

LIVING IN

River * City



**SATURDAY
MAY 22**



HERITAGE
SOCIETY OF
AUSTIN



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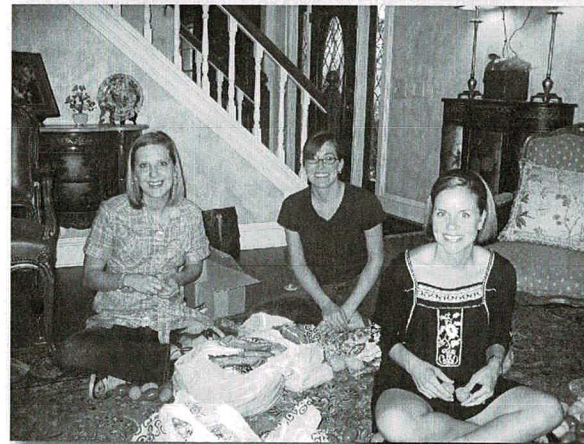
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JOIN US.**

JOIN THE HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

As a non-profit community-based organization we count on our membership support to help keep us involved in preservation efforts that benefit greater Austin. In fact we have returned more than \$2.8 million to the community for these efforts.

MEMBERSHIP OFFERS YOU

- HSA's newsletter 'Preservation Austin'
- Discounts on HSA publications and events
- Invitations to unique social events
- Programs presented by leading preservationists and historians
- Opportunity to contribute to the community by preserving its historic and cultural resources



OUR MISSION

For over fifty years, the Heritage Society of Austin has been Austin's oldest and largest preservation non-profit group, with the stated mission of promoting the recognition and experience of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. Since its founding in 1953, the Society has made grants and loans of over \$2.8 million for restoration, education and other projects. Society programs include the Heritage Homes Tour, Pioneer Farms, the Preservation Awards Ceremony and ongoing advocacy and educational tours and events for our membership and the public. For more information about the Heritage Society, contact Jacqui Schraad at 512-474-5198 or visit www.heritagesocietyaustin.org.

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My Check is enclosed (Payable to "Heritage Society of Austin")

Please charge \$ _____ to my: VISA MC AMEX

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Mail to Heritage Society of Austin, P.O. Box 2113, Austin Texas 78768.

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Presented annually to honor visionary approaches to preservation and long time commitments to maintaining Austin's architectural cultural and environmental heritage.

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For commitment to public housing preservation advocacy

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Heritage Guardian Award
For unwavering commitment and contributions
to the preservation of Austin's Heritage



LIVIN' IN *River* ★ *City*

The Colorado River has been one of the greatest local attractions since before Austin was founded. Native Americans found the abundant water and wildlife welcoming, and archaeological evidence of their early occupation remains. Stephen F. Austin, Father of Texas, was so enamored of the area that in 1832 he acquired land on which he hoped to build his home.

Nearly 75 years later, investor and philanthropist Clara Driscoll and her husband, Ambassador H. H. Sevier, reacted similarly to the beauty of the same stretch of the Colorado, and there they developed Laguna Gloria, their waterfront estate, on the tract once owned by Stephen F. Austin. Reportedly, the site evoked memories of Lake Como in Italy, where the Seviens honeymooned. Several fine but remote estates were developed on or near the river, including Sweetbrush, Mayfield and the Judge McClendon property (now Westwood Country Club).

As West Austin developed, particularly after World War I, other smaller, houses were built by the river. Many of these structures were erected as summer homes in an area still considered outside of town. Three of the most interesting are included in this year's Heritage Homes Tour. Constructed when Scenic Drive was only a dirt road, the Batts-Wakefield-Hendren House (begun 1906), the A. W. (Tot) Hart House (ca. 1930) the Hart-Redford-Gilbert House (ca. 1945) are all particularly picturesque houses worthy of their setting and fine views. These seem to grow out of the hills, and have inspired many subsequent lakefront dwellings nearby.

Lake Austin views, which make meandering Scenic Drive one of Texas' more appealing streets, were a surprisingly late development. The priority of damming the Colorado to control floods and create a lake west of the city was accomplished by the construction of the McDonald Dam in 1893. Unfortunately that dam washed out in the floods of 1900, and present-day Lake Austin came about only in 1939 with the completion of Tom Miller Dam.

By the 1930s, pastures between the river and the International & Great Northern tracks (now MoPac Expressway) gave way to streets and a prosperous middle class suburb between Windsor Road and Enfield Road (then Magnolia). Cottages and mansions there were designed in popular revival styles of the day, many by noted architects. These properties are much sought after today. The William and Sophia Gatewood House (1938), a handsome Tudor manor, typifies more substantial Tarrytown houses between the Wars, and the Wiley-Redfield house (1939) is a good example of a smaller but well-detailed homes of that era.

