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WOODS

PRESERVATION AUSTIN'S 26TH ANNUAL HOMES TOUR
CHERRYWOOD, DELWOOD, & WILSHIRE WOOD

APRIL 28, 2018

10AM - 4PM

greetings from



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welcome

Thank you for attending Preservation Austin's 26th Annual Homes Tour celebrating Cherrywood, Delwood, and Wilshire Wood! Every year we focus on a different part of Austin, exploring some new aspect of the city's history and celebrating homeowners who have invested in its architectural legacy. Whether you're a longtime Austinite or a recent one, we hope that you'll come away with a new appreciation for these homes and their stories.

Cherrywood, Delwood, and Wilshire Wood grew in most part between the 1930s and the 1960s, bounded by East Avenue (now I-35) and the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport (now the mixed-use Mueller development). Their entwined histories stand in contrast to their architectural diversity. Almost all of these homes have reached fifty years of age, making them officially eligible for historic designation. The area already boasts the Delwood Duplex Historic District and Wilshire Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places for their postwar significance. Many more historic districts could be established here before new development disturbs their remarkably intact streetscapes.

The tour's seven featured homes present a range of architectural styles, contemporary renovations, and historic features. Most are less than 2,000 square feet, like so many older and historic homes in Central Austin. They've been adapted to 21st century life for all kinds of families, illustrating how preservation is not a one-size-fits all movement but a jumping off point for finding creative ways to embrace our past while moving into the future. We hope that, by showing these successes, we can inspire others to preserve instead of demolish, to appreciate instead of dismiss.

PRESERVATION AUSTIN

Preservation Austin has been our city's leading nonprofit voice for historic preservation since 1953. We celebrate our unique cultural and architectural heritage through programming such as our Preservation Merit Awards, sustainability workshops, children's events, and self-guided tours including *African American Austin* and *Iconic Music Venues*. Our organization advocates for improved preservation policies to make sure that, as Austin grows, it remains the city we know and love. To become a member, visit preservationaustin.org.

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TOUR INFORMATION

TOUR BASICS:

Seven homes and our tour headquarters at the Browning Hangar will be open between 10AM and 4PM. "Points of Interest" highlighted in this program are not official stops on the tour and may not be open to the public, so please be mindful of owners' property and privacy.

TRANSPORTATION:

Bike racks, courtesy of Bike Austin, are available at or near all tour locations. Racks will not be staffed and individuals will be responsible for securing their own bicycles; Bike Austin will assume no liability for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment. The Browning Hangar has parking and bike racks for those purchasing or picking up pre-ordered tickets. Street parking is available in every neighborhood.

HOUSE RULES:

No smoking
No food or drink
No strollers
Do not touch any items in these homes
Do not use bathrooms in these homes
Do not leave children unattended

PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY:

Interior photography is not allowed. Exterior photography is welcome using @preservationaustin and #pahomestour!

SHOE POLICY:

We ask that you wear booties provided at each ticket-taking station while inside these homes. Please remove pointy high heels or bike shoes with metal clips altogether. Thank you!

These homes are not ADA accessible. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience.

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- Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*



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Text by Lindsey Derrington, Preservation Austin Programs Director

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Preservation Austin extends our sincerest thanks to this year's homeowners for their dedication and generosity. It's no small thing to welcome hundreds of strangers into one's home, but their willingness to do so allows us to educate our community about the lasting power of Austin's historic neighborhoods.

We are incredibly grateful to Cherrywood's Rebecca Kohout, and to St. George's Episcopal Church archivist Frances Rickard, for sharing their time, research, and insight as we delved into the histories of these neighborhoods.

Many thanks to Jim Reed, Cherrywood Neighborhood Association Steering Committee Chair; to Brendan Wittstruck of Delwood 2; and to Isaiah Tibbs, President of the Wilshire Wood-Delwood 1 Neighborhood Association, for their generous help with neighborhood outreach.

And finally! This incredible educational event and fundraiser would simply not be possible without our amazing volunteers. Preservation Austin thanks our 2018 Homes Tour Committee, our House Captains, and our 130+ docents, ticket takers, and set-up crews. Your enthusiasm for our mission inspires us year after year.

Preservation Austin is incredibly grateful to our 2018 Homes Tour sponsors. Their contribution supports our advocacy and education efforts. The opinions of our sponsors do not reflect the views and opinions of this year's featured homeowners.

