San Marcos and East 11th. A high school "department" was organized in the same building in 1889, the first formal high school for African Americans in Austin (it would be renamed Anderson High School in 1907). In 1890, Samuel Huston College, also for African Americans, was established in Robertson Hill on East Avenue between East 11th and East 12th streets. For the rest of the century, Robertson Hill grew slowly and was sparsely settled as a racially mixed neighborhood of freedmen, Anglo Americans

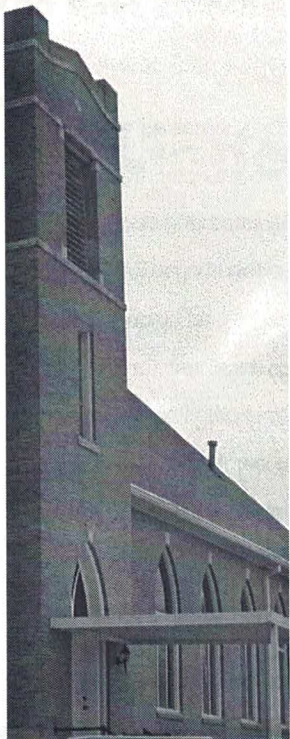
## MORE ABOUT THE ROBERTSON HILL/GUADALUPE NEIGHBORHOOD

and Swedish and German immigrants. To the south, between the French Legation and the state cemetery, immigrants from other European countries also settled, including France and Italy.

Gregorytown, the last of East Austin's freedmen neighborhoods, was formed in the 1890s southeast of Robertson Hill and on the east side of the state cemetery. It is likely that the community got its name from Rev. Daniel (or Bishop) Gregory, an early African American resident. Approximate boundaries were Rosewood, Rector, Comal, East 7th and Chicon streets. By 1894, Gregorytown School for African American children had been established and a building constructed at 1712 East 11th Street (now known as Blackshear Elementary). Austin's first college for African Americans, Tillotson College and Normal Institute, was established in Gregorytown in 1877. Now known as Huston-Tillotson (after merging with Samuel Huston College in 1952), the college is still located where it was in 1881, at 900 Chicon Street.

The arrival of the railroad in 1871 brought even more people to East Austin, including immigrant families of German, Swedish, Irish and Italian descent. Hispanics began arriving in the early 1900s during the Mexican Revolution, testimony to the area's reputation as a place for new beginnings. Eventually, as more Hispanics settled in the area, established churches—Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church—and other cultural institutions, Robertson Hill became known as the Robertson Hill/Guadalupe neighborhood.

Historically one of Austin's most integrated communities, the Robertson Hill/Guadalupe neighborhood is enjoying a renewed vitality that could be seen as a model for neighborhood revitalization in the central city. With its 10th annual Heritage Homes Tour, the Heritage Society reminds Austin that this vitality is based, above all, on the texture, scale and legacies uncovered in the historic homes of East Austin.

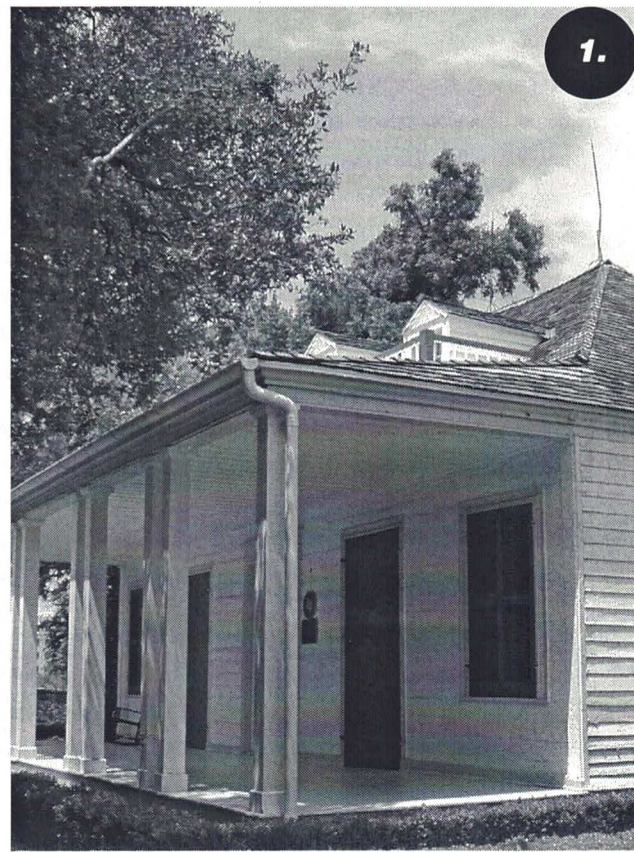


## 802 San Marcos

**Date Built:** 1840 **Original Owner:** Alphonse Dubois de Saligny  
**Current Owner:** State of Texas

# The French Legation

Constructed in 1840 for chargé d'affaires Alphonse Dubois de Saligny, the French Legation may well be the oldest building in Austin. It is significant as a rare and important link with the Republic of Texas. Architectural historian Kenneth Hafertepe notes its style as a blend of "Greek Revival...and Mississippi Valley French architecture." Its use as the French Legation was brief, but controversial, with the so-called Pig War of 1841 involving a dispute between Dubois de Saligny and a neighbor. The Legation was also the home of the Dr. Joseph W. Robertson family from 1848 to 1948. Owned by the State of Texas and administered by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, this city, state and national landmark has been a historic house museum since 1956. Its active programs are popular with Austinites and visitors alike.



## 1100 East Eighth

**Date Built:** 1887 **Original Owner:** Bernard Lindemann  
**Current Owners:** Tom & Jody Hatch

# The Lindemann House

This vernacular Texas house was built for Bernard Lindemann, who was a naturalized German citizen and a master mechanic in the Southern Pacific Railway shops. The 1880s were years of heavy European immigration to Texas, and central Texas became home to many settlers from Germany. The house remained in the Lindemann family for over 70 years until it was sold in the early 1950s to Mr. and Mrs. Joe A. Gonzales. Mr. Gonzales was a salesman with the Singer Sewing Machine Company. In 1971, a local architectural firm acquired the residence, and the current owner purchased it in 1986.

This two-story residence with masonry walls features cypress wood framing and trim throughout the house. Additional features include cast-iron fireplaces and a tin shingle roof. The house is an example of the successful blending of typical early Texas style and European architectural details. The wide eaves (overhangs) and fascia detailing are features of German vernacular architecture.



The original east porch was converted to a bathroom/kitchen area in 1958. In the late 1960s, the base of the wooden south porch was converted to concrete construction. When the architecture firm purchased the house in 1971, a major redo was in order. The concrete south porch was rebuilt in wood, the roof was repaired, the walls were replastered, mechanical systems were installed or updated, and the northeast corner was enclosed for use as office space. In 1997, the current owner moved his office out of his home; with the addition of a kitchen, the house became a single family dwelling once more.

