



*THE HYDE PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS*



**THE 44TH ANNUAL
HISTORIC HYDE PARK HOMES TOUR**



**HYDE
PARK:**

**NEW VISIONS
FOR
OLD
HOUSES**



**Sunday,
November 12, 2023**



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WELCOME!

On behalf of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA), welcome to the 44th Annual Historic Hyde Park Homes Tour. This year's theme is "New Visions for Old Houses." The homes on the tour mirror Hyde Park's long history as an Austin neighborhood while also reflecting the modern families who now inhabit them.

This year's homes tour would not have been possible without the time and dedication of our Homes Tour Committee: Kelsey Brown, David Conner, Kip Dollar, Ellie Hanlon, Susan Marshall, and Lorre Weidlich. This group spent most of the past year coordinating different aspects of the tour: selecting homes, finding sponsors, recruiting volunteers, researching and writing up the histories of houses, and organizing our outreach and media campaigns. During this time Chris Wooster provided invaluable technical support, and Kip Dollar took on additional management duties as the day of the tour approached. The neighborhood is grateful to each of you!

HPNA is also grateful to each of our generous neighbors who agreed to put their homes on the tour and we thank our docents and the house captains who volunteered to work in each home. HPNA owes a big thank you to Lorre Weidlich, who once again has produced an excellent tour booklet. Finally, thank you to the countless neighbors and friends of the neighborhood who gave their time and energy to make the tour great, including our ticket collectors and house photographers.

Finally, a special thank you to our sponsors, many of whom have placed advertisements in this tour booklet. Our sponsors help make the homes tour possible and help us keep the tickets affordable. To all of these individuals and businesses, we give our heartfelt thanks for their support to this tour and to our community.

We hope you enjoy your visit to Hyde Park, and we hope you will always feel welcome here.

Kevin Heyburn
President
Hyde Park Neighborhood Association

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association gratefully acknowledges the support of the many neighborhood businesses, community partners, and friends who make Hyde Park a special place to live.

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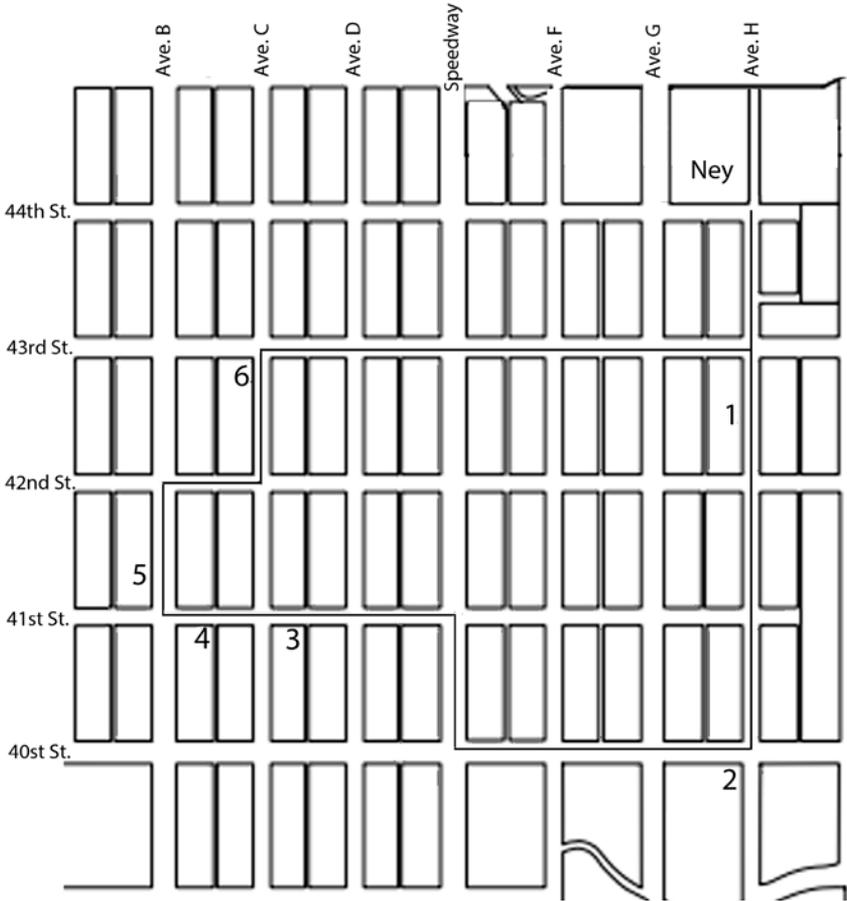
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Hyde Park Neighborhood Association also thanks the countless volunteers who make this tour possible!

HOMES TOUR MAP



Headquarters: Elisabet Ney Museum, 304 E. 44th Street

1 Dykes-Bertrand House, 4206 Avenue H

2 Herzele House, 3916 Avenue H

3 Curl-Crockett House, 213 W. 41st Street

4 Schenken-Oatman House, 311 W. 41st Street

5 Welsh-Rice House, 4102 Avenue B

6 Cooke House, 4210 Avenue C

TOUR HEADQUARTERS

Elisabet Ney Museum

1892

304 E. 44th Street



The Elisabet Ney Museum is a unique structure, the embodiment of a unique personality, a combination of the Romantic and the Classical, the conventional and the iconoclastic. The museum, named “Formosa” (Portuguese for “beautiful”) by its owner, was built in 1892. Elisabet Ney (1833-1907) designed it to be built of uncut, rusticated limestone like the barns of the German Texans west of Austin. Originally, it consisted only of a central cube structure with a classical portico and reception room to the left. Because her home then was in Hempstead, Texas, Ney included a sleeping loft for the weeks when she stayed in Austin to work. By 1902 she and her husband, philosopher Edmund Montgomery, realized that they needed more satisfactory living and working quarters, so she added a second gallery and the tower, with its suggestion of German medieval castles.

A native of Westphalia, Germany, Ney’s interest in sculpture was inspired by her father, a prominent stone carver. Over her parents’ objections, Ney was the first woman to study sculpture at the Munich

Academy of Art. She graduated with highest honors in 1854 and received a scholarship to the Berlin Academy to study with master sculptor Christian Rauch. By age 37, she had sculpted Schopenhauer, Bismarck, Garibaldi, King Ludwig of Bavaria, and Jacob Grimm. In 1863, she wed Scottish physician and philosopher Edmund Montgomery on the island of Madeira. She and her husband left Germany in 1870 at the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War. They emigrated to America and settled at Liendo, a plantation near Hempstead, Texas. After their son's death, she gave up sculpting for almost 20 years until, in 1892, she was asked by Governor Oran Roberts to create sculptures for the Texas Capitol building. At the age of 59, Ney decided to resume her career, just at the time Col. Shipe founded his Hyde Park suburb. She purchased four acres along Waller Creek, and her studio and home became one of the neighborhood's first structures.

Ney was known for her eccentricity: She wore flowing Greek-style robes and a short working tunic, which failed to cover her trousers. Her short hair, unconventional marriage, and strange food preferences provoked comments. Ney's studio, however, became a gathering place for the most distinguished residents of Austin, and she invited such dignitaries as William Jennings Bryan, Enrico Caruso, and Jan Paderewski (who described her as one of the most fascinating women he had ever met) to her home. Ney's



friend, Bride Neill Taylor, wrote, "The conversation played back and forth between the artist and her guests on the subjects dealing mostly with the larger aspects of life, which gave to many a listener a broadening of intellectual vision, a human livening up of already

acquired knowledge, which otherwise, had lain dormant within as dead and dried up book-lore.” (*Elisabet Ney, Sculptor*, Devin-Adair Company, 1916). She believed that art and beauty were powerful forces in both the shaping of a state and the shaping of individuals, a belief shaped, in part, by her experiences with Schopenhauer, Rousseau, and 19th Century Romanticism. “Shall not our dwellings, our public buildings, our factories, our gardens, our parks reflect in reality the loveliness of our artistic dreams?”