AFTER PARTY

Join us for the tour after party at Batch Craft Beer & Kolaches (3220 Manor Road, 78723) from 5pm to 7pm! The first 100 guests with a tour wristband get a free draft beer and a complimentary taste of Batch's delicious homemade kolaches. We'll see you there!

cherrywood

Cherrywood is made up of several subdivisions between I-35 (formerly East Avenue), Manor Road, and Airport Boulevard that joined to form the Cherrywood Neighborhood Association in the 1980s. A few longtime families were instrumental in its development, turning pastures and woods into bungalows, cottages, and ranch homes.

Peyton Wade Nowlin (1802-1884) settled here in 1848 and built an unusual two-story log cabin near the present-day intersection of I-35 and Dean Keeton Street. Nowlin's descendants subdivided the estate, with Dancy and Robinson Streets representing branches of the family. This is Cherrywood's oldest section and some homes here date to the early 1900s.

Nowlin's great-granddaughter Olivia French and her husband opened the Forest Hills Subdivision along French Place and Breeze Terrace (see P. 31) in 1939. J. H. French (1884-1951) touted the neighborhood's convenient, scenic location and lined the streets with his "French-Built Homes" in the early 1940s. His promotions worked, and the area is still widely known as "French Place."

Schieffer-Willowbrook is in northeast Cherrywood. The Schieffers owned a meat market in town but purchased nearly 100 wooded acres here for a dairy farm in 1887. Emmett (1883-1959) and Jeanette (1887-1960) Schieffer started subdividing the property after World War II. They opened three Schieffer Additions and sold land for Maplewood Elementary, built in 1951 to accommodate the booming number of "war babies" in desperate need of a local school.

The Schieffers opened the Willow Brook Addition in 1946. Part of it became the Giles family's Delwood 3 project (Duplex Nation - see P. 32) and they sold the rest to attorney Perry L. Jones (1908-1969) for development. Jones, then a Travis County attorney, soon went into private practice and became known for defending some of Texas' most infamous criminals. His Willow Brook ads offered lots with design requirements similar to those in Wilshire Wood. It was Jones who turned Chestnut Street north of Manor Road, a former lover's lane, into Cherrywood Road and continued it north of 38½ Street in 1948.



East Avenue and 38 ½ Street in 1950 (Austin History Center, Austin Public Library).



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4017 BROOKVIEW, 1950

Odis and Nelda Sue Walker were the first owners of this Schieffer Place ranch house. Both had grown up, quite poor, on farms outside Austin. Odis (1918-2011) moved to the city with his mother and five siblings in the 1920s, where he plucked turkeys, delivered telegrams, and sold newspapers on Congress Avenue to help support his family. The self-proclaimed pool hustler began working for his older brother's tire store as a teenager in 1933. He opened his own business, the Walker Tire Company, at 510 East Sixth Street in 1940. At the same time Nelda Sue McAnulty (1921-2016), the youngest of fourteen children herself, had graduated from high school and moved to Austin to work at the famed University of Texas Tea House. She and Odis met on a blind date and were together for over 70 years.

Walker Tire Company became an Austin institution, servicing cars, trucks, tractors, and more. Odis served in the United States Air Force during World War II; played baseball; wrote poetry, prose, and authored his own play; and was a highly-respected deacon and Bible scholar. He and Nelda Sue had three sons and remained on Brookview Road until 2002, when they passed the house down to their grandson.

The home's current owners purchased it for their family of four in 2009. The house had an updated kitchen but no air-conditioning or central heat. Today this light-filled space has been lovingly renovated, and features its original hardwood floors and vintage Chambers stove. A 2015-2016 addition by architect Craig Nasso replaced a garage with a 450-square-foot master suite and office. A new terraced deck transformed the backyard. The family converted an enclosed porch into a sunroom, removing its drop ceiling and installing Mexican tile flooring. New composite siding and insulation, along with energy efficient windows, updated the exterior while embracing the home's mid-century aesthetic. Sustainable systems include ductless mini-splits and water-efficient toilets, faucets, and showers.



3210 FRENCH PLACE, 1960

Photograph by Joan Brook Photography

Pool & Strong built this gabled, brick-veneer ranch in the Forest Hills Addition as an investment property. Oca Pool (1920-2010) and Albert Strong (1916-1995) were both raised in working-class East Austin households and served in the United States Army during World War II. Their wives were cousins, and Strong was best man at Pool's 1943 wedding. The men apprenticed as carpenters after the war and became house builders working throughout Central Texas.

"Pool-Strong Homes" touted custom-built kitchen cabinets, large closets, and the "finest architectural designs." The firm was featured in Austin's first Parade of Homes in Allandale in 1953, and built not one, but two "Talking Houses" in Western Trails. A popular phenomenon nationwide, these 1950s display homes were fully-wired to both explain and answer questions about cutting-edge design features to a wide-eyed public. Pool & Strong's success led them to develop their own properties, as they did here on French Place.

