Travis Heights, one of Austin’s oldest and most culturally and aesthetically diverse neighborhoods, is the site of the 2005 Heritage Homes Tour. With its beautiful mature trees and streets that wind through the hilled landscape, Travis Heights has become one of Austin’s most charming districts to explore. The 2005 Heritage Homes Tour celebrates the past and present of this beloved Austin neighborhood.

The tour will feature seven of Austin’s loveliest historic homes representing the varied architectural styles in the neighborhood. Houses in Travis Heights are one and two stories in height, largely constructed between the two World Wars as bungalows or in eclectic architectural styles – Colonial, Spanish Colonial, and Tudor Revival styles. While several fine estates exist, more typical are modest to medium-size homes, with designs from lumber yards or pattern books rather than architect-designed.

ABOUT THE HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Heritage Society of Austin is Austin’s oldest and largest preservation group, with the stated mission of ensuring the preservation of the city’s architectural and cultural past for present and future generations. Since it founding in 1953, the Society has made grants and loans of over $2.8 million for restoration, education and other projects. Upcoming Society programs, in addition to the Heritage Homes Tour, include Pioneer Farm and the annual Preservation Awards Ceremony. For more information about the Heritage Society or Heritage Homes Tour 2005, contact Jacqui Schraad at 512/474-5198 or visit the Heritage Society Web site at www.heritagesocietyaustin.org.
NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

Austin is not merely located on the city, surrounded by the Colorado River, but was part of East Austin and the University of Texas town even before the city was founded. The neighborhood is bordered by Riverside Drive on the north, Oltorf Street on the west, East Riverside Drive on the south, and IH35 on the east.

The development of Travis Heights was a vision, conceived in proximity to downtown and the Capitol. Streets run in a north-south and west-east pattern, and the layout was defined by a grid system of streets and lots. The terrain was hilly, of a sort earlier developers might have spurned, but following city planning conventions it was laid out in such a way that the houses would be protected from the elements. The Travis Heights subdivision was an interesting mixture of old and new, and was one of the most unique developments in the state.

Sam Houston established the company in 1875. Gen. Stacy was instrumental in the creation of Fairview Park, Austin's first park, and a source of the city's particular architectural styles, preserved in vivid contrast to the original city, bounded by the river, and had some topographical irregularities, but following city planning conventions it was laid out in such a way that the houses would be protected from the elements.

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The Travis Heights subdivision was opened for sale in 1894 by Gen. W.H. Stacy, a former Civil War commander, the Texas National Guard, and the family is instrumental in the city's preservation. The central city sloped down toward the Colorado River and had some topographical irregularities, but following city planning conventions it was laid out in such a way that the houses would be protected from the elements. The Travis Heights subdivision was an interesting mixture of old and new, and was one of the most unique developments in the state.

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