After working with clay and marble dust for so long, Miss Ney developed circulatory problems and her health declined. On June 29,

1907, following a stroke, Miss Ney died at Formosa. Her colleagues preserved Formosa as the Elisabeth Ney Museum. They later founded the Texas Fine Arts Association, University of Texas Art Department, and Texas Commission on the Arts. The museum is a National Historic Landmark and National Trust Associate Site. In 2002, the National Trust for Historic Preservation described the museum as “one of the most significant historic artists’ homes and studios in the country” and in 2003, it was





designated an official project of the Save America's Treasures program, a White House initiative to preserve America's cultural resources.

This spring will mark the next chapter in the Elisabet Ney Museum's transformation. The overall campaign, called Re-Imagining the Ney, will encompass three extensive initiatives touching the former studio and home of Elisabet Ney and its historic grounds. Paired with a rigorous community-outreach initiative, the Museum (in partnership with the Friends of the Elisabet Ney Museum and the City of Austin)

will develop an interpretive plan to share Ney's story from a new vantage point, updating the historic landscape with a new landscape rehabilitation, and do substantial upgrades to the studio and grounds through a City of Austin Capital Improvement Project. This work will help ensure more people of all origins can experience Ney's life, art, and surroundings, allowing the spirit of Elisabet to live on for another century and beyond. Bond funding, grants, and private donations are providing a once-in-a-century opportunity to survey the life and work of the extraordinary Elisabet Ney.



Along the Route

Edgar von Boeckmann House, 4410 Avenue H. Across the street from the Ney Museum, at the north-east corner of Avenue H and 44th Street, stands the Edgar von Boeckman (or von Boeckman-Keeble) House, built in 1920 for Edgar von Boeckman. Its architect, Leo M.J. Diehlman of San Antonio, also designed the Post Chapel at Ft. Sam Houston, the Joske Brothers Building, and a significant part of Our Lady of the Lake College. The house exhibits several influences: Colonial and Classical Revival (the symmetrical west front, temple-like entrance, portico, gables, and cornice with dentil work), Victorian (the bay windows), and Prairie Style (the wide roof overhangs). Original owners of the property were Edgar von Boeckmann, former owner of a major cotton gin in Texas, and his wife, Clementine. They moved to Austin in 1907 and bought the land – originally part of the Elisabet Ney property – on which the house stands. Edgar von Boeckmann died in 1918, and his wife Clementine continued to live in the house until her death in 1924. After several other owners, the house was purchased by Judge Robert Pitman and David Smith. With architect Jay Farrell, they restored the house in 2005 and received an award from the Heritage Society of Austin (now Preservation Austin) for their work. The current owners have continued to work with Jay Farrell to convert the attic into living space.



Duval Center, 4208 Duval. When you reach 43rd Street and Avenue H, look to the east to see one of Hyde Park's commercial areas. On the north is Hyde Park's grocery store, FreshPlus, and on the south is Duval Center, built around 1955 on a site that previously held the home of the Wukash family. The Wukash family owned the property until it was purchased by Ed Shaw in 1991. In the years since it was built, Duval Center has held a laundromat, a dry cleaner's shop, a barber shop, a bakery, and various restaurants. Today it holds Quack's, Julio's, Dolce Vita, Fortress Shoes, and Antonelli's Cheese Shop.

Dykes-Bertrand House

1928

4206 Avenue H



Pause before you enter this inviting Tudor Revival to take in the rain garden in the front yard. It, with its lovely bird girl sculpture, works in tandem with another rain garden in the back to prevent water from flowing under the house's shallow pier-and-beam foundation. The current owner, who was born and raised in New Orleans and knows a thing or two about water, has filled her house with vibrant colors as well as art and memorabilia from the Crescent City.

For example, the four paintings in the living room – which share a theme of women shooting clowns – are each set in a different part of that city. Throughout the house are works from the owner's relatives, most notably Totem Pole in the central hallway, a humorous depiction of the workers in the late 1950s at South Louisiana's Domino Sugar refinery, where the owner's father worked for most of his life. To the left are necklaces and other objects created by the owner's grandmother, a thread artist. An uncle built the large wooden rocking horse.

The kitchen continues the New Orleans theme with a poster of Ponchartrain Beach, an amusement park near the owner's childhood

home; a frightening piece titled “Crawfish Eating Cars on Breaux Bridge;” a 1932 cookbook (one recipe calls for “a piece of butter the size of a pigeon’s egg”); and a ceramics collection.

The study to the left of the front entrance takes up the home’s local history. This room was, for a time, the hair salon of Mrs. Rossie Dykes, who



ROSSIE DYKES, HAIRDRESSER

claimed fame as the oldest hairdresser in Texas as well as Lady Bird Johnson’s stylist. Rossie, who owned beauty shops on Colorado and Congress Avenue, was still doing hair a week before her death in 1995 at age 99.



ROSSIE DYKES IN FRONT OF DYKES-BERTRAND HOUSE



Mrs. Dykes, who was trained as a nurse, also found time to patent a bedpan design. She was known

for her passion for bells, at one point installing a large schoolhouse bell in her front yard. When neighborhood children rang it, she would yell, “Who’s ringing that bell?” A forklift had to be brought in to remove the object after Rossie’s death.

Mrs. Dykes and her husband George, a dentist, were living in the house by 1949. Austin History Center records indicate the original owner was Walter H. Badger, Junior, the son of Walter Badger of 4112 Speedway. Walter H. Badger, Junior and his wife, Kathryn, moved in when construction was completed in 1928. Records suggest Walter was proprietor of an auto supply store and that the family was still living in the house in 1940.



By the time the Badgers moved in, the Tudor Revival style was at its peak of popularity in the US. Its characteristics, reflected in this home, include brick siding, flared eaves, prominent chimneys, diamond-paned casement windows, and rounded entryways.

The floors are the original pine, including the kitchen floor, where the owner pulled up linoleum and removed thousands of tacks. She

also replaced an im-promptu utility room with a spacious sun room and art studio and extended the master bath.

Complementing the art is an eclectic collection of furniture, including a vintage butcher block in the kitchen and, in the sunroom, a cabinet that holds art supplies.

Off the back entrance, the patio is made of bricks from an old add-on. Five rain cisterns (holding a

total of 2,750 gallons), the wet-weather creek to the north side of the house, and the drip irrigation system sustain the theme of water conservation. The rain garden with its frog fountain is designed, like the one in front, to drain within two days.

As you leave, take one more look at the front, where a fairy garden nestles around a tree trunk.