The home's current owners purchased it in 2008. They rented out the property for three years, waiting for their youngest child to graduate from high school before downsizing. A 2011 renovation by Rick and Cindy Black Architects, with Texas Construction Company, preserved the 1,400-square-foot home's footprint while transforming its cramped interior. Shifting the front door and removing several interior walls made space for an expanded kitchen and open living-dining room. These connect to an outdoor kitchen and patio beneath an elegant steel shade structure. Sustainable features include reclaimed pecan floors, native landscaping, and a drip irrigation and water reclamation system. In 2017, the same design and construction team added a 400-square-foot second story apartment to a detached storage structure for visiting children and friends. The owners can now age in place in their beautiful, ADA-compliant home.

delwood



Delwood's story is inextricably tied to the Giles family. Bascom Giles (1900-1993), a young draftsman for the General Land Office, married Effie Dean Rogan (1902-1996) in 1921.

They settled on the remote Wright House estate (see P. 30), purchasing adjacent pastures and forests over the years. The Robert Mueller Airport (1930), Airport Boulevard (1942), and Wilshire Wood (1941) were all built on Giles land. Bascom rose through the ranks and was elected Texas Land Commissioner in 1938, serving eight terms in that powerful position.

The Giles started developing outright after World War II. Delwood 1, subdivided in 1946, was named for a portmanteau of Norwood, one of Bascom's ancestors, and Del Valle. Giles Place (1946), Delwood 2 (1947), Delwood 3 (1948 - Duplex Nation, see P. 32), Delwood 4 (1954), and the ultra-modern Delwood Shopping Center (see P. 31) followed. The Giles built over 200 stuccoed, concrete-block homes and duplexes throughout these neighborhoods with Fort Worth civil engineer Marshal R. Sanguinet (1909-1969) as their designer. The Austin community viewed them as visionaries for transforming these farmlands into dense suburbs almost overnight.

By the early 1950s Bascom was considered next-in-line to become governor. His 1955 conviction for theft, conspiracy, and bribery in the Veterans Land Board scandal, however, made him the highest-ranking state official ever jailed for crimes committed in office. This tumultuous downfall put an end to the couple's real estate endeavors.

Today's tour features Delwood 2. The Giles improved half of its 160 lots with their concrete-block bungalows and opened the rest for development. These five-room homes featured steel-framed windows, wide chimneys, and deep eaves. Their twins can be found in Cherrywood's Giles Place. Designer Marshal R. Sanguinet's connection to the Giles is unknown; the Rice University graduate had a decades-long career as an engineer in Fort Worth, though he built some homes there after World War II. He died while working for the Agency of International Development in Pakistan. His uncle was famed architect Marshall R. Sanguinet (1859-1936), responsible for countless North Texas landmarks along with Austin's Scarbrough Building. Today Delwood 2 is known for its roaming peacocks and Fourth of July Parade.

Image: Delwood Shopping Center (Austin History Center, Austin Public Library).



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1208 BENTWOOD, 1947

Photograph by Casey Woods Photography

The Bettis family spent four happy decades in this Bentwood home. They were among the thousands of young families moving to urban centers during and after World War II in search of opportunity. 1950 was the first year in which a majority of Texans lived in cities instead of the country, generating a housing boom and massive postwar growth.

Jimmie Rufus Bettis (1911-1992) was raised on a farm in southeast Oklahoma. He made his way to Houston and there met Vivian Louise Spell (1918-2016), who had moved from her family's farm in Shiro to work as a stenographer. They married in 1941, a year before Jimmie joined the United States Navy. He was a Ship's Cook 2nd Class and served on the USS Burleson attack transport which traveled to Okinawa, Guam, and Guadalcanal.

The Bettises settled in Austin and in 1952 moved to Delwood 2 to raise their two sons. Jimmie worked as a coffee salesman, then as a longtime accounts examiner for the state. Louise was a secretary for the Air Reserve Center in O. Henry Hall, a Cold War training facility that taught courses in radio transmission, and intelligence. Like many women, her story defies the typical narrative that all postwar wives stayed in the home.

Camille and Bryan Jobe purchased the house for their own family of four in 2004. Over the years they restored its steel casement windows, oak parquet floors, and stuccoed concrete block walls. In 2016 Camille, co-founder of Jobe Corral Architects, completed a stunning 550-square-foot living room and master suite to replace a 1970s addition. Working with CleanTag as general contractor, the project connected the new and the old with an elegant open kitchen. Bryan's JobeFabrications executed the home's steel details. Today the house presents a striking harmony between its historic fabric and contemporary spaces inside and out.