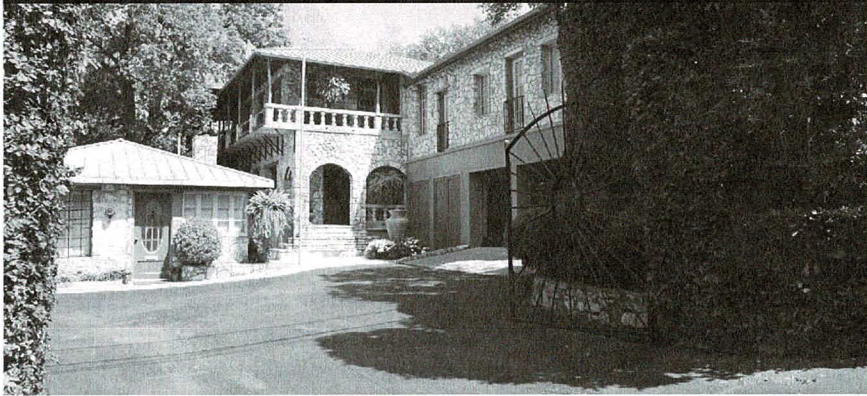
Finally, a later arrival in the neighborhood is actually one of the older houses in Austin. The Donnan-Hill House (ca. 1880), a fine High Victorian Italianate villa was originally constructed on Lavaca St. near the Governor's Mansion. It was moved to its present location in 1972 to prevent its destruction, and of course provide a comfortable and handsome home for its owners. In that respect, it is similar to nearby Sweetbrush, the Abner Cook designed house rebuilt in the 1920s by Dr. & Mrs. Zachary Scott.

The six residences featured on this year's Heritage Homes Tour will interest visitors for both their similarities and their differences, which are reflective of a cohesive yet varied neighborhood. As in many other affluent neighborhoods in Austin and beyond, even very fine early and mid-20th century residences can sometimes be underappreciated. We hope these remarkable houses with their long and interesting histories will inspire the preservation and continued enjoyment of other older homes in the area, which research may show to have their own noted inhabitants and architecture.

Peter Flagg Maxson
Architectural Historian

Don't Miss
the River City
Lectures at
11am 1 & 3pm
2005 SCENIC

"TOT" HART HOUSE, "THE ROCK"
2008 Scenic Drive



In the late 1920s, when Scenic Drive was hardly more than a dirt path, A. W. ("Tot") Hart, who owned a paint and body shop on 5th Street, bought this plot of land along the lake, which contained a small cottage. He eventually began to build the larger dwelling and continued to add to it over the years. The Harts later divorced and his ex-wife, Mary, moved to California with their only child, Martha. By the time Tot Hart passed away in 1959, Martha had also died; therefore, the house passed to her only son, Charles R. Redford, Jr., better known as actor Robert Redford. Redford was a young, struggling actor at the time and used the house as rental property. By 1965, he realized that he could not afford the taxes and upkeep on it, so he sold it to Joseph L. Wood, Jr. During the 18 years that Wood owned the house, it continued to be a rental, as well as a fraternity house for several years. In 1983, attorney John Yates bought the property and proceeded to convert it to a single-family dwelling. He added interior stairways to connect the different levels, updated the plumbing and installed air conditioning and heating systems. The current owners have owned the property since 1986.

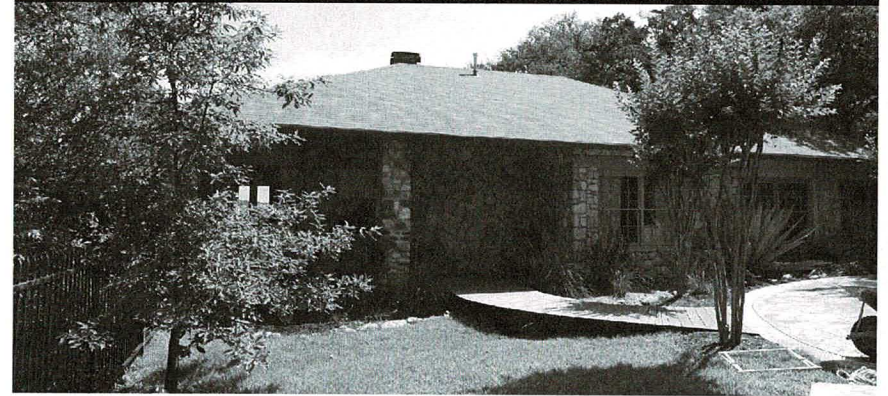
Hart built the house in stages and believed in using what materials he had, including old car parts. Its style has been described as