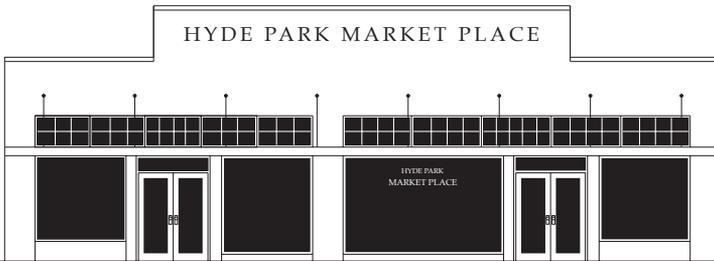


Hyde Park Marketplace

4101 Guadalupe

Site of the first Hyde Park General Store - 1897

Celebrates the 44th
Annual Hyde Park Homes Tour



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Along the Route

Williams-Weigl House, 4107 Avenue H. New York native Harvey Murdock Williams, a bookkeeper at Ramsey Nursery, and his wife, Euphemia, built this house around 1911. Mrs. Williams' sister Annabelle was married to respected nurseryman F.T. (Fruit Tree) Ramsey, whose nursery fields later became Rosedale, Ramsey, and Sinclair Avenues. In 1947, F. Lee Weigl moved his family here. He, along with his father Fortunat, renowned for his ornate ironwork, and his brother Herbert, had founded F. Weigl Iron Works in 1922. F. Lee Weigl followed in his father's footsteps, and his work can be seen in the detailing on the house. For 55 years the Weigl family crafted fine ornamental ironworks for many of Austin's homes and public buildings. The house has a bungalow form and symmetrical plan with a three-bay porch and a central door flanked by sidelights. The house gracefully combines Art and Crafts with Classical Revival influences. The house's moderate scale and construction materials – brick and wood – remind us that by the early 20th century Hyde Park was a working-class neighborhood. The two iron gates installed in the front yard were originally forged by Lee Weigl as window bars and later modified by his son Tommy for their present use. The lamp post and the mailbox are also examples of Weigl handiwork; as are the overhead light, railing, and decorative brackets on the generous porch. The Weigl name



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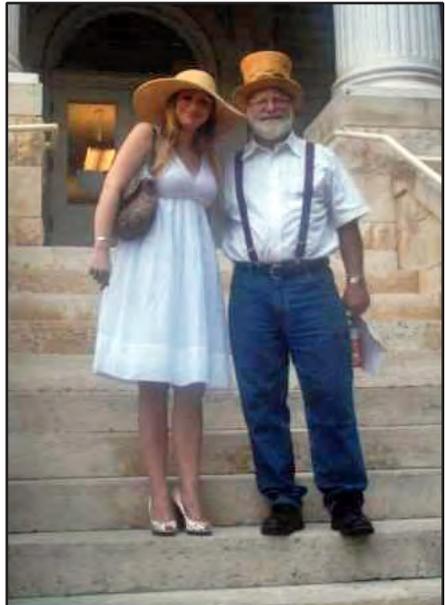
still hangs from the lamp post.

Zimmerli-Rosenquist House, 4014 Avenue H. Ida and Julius Zimmerli purchased this house in November, 1903, from Colonel Shipe and his wife. Ida was a Swiss immigrant and dress maker. They sold the house to Helena Rosenquist, its second owner, in March, 1906. Rosenquist owned the house for 29 and 1/2 years.



Helena, with her husband and five children, emigrated initially from Sweden to Victoria, Texas. Her family had success with cotton farming, enabling them to be landowners. The house was one of the first structures built in

the 4000 block of Avenue H and maintained a rural landscape as of 1935, with vacant lots on all sides. The Zimmerli-Rosenquist House endured many ownership changes (approximately 17) since its original purchase, transformation into a duplex in the mid '30s, many years as a rental, and several long periods of vacancy until it was significantly restored by Judy Sanders of Vintage Homes in 1980 and '81. It is an early 20th Century cottage, originally a basic rectangular one-story structure. Its Colonial Revival features include an emphasis on symmetry and a single transomed front door, porch pediment with a scroll motif, and pedimented dormer, all on the same axis. Queen Anne influence persists, however, in its steep roof pitch and the octagonal form of the entrance vestibule. Other features include a dominant octagonal projecting porch with round columns; a full length, symmetrically arranged



IN MEMORY OF STAN KOZINSKY
THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE LEGEND

three-bay projecting façade; a decorative gable dormer above the pediment; and two additional dormers on the north and south sides. Today, the house is also known for the goats and chickens that live on the north side of the house.

Ramsdell-Wolff House, 4002 Avenue H. This shingled, hip roofed house was built in 1905 on five lots for Susite and Charles W. Ramsdell, a history professor at the University of Texas and author who came to be known as the



“Dean of Southern Historians.” Ramsdell served for more than 30 years as secretary-treasurer of the Texas State Historical Association. His best known book, *Reconstruction in Texas*, was written in this house. The Craftsman style architecture of the house bridges the gap between the Victorian exuberance of the late 19th Century and a new era of simplicity that culminated in the bungalow-style homes built in Hyde Park in the 1920s. Originally, there was no front dormer (The two side dormers are original; the front dormer was added by the early 1920s.) or porch rail and the front door was located where the windows now stand. The house went through 17 years as a rental property and was so deteriorated,

including having a gaping hole in the roof, that it had been condemned when it was purchased in 1980 by a sympathetic couple who restored it. They returned the exterior to its original dark-green color and added the decorative punched-tin trim.

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Herzele House

1927

3916 Avenue H



Charlotte Herzele had always been drawn to Hyde Park, so when the newly remodeled house at 3916 Avenue H came up for sale in 2007, she knew that with some work it could be a wonderful place for her and her three adult children to congregate. Commissioning her daughter Juniper Tedhams, a noted interior designer based in New York and Venice, California, to rethink the interior and exterior, Herzele embarked on a meticulous two-year remodel that culminated in the five-bedroom, six-bathroom “Craftsman Revisal” (a term coined by Charlotte Herzele) you see today.

The structure looked as new as its time of remodeling and didn’t feel in keeping with the historical homes of Hyde Park. To give the house a reference point and therefore anchor it to the neighborhood, Tedhams drew inspiration from the dark green Craftsman home across 40th Street. She wanted 3916 Avenue H to both recede into its surroundings and be compatible with that home.

Working closely with architect John Maier, of Maier+Zelter, and contractor Richard Standifer, Tedhams had much of the interior gutted and reconfigured. The ceiling height and a couple of bathroom

locations would remain the same, but other rooms were reorganized, and the circular staircase, which had been open to the living and dining rooms, was made into a closed staircase with a landing.

Tedhams wanted to “squash the

house down” a bit, so they restructured the roofline, tore off the back porches, and added depth to the front porch to give it a more gracious feel.



HERZELE HOUSE, PRE-RESTORATION

Tedhams imagined the house as an older home that had been renovated.



She envisioned the center of the house as the original home and, with that in mind, decided that those walls should be made of plaster. The porches of an original Craftsman home would have been enclosed to create outer bedrooms. To convey that idea, Tedhams had the bedroom walls constructed of five-and-a-half-inch boards to resemble shiplap.

