Under Three Flags

Frontier Austin Homes
1839-1865

Heritage Society of Austin
1996 Heritage Homes Tour
May 11th & 12th
HERITAGE SOCIETY OF AUSTIN
1996 HERITAGE HOMES TOUR

Under Three Flags
FRONTIER AUSTIN HOMES
1839-1865

We are excited to present this year's 1996 Heritage Homes Tour, Under Three Flags: Frontier Austin Homes 1839-1865. This is our fourth tour showcasing the first 100 years of the architecture in the capital city.

Our pioneer homes vividly bring to life the early days of the Republic and the State of Texas. Settlers were drawn to the area for many reasons. As Lucadia Pease, wife of the fifth governor, wrote, "... Such was the tempting beauty of the landscape upon its borders, that no dangers could deter the settlers from seeking an abode in a region, that in appearance, realized their most seducing dreams of a paradise upon earth."

This year we are featuring homes from the Republic and early statehood which are the best representatives of vernacular architecture. However, the "seducing dream" was confronted with the grim realities of life: the struggle for survival and the hardships of obtaining basic necessities. Resourceful pioneers combined a variety of construction methods with locally available building materials to create this enduring architectural legacy.

All activities have been planned to encourage participation in our community's history in order to achieve a better understanding of the persons and events which have shaped the City of Austin and Travis County in its earliest years.
James Smith Farm
(Boggy Creek) (c.1838)

Boggy Creek Farm is located at 3414 Lyons Road and is reached by traveling east on Seventh Street, left onto Pleasant Valley Road, right onto Lyons Road. Travel east on Lyons approximately eight tenths of a mile, the farm is located off the road on your left.

The farmstead was the home of James and Elizabeth Smith and may have been constructed as early as 1838. It was located near Austin's rival village, Montopolis. The property was covered with prairie grasses and several large live oak trees. Buffalo and panthers roamed the area and Native Americans were often encountered. The Greek Revival inspired architecture features a center hall with four flanking rooms. The exterior is clad in cypress siding and is fastened with square nails.

You are invited to enjoy a walk through the gardens and tour the partially restored farmhouse. Docents will be available to guide the tour. Boggy Creek Farm is currently operated as a Certified Organic Market Farm by Larry Butler and Carol Ann Sayle.

Boggy Creek Farm is located in the vicinity of the Boggy Creek Greenbelt, the Madison Cabin and the Jones Farm, both of which are featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.

Bohls Cabins
(1857)

The Bohls Cabins are located at 11611 Highway 71 West and are reached by traveling west on Bee Caves, south on Highway 71 about 1 1/4 miles to Fandango Street. Turn right on Fandango. The cabins are on the left.

The cabins are located on a portion of the 40-acre tract purchased by Dietrich Bohls in the mid-1850s. The site contains four log structures: hay barn, cattle barn, smokehouse, and bunk house. Thought to be the largest group of early log structures in Texas still on their original sites, these buildings were all built of square-hewn logs with the largest logs at the bottom. The logs of the hay barn have full dovetail notching, while the logs of the three cabins are V-notched. Only the bunk house was built with a wooden floor. Dietrich Bohls, a native of Germany, and his family, packed all their belongings in wagons in 1857, crossed the Colorado at Congress Avenue, and arrived at the new homestead almost a month later. The threat of Comanche raids was real and may explain in part why the cabins were situated in a rough oval.

You are invited to enjoy a walk around the property. Docents will be available to guide your tour.

The Bohls Cabins are located in South Austin near the Johnson Smokehouse and Millbrook, both of which are featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.
**French Legation**
(1840-1842)

The French Legation is located at 802 San Marcos Street between 7th and 11th Streets. Parking is on San Marcos street. The house is located on the west side of San Marcos. Enter through the gate.

The French Legation was constructed for Alphonse Dubois de Saligny, a representative of the French government. Du Bois purchased 21 acres of land from Anson Jones, the last President of the Republic of Texas. The house, built of loblolly Bastrop pine, is one of the few Austin structures dating from the Republic era. It has a typical central hall plan, flanked by four rooms. The French doors opening onto a gallery and the hipped roof are suggestive of the style of architecture preferred in Creole Louisiana. The property was acquired by Dr. Joseph W. Robertson in 1868 whose family sold it to the State of Texas in 1945. It has been operated by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas for forty years. The outbuildings are reconstructions evocative of mid-19th century Texas structures.

Docents will be available to answer your questions.

The French Legation is situated near Waterloo Compound, Madison Cabin, Boggy Creek Farm, and Jones Farm which are all featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.

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**Charles Johnson Smokehouse**
(c.1870)

The Charles Johnson Smokehouse is located at 1500 Capital of Texas Highway (Loop 360) in the Woods of Westlake Heights. East on Capital of Texas Highway, U-turn at Scottish Woods/Westbank Drive, right on Heights (the entrance to Woods of Westlake). The Smokehouse is on the right behind the mail boxes.

Charles Johnson acquired the property, approximately 134 acres, in 1867. He built his main residence, now the American Legion, at Deep Eddy on the Colorado River in 1878. The property located on the south side of Capital of Texas Highway was his ranch. The original ranch house was in ruins when the property was developed but the smokehouse was moved from its original site after the stones were carefully numbered. The structure has an arched roof and was rebuilt on the side of a berm to duplicate the original position. It is one of the few auxiliary buildings surviving from the time period and was a necessity for food preservation. Johnson was a native of Sweden and settled in Austin in 1854. Johnson used the old POTHOOK brand in the 1860s and 70s.