The Lindemann House retains its 11-1/2 foot ceilings, its original tin shingle roof, and its original doors, windows, wooden trim and floors. A cistern still exists under the floor in the family room.

## 1208 Inks

**Date Built:** 1872 **Original Owner:** Robert Cummins Stuart  
**Current Owner:** Gregory K. Shattuck & Mary Kleypas

# The Stuart House “the bungalow”

Robert Cummins Stuart, a Scottish immigrant who made his money as a cotton buyer, purchased 11 acres of land in East Austin with his business partner, A.S. Mairs. They subdivided the property, and Stuart retained one of the most select pieces for the site of his new home. It is believed that Stuart and his wife, Mary Frances (Fannie), supervised the construction of the house, and, in 1872, they moved their family into the prestigious neighborhood. Stuart was so enamored with the site and its amenities, such as breezes from the prevailing winds off the nearby Colorado River and a mule car running from Lydia Street to downtown, that he convinced his sister, Rebecca Jane Kilgore Red, and her ailing husband to move their family from Gay Hill to the adjacent block where he built the Stuart Female Seminary in 1875. Following the deaths of Robert and Mary Frances Stuart, one of their daughters, Elizabeth, bought out the interest of her siblings and lived in the house for three years before transferring title in 1903 to the Austin Presbyterian



# 1113 East Ninth

**Date Built:** 1898 **Original Owner:** Phillip W. Jobe

**Current Owner:** Guadalupe Neighborhood Non-Profit Organization  
(a GNDC affordable housing unit)

# The Jobe House

The house is a vernacular, turn-of-the-century structure with a prominent pyramidal roof, a wrap-around porch, and Queen-Anne style features.

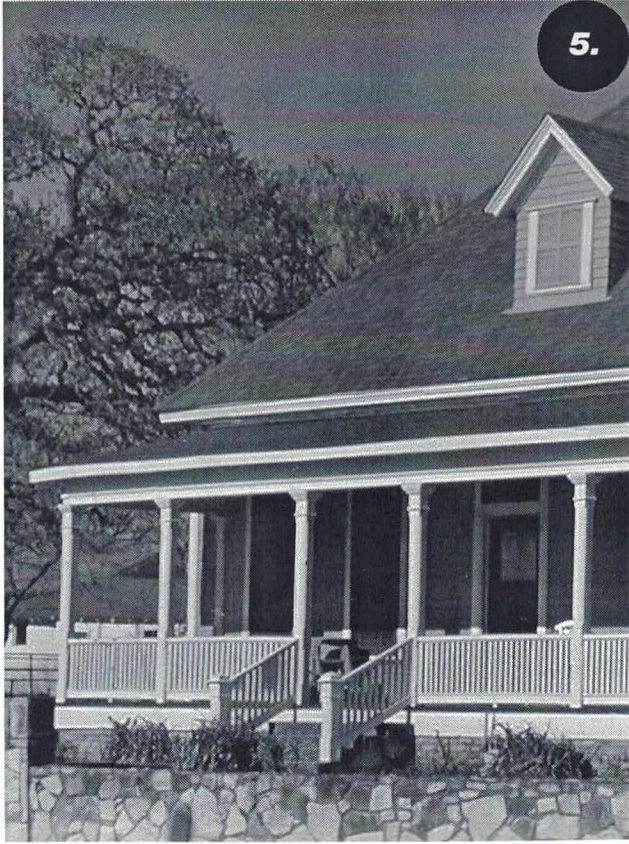
Although nothing is known of the original builder of the house, Phillip W. Jobe, a retired farmer, appears in the 1898 city directory as a resident at the southwest corner of East 9th Street (formerly Ash Street) and Lydia Street (formerly Attoyac Street). The Stuart Seminary is also listed in the directory at 1012 East 9th Street. When the address of the Jobe property was later established as 1013 East 9th Street, its location opposite the seminary was confirmed.

Austin was experiencing tremendous growth by the time Jobe appeared on the property records in 1898. Between 1877 and 1900, the population of Austin had grown from 9,741 to over 30,000. Because of the University of

Texas, St. Edward's College, and Tillotson College, Austin was recognized as a center for education.

Many of the neighbors of the Jobe family remained in the neighborhood into the 1920s. These neighbors include the Heirmanns, Louis Grisson, William S. Roberts, and William Schoenert, all residing on Attoyac (Lydia) Street.

However, in 1909, the Jobe property passed to Charles B. White, the State Purchasing Agent with an office in the State Capitol Building. A few years later, records indicate George H. Bradshaw as the occupant of 1011 East 9th Street, and there is no mention of the original Jobe property at 1013 East 9th Street. Bradshaw and his wife, Vangie or Evangie, are shown as the owners



of 1011 East 9th Street by 1924. A few years later, the couple are also listed as the owners of 1013 East 9th Street. It is not known when or why the address later changed to 1113.

The Jobe House was the recipient of a Heritage Society Award for Restoration in 1991.

## 1101 East Ninth

**Date Built:** 1920s **Original Owner:** Unknown  
**Current Owners:** Linda Johnston & Bill Hardison

# The Johnston-Hardison House

Not much is known about the history of this interesting house, except that it was moved to this lot sometime in the 1930s or 1940s. Its original site is not known, but the stylistic details suggest a construction date of around 1910. The current owner purchased it about 1994.

This is a one-story bungalow with a full basement to take advantage of the sloping lot in the back.

The owner has found that the original exterior wood siding was covered with stone-pattern stucco about the time the dwelling was moved to the site. When the current owner acquired the property, it had been a duplex and a rental dwelling for many years. A new roof was added, as well as a kitchen and bath during the conversion back to a single-family home. New flooring was installed using longleaf-pine boards salvaged from an old barn, and all existing trim was stripped and refinished. The house retains its 11-foot ceilings. The owner is currently in the process of fabricating a wrought-iron fence for the property, as well as other projects, as part of this ongoing renovation.