Inside the home, Tedhams was determined to use as few materials as



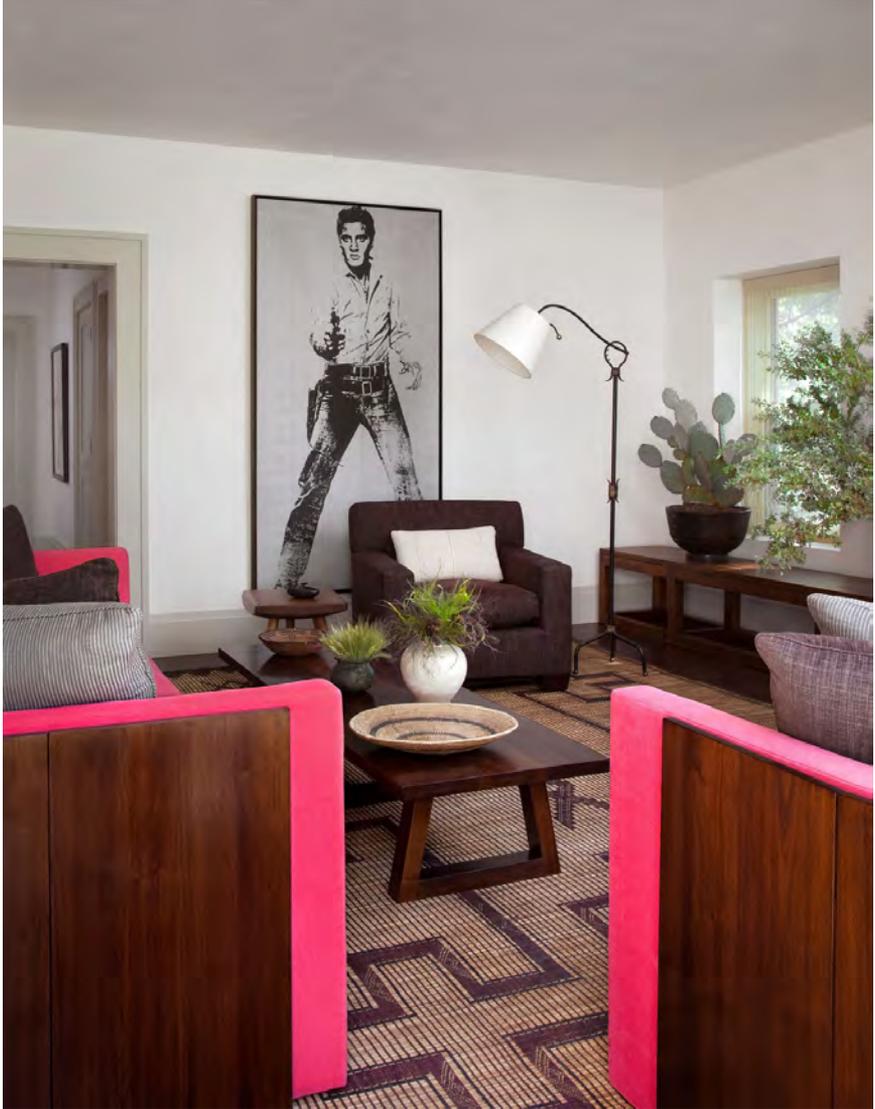
possible. Throughout the house, there are only six materials: wood, plaster, painted wood, oil-rubbed bronze, Moroccan cement tile (for the bathroom floors), and Belgian bluestone (for the countertops in the kitchen, bathroom, and laundry room). Belgian bluestone is a limestone tile with a cool blue-gray palette. With numerous inclusions said to be fossils of ancient sea life, Belgian bluestone is sturdy enough for building but attractive enough for decorative features.

The exterior of the home has seen a transformation as well. The fence was removed and



a front driveway added. Landscape designer Theresa Kwilosz of Pearl Gardens chose mature plantings to give the sense that they had been there for years, blending with the neighborhood much as the house does now.

Read the *Architectural Digest* story about the Herzele House at <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/juniper-tedhams-charlotte-herzele-austin-home>



Along the Route

Covert House, 3912 Avenue G. This house was built in 1898 by Frank and Annie Covert. The house's original owner, Frank Covert, oversaw the construction of the house. Covert began his career in the stationery and book business; by 1887, he had moved to real estate and insurance; and in 1914 he opened one of Austin's first automobile dealerships. He donated the Mt. Bonnell lookout to Travis County for a public park. The Covert family lived in the house until about 1905, and it has had numerous owners since then. The Home of the Holy Infancy, a Catholic orphanage and home for unwed mothers, later known as the Marywood Home, occupied the house from 1927 to 1931. The Horans, who owned the house from 1998 until 2008, earned the a Heritage Society Award in 2001 for their restoration efforts. Its Queen Anne style is apparent in its two-story wraparound porch with paired Doric columns and its off-centered pedimented portico. Its elaborate roofscape includes mansard, gabled, and hipped roof forms and corbelled brick chimneys. The eclectic Queen Anne style can also be seen in the home's strong horizontal emphasis, diversity of textures and materials, and decorative detailing. Modernization meets historic conservation in this charming and remarkable Hyde Park gem, arguably the neighborhood's grande dame.



Page Gilbert House, 3913 Avenue G. One of the oldest houses in Hyde Park, this unusual brick dwelling was designed and built in 1893 by Christopher H. Page with the help of local contractor, William J Sutton. Page was an English immigrant who had come to Austin in the 1880s to work as the chief stonemason on the new state capitol building. Page conveyed the house in 1896 to his son Charles, who became a prominent Austin architect and designed several important Hyde Park houses as well as the Littlefield Building and the Travis County Courthouse. Wade and Clara Border purchased the house from Charles Page and lived there with their two daughters until 1933. The next owners were Mr. and Mrs. John F. Gilbert, who made several changes to the property. Mr. Gilbert

died in 1947; his widow remained in the house until 1974. During later years, the house fell into disrepair. It was sold to Gary and Wanda Penn in 1977. During the next 26 years, the Penns complete-



ly restored and renovated the house. The house has Queen Anne elements and an unusual vertical design, including its gable, entrance tower with pyramidal roof, and porch with turned wood posts and geometrically patterned balustrade.

Clarkson-Crutchfield House, 4001 Avenue G. This house first appears in the city directory in 1905 as the home of Alfred B. Clarkson. Cicero Cohran (C.C.) Crutchfield, Sr. and his wife Melba rented the house for several years, purchased it in 1944, and occupied it for more than a half century. They raised a daughter, Margaret, and two sons, C.C., Jr. and John. C.C. Crutchfield, Senior was a field representative for what later became the Texas Municipal League and traveled throughout the state on League business. The Crutchfields erected a parakeet aviary on the southeast corner



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of the lot and dug a fish pond in the back yard. John Crutchfield remembers planting the three now mature pecan trees in 1947. The Crutchfields sold the house in 1996 to its current owners, who have restored the home. The upstairs screened porch, where the Crutchfields slept before air conditioning, was enclosed and a new side entrance added as part of a two-story rear addition designed by Hyde Park architects McGraw Marburger and Associates. It merges seamlessly with the original structure. The Tuscan columns of the front porch and the dentils atop the entablature were restored. A period neo-classical balustrade was added above and the entire structure repainted to accentuate such period details as the scalloped shingles of the front most pediment and the distinctive carved disks in the woodwork. The grounds of the home, where the Crutchfields tended a Victory Garden during World War II, have been stripped of invasive species and re-landscaped by Hyde Park landscape designer Jill Nokes.



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Speedway. Walkers through Hyde Park cross a series of Avenues – A, B, C, D, F, G, H. But what happened to Avenue E? Why is it known as Speedway? Before the founding of Hyde Park in 1891, the Capital Jockey Club racetrack occupied the south-east corner of what became Hyde Park. The racetrack was subsumed into the Texas State Fair in 1875, which relocated to Dallas in 1884. Jockies used a particular area to exercise their horses. Over time, the area became known as the speedway, and when Hyde Park was founded, the name stuck.

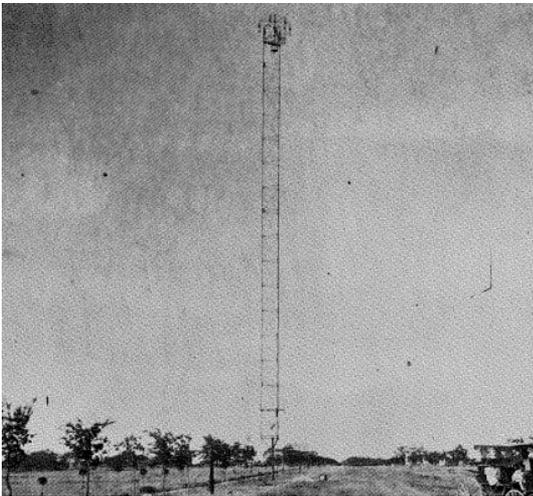


Robert T Badger House, 4006 Speedway. In 1895, Col. Monroe M. Shipe’s Missouri, Kansas and Texas Land Company sold this property to Shipe’s wife Adele, and about 1900 either Mrs. Shipe or the Land Company constructed the present building. In 1909, Robert Tate Badger and his wife (born Birdie Haywood) moved to Austin from Marble Falls and bought the property The Robert T. Badger house is one of four houses on the 4000 and 4100 blocks of Speedway owned by the Badger family. Brothers Robert T and Walter Badger and their father together founded the B. Badger & Sons mountain cedar wholesale company. Later, around 1929, Robert and Walter founded the Yellow House Land Company. Their final venture was the Plains Investment Company. The Badger House was built during a period of transition in American domestic architecture from the irregularity and intricate detailing of the romantic revival 19th Century styles to a simpler Beaux-Arts, Classical-influenced mode. While the Badger House retains some vestigial late-Victorian Queen Anne features – the three sets of two-tiered bay windows and lateral gables, for instance – the overall character indicates the stronger Colonial Revival influence. The house has an imposing Classical portico with massive fluted columns. The house has been through four major remodelings. The 1995 renova-

tion removed asbestos siding and restored the wooden exterior to approximate its appearance in the *Austin City of the Violet Crown* (1917) photograph, the most important work on early 20th Century Austin architecture.