"Medieval Romanesque Italianate Spanish Baroque Revival" by a former architectural student, i.e., a little of everything. According to the current owners, there was a mill, a kiln and a quarry nearby, built by Mormon settlers in about 1846. By the 20th century, the little settlement had been washed away, but it is known that Hart brought much of the rock for his house from the old quarry site. The current owners have added an elevator and the swimming pool, as well as exterior staircases, since there was no access to the upper floors on the outside. They also enclosed one of the porches with glass to accommodate a dining room. The original cottage, which may have been the home of the quarry manager in the 19th century, now serves as a guest house.

Although Scenic Drive is no longer a dirt trail, it continues to hug the lakeside, much to the delight of its 21st century residents.

Marty Moulthrop

HART-REDFORD-GILBERT HOUSE
2102 Scenic Drive



Research shows that this beautifully situated stone dwelling was built in the mid-1940s, most likely as a rental unit, by A. W. "Tot" Hart, who owned a large tract of land here along the river. (Hart's own home at 2008 Scenic Drive is also on today's tour.) Tot Hart had a paint and body shop on 5th Street and was an avocational stone mason. He began buying lots in this area as early as 1929, adding additional land in the 1930s. When he died in 1959, his properties on Scenic Drive were inherited by his grandson, Charles Robert Redford, a struggling young actor who went by his middle name. In the early 1960s Redford sold his grandfather's home next door, and sold this house to Dr. and Mrs. Joe Thorne Gilbert. Mrs. Gilbert's mother, Mary Burch, was a widow and this home was purchased for her to live in. After Mrs. Burch died, the Gilberts kept the house as a rental, eventually giving it to their three children. One of Mary Burch's great-granddaughters and her husband purchased the home in 2000.

The home retains its original rock walls, on the interior as well as the exterior. It is believed that Mr. Hart obtained the rocks from a nearby quarry, which was established in the 19th century. The concrete floors are original and have been tinted by the current owners. The beautiful wood plank ceilings and interior doors are

also original. The entry and dining area are new, part of a remodeling project in which a lakeside porch was enclosed. The original kitchen has been updated and expanded to accommodate a growing family. Other remodeling projects include the conversion of the original garage to a bedroom, as well as a new deck on the north side of the house.

Marty Moulthrop

BATTS-WAKEFIELD-HENDREN HOUSE (RIVER OAKS FARM)
2105 Scenic Drive



This property has an interesting history. The present owner has been told that the tower, located just north of the main house, was built about 1906 by Judge Robert L. Batts (whose primary residence at 1505 Windsor was on a previous Heritage Homes Tour) as a fishing camp/getaway outside the city. It also housed the UT Art Department in its early days, which was headed by Mrs. Batts, and is the oldest structure on the property. It is thought to have been built using rock rubble from an early earthen dam on the site of the present Tom Miller dam. A drawing of the site done in the early 1920s shows the stone tower/studio and large trees, but no steps or other buildings existed at that time. The main house was built about 1928 as a Prohibition-era “gentlemen’s drinking club” by Col. Herman Wakefield. Wakefield worked as a reporter during World War I and, while stationed in the south of France, made sketches of houses he admired. Upon his return to Austin he built several houses in the French style, of which this was one. He eventually sold the property to his close friend, Mrs. Maureen Moore, who owned it from about 1944 to 1969. She had a varied career, eventually becoming Commissioner of the Texas Bureau of Labor Statistics, and later a newspaper owner, church secretary and houseboat saleswoman. From the mid-

1960s on, the house was a rental and was divided into at least 4 apartments. There was also an apartment in the tower, as well as two over the garage, in a separate building to the south.

The present owner purchased the property in 1969, after having lived nearby as a student some years before. In order to accommodate various rental units, many inappropriate additions had been added to the structure over the years, necessitating major remodeling and renovation. He had most of the south end of the main house removed and rebuilt it using the same brown fieldstone as was used on the original portion. He also made interior changes when he converted the house into a single-family dwelling. In doing so, he removed various items such as mounted fish, a moose head, gun racks and a wagon wheel chandelier, all souvenirs of earlier times in the house. Still visible is a bullet hole in the large log over the fireplace, another reminder of rowdy times in former years.

Today this unique residence remains a place of contentment for lakeside living.