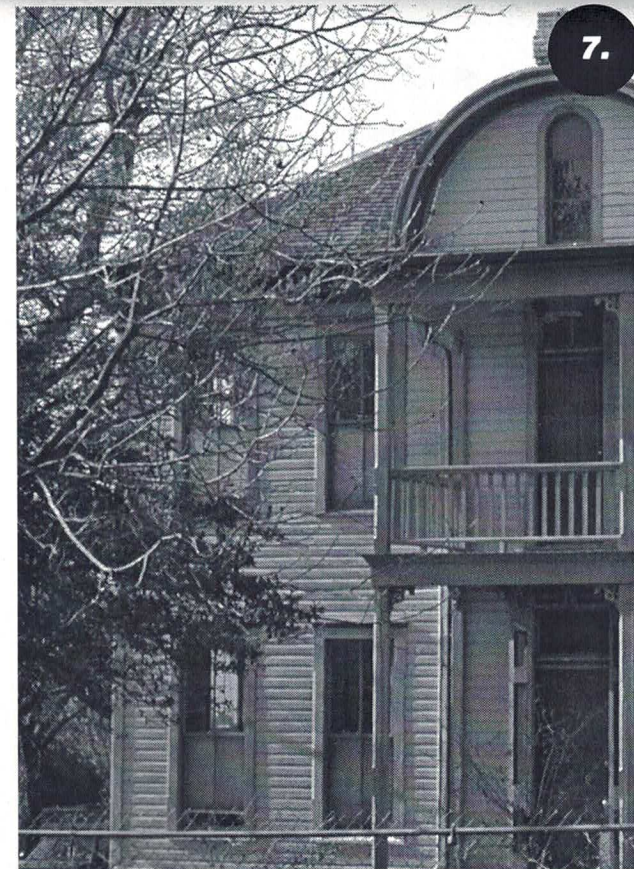
## 1013 East Ninth

**Date Built:** 1884 **Original Owner:** Almanzon Newton  
**Current Owner:** David West

# The Newton House

This two-story, wood-framed house was built by Almanzon H. Newton, who was a grocery clerk, grocery store owner, and later a merchandise broker in Austin. Newton and his wife purchased the property from Mrs. Lydia Robertson (for whom Lydia Street is named), widow of Dr. J.W. Robertson for whom the neighborhood is named. It was one of the first homes to be built in the Robertson Hill/Guadalupe subdivision, and it remained in the Newton family until 1910. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Architecture:** The house is an interesting architectural hybrid. The four-room/central hall plan is Greek Revival in form, but the architectural details (brackets, columns, etc.) are High Victorian Italianate. Immediately evident are the barrel-vaulted dormers on the attic level and the widow's walk on the roof. A walk-out basement sets the first floor above grade, lending the house scale and presence. Inside, all doorways have transoms for enhanced circula-



tion (early air conditioning), and the wood molding is unique to each floor of the house. The house originally sat in the middle of two lots, but part of the eastern lot was sold off during the '20s. Just behind the back porch and below ground lies a cistern that in combination with built-in gutters, was used to supply fresh water to the house.

Changes: A basement kitchen was added in 1890, and, when the house changed hands in 1910, the stairway from the basement to the first floor was removed, a bathroom was added on the second floor, the first-floor back porch was enclosed, and the first-floor hall was partitioned to accommodate a bathroom. In 1940, the second-floor back porch was enclosed and the house was divided into four apartments. When the present owners purchased the property in 1983, they restored the south porches and

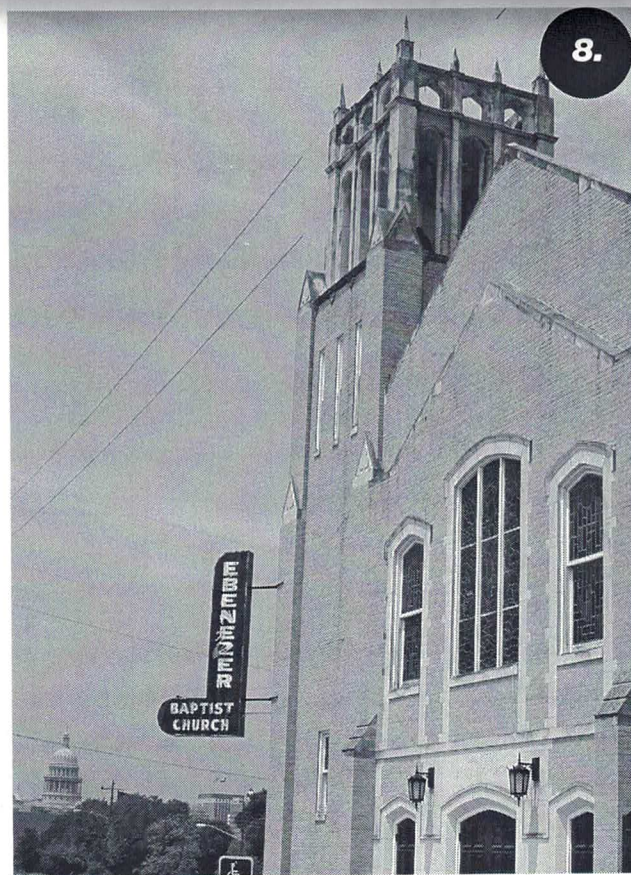
reconstructed the north (front) porch, which had been demolished. The new front porch was built using details of the rear porch and is believed to echo the exact dimensions of the original. The ornamental brackets on the porches were remade to resemble the larger brackets under the eaves. A new kitchen, three bathrooms and *modern* air conditioning were added as well.

## 1010 East Tenth

Date Built: 1955 Original and Current Owner: Ebenezer Baptist Church

# Ebenezer Baptist Church

Constructed in 1955, the Ebenezer Baptist Church sanctuary was designed by noted architect Roy Leonidis Thomas, who also is responsible for the designs of the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, the Herbert Bohn House and the Tarrytown Methodist Church. The congregation began in 1875 as the Third Baptist Church. The Gothic Revival-inspired building is the centerpiece of one of East Austin's most thriving congregations, involved in many philanthropic, social and spiritual programs. The church has constructed several other buildings on the block in recent decades.





**1101 East Tenth**  
**Date Built:** 1943 **Original and Current Owner:** Metropolitan AME Church

# Metropolitan AME Church

Congregation memories record their church's move to this site in 1923 after Austin began a systematic segregation of its African American and Hispanic citizens from the central city to East Austin. While this handsome brick Gothic Revival sanctuary displays the 1882 cornerstone (NE corner) of its predecessor from 9th and San Antonio streets, the present edifice could have been finished sometime after 1923 (note the 1943 date in the front sidewalk). Church facilities have traditionally occupied the handsome two-story house to the east, certainly a survivor from at least the early 1920s. The state historical marker at the north entry reveals additional information about the African Methodist Episcopal congregation's long history.



**1110 East Tenth**  
**Date Built:** 1893 **Original Owner:** Mr. & Mrs. William Dill  
**Current Owners:** David Ramert & Charles O'Docharty

# The Dill-White House

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Dill. Mr. Dill arrived in Austin with his parents in 1875 and later married Annie Sallie Wray, whose father had been a passenger on the first train ever to reach Austin. Dill quit school at 15 and joined his father and grandfather in the buggy business, making buggy tops, dashes, trimmings and leather parts. Two years later, he opened his own shop, and he continued in the business the rest of his life. As automobiles began to supplant horse-drawn carriages, he gradually turned his company into a manufacturer of canvas tops. At his death, the Dill Auto Top Company was taken over by his son, Joe C. Dill. William Dill was a volunteer fireman in East Austin for many years and was volunteer chief of the Austin Fire Department from 1899 to 1900. He was active in civic affairs, including sponsoring a movement to pave East 6th Street during the term of Mayor Wooldridge. The Dills bought the property in 1889 and built this single-story, cypress wood-frame



cottage in 1893. It remained in the Dill family until about 1918. After a succession of owners, the house was purchased in 1963 by local seamstress Cora A. White, who sold it to the present owners in 1983.