Moonlight Tower. At the intersection of 41st and Speedway stands the Hyde Park moonlight tower, 165 feet high, constructed of cast and wrought iron. In 1894, Austin purchased 31 moonlight towers; seventeen still remain. They were common in US cities at the end of the 19th Century, but only Austin still uses them. The Hyde Park tower was the first one in the city. When Hyde Park was founded in 1891, the electric generators at the Austin dam were not finished, so Colonel Shipe powered the moonlight tower with electricity from his own generator. Lighting in the moonlight tower evolved: originally, it consisted of six carbon arc lamps. These were replaced with incandescent lamps in 1925, then with mercury



vapor lamps in 1936. Today, the towers use metal-halide bulbs. In 1993, Austin restored all of its remaining moonlight towers. They are Austin and Texas Historic Landmarks and are included in the US National Register of Historic Places. According to *Texas Architect*, October, 1998, “Before

they were erected, many city residents predicted the 24-hour light would cause severe overgrowth of gardens and lawns: Farmers said that the giant corn and beans would be impossible to harvest, that grass would have to be cut with an axe, and that chickens would lay eggs 24 hours each day. Fortunately, none of these dire predictions came to pass.”

Curl-Crockett House

1894

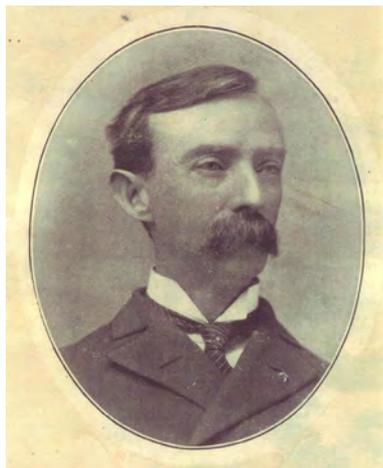
213 W 41st Street



The Curl-Crockett House, constructed in 1893 and '94, is one of the oldest houses in the Hyde Park Historic District. It epitomizes the rise and fall of the Hyde Park neighborhood: built as the home of a noted state official and owned by other respected citizens, it gradually fell into decline until it was unsympathetically divided into apartments in the 1950s. The van Bavels, who acquired the house in 2004, lovingly restored it over a period of three years and made it a neighborhood showpiece that was featured for the first time in the 2007 Hyde Park Homes Tour, right before their young family moved in.

Sited on a large corner lot, the house was built for lawyer and politician James R. Curl (1851-1905), Chief Clerk of the Texas State Department from 1891 to 1895 and Secretary of State (appointed by Governor Samuel W. T. Lanham) from 1903 until his death from cancer at age 54.

In 1869, Curl married his first cousin, Fannie Renfro, at Larissa, Cherokee County. She died eight years later. In 1881 he wed her younger sister Ada, with whom he had seven children. His family



JAMES R. CURL

lived in comfort and socialized with such distinguished figures of the day as Gov. James Hogg and his daughter Ima. Unfortunately, after Curl's death, financial loss due to bad investments caused the younger Curl children to be sent to the Masonic Home in Fort Worth.

On September 23, 1893, Curl bought four lots in the fledgling Hyde Park suburb from the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Land and Town Company for \$825. Almost immedi-

ately the Curls contracted with Preston S. Hopkins to build "a two story frame building of seven rooms with closets, bath room, halls, galleries and foundations of brick piers, with two brick chimneys and one brick flue for a dwelling house with yard fence ... for the sum of \$1800." Four months later, however, a new Builder's Lien was filed with J. J. Brydson to finish the incomplete structure at a cost of \$785. Its little-known architect, Jabez R. Wyard, practiced in Austin from 1887 to 1910.

The Curl House was built in a T-plan, with three rooms upstairs and downstairs in the main block and likely a rear ell or detached kitchen. The exterior of the house contains fine Eastlake detailing, particularly in the lateral gable on the entrance (north) elevation;



AUSTIN CITY OF THE VIOLET CROWN PHOTO

these fine late Victorian elements, masked by gray paint for decades, are once again decorated in period-style contrasting colors.

The two-tiered, wrap-around verandah sup-

ported by Doric columns, a prominent feature when the house was displayed in *Austin City of the Violet Crown* (1917), the city's major architectural brag book of the early 20th century, shows a classical influence that contrasts with the Eastlake vocabulary of the main block. Tax records record a jump in the property value from \$1,135 in 1907 to \$1,900 in 1909, which coincides with the period when some one-story Victorian porches in Austin were being replaced by two-story, Colonial Revival porches, both to modernize appearance and to provide a shaded area below and a sleeping porch above.

Over the next twenty years, after Curl sold the house, the property changed hands several times. Owners included Judge Henry Faulk, known for his later home (Green Pastures), and his progeny and Otto Ebeling and his wife Emilie Giesecke, both members of noted German-Texan families.

Harry Lee Crockett (1872-1947), proprietor of the Crockett Produce Company, and his wife, Corabel, occupied the house longest, from 1920 until 1943. During the next decade, it had eight different owners. By

1958, it had been divided into five apartments. Numerous tenants, some with blue and white collar occupations and some students, occupied the property over a 60-year period. Bevo,

the U.T. mascot, was rumored to have been brought to the house for frat parties when it was occupied by the Silver Spurs, the caretakers of Bevo.

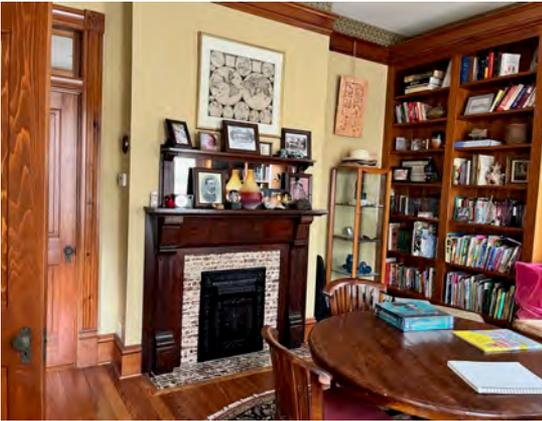


FRONT PORCH STAIRCASE

The interior of the house was considerably altered for its use as apartments. The second floor of the verandah was enclosed, though

many Doric columns remained in place within the enclosed areas. The interior staircase was moved to the front porch. Bathrooms and kitchens were created for the apartments, but most of the principal rooms retained their shapes.

The house has been waiting for sympathetic rehabilitation. Guided by architects David Webber and Lotte Vehko, contractor Peter Dick (now retired) restored both the exterior and interior of the main block. A



deteriorated rear wing was approximated, separated from the main block by a glass hyphen, and a garage was added.