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- D. 1305 Bentwood
- E. 1414 Bentwood
- F. 1313 Ardenwood
- G. 4001 Lullwood



POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1. Wright-Giles House, 4301 N I-35
- 2. St. George's Episcopal Church, 4301 N I-35
- 3. Delwood Shopping Center, 3909 N I-35
- 4. Olivia & J. H. French House, 2904 Dancy
- 5. Austin Convalescent Home, 2900 Lafayette
- 6. Delwood 3/Duplex Nation
- 7. Patterson Park, 4200 Brookview
- 8. Former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport
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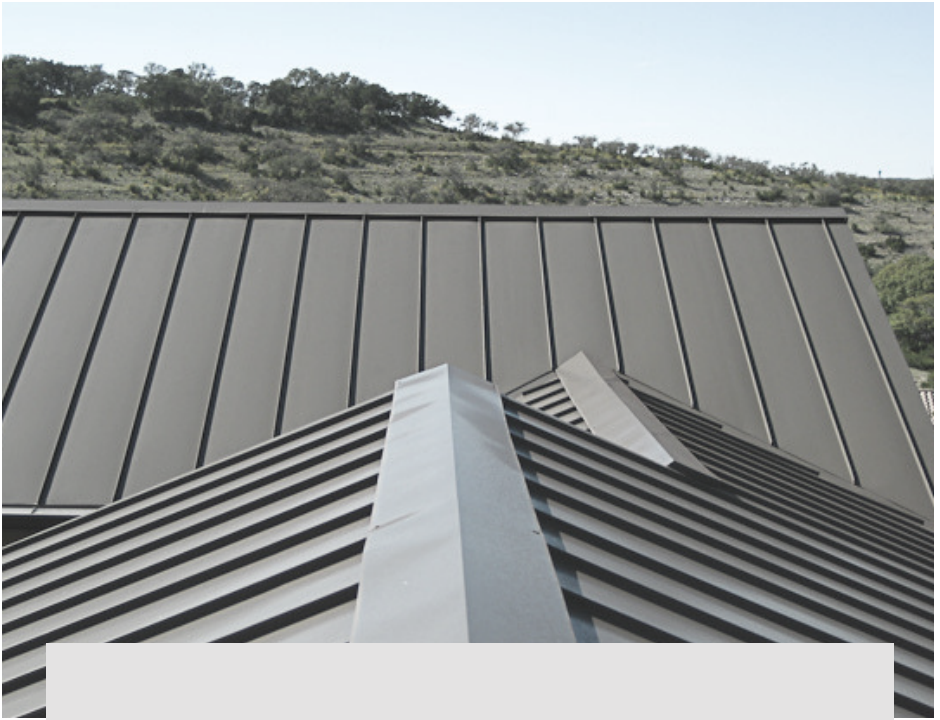
1305 BENTWOOD, 1947

Photograph by Casey Woods Photography

Delwood 2's unique architectural language offers a look at how families past and present have expanded their homes while preserving the neighborhood's historic appearance. Its original concrete block homes came in a handful of floor plans with subtle exterior variations and identical interior fixtures. Most were about 1,000 square feet with five rooms and a bath, making them attractive starter homes for young families. Those who stayed in Delwood 2 often enclosed their one-car garages or built rear additions for more space.

Joseph and Louise Gurkin were this Bentwood home's longest-tenured residents for many years. Joseph Gurkin (1911-1982) grew up in rural North Carolina but by the 1930s was working as a shoe salesman in Virginia and Philadelphia. He moved to Washington, DC to manage his own store, and there married Louise Turek (1918-1985) in 1941. The 1950s brought the Gurkins a new promotion and a new city. They headed west to Austin where Joseph was district manager for the Saint Louis-based International Shoe Company, the world's largest shoe manufacturer at the time. The family lived here from 1955 to 1966. Their three children reached high school age during these years so it may have been the Gurkins who enclosed the original garage.

Ada Corral, co-founder of Jobe Corral Architects, and her family purchased the home in 2005. Early projects included uncovering, patching, and refinishing badly-damaged parquet floors and removing period-inappropriate trim throughout. They renovated the original bathroom themselves, and in 2008 remodeled the kitchen. By 2015 the family of five was in real need of additional space. Ada designed a gorgeous 800-square-foot rear addition with a new master suite, an additional bath, and covered porch overlooking the back yard. These connect to the original home through a light-filled living room with double-height ceilings. Today modern textures and materials complement the home's historic features, with practical updates that have enabled its family to stay here as they grow.