Marty Moulthrop

WILEY-REDFIELD HOUSE
2101 Schulle



This cozy stone cottage was built in 1939, according to tax records, for Horace and Tenny Wiley and their two children. It featured two bedrooms, two small baths, dining room, living room and kitchen. By 1944, the house had been acquired by Robert Redfield, a geologist and mining engineer, who, together with his wife, Mary, would own it for the next 50 years. Mary continued to live here after Robert’s death until 1993 and the house was then purchased by the current owner.

The Redfields added a large garden room and another bathroom in 1952, a rather rustic area with concrete block walls, vinyl flooring and pegboard panels. They had acquired the back door, 2 closet doors, some large molding and 2 iron garden gates, complete with the Star of Texas, from the Texas Capitol when it was renovated a few years before, and then used them in the 1952 remodeling project. The current owners have remodeled and updated virtually every area of the dwelling. A handsome skylight was installed to bring light to the formal living and dining room. The kitchen, bathrooms and garden room have been re-done to meet the needs and standards of today – all done with an artful eye and interesting flair. A guest house, fondly called The Sugar Shack, has been created out of a

former storage shed adjacent to the garage. The owner has enhanced the property by creating a “secret” garden in the backyard and a lovely terrace.

The original rooms of the house retain their mellow white and red oak flooring and the integrity of design typical of homes of the 1930s. The windows, front porch, living room fireplace and plaster walls are all original. This neighborhood was developed by William C. Schulle (1887-1967), who lived for many years at the far end of the street where it meets Bowman Avenue. Schulle came to Austin to work for Swann Furniture Company in 1911 and by 1922 he and a partner had bought the business, which they operated as Swann-Schulle Furniture. When he retired in 1943, the business was sold. Schulle was also a successful real estate investor; it is said that he had a hard time selling lots in the area, since it was so far out from town!

The Wiley-Redfield House is a fine example of adapting a 1930s cottage to 21st century living.

Marty Moulthrop

DONNAN-HILL HOUSE
2528 Tanglewood Trail



In 1860 Swedish immigrant Gustavus Johnson moved from Round Rock and settled in Austin on a quarter block of land at Lavaca and Mesquite (12th) Streets. Johnson, who was a carpenter and contractor, built for his daughter Jennie and her husband John K. Donnan a two-story frame house on the southeast corner of his property, which evidently was created by remodeling and adding to an already existing one-story building on the site.

John and Jennie Donnan were active and productive citizens of Austin, bore five children in the home, and occupied the house until they died in the 1930s. As a neighbor of the Governor's Mansion, it was a center of many social and cultural events. Governors and other prominent persons, as well as friends and family, were welcomed there, including Governor

James Hogg, Colonel E. M. House, Margaret Wilson, daughter of President Woodrow Wilson, and famed soprano Alma Gluck.

Many modifications were done by the Donnan family during their life estate in the property. An early remodeling project included extension of the hall and addition of two rooms, as well as a second story, reached by a new curved staircase. Bay windows, porches and galleries were also added and a brick kitchen was built in the rear of the Victorian house. In later years bathrooms and closets were added, and the kitchen was integrated into the main structure.

In 1972, Texas Attorney General and Mrs. John Hill purchased the property. When the structure was threatened due to adjacent office building expansion,

the Hills decided to have it moved from 1102 Lavaca to 2528 Tanglewood Trail, a distance of about five miles. The stairway and mantels were taken apart and numbered and the roof and gallery were removed. The house was divided into four parts, separating the first and second floors, and placed on steel beams. With the assistance of the Bell, Klein & Hoffman architecture firm, the Hills then proceeded to restore the house to its Victorian appearance and built a rear addition incorporating new living spaces, bath facilities, garage and rear apartment.

The current owners purchased the house in 2006 and have updated most of the living spaces and added a new flat-seamed metal roof. They are working on restoring

the landscaping and surrounding gardens to what one might have found in a late-1800s Victorian setting. They find the old home, with its many nooks and crannies, a delightful place to raise their children and entertain. The sage green exterior paint is thought to be a match with the original. Also original are the beautiful longleaf pine floors.

This gem of a Victorian villa has withstood the ravages of time and a major move. Due to the loving care of its current and previous owners, it will undoubtedly be around for many more generations to enjoy.

Marty Moulthrop



David Wilson
Garden Design, Inc.