This is a vernacular Eastlake-style cottage, featuring a typical floor plan, with a protruding front bay and porch. The columns and brackets are fine examples of Victorian architecture in Austin. Some details are similar to those on the nearby home of well-known local contractor and builder, George Fiegel. The Dill-White House boasts 12-foot ceilings, as well as its original wood doors with transoms and original hardware.

The original structure had three rooms. Between 1910 and 1920, the dining room, kitchen and bathroom were added. The present owners added a kitchen/utility/breakfast room and updated the mechanical systems before

tackling the exterior. A large metal awning covering the home's gingerbread trim was removed. In addition, the concrete front porch was removed, and the missing wooden porch was reconstructed. The Eastlake-style balustrade was made by the owner's father, using a piece of the original porch railing found under the house. Layers of paint were scraped away to find the original colors used. The roof is composed of composition shingles, with a metal roof covering the bay window.

This house was awarded a 1993 Preservation Award from the Heritage Society of Austin.

## **909 Navasota**

**Date Built:** 1854 **Original and Current Owner:** State of Texas

# **The Texas State Cemetery**

Before modern lawn irrigation accompanied progressive water systems, vegetation was hearty but sparse throughout Austin, and these two hilltops commanded striking southerly views of the Colorado River. Such a beautiful setting led the state in 1854 to purchase Edward Burleson's grave and 18 surrounding acres of land for an official cemetery. Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston's reinterment after the Civil War (in the Gothic shelter covering his 1906 statue by Elisabet Ney) set a lasting tone, highlighted by other reburials, including Stephen Austin and his 1910 statue by Pompeo Coppini, and the regimented placement of headstones for residents of the Confederate homes for men and women. Extensive landscaping in the 1930s and a recent \$4.7 million rehabilitation under the direction of the late Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock created the present Elysian Field.



## 1604 East Eleventh

Date Built: 1876 Original Owner: Samuel Whiting

Current Owners: D'Ann Johnson & Alan Pogue

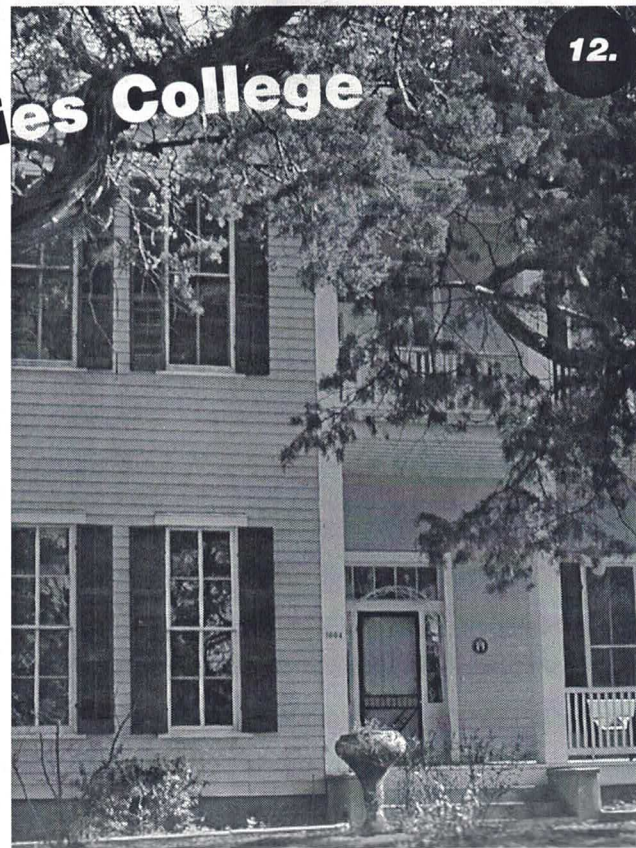
# The German-American Ladies College

12.

Although ownership of the land has a history dating to 1825, this traditional Victorian building was originally owned by Julius and Alma Moreau, who arrived in New Braunfels from Wiesbaden aboard the vessel *Weseer* in 1858. During Moreau's ownership, the building was used as the German-American Ladies College, run by Miss Alice Nohl and Miss Natalie Von Schenck. Students of the school learned German, French, music, and natural history. Moreau sold the property to Alfred R. Ritz on December 6, 1884.

Alfred R. Ritz, born in Aachen, Germany, immigrated with his wife, Anna Von Schenck Ritz, and their four children in 1882. Anna was the sister of Natalie Von Schenck and had come to teach. However, by the time she arrived, the college had already closed, and Natalie had moved away.

Maria, daughter of Alfred and Anna, married Victor Schmidt and had a family of six children. Maria taught at the nearby Stuart Female Seminary until her retirement in 1893. In 1900, following her husband's death, Maria Schmidt married Gustav Adolph Sievers, the concertmaster of the Austin Symphony



Orchestra. Three of the Schmidt children, Anna, Erica and Otto, continued to live at 1604 East 11th Street with their mother and stepfather.

Anna, Maria's daughter, was the final Schmidt resident of the house. She resided at 1604 East 11th Street until her death in 1978. The building had been home to the same family since 1884. The property was left to the grandchildren of Red Sievers, Robert and Richard, who later sold the estate.

From 1985 to 2000, the house was owned by Jeanine Jennings, who used it to host parties, live music, and even an international poetry festival. She often rented the rooms to musicians and other tenants. For nearly five years, one of the tenants was Wally Stopher, the embodiment of the Texas legend Oat Willie. Oat Willie was a cartoon character and an Austin icon during the 1960s who made regular appearances in underground newspapers and on posters and bumper stickers.

D'Ann Johnson and Alan Pogue purchased the house in December 2000 and continued the restoration and improvements. It is used as their home and as a gallery for Alan's internationally known black-and-white photography.

As with most homes, the German-American Ladies' College is difficult to classify

under one specific style. It was constructed during the Victorian period, but it is really an eclectic collection of details. Clad in wood siding, this two-story home features large porches on both the front and rear elevations. The porches are supported by large wooden columns and are finished with simple, white railings. A rectangular transom and sidelights emphasize the entry of the asymmetrical façade. In addition to these exterior details, the interior of the house features nonsegmented longleaf pine floors and a decorative pressed metal ceiling in the kitchen. Another point of interest is the 22-foot-deep cistern that remains beneath the living area.

Changes: In order to accommodate modern utilities and functions, the building has experienced a few alterations. A kitchen addition was completed in 1903, but the majority of the changes occurred in 1985. Two upstairs rooms were added to the rear of the house, and accommodations for modern bathroom facilities were made on both floors. In addition, the rear porches on the second story were constructed.