Now celebrating the 130 year anniversary of its construction, this magnificently restored grand old home is surrounded by native species, including cedar elms, pecans, and a large Monterrey oak planted by the current owners in the house's front yard on the 41st Street side; and two Chinquapin oaks on either side of the driveway facing Avenue C.



Schenken-Oatman House

1909

311 West 41st Street



This home was built by Adalbert Schenken, the first American-born member of a family that traces its roots back hundreds of years in Quedlinburg, Germany.

In 1877, Adalbert left school at the age of 14 to follow his stepfather as a printer's apprentice. They worked together on *Texas Vorwaerts* (Texas Forward) and a number of other German-language publications catering to the Texas German community and also produced English language work for the Austin Von Boeckman-Jones publishing company and the *Austin American* newspaper.

Adalbert and his wife, Mary, raised two sons, Al and Ralph, who served in World War I and spent time in California. They returned after the war with tales of a land of milk and honey that beckoned them to return. As the story goes, the family gathered around a map of California and randomly picked a destination. Adalbert, with eyes closed, put his finger on a town named Paradise.

Pearl Oatman, a widow and member of the prominent Norwood family, purchased the home from the Schenkens in 1921 after selling a small farm in rural Travis County. She raised her daughter,

also named Pearl, in the home, and by the 1950s the younger Pearl was working down 41st Street at the Austin State Hospital. Both women lived quietly and were stalwart members of Shettles Memorial (now Trinity) Methodist Church. Sometime after her mother's death, the younger Pearl, now herself in failing health, left the house and it stood empty for several decades. She died in 2005.



SCHENKEN-OATMAN HOUSE CIRCA 1960S



**SCHENKEN-OATMAN HOUSE PRE-RESTORATION,
AFTER REMOVAL OF METAL SIDING**

Concerned Hyde Park residents watched the vacant house for years. They knew that under the aluminum siding sat a home that had scarcely been altered since it was built and was worth saving.



The property was finally put up for sale in 2007, and a demolition permit was pulled to replace the existing house. Ten Hyde Park residents formed Re-store Hyde Park LLC and purchased the property to save it from being demolished. They spent the next year restoring the house and acquiring City of Austin Historic Landmark status for it.*

The house still has its original siding, windows, and metal shingle roof, one of very few that

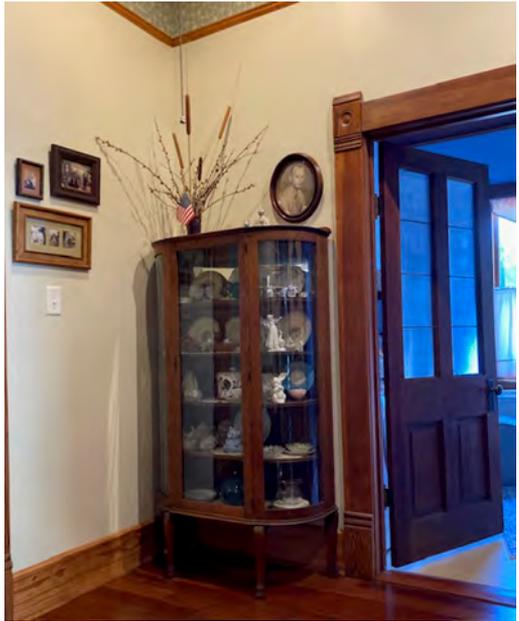
ORIGINAL KITCHEN.

survived metal collection drives during WWII. While some doors and a wall were moved inside the house and the back enclosed porch had to be rebuilt with an additional 7' added to it, the interior still sports its original beadboard ceilings, wainscoting, and door and window trim. Rooms toward the back of the house were given new uses, but every effort was made to keep the original feel of the house while updating it to make it more useable.



Upon completion of the project, a gathering was held that included members of the Schenken family, city and state leaders, and many Hyde Park neighbors.** Everyone was asked to write a note on the unfinished walls of the entry. Those messages remain under the wallpaper for a future owner to uncover.

The home is currently owned by one of the members of Restore Hyde Park LLC.



* During the restoration work, several newspapers and a pair of boys knickers were found in one of the walls. The newspapers are understandable, but the knickers?

** The extended Schenken family spent years researching the places the family had lived. This house was the only one they could never trace until the group doing the restoration contacted a Schenken living in Cedar Park.



Welsh-Rice House

1910

4102 Avenue B



When construction began on 4102 Avenue B, narrow 25-foot Hyde Park lots sold for \$110, with payment terms of \$10 down and \$5 a month. The home was advertised for sale in February of 1910 by Black H. Welsh, who worked as a carpenter building homes. He advertised the property as a “new 4-room cottage in Hyde Park, on car line, east front.”

The car line to which Welsh referred was Hyde Park developer Monroe Shipe’s Austin Rapid Transit Railway trolley line. It looped off Guadalupe along 40th Street and ran along Avenue B, making this location a prime area to live in the neighborhood. The home was also just three blocks south of Avenue B Grocery, which still stands today as Austin’s oldest surviving grocery store.

This home has seen plenty of neighborhood activity over its lifetime. Despite advertising the home for sale, Welsh would go on to reside in the home with his daughter, Lulu, over the following few years. The home then went on to be rented to a procession of tenants, including many who worked nearby and several religious leaders in Hyde Park.

Brother and Mrs. John C. Myrick were among the first tenants to rent the home in 1914. Brother Myrick was the pastor of Hyde Park Christian Church, which was located on Avenue D – at the time, just a few blocks away from the home. The couple was very engaged in the community and would often hold Bible studies and Ladies Aid Society meetings at the home. A few years later, Reverend E. Mills Douthit and his wife, Allie, resided there.

By the 1920s, the home came into the ownership of Mrs. Mary F. Hodge. Mary was widowed and worked as a dressmaker and helper at the Austin State Hospital,



also near the home just two streets west on Guadalupe Street. She sold the home to the Hunt family in 1926, who then sold it to the Martin family in 1930. While the Martin family occupied the home throughout some of their ownership, they rented the home as well. A 1931 listing in the *Austin American* advertised the unfurnished home for rent at \$20 per month.

In 1946, the home would come into the ownership of James Arthur and Jessie Elizabeth Rice. The couple had three children and they shared the residence with their youngest son, Charles Edward “Eddie”, and his wife, Merle. The Rice family would spend the next several decades at 4102 Avenue B. Following in the footsteps of some of the home’s previous residents, the couple were both employed at Austin State Hospital. James worked as a barber and Jessie as a seamstress and attendant.

After James’ death in January of 1947, Jessie became the sole owner of the home and continued to reside there with her son and daughter-in-law. Eddie was a veteran of World War II, where he served as a Private in the US Army and specialized in engineering. He and Merle married soon after his service concluded, and the



couple continued to be active members of VFW Post 4443 throughout their lives. They also welcomed two sons in the early 1950s, James Arthur and Charles Edward Jr. They raised their sons in the family home for some time before moving to south Austin.

In 1978, Jessie moved to Spicewood, Texas and sold the home. She made sure to keep it in the family, though. With Eddie as her attorney, she sold the home to her grandson, Charles Jr., for a grand total of \$10. Charles Jr. would go on to raise a family in the home as well. He married his wife, Adrienne, that same year and they welcomed their daughter in 1980. The couple sold the home shortly afterward, in 1982.

The home would go on to see several new owners over the next few years, along with several renovations. Following the sale from the Rice family, the home was restored and put back on the market. Subsequent owners added another bedroom and bathroom and completed a full renovation before selling the home to its current owner, Patricia Gunn, in 1996.

A lover of art, Patricia has an extensive collection showcased throughout the home. The painting of the woman in the guest bedroom is an especially significant piece by East Texas artist, Sam Keith. Patricia purchased the painting shortly before he passed away at the age of 84 and sent him a photo of the painting hanging on her wall.