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1414 BENTWOOD, 1947

Photograph by Joan Brook Photography

Living in the shadow of the Robert Mueller Airport could be stressful. The airport opened for commercial service in 1936 and was significantly expanded in 1941 and 1956. Low-flying planes and roaring engines were part of daily life for adjacent neighborhoods.

City directories show a dozen families moving in and out of this Bentwood home between 1949 and 1985, usually living here for just one or two years. Among them were US Armed Forces recruiter Jesse Hollingsworth and his wife Kathryn, who lived here from 1949 to 1951 and 1957 to 1961. Vail and Betty Jo Logsdon rented the house for \$75 month while Vail studied architecture at the University of Texas from 1951 to 1953. J. Hubert and Frances Wilson lived here in 1954; he was a state securities commissioner, and she was the first woman in Austin to be a registered representative of the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1984 residents of more than fifteen neighborhoods, including Delwood 2, Cherrywood, and Wilshire Wood, joined to form Citizens for Airport Re-Location, or C.A.R.E. Their years-long advocacy led the city to finally close the Robert Mueller Airport in 1999. C.A.R.E.'s vision also shaped today's Mueller, the Catellus Development Group's 700-acre, LEED-certified mixed-used community that took the airport's place. These grassroots efforts and the ensuing Mueller project ultimately improved the quality of life for over 10,000 surrounding households.

Today's homeowners at 1414 Bentwood are among them. Both are architects, and have designed a series of renovations since purchasing the house in 2013. Early projects included remodeling the kitchen and connecting it to the dining room by removing an interior wall. The remodeled bathroom features an original tub. The back porch became a sunroom, and the garage became a sleeping room to accommodate their growing family. In 2016 owner Frank Farkash's Moontower Design Build added a detached studio overlooking a newly-landscaped backyard. Historic features include the original fireplace, doors and hardware, and steel-framed windows.



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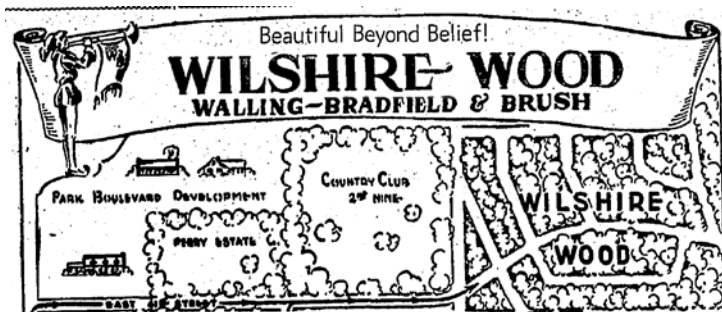
wilshire wood

Walling, Bradfield & Brush began subdividing Wilshire Wood on land purchased from Delwood developers Bascom and Effie Dean Giles in 1941. Geared towards “gentle folk of limited budget but of unlimited taste,” it was one of Austin’s first neighborhoods with winding roads and cul-de-sacs, features made ubiquitous by Federal Housing Administration planning guidelines after World War II. Entrance gates on Wilshire Boulevard originally faced East Avenue and the Austin Country Club, a serene view soon replaced by I-35 and the Hancock Shopping Center.

The developers implemented their distinct vision for “wide, rambling houses, setting [sic] far back from the street in the middle of spacious, tree-shaded lawns” through innovative deed restrictions. These required that all homes be designed by licensed architects, an unusual provision for the time. Only single-family houses costing at least \$4,000 were permitted, with 2.5-story height restrictions, 40-foot setbacks, and minimum footprints dictating form. This vision’s dark side, however, was the exclusion of minority homeowners, a discriminatory practice implemented in cities across the South at the time.

Walling, Bradfield & Brush built Wilshire Wood’s first six homes and opened them to the public in 1942. In doing so, they hoped to “set a standard of construction and architecture to guide future residents” who would develop individual lots on their own. Built by the Kuntz-Sternenburg Lumber Company and the Cash Lumber Company, these original ranch-style homes on Bradwood Road had distinctive limestone facades. They successfully set the precedent for all that followed, leading to Wilshire Wood’s architectural cohesiveness today.