## 1209 Rosewood Ave

**Date Built:** 1890 **Original Owner:** Harry L Haynes

**Current Owner:** Planned Parenthood of Austin

# Haynes-Delashwah House

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Haynes-Delashwah House has great visual prominence on its pie-shaped lot. The fine Eastlake-style residence was constructed around 1890 for Kentucky-born Harry L. Haynes, who was an Austin city commissioner from 1894 to 1898. It was sold in 1921 to Thomas L. Delashwah, a druggist, an entrepreneur, a sportsman and a civic leader in the Black community. Delashwah, a graduate of Meharry Medical School in Nashville, sold the property in 1924, but he reacquired it in 1937. He retained ownership until 1963. The house formerly served as offices for Planned Parenthood of Austin and is now being transformed into the law offices of Michael N. Casias, PLLC.



13.

## 1101 East Eleventh

**Date Built:** 1880s **Original Owner:** Salvatore Bailetti

**Current Owner:** City of Austin

# Haehnel Store Building

Better known until recently as Shorty's Bar, this handsome corner store originated with Salvatore Bailetti, one of many Italian-descent merchants in East Austin. He established a store where he sold "groceries, beer and firearms" on the first floor, and he maintained his residence in the rear second story of a frame building here in the 1880s. Carl Haehnel acquired the business in the late 1890s, apparently rebuilding the composition in brick by 1910 and operating the neighborhood store through the 1940s. With federal and city assistance in 2001 architect Donna Carter and the Austin Revitalization Authority gave new birth to the building as again a symbol of economic and historical revival along once-bustling formerly raucous East 11th Street.



14.

## 1010 East Eleventh

**Date Built:** 1890 **Original Owner:** Richard Arnold

**Current Owners:** David West and Scott Stricker

# The Arnold Bakery

Proof that the simplest commercial building can display dignity in materials, proportions and subtle Italianate details, this popular Anglo-owned bakery served the 11th Street commercial district from at least 1891 through World War II. After 1947 the Owens family acquired the brick-and-wood buildings where they rented space to a barber, operated a pool hall, and installed the Black and White Café, better known since the early 1950s as the Southern Dinette. (the Southern Dinette burned around 1990), Recent rehabilitation under the direction of architect Emily Little placed the abandoned building back into service with reconstructed windows and a new east wing with code-compliant entry, bathroom and kitchen. Owners David West and Scott Stricker recently received a Historic Rehabilitation Award from Preservation Texas, the statewide nonprofit preservation group, for saving this local landmark.



## 1115 East Twelfth

**Date Built:** 1901-03 **Original Owner:** Michael Connelly

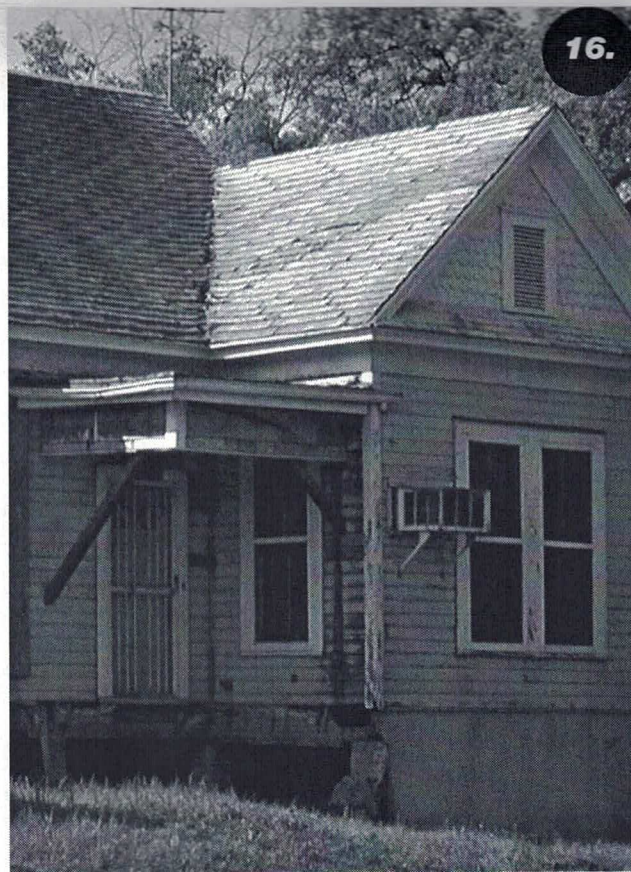
**Current Owner:** City of Austin

# The Connelly-Yerwood House

**Occupants and Neighborhood:** Michael J. and Kate Connelly and their four children were the house's first occupants. The Connelly family, like most of their neighbors on E. 12th Street, were a working-class Anglo family. In addition to his occupation as a stonemason and bricklayer, Mr. Connelly owned the Silver King Saloon at 307 East 6th Street. Mr. Connelly used his masonry skills to erect the house's prominent stone walls which are comprised of a combination of limestone and granite.

By 1925, the African American community of Robertson Hill, located roughly between E. 10th and E. 12th streets just east of East Avenue (now IH-35), was expanding farther north and east. Many of the original Anglo residential owners on E. 12th Street moved west or north, selling their homes to African American families. In this year, the Connelys sold their home to an African American physician, Dr. Charles R. Yerwood, who moved his family from Gonzales to Austin in order to provide his two teenage daughters, Connie and Joyce, improved cultural and educational opportunities.

While Dr. Charles R. Yerwood and his wife, Nan divorced shortly after moving



to Austin, Dr. Charles Yerwood continued to live in the house until his death in 1940. Dr. Yerwood opened a medical practice at 421 E. 6th Street where he was one of Austin's earliest African American physicians. He kept his rural medical practice in Gonzales, traveling there on the weekends, accompanied by Connie and Joyce.

Influenced by their father's passion for medicine, both Connie and Joyce followed in his footsteps and became physicians. After graduating from Samuel Huston College, both sisters attended Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where they graduated *magna cum laude* in 1933.

Dr. Connie Yerwood pursued additional education in public health, returning to Austin—and her childhood home—in 1936 when she became the first black physician hired by the Texas Public Health Service (now Texas Department of Health). She eventually became the agency's Director of Health Services. Dr. Connie Yerwood died in 1991. Other family members continued to own and occupy the house through the 1990s.

**Style:** The house consists of a simple L-plan vernacular cottage with late Victorian details such as fishscale shingles on the four exposed gable ends and a steeply pitched hipped and gabled roof. Originally designed around a

central hall, the hallway was partially enclosed by the 1930s. The back portion of the "L" was extended by the mid-1930s to accommodate a kitchen; a rear sleeping porch was also enclosed. Dr. Connie Yerwood made further changes to the house, adding a southeast bedroom in 1955, conducting interior remodel work, replacing the original linear front porch with a smaller porch, and covering the exterior of the house in pink asbestos siding.