His children shared the photo with him on his deathbed and he expressed how happy he was knowing that the painting found a home with someone who loved her.



Patricia has also been making the home her own while retaining its original touches. Over the years, she added hardwood floors and insulation throughout the house, completed a total renovation of the kitchen and both bathrooms, and added custom built-in bookshelves in the office. She also extended the back porch deck, which is built around a still growing 200 year old tree, and added xeriscaping to the front yard for a space that conserves water and stays beautiful year round. With the many stories this home holds, it is a great example of bringing new life and functionality to the charm and character of classic Hyde Park.



Along the Route

Elvira T. Davis House, 4112 Avenue B. This historic house was built by Elvira T. Manor Davis, who holds the distinction of being one of the few single women of the time to own property in this family neighborhood. Elvira T. Manor (1841-1918) was reared in east Travis County near present-day Manor, a town named for her father. She married Blackstone H. Davis, whose family owned the quarry that supplied stone for the 1853 Texas Capitol and whose original home-stead is now the site of Austin's Northwest Park. A well-respected attorney, Mr. Davis was murdered in 1881 while traveling between Bastrop and Austin and the case was never solved. Elvira, widowed and the mother of six, bought this lot in 1896 and built the house by 1904. Elvira continued to live here, often taking in boarders, until she died in 1918. After her death, the house passed through many hands and was eventually converted into a triplex. UT architecture students Andrew Herdeg and Liam Winters III purchased it in the late 1980s and restored it to its original configuration as part of a senior thesis. Design features of the house, such as the Doric porch columns, balustrade, and bay windows exhibit a transition from Victorian-era to classical revival design. Like many Hyde Park homes, it exhibits a strong Queen Anne influence: the projecting bay window, high pitched roof, deep inset wraparound porch, and sharply peaked gables, some decorated with jigsaw bracket work, others with fish scale shingles.



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Cooke House

1924

4210 Avenue C



George Hiram Cooke was born in 1870 in Calvert, Texas. The son of Texas native, Mary Ann Neibling, and retired Texas Ranger, Major Hiram William Cooke, his ties to Texas ran deep. George pursued a career in oil, drilling on spans of acres in boom towns throughout the state. He also married Harriet Phillips in the late 1880s and the couple started a family in Dripping Springs.

After great success in the oil business, the Cooke family moved to Austin. They are recorded as being Hyde Park residents as early as 1910, although their permanent residence wouldn't begin construction until 1924. In June of that year, *The Austin American* published that a building permit in the amount of \$3,500 was issued to George Cooke to construct the family's home at 4210 Avenue C.

The house was built in a classic Craftsman style that was popular in the era and prevalent in the Hyde Park neighborhood. The asymmetrical design of the home features a low-pitched, double gable roof. The overhanging eaves, supported by tapered wooden columns with sturdy brick bases, provide shelter for a welcoming front porch. Painted wood siding wraps the exterior of the home, with

double-pane sash windows and an exposed brick fireplace located in the entry parlor.

George Cooke continued his success as a businessman within the Austin community. He started Austin Building Materials at 4119 Guadalupe, approximately where Mongers Market + Kitchen stands today. Throughout the 1930s and '40s, George and Harriet lived together with their son, Travis Cooke, and his wife, Dr. Alice Lovelace Cooke. Travis supported the family business and became owner of Austin Building Materials. Alice was one of the first female faculty of the University of Texas. She served as a professor of English for thirty-eight years, where she was known for her fondness of Walt Whitman as well as her fine mind, quick wit, and generous spirit. She published a volume of poetry entitled *Sitting and Looking Out* and co-authored the book *Pioneer Women Teachers in Texas*.

Both George and Harriet passed away in 1951 and their daughter Hazel Cooke Rhodes, along with her husband and son, became the primary resi-



dents of the home. In 1956, the family added a duplex to the home for Hazel's sister to reside. The duplex had its own entrance from the exterior and each side of the house provided complete living amenities, with the primary residence on the right and the duplex addition on the left. An adjoining central door opened these separate living spaces up to each other.

Dr. Mildred Cooke, who moved into the duplex, was another woman in the family with a noteworthy career. She graduated from the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston in 1932 at the age of

thirty-six. At that time, women made up only 4% of physicians in the United States. Mildred practiced in Pennsylvania for several years before returning to Texas in the 1940s and retiring in 1958. Hazel and her family eventually moved out of the home, and Mildred continued to live at 4210 Avenue C until the end of her life. She was the last of her siblings to pass away in 1991 and left her estate to her nieces and nephews, who were instructed to sell the home and divide the profit.



The home changed hands a few times in the years that followed before coming into the ownership of Mark and Alexandra Floreani in 2014. The couple have undertaken a comprehensive restoration with the guidance of preservation architect Tere O'Connell, principal of O'Connell Architecture.

The entry parlor features the original fireplace and benches as well as original long-leaf pine flooring seen throughout most of the first floor. The cherry wood

staircase that opens into the parlor is an addition that became an important part of the new vision for this home. The staircase was relocated and thoughtfully designed to fit into the home's historic character. It provides cohesion for the space through a more traditional, clear circulation pattern.

Along with this improved circulation, the attic was converted into a second story with additional bedrooms, bathroom, and play space. The attic was originally finished out in 2001 with shed dormers and a very low head height, so the ceilings were raised and the roofline was updated to maintain the style of the first story gables. The long-leaf pine installed on the second floor was salvaged from

a historic home at 7th Street and Baylor Street and another home on Maufrais Street that was demolished. This salvaged wood was also used in the repair of the kitchen floor and other areas downstairs.



Part of this work also included creating larger closet space and bathroom for the main bedroom, a proper laundry room, and a guest room suite that is somewhat insulated from the rest of the house. The updated kitchen and bathrooms incorporate historic light fixtures and cabinetry custom-designed for the spaces. The kids' bath vanity even has pull-out step stools at the sink.

With this attentive preservation, the Cooke House will continue to showcase the past, present, and future of Hyde Park.



Along the Route

Clark-Emmert House, 4300 Avenue D. In 1895, Frank and Amanda Clark hired John B. Headspeth to build this cottage. Frank Clark was a printer and later owned the Clark Print Shop at 400 East 3rd Street. German immigrants Gustav and Anna Emmert bought the property around 1912. Gustav Emmert was born in Fulda, Germany in 1854. He settled in Bastrop in 1870 and in 1875 he married Anna Kadura. They had a large family of four sons and four daughters and nearly as many business interests. Among their many enterprises were a restaurant that served workers constructing the Capitol and an automobile livery on Congress Avenue that employed their four sons as chauffeurs. Their yard contained a large, productive garden, a Jersey cow, and chickens. With the exception of a few years, members of the Emmert family have lived in the house or portions of it until 1989. The home was subdivided into two apartments in 1935. During World War II, the larger of the two apartments was further divided to create three separate apartments. The house, a Late Eastlake style cottage, was restored in 1982. The wrap-around veranda had its original gingerbread detailing duplicated from historic photographs and the house was repainted with exterior colors which approximate the home's original paint scheme.



The decorative spindlework, the jigsaw brackets, the playful balustrade, are crowned by gables that are equally festive in spirit. Notice also the fish scale shingles and the spindlework in the elaborate crossbracings.