Most homes were built between 1945 and 1950 though construction continued for another ten years. Stone-fronted, ranch-style houses dominate the neighborhood amidst large lots with old growth trees. Common features include asymmetrical facades, steel-framed windows, expansive footprints, and low-slung roofs, though each one varies in composition. This stunning collection of 110 homes remains remarkably intact and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



1941 *Austin American* ad for Wilshire Wood



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1313 ARDENWOOD ROAD, 1952

Photograph by Joan Brook Photography

This sleek limestone-veneer home's low-pitched roof and wide eaves epitomize the midcentury ranch. Oscar and Idalee Ulit, members of one of Austin's prominent German-American families, were its first owners. Oscar (1896-1969) managed the Ulits' successful meat market for decades until making an abrupt career change at middle age. By 1953 he was working as an architect for the Kuntz-Sternenberg Lumber Company, which built some of Wilshire Wood's original homes in 1941. He likely designed this home himself.

Illinois native Marshall R. Wheeler (1917-2010) purchased the house in 1966. He studied biology and entomology at Texas A&M University before earning his doctorate in Zoology from the University of Texas in 1947. In between, he joined the United States Navy after the attack on Pearl Harbor, studying parasites in the Pacific and teaching Malariology at the School of Tropical Medicine.

Dr. Wheeler joined UT's faculty and became a renowned geneticist, insect taxonomist, and favorite instructor. He was a world authority on fruit flies, which share much of the same DNA that causes human diseases and are crucial to genetic studies. Dr. Wheeler discovered over 250 new species of fruit flies, eight of which are named for him. The National Institutes of Health and Atomic Energy Commission supported his work and his specimens are housed in the Smithsonian and American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Wheeler turned to hybridizing daylilies after his 1977 retirement, hoping to discover the "elusive" blue daylily. In 1982 he and his wife Linda built a two-story rear addition to accommodate this passion.

By 2011 overgrown hackberry trees entirely obscured the home's façade. Developers were targeting it for a teardown because of its poor condition and prominent double lot. The current owner stepped in, completing a gorgeous renovation that transformed the home into a neighborhood showplace. The original double-sided, load-bearing fireplace graces the living room, along with reclaimed hardwood floors and wallpaper reproduced from midcentury designs. The yard includes native plantings and a new Palm Springs-style pool.

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4001 LULLWOOD, 1957

Photograph by Joan Brook Photography

Merle LaRue Olson (1929-1998) and his wife Donna (b. 1932) built this stylish home in 1957. It was one of the last constructed in Wilshire Wood, with a sweeping angled roof and expansive windows that set it apart. LaRue apparently designed it himself working with builder Welsey E. Johnson. While Wilshire's deed restrictions mandated architect-designed homes, nonconforming projects could sneak through with neighborhood approval.

The Olsons were members of Austin's tightknit Swedish community, which came here at the urging of Swante Magnus Swenson, widely considered Texas' first Swede. Swenson established a 19th century "Swedish Pipeline" by paying his countrymen's passage in exchange for two years' work on Govalle, his East Austin ranch. They then settled in East Austin's Swedish Hill neighborhood and in rural enclaves east and north of the city. Many moved to nearby Cherrywood after World War II.

LaRue was raised in Cherrywood; his father Oscar hailed from Swedesburg, Nebraska and his mother was raised in a Swedish farming community near Manor. Donna Mae Lindgren grew up in Hutto's Swedish community before her family moved to Austin. They married in 1952 and were members of the Swedish Gethsemane Lutheran Church. The Olsons raised three daughters here before moving in the 1970s.

LaRue joined his father's businesses, the Southern Investment Company and Olson Motor Company, in 1951 after graduating from the University of Texas. They sold and financed cars, appliances, and televisions – all necessities of postwar American life. The firms were two of the oldest establishments in the historic East Sixth commercial district upon his death.

4001 Lullwood showcases incredibly intact historic features, including clerestories, casements, and broad plate glass windows, along with original bathroom tile and a sunken tub. A previous owner remodeled the kitchen around 2002 and replaced most light fixtures. The current owner, who purchased the home in 2013, has worked to bring the house back to its 1950s roots through period-appropriate lighting and extensive vintage furnishings and art.

points of interest

1. WRIGHT-GILES HOUSE, 1879

This Italianate farmhouse stands on the grounds of St. George's Episcopal Church. The Wright family settled on a large estate near today's intersection of I-35 and Airport Boulevard in 1852. Robert Wright purchased eighty-eight acres from his father before his 1874 marriage, and built this substantial home soon after. Bascom and Effie Dean Giles purchased the property in 1924. They renamed it Garwald Banks and raised their two sons here with their pet goat "Billy Whiskers."