Now owned by the City of Austin, the house is planned for conversion into a community center sometime in 2002 or 2003. The City removed the pink asbestos siding in 2001, revealing the original wood siding underneath. The rehabilitation project will remodel the historic interiors and restore the exterior of the house to its 1925 appearance (rear additions will remain). The exterior work will involve restoring the wood siding and rebuilding the original linear front porch, complete with turned porch columns and wood railings. Plans for the rehabilitation project are available for viewing in the house.

## Our Preview Party Houses

**This home is ONLY open during the Friday Night Preview Party.**

**1001 East 8th St. "Rogers-Lyons House"**

**Owner: Emily Little**

**Built 1893**

Martin E. Rogers, roadmaster and later superintendent of buildings and bridges for the Houston & Travis County Railroad, acquired the property in 1891 and built this one-story brick house in 1893. It remained in his family for over 50 years. In 1943, Louis D. and Mattie Ruth Lyons purchased the home. Mr. Lyons was known as the "Black Mayor of East 6th Street." He is believed to have started the Friends in Need Fund, a source of money used for burials. He was a trustee of Sam Huston College and a prominent member of Wesley Chapel. Mr. Lyons died in 1944, and his widow remained in the house. She later married Mr. Jerry Bell, who worked for Gov. Allen Shivers for over 30



years as chauffeur and houseman, including the years the Shivers family lived in the Governor's Mansion. The present owner, a restoration architect, purchased the property in 1985 and began the restoration process. The house is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This painted raised-brick house is a fine Eastlake-style cottage. It features a fishscale pressed-tin roof with decorative curled finials atop each gable. Gable ends are adorned with circular or diamond-shaped vents. Cast-iron vent covers at the crawl space feature decorative five-pointed star configurations. This residence retains its coal-burning fireplaces with original mantels. The trim throughout the house is also original.

The 1960s-era brick addition enclosing the front porch was removed and the porch restored, including all decorative trim to match the original construction. The sole reference was a small photograph found at the Austin History

Center! Also, a wood addition in the rear was revised to blend more gracefully with the home's original scale and form. The screened porch in the rear was detailed to reflect the proportions of the front porch.

## Our Preview Party Houses

**This home is ONLY open during the Friday Night Preview Party.**

**1000 East 8th St. "Johnson-Hernandez House"**

**Owner: Paige & Larry Warshaw**

**Built: approx. 1887**

The earliest recorded owner of this property is Michael Butler, founder of Butler Brick Co. In 1887, it was sold to Malcom M. Hornsby, a Travis County sheriff and the son of Reuben Hornsby, one of the first Anglo settlers in Travis County. It is not known whether the Butlers or the Hornsbys ever lived on this property. However, because Butler lived in a great mansion in the downtown area, it is possible that this was a spec house. The house was occupied from 1893 to 1899 by Jefferson Johnson, who later became Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics and History. He was subsequently Postmaster of Austin, as well as a school board member, the chairman of the Travis County Democratic Executive Committee and a member of the Board of Regents of Texas A&M University.



The house was a rental for several years and was eventually sold to Jose Hernandez, a watch repairman, in 1944. In 1965, the vacant house was sold to Arthur and Zinaida Sepeda and remained in the family until 1992. The structure was again vacant for several years and was the scene of a disastrous fire in 1995, in which portions of the house were severely damaged. The current owner purchased it in late 1999 and began extensive repair and restoration work. In early 2002, the family finally was able to occupy the house.

This is a one-story frame residence with brick piers, simple in detailing and proportion. It demonstrates modest Italianate stylistic influences.

After the 1995 fire, the owners informed the City that they would ask for a demolition permit rather than repair the structure. Several neighbors objected to the demolition, insisting that removal of the damaged (southeast) porch and restoration of the house were cost effective. The interior plaster finish had protected the wood-stud walls and much of the roof framing during the fire; the floors remained mostly intact as well.

The current owner was faced with a major clean-up job before any restoration could begin; the dwelling had been vacant and derelict before and after the fire. The foundation, the roof, and the mechanical systems had to be replaced. When possible, the original wood in the house was reused. A two-sided fireplace has been built using bricks from the recently demolished Tips warehouse. The structure retains its original framing, some original columns, its siding, and its front porch. The column supporting the staircase was fabricated using parts of the original mantel. The design work for the restoration, the carpentry and the wood detailing, was completed by Architects Letty and Ed McGarahan.

## Other notable properties

**These properties are NOT open for touring, but all have Historic Designation, all will be marked with an informational yard sign, and are all within walking distance from the tour.**

### **Alfreida Johnson House (ca. 1877), 1022 E. 7th St.**

With its Eastlake-style detailing, the one-story Johnson House is a handsome Victorian cottage. The repeating circle motif in the verandah detailing is of special note. Alfreida Johnson, for whom the house is called, was the widow of Emil Johnson.

### **Briones House, Casa de Suenos (1947-1953), 1204 E. 7th St.**

The landmark "House of Dreams," Casa de Suenos, is the late Genaro Briones's personal statement about art and living, incorporating his specialized techniques of coloring and molding concrete into elastic forms and ornament. A contractor who built commercial space throughout East Austin, Briones worked with his family on the house during his spare time, occasionally hosting his friend and mentor Dionicio Rodriguez of San Antonio, who introduced these concrete tinting and molding crafts from Mexico to the United States in the 1920s. From the 7th Street sidewalk, observers can admire the house's many fantastic details, including matching organic lawn furniture of concrete.

### **Sparks-Ledesma House (ca. 1896), 1306 E. 7th St.**

This Eastlake-inspired house retains its front bay window and a shingle belt separating the first and second floors. It was built around 1896 by Millie J. Sparks, widow of marble dealer John P. Sparks. From 1906 to 1917, it was owned as a rental property by Lavinia Burditt Hamilton Hessey, member of a pioneer Austin family who then lived in the Wright-Giles House at 4301 East Avenue. Allen C. and Tomasa Ledesma owned the property from 1948 to 1973.