McMillan-Falk House, 4213 Avenue D. Luther McMillen, a contractor, is listed as the first owner of 4213 Avenue D in the 1916 city directory, but the most well-known resident of this address moved here in the 1940s and lived at the house, which was then about half the size it is now, until his death in 1989. Bibb Falk, who was born in Austin in 1899, was the head baseball coach for the University of Texas from 1940 until 1967; Disch-Falk Field

is named for him and Falk's own coach, Billy Disch. During Falk's tenure as coach, the team won two National Championships and 20 Southwest Conference championships. Before becoming UT's baseball coach, Falk replaced "Shoeless Joe" Jackson on the Chicago White Sox after Jackson was banished from baseball for his involvement in the sport's infamous gambling scandal of 1920. During his time with the White Sox, Falk became second only to Babe Ruth as the top batter in the American League. The house was



restored and expanded in 2008. The owners were careful to honor the house's original Craftsman bungalow structure while ensuring that the work required to add 1,100 square feet to the house was done in an environmentally responsible manner. Vehko Architecture's work on the additions to the home allow for abundant natural ventilation and minimal use of artificial heating and cooling. The owners added an expansive deck, with the star attraction of a century-old ash tree.

Former Hyde Park Post Office, Speedway and 43rd Street. Several years ago, after decades at this location, the Hyde Park Post Office closed. Since then, the post office building has been transformed into a Hyde Park commercial center: First Light Books, Allday Pizza, Tiny Grocer, and others to come. Take a break and enjoy a pastry at First Light Books coffee shop.

Fire Station #9. At the northeast corner of the intersection of 43rd and Speedway is the historically zoned Fire Station #9. It was commissioned in 1929, when fire stations were built to blend in with neighborhoods. Its half-timbered gables mark it as Tudor Revival. The fire station's significance to Hyde Park transcends its function: In 1969, Austin budget cuts resulted in the possibility that the station would close. Hyde Park residents, led by



Dorothy Richter, fought to keep the station open. They saved the station and, in addition, founded the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association. On the front of the station is a plaque honoring Dorothy Richter, sponsored by her grateful neighbors. The fire station was enlarged and renovated over a period of two years to modernize it and to include facilities for female fire fighters. It reopened just over a year ago.

Kopperl House, 4212 Avenue F. Loula Dale Kopperl was born in Missouri in 1861, moved to Burnet when young, and married Morris A. Kopperl, nephew of Moritz Kopperl, namesake of the town of Kopperl in Bosque County, in 1883. Morris was admitted to the Texas bar in 1897. About the same time Loula bought, as her separate property, this newly built home from Henry Clay Fisher, Chief Justice of the 3rd Court of Civil Appeals, who had contracted with William H. Poole to build the house in early 1896. Morris and Loula lived in the house until 1912, when he moved to Colorado, charged Loula with desertion, and divorced her. Undaunted, Loula continued to go on hunting expeditions, keep racehorses in her





stables, and keep up a social calendar that included her neighbor and friend, sculptor Elisabet Ney. Mrs. Kopperl was a free spirit, remembered in part for her risqué sense of humor. She died in 1919. Her heirs sold the house to Joe and Mary Hoegerl in the 1920s. During their ownership, the southern part of the property was sold and a gazebo on the northwest part of the lot was demolished. Mr. Hoegerl lived in the house until his death in 1977 at age 92. In 1978

Eugene and Patricia Tankersley purchased the house and began restoring it. It received an award from the Heritage Society of Austin in 1980. In 1984 Peter Flagg Maxson, then Chief Architectural Historian for the Texas Historical Commission, and John Charles Randolph Taylor V purchased the house. It was further remodeled in 2005, with the aid of the restoration architectural firm ArchiTexas and contractor Greg Kahn. No original plantings survive on the lot except the large pecan north of the house, which reportedly predates the neighborhood. This late Victorian house is an excellent example of the Eastlake Style, with a wrap-around verandah that encircles much of three sides of the house. It retains its original carriage block, cistern, and two outbuildings.

Hodnette-McKesson House, 4300 Avenue F. The Hodnette-McKesson house was built in 1908 for Milton J. Hodnette and was designed by Charles H. Page, Sr., who later designed the Littlefield Building and the Travis County Courthouse. The house is a fine Prairie-style bungalow and shows the strong influence of Frank Lloyd Wright, particularly in the wide overhangs, low-profiled hipped roof, and dominant horizontal lines. Note the Japanese-style lanterns on the front porch – according to Page, a trademark of his early homes – and the hitching posts in front of the house.



A low limestone wall originally encircled the property. By the early 1920s the house was owned by Charles E. and Elizabeth Roberts. The Roberts family bought and ran a grocery store at 4107 1/2 Guadalupe. By the mid 1940s the house had passed to new owners, who made the first significant changes to the house. The wall surrounding the property was dismantled and the stone used to build a freestanding garage. In 1952, U. S. Air Force Col. Elmer McKesson and his wife Elena bought the house. Their family lived in the house on and off for the next 39 years. The current owners have restored and changed the house, including converting the garage into a living space. The house's exterior today appears remarkably similar to the way it looked in 1917, when the first known photo was taken.

Adams House, 4300 Avenue G. Built in 1911 by Richard Gesswein and his wife, Jennie, the Adams House (also known as the Gesswein-Adams House) began life as a one-story, asymmetrical Victorian cottage. Mr. Gesswein was a clerk at the Hill and Hill Grocers & Feed Store at 1010 Congress Avenue. In 1922, the house was sold to William T. and May Adams. Mr. Adams worked for the state in the Agriculture Department. In the early 1930s, the Adams expanded and remodeled the house into a square, two-story Colonial Revival. A few years later, the widowed Mrs. Adams began to take in boarders. She lived in the house until 1955. The house was subdivided into four apartments and was rented continuously until 1996, when restoration specialist Gregory Free of Gregory Free and Associates and Michel Issa of Old Texas Properties bought it. Their goal was to restore it to its heyday as a Colonial Revival style single-family dwelling. The four apartments were dismantled. The removal of asbestos siding revealed the original vee-groove siding. The fence was reconstructed, roses were replanted, and arbors constructed. In 1997, the Adams House won a Heritage Society



of Austin Award for Preservation. Under the ownership of the Lockes, who purchased it about that time, the house operated as a bed and breakfast until a few years ago.

ADDITIONAL HYDE PARK TREASURES

Avenue B Grocery, 4403 Avenue B. Of several local groceries in early Hyde Park, only one remains: Avenue B Grocery. Like many local groceries during the early 20th Century, Avenue B Grocery delivered groceries in horse-drawn wagons and kept hay to feed the horses. Since its founding in 1909, it has had ten owners. The earliest owner, listed in the 1910 Austin City Directory, was Marshall Johnson, who sold groceries, wood, and feed. It was operated for many years by Stephen A. Harris, and W.W. Stefka purchased it in 1950. Its present owner, Ross Mason, sells not only groceries but sandwiches loved by Hyde Park patrons.

Shipe Park, between 44th and 45th Street, Avenue F and Avenue G. Shipe Park was dedicated in 1928 and named for Hyde Park's founder, Col. Monroe Shipe. Known earlier as the Hyde Park Playground, it was purchased by the City of Austin with bond election funds. Architect Hugo Kuehne, founder of the Department of Architecture at UT, designed the shelter house. In 1930, construction started on the wading pool, a handball court, and the shelter house. The full-size pool that came later was filled daily with spring water from the nearby springs along Waller Creek.

Over the years, playscapes were installed and replaced with newer ones. The handball court was replaced with a basketball court and tennis courts, swing sets, and sidewalks were added. The drain-and-fill pump was replaced in 1985 and a pump house was built to house the new chlorinated system. Neighborhood leaders organized such park projects as a bridge over Waller Creek and the installation of the archway on the south border of the park. Around 2006, mitigation money from Austin Energy was used to install a sprinkler system and plant trees.

In 2008, the Friends of Shipe Park was founded and initiated annual events: It's My Park Day and Pool Opening Party and Movie Night. Their projects have included the mural on the pump house wall.

The park recently underwent yet another upgrade. a new pool and a restored shelter house.

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