In 1956 St. George's acquired the much-diminished acreage to build its new church campus. The Wright-Giles House became student housing for the Episcopal seminary but sat vacant by the early 1990s. St. George's entered into a unique partnership with the HIV Wellness Center, offering holistic counseling and therapy to AIDS patients, in 1994. The church offered a 10-year, no-cost lease on the house if the nonprofit pledged to renovate it. A newly-rebranded Wright House Wellness Center launched a \$120,000 fundraising campaign and beautifully restored the house to its 1879 appearance. The center offered services in this comforting, home-like setting until 2005. The Wright-Giles House now serves as church offices and archives.

2. ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1957

The Rt. Reverend Bishop Hines recruited ten parishioners from Austin's existing Episcopalian churches to form St. George's in 1949. The congregation purchased a tiny lot at 38th ½ Street and Basford Road along with a \$100 decommissioned chapel from Camp Swift, an Army training facility and German POW camp outside Bastrop. The chapel's already-long journey to Austin was stalled by East Avenue construction. The building ended up on the wrong side of the Robert Mueller Airport, where impatient authorities refused to let it pass. Bishop Hines ultimately took advantage of a foggy night to sneak the chapel through once flights had been cancelled.

St. George's grew along with the neighborhood and in 1956 swapped land on Cameron Road (which became Capital Plaza) for its current location in Delwood 1. Parishioners worshipped in Maplewood Elementary's cafeteria before dedicating their new church by Lundgren & Maurer in 1957. The building's mid-century take on the English Gothic style features a vaulted interior of exposed limestone and stained redwood. St. George's numbered 700 members, half of whom were children, by 1962. The parish hired another prominent modernist firm, Barnes Landes Goodman Youngblood, for a distinctive education and office building with steeply-pitched gables. Completed in 1966, it still houses St. George's thriving pre-school.

3. DELWOOD SHOPPING CENTER, 1951

Delwood Shopping Center was the crown jewel of Bascom and Effie Dean Giles' development career. Their architect, Carl Stautz, traveled to California to study the ultra-modern, auto-oriented shopping centers built there after the war. He incorporated those ideas into his design here, featuring horizontal lines and cheerful storefronts. The building faced East Avenue (now I-35) then turned at a 45 degree angle towards 38th ½ Street with a 12-acre parking lot in back.

The shopping center opened with much fanfare and offered such amenities as groceries, a soda fountain, and drycleaners – everything local families could want without driving downtown. The following year the Giles added the Delwood Drive-In and a “big city” cafeteria. This was the first development of its kind in Texas, and a thoughtful work of architecture in stark contrast to today's strip malls. Fiesta Mart demolished the Delwood Shopping Center for its parking lot in 1991. Thankfully Delwood's neon sign, originally perched atop the building, was saved and reinstalled overlooking 38th ½ Street.

4. OLIVIA AND J. H. FRENCH HOUSE, 1935

Olivia Ledbetter (1884-1939) was raised in a prominent Coleman, Texas family and married James Harman French (1885-1951) in 1913. The couple settled in Austin in 1932 where James was supervisor for a New Deal-era program channeling federal funds into local projects. The Frenches built this Tudor Revival style home on Dancy Street in 1935. It stands in the heart of the Dancy Addition subdivided by Olivia's grandmother fifty years earlier. Olivia's mother, Lena Dancy Ledbetter, died here in 1936. The classically-trained musician often told stories of playing with Sam Houston as a child and being terrorized during the infamous Treasury Robbery in 1865.

James opened the J. H. French Realty Company out of their home and began developing surrounding lots. The Great Depression had tanked the nation's homebuilding industry but French capitalized on new Federal Housing Administration guidelines for affordable homes. One early advertisement read “If you have a nominal amount of cash and want to build or buy a new home, call.” A few years later, his pitch improved: “We feel we are dealing with something finer than just lots and houses. What we are really selling is human happiness – the happiness engendered by a fireside and garden in a beautiful setting – a peaceful retreat from a troubled world – home!” The area is still informally known as “French Place.”

5. AUSTIN CONVALESCENT HOME, 1927

Homer and Bell Moss built this unusual house with bracketed jerkinhead gables around 1927. Homer (1882-1973) was born in Mississippi and Bell (1884-1956) was a Hays County native. They married in 1912 and moved from their Arkansas farm to Austin in 1923. Homer became an ice salesman, and the couple constructed this home to accommodate themselves,



points of interest

their three children, and Bell's new business, the Austin Convalescent Home.

Private, home-based care for the sick and elderly bridged the gap between 19th century poorhouses and today's nursing homes. Convalescent homes flourished after the Social Security Act of 1935 provided financial support to seniors, though a 1950 amendment incentivized growth of the regulated nursing home industry. Bell operated her convalescent home for nearly thirty years. She cared for up to eight patients at a time, and the 1930 and 1940 censuses show men and women convalescents here between the ages of sixty and ninety-two. The home's former patient quarters still bear the numbers one through eight over their rooms.