512 459 7909 www.dwgarden.com

Hornaday Design

We are a huge fan
of River City Livin'

GATEWOOD HOUSE
2900 Tarry Trail



The Gatewood House is considered to be one of the finest examples of high-style Tudor cottage architecture in Austin. This style is known as Tudor Revival, Jacobethan Revival or Stockbrokers Tudor and became popular in America in the years after World War I, with the return of thousands of soldiers from Europe. The house was built in 1938 for William (Bill) S. Gatewood and his wife, Sophia Kreisle Gatewood on a 19-acre plot. The owners subdivided the property in 1956, retaining the three acres surrounding the house, which were then subdivided by a subsequent owner in 1976. The house was designed by Sophia Gatewood's brother, architect Edwin C. Kreisle (1888-1971), whose work included thousands of structures in the city.

The home was constructed of hand-cut limestone, with a hand-cut wood shake roof, for which the shingles were individually dipped into different colored stains. The structure is 210 feet long and has an enormous two-story living room with a huge fireplace. Note the cross-gabled roof with steeply pitched gables, half-timbered effects, decorative wood brackets, front/rear turrets with conical roofs and porches with hand-crafted brackets.

William Gatewood established Austin's first hamburger stand at 21st and Guadalupe

Streets in 1919. He soon conceived the idea of adding a used textbook exchange to provide an alternative to expensive new books for fellow students. They eventually had 5 stores located in various states, but sold all but the Texas Book Store so they could live in Austin. The Gatewoods were active and generous citizens of Austin, supporting the YMCA and Salvation Army and hundreds of university students. They donated the land, plus a large endowment, to build Westminster Presbyterian Church on Exposition Boulevard. They also gave land for the Austin State School in exchange for providing free water to their estate. Gatewood frequently gave money to Austin's "Bicycle Annie," and ultimately paid for her funeral. They sold the house in 1972 and moved to Cambridge Towers.

Subsequent owners have added an "eyebrow" dormer on the front façade, as well as rear dormers, a covered front porch and a small addition with pyramidal roof on the south end. The garage has been converted into a playroom, and a carpool added to the rear. All wood flooring and woodwork in the living room and dining room are original to the house, as are the front door and chandelier in the entry hall.

Marty Moulthrop



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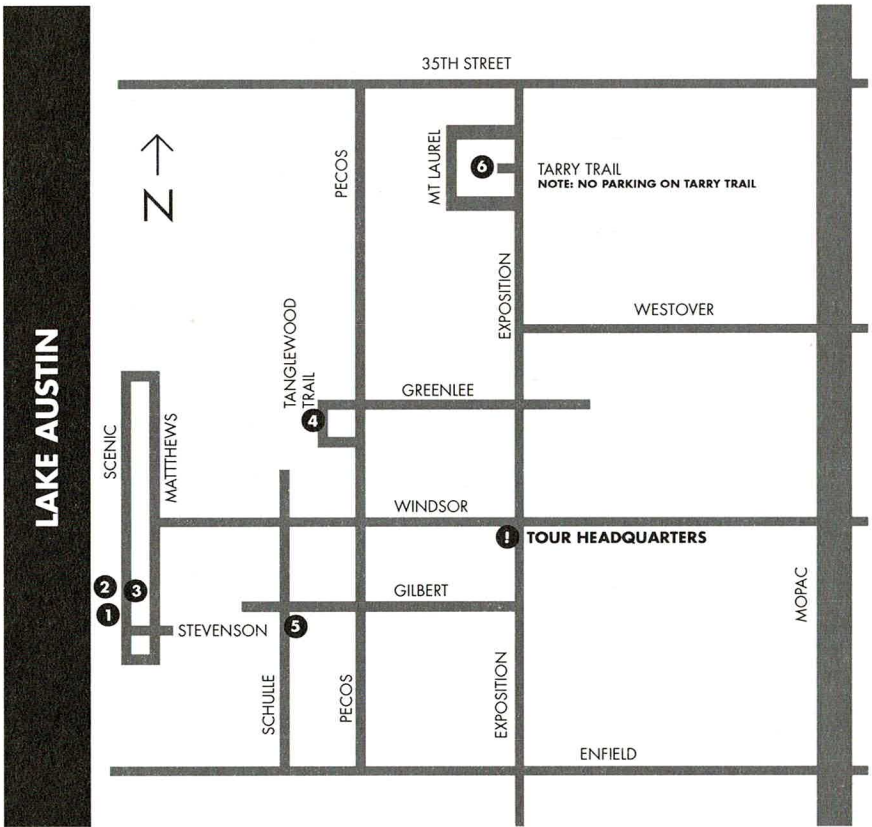
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LIVIN'
IN
River ★ City



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1. 2008 SCENIC DRIVE
2. 2102 SCENIC DRIVE
3. 2105 SCENIC DRIVE
4. 2528 TANGLEWOOD TRAIL
5. 2101 SCHULLE
6. 2900 TARRY TRAIL