# Other notable properties

## **Parsley House (1907), 1009 East 8th St.**

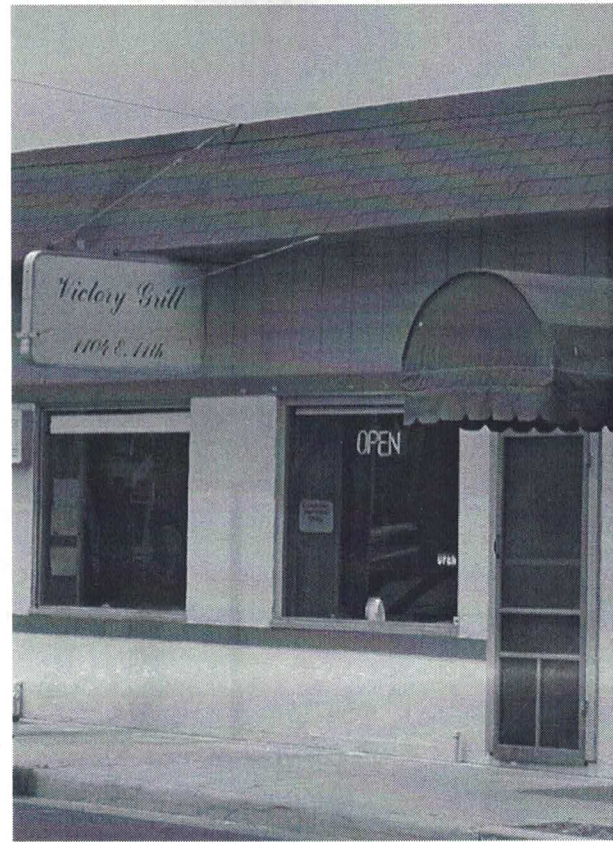
A one-story, Eastlake-inspired vernacular cottage, the turn-of-the-century Parsley House takes its name from William L. Parsley. Parsley is listed in the 1912 Austin city directory as "Hatter, dyer, cleaner," with offices at 310 and 701 Congress Avenue. His wife, Bertha L. Thielepape, was the granddaughter of an early settler who came to Texas from Germany as part of Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels' colony. The exterior paint is modern, but the colors are of the period.

## **Stohl-Saldana House (1914), 1005 E. 9th St.**

When the Swedish family of cobbler Carl (Charles) and Helen Stohl commissioned carpenter William Peterson to build this house in 1914 for \$1,680, the Robertson Hill neighborhood boasted a wide ethnic range of middle- and working-class Austinites. The house's design is a practical combination of the long-popular central-hall plan, the scale and comfort of contemporaneous bungalows and the formal symmetry of a "neo-classical cottage." The Lorenzo Saldana family bought the home for \$5,000 in 1945, typical of the neighborhood's evolution toward Hispanic middle-class residents. Present owner Jerry Garcia has met descendants of the home's first two owners and assembled its details as a microcosm of the Robertson Hill/Guadalupe Neighborhood's history.

## **Depew-Frazier House (1886), 1104 E. 10th St.**

In 1886, this property changed hands twice, first from Lydia Robertson to Mary Pillow, and thence to carpenter John Depew, who likely built the house. It was owned from 1895 to 1912 by barber John Cherico. At that time it was acquired by Mrs. Eliza Hawkins, in whose home present-day Ebenezer Baptist Church was founded. From 1922 to 1984 it was held by Mrs. Treater Frazier and, late, her daughter Lucille, remembered as a formidable Anderson High School teacher. The house is an interesting architectural hybrid. It has the symmetry of a



# Other notable properties

Greek Revival house, but its verandah and front door are in the Eastlake style. The 1900 Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps depict it as an L-plan dwelling with front and rear porches and a two-story barn.

## **The Bailetti-Walker House (1886), 1004 Waller St.**

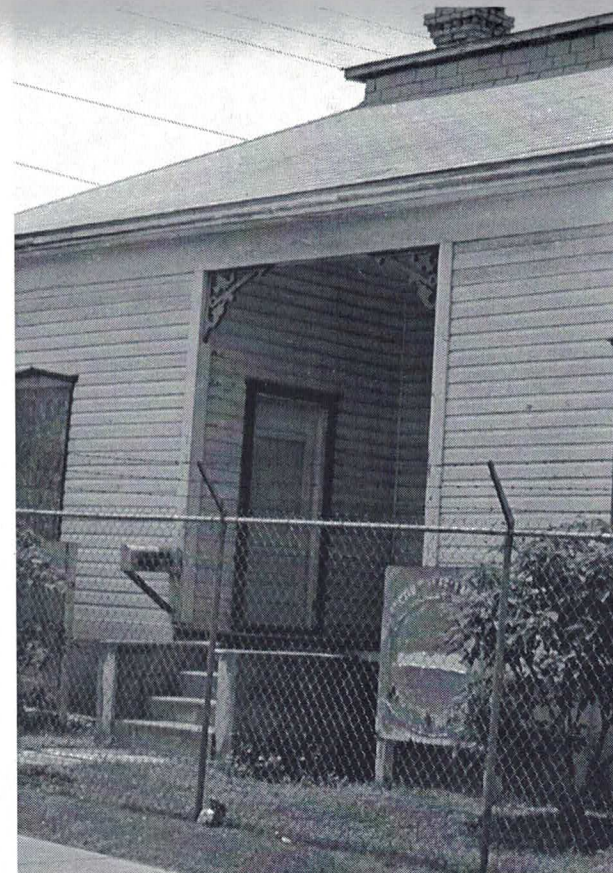
Unoccupied for some years, the Bailetti-Walker House is a rare U-shaped Victorian cottage. It was newly built when it was illustrated in the 1886 bird's-eye-view map of Austin, and its owner, Salvatore Bailetti, "drugs, groceries and wine manfr," had been at the intersection of E. Mesquite (now 11th) and Waller Streets since 1883. When it was designated a City of Austin Landmark in 1988, it was owned by Laborers International Union Local 790, but Ebenezer Baptist Church now holds title to this National Register property.

## **The Victory Grill (ca. 1920), 1104 E. 11th St.**

The Victory Grill was a stop on the "Chitlin' Circuit", a group of southern venues that allowed African American musicians to perform during the days of segregation. The Victory Grill has seen some of the finest performers in the world pass through its doors, including Tina Turner, Bobbie "Blue Bland", and B.B. King.

## **Arnold House (ca. 1884), 1170 San Bernard**

Carrie and Henry Struve, who was a carpenter and "stair builder" according to city directories, purchased this corner lot in 1884 and built a cottage of "modified L-plan" configuration. The Queen Anne derivative features two extended bays flanking a high almost-pyramid roof; an inviting wraparound porch full of spindles and jigsaw brackets ties the variety of surfaces together. Successful downtown baker Charles Lundberg and his wife Anna bought the house in 1886, and passed it in 1899 to colleague Henry Richard Arnold, owner of the popular bakery at 1010 E. 11th. Arnold's daughter Rosa married yet another baker, Max Reuter, and their extended family lived here through 1948. During the 1970s the East Austin Musical Academy called this corner home before its return to residential care.



# Other notable properties

## **Thompson House (ca. 1877), 1171 San Bernard**

A recorded Texas Historic Landmark, the Thompson House is a Cumberland plan house; the two-window, two-door configuration was derived from vernacular houses of the Cumberland River Valley of Tennessee. It was built for John and Jennie Metz Thompson around 1877, and it likely received its ornamental porch railings 20 years later. At the death of Miss Willie Mae Thompson in 1966, it was acquired by the Alpha Kappa Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta sorority. It has served as that organization's clubhouse for 35 years.