6. DELWOOD 3/DUPLEX NATION, 1948

Bascom Giles' Delwood 3 subdivision is popularly known as the Duplex Nation. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it consists of seventy-seven stuccoed, concrete-block duplexes with simple ornamentation and steel-framed windows. These apartments catered to young couples, singles, and students after World War II. Harvard-educated landscape architect Charles Coatsworth Pinkney designed the development's picturesque site plan. Though no architect is listed on their building permits, the duplexes share a strikingly similar aesthetic with the homes in Giles' earlier Delwood 2 and Giles Place neighborhoods, designed by Marshal R. Sanguinet.



Giles purchased a concrete block factory in Brady, Texas in early 1948 to construct Delwood 3. One of his business partners brought a massive lawsuit against him and the company's other owners for corrupt business practices the following year, presaging Giles' later legal troubles. Today, the Duplex Nation's pastel-painted beauties are unlike anything built here before or since.

7. PATTERSON PARK, 1952

Nye Patterson (1871-1945) purchased 200 acres between East Avenue (now I-35) and Manor Road in 1903. He established a lush orchard of peaches, plums, apricots, cherries, pecans, and walnuts. "Uncle Nye's Place" was beloved to children in nearby Hyde Park - the only neighborhood in the area until World War II - and picking peaches there was an annual ritual.

When the Robert Mueller Airport opened nearby in 1930, the city began eyeing the orchard for future expansion. By 1941 this expansion became a reality, and Nye reluctantly sold his land under threat of condemnation. Poor Mr. Patterson watched the demolition of his blooming orchard with tears in his eyes; according to his nephew, the bachelor looked on his trees as he would his children, and his death four years later was of heartbreak. The city did, however, commit to turning some of the tract into a park, and dedicated the

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new greenspace in 1952. Neighbors soon instituted an annual carnival to fund park improvements. The Friends of Patterson Park, organized in 2002, echoes this early activism. We think Mr. Patterson would be pleased.

8. ROBERT MUELLER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, 1930-1999

Austin's original municipal airport, named for a recently-deceased City Council member, opened in 1930. The project was supported by a massive 1928 bond issue which paid for everything from parks to sewers. In 1961 Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson dedicated an elegant new terminal and control tower by mid-century masters Fehr & Granger. By this time the once-remote site was surrounded by more than a dozen neighborhoods, many of which fought for the airport's relocation. It closed in 1999 and Catellus Development Group was selected to build the LEED-certified Mueller community, with a master plan by McCann Adams Studio, in its place.

The project preserved three airport buildings, including the 1961 Mueller Control Tower and 1943 Browning Hangar. The Historic Landmark Commission and Planning Commission have recommended the control tower for historic zoning and the case goes before City Council in May. Preservation Austin supports this effort, along with plans to open the building for public use.

The Browning Hangar features an unusual wooden, bow-trussed structure that was refurbished in 2007. Its name honors aviation pioneers (and former daredevils) Robert Browning (1897-1973) and Emma Carter Browning (1911-2010). Their Browning Aerial Service operated a flight school for both civilians and US Army Air Corps pilots during World War II. They moved to this hangar in 1946, offering charter flights, maintenance, and flight instruction. Robert and Emma were instrumental in founding the Texas Flight Training Association (now the National Air Transportation Association), the Civil Aeronautics Authority, and the Texas Aeronautics Commission. Emma ran the business after her husband's death and retired in 1987. She was inducted into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame and the Texas Women's Hall of Fame for her contributions to the field.

9. AIRPORT FIRE STATION, 1952

The city announced plans for this suburban fire station in 1950 as part of a ten-year Austin Fire Department (AFD) expansion. Station 14, however, was unique. Safety measures at the Robert Mueller Airport had not kept up with its growth, and rescue crews were dangerously understaffed and ill-equipped in case of a crash. The new Airport Fire Station served surrounding neighborhoods but also housed designated firefighters outfitted with a special crash truck for rescue missions. The Aircraft Fire Rescue Unit ceased operations here when the airport relocated in 1999. Station 14 is now home to AFD's Special Operations Unit, including the Hazmat, Dive, and Technical Rescue teams. Carl Stautz, the building's architect, also designed the Delwood Shopping Center. His fire station is just as modern, and emphasizes the building's flat roof and horizontal form. Its spare ornamentation includes pink granite with carved Deco lettering framing the garage bays.



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