## **Scott-Hammond House (ca. 1886, 1907), 1191 San Bernard**

Daniel and Molly Scott (Daniel was the pastor of First Baptist Church (colored), then near East Avenue and 15th Street), built parts of this house about 1907 on one of the premier residential streets of East Austin. They may have incorporated an older home occupied by the Holland and Burton families, since the rear elevations feature proportions—ceiling heights, roof pitch and gable ends—of a Queen Anne cottage, combined with a front gable of bungalow scale and wraparound porch with Colonial Revival columns and entablature. Daniel taught at East Texas colleges before their move to Austin; Molly and her sister-in-law, Annie Scott Mitchell, established "the first rest home for black women" near Austin on Webberville Road.

## **Carver Museum (1926, 1933), 1106 Angelina**

Beneath this stately exterior of Georgian details, reminiscent of Mount Vernon or Independence Hall, beats the heart of Austin's first library building formerly located at 9th and Guadalupe streets. When the next library, now the Austin History Center, replaced this building in 1933, African American leaders arranged for its move to East Austin as their own public library, the first branch operation of the institution. The depression-era project added brick veneer to the wooden-frame building that in 1980, upon its replacement by the adjacent new building, became



# Other notable properties

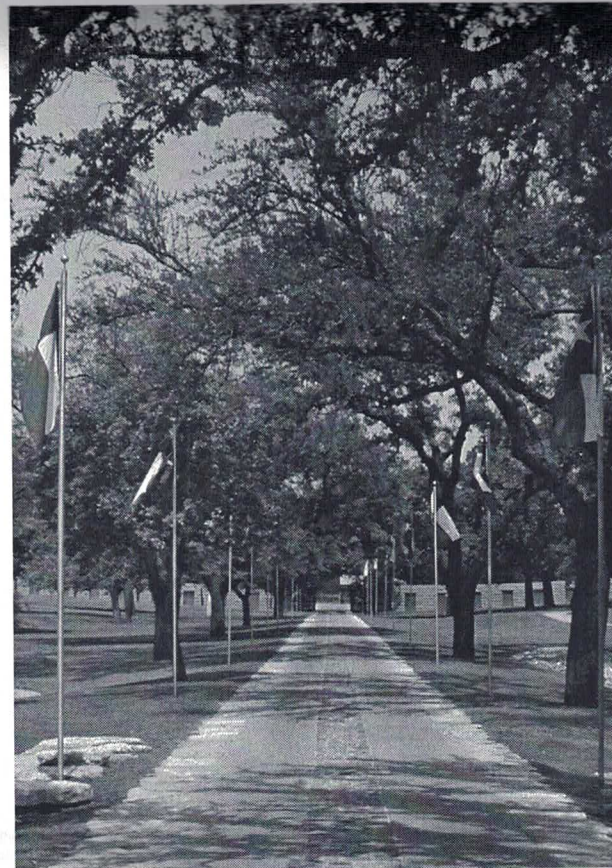
the George Washington Carver Museum to Austin's black culture. An upcoming museum and library expansion project nearby includes removal of the museum's 1980 metal walkway posts and awnings.

## **Howson Community Center (1929-1932), 1192 Angelina**

Famed African-American folklorist J. Mason Brewer, whose Austin home on Chicon Street is undergoing restoration, chronicled the beginnings of this Community Welfare Association building where seven women's clubs "could meet and carry on their activities, and [provide] a health center for Negroes." Construction of the Bungalow-detailed meeting hall started in 1929, but not until local philanthropist Emilie Wheelock Howson supplied more than \$3,000 was the building finished in 1932. The facility thereafter sheltered a wide variety of activities, from Girl Scouts to church meetings. Howson left additional resources upon her death, funding renovations in 1959 and resulting in the institution's present name.

## **Southgate-Lewis House (1888), 1501 E. 12th St.**

The two-story Eastlake-style Recorded Texas Historic Landmark has good period paint colors. The grounds are exceptional, with several early outbuildings, a picket fence and early plant materials, such as the crepe myrtle. It was reportedly built in 1888 for Susan and John Southgate, who had an office as a printer and book-binder in the Temporary State Capitol in 1891 and later worked for the von Boeckmann Printing Company. Around 1913, it was sold to dairy farmer Charles M. Lewis. Also at the address in 1920 was Charles W. Lewis, Secretary to the president and principal, Commercial Development of Samuel Huston College, now Huston-Tillotson University.



# MAP AND LEGEND

## Open for touring.

1. French Legation  
802 San Marcos
2. Lindemann House  
1100 E. 8th St.
3. Stuart House  
1208 Inks Ave.
4. Guadalupe Catholic Church  
1206 E. 9th St.
5. Jobe House  
1113 E. 9th St.
6. Johnston-Hardison House  
1101 E. 9th St.
7. Newton House  
1013 E. 9th St.
8. Ebenezer Baptist Church  
1010 E. 10th St.
9. Metropolitan AME Church  
1101 E. 10th St.
10. Dill-White House  
1110 E. 10th St.
11. Texas State Cemetery  
909 Navasota
12. German American Ladies College  
1604 E. 11th St.
13. Haynes Delashwah House  
1209 Rosewood Ave.
14. Haehnel Store Building/  
Balcones Recycling  
1100 E. 11th St.
15. Arnold Bakery/  
Shoehorn Design  
1010 E. 11th St.
16. Connelly-Yerwood House  
1115 E. 12th St.

Properties listed below are **NOT** open for touring, but all have City of Austin Historic Designation, will be marked with an informational yard sign, and are within walking distance of the tour.

17. Alfreida Johnson House  
1022 E. 7th St.
18. Briones House (Casa de Suenos)  
1204 E. 7th St.
19. Sparks-Ledesma House  
1306 E. 7th St.
20. Rogers-Lyons House  
1001 E. 8th St.
21. Johnson-Hernandez House  
1000 E. 8th St.
22. Parsley House  
1009 E. 8th St.
23. Boothe-Santa Ana House  
1011 E. 8th St.
24. Cook Sifuentes House  
1009 E. 9th St.
25. Stohl-Saldana House  
1005 E. 9th St.
26. Depew-Frazier House  
1104 E. 10th St.
27. Balleitti-Walker House  
1006 Waller St.
28. Victory Grill  
1104 E. 11th St.
29. Wesley United Methodist Church  
1164 San Bernard St.
30. Arnold House  
1170 San Bernard St.
31. Thompson House  
1171 San Bernard St.
32. Scott-Hammond House  
1191 San Bernard St.
33. Carver Library/Museum  
1106 Angelina St.
34. Howson Community Center  
1192 Angelina St.
35. Southgate-Lewis House  
1501 E. 12th St.