Docents will greet you for an informal tour of the exterior only.

The smokehouse is located in South Austin near Millbrook and the Bohls Cabins, both of which are featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.
Thomas W. Jones Farm
(1849-1852)

The Thomas H. Jones Farm is located at 6808 Hergotz Lane and is reached by taking 181 south of Colorado River, left on Thompson Lane to Hergotz Lane. Turn right at Hergotz Lane. The house is on the left.

The property is part of the Del Valle grant acquired by Thomas H. Jones from Thomas F. McKinney in 1848. Known by the family as "Riverside," the two-story home was constructed of local rock. Originally, the interior consisted of similar floor plans on both floors: two rooms flanking a large central hall. After years of abandonment, the gutted interior was substantially remodeled and altered in 1925. The present porch was added at that time. Jones was one of the contractors of the 1853 Capitol, the 1855 Travis County Courthouse and Jail, and constructed the Sampson-Henricks building on Congress with William H. Wilson and Abner Cook in 1855. Thomas H. Jones's wife, Maria Louisa Van Zandt, was the sister of Isaac Van Zandt, the commissioner appointed by Sam Houston, President of the Republic, to negotiate the annexation of Texas to the United States. The Jones's daughter "Lou" (Mrs. Walter H. Caldwell) was the owner of the Caldwell Treaty Oak Park.

Docents will greet you for an informal tour of the exterior only.

The Jones Farm is located in the vicinity of Madison Cabins and Boggy Creek Farm, both of which are featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.

Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farm
(1850-1867)

Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farm is located at 11418 Sprinkle Cut Off Road in Northeast Austin. The property is reached by traveling north on IH-35, exit Braker Lane, east on Braker where it deadends with Dessau Road. Turn left on Dessau. Take the first right, Sprinkle Cut Off Road. The farm is located on the right approximately 1/2 mile.

Mr. Eugene V. Giles and his sister Miss Laura Giles gave their family property to the Heritage Society of Austin in 1936, to commemorate the Pioneer Settlers of Travis County. Their ancestors Frederic Jourdan and his wife Harriet (Bachman) Jourdan settled the property in 1852. Currently, the farm is operated as a living history museum by the City of Austin with support from the Heritage Society of Austin and the Friends of the Farm. Daily lives of four families of the blackland prairie along Walnut Creek is depicted through interpretive areas and demonstrations. Six buildings will be featured on the tour: the George Washington Walling Barn, (c.1850) exhibition area; the Homestead Cabin (c.1850); the Meredith Barn (c.1855); the Krueger Cabin (1867) depicting the African American Tenant Farmer; the Cotton Farm Barn (c.1869); and the Bell House (1859).

Docents and costumed interpreters will assist with tour information. Demonstrations and Mother's Day Portrait on Sunday only.

The Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farm is located in Northeast Austin near the Old Zimmerman House also featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.
Madison Log Cabin
(c.1883)

Madison Log Cabin is located at 2300 Rosewood Avenue in Rosewood Park and is easily reached traveling east along East 12th Street, right on Pleasant Valley, turn right into Rosewood Park parking lot. The cabin is behind the Doris Miller Auditorium.

This circa 1863 log cabin was the homestead of Henry Green Madison, an African American, and was originally sited at 827 East 11th Street. The Cabin is a finely restored and maintained example of a single room structure called a "single pen." The cabin's logs project slightly at the corners and are V-notched.

The original single pen was expanded in 1886, with the construction of a wood frame "dwelling house" surrounding the little cabin to accommodate the Madison's growing family. In 1969 the interior structure was exposed as the surrounding building was being demolished. The property was donated by owner Mrs. Greenwood Wooten to the City of Austin. Through the hard work and cooperation of the City of Austin, Delta Sigma Theta sorority and the Rosewood Park Association the cabin was reconstructed on its present site within Rosewood Park near the Bertram-Hupperz House (c.1875) and is maintained as an educational facility.

Docents will be available to guide you through the structure, as well as the historic artifacts and materials on exhibit.

Madison Cabin is located within the Boggy Creek Greenbelt and is within close proximity to Boggy Creek Farm and the Thomas H. Jones Farm, both featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.

Millbrook
(1852/1895)

Millbrook is located at 1823 Evergreen Avenue and is easily reached via Lamar Boulevard traveling South about 1 mile, turn left onto Evergreen/Collier Avenue. The house will be on the left where Evergreen deadends into Mary. Parking is on the street.

The Bouldin-Roy-Hardin Homestead, called Millbrook for more than fifty years, is an excellent example of an evolutionary building. Typical of vernacular stone builds from the 19th century, it was considerably embellished by a University of Texas speech professor in the 1940s. Col. James E. Bouldin acquired the property in 1852 and according to many accounts the building was constructed as a mill in the 1860s. However, due to an insufficient flow of water, it was never used for that purpose and was remodeled into a dwelling. Powhatan W. Bouldin inherited the property in 1890 and sold it four years later to William Carroll Roy. Roy’s daughter suggested that the building was started by her father about 1895. The structure is significant because it represents a vernacular stone building that might have been erected at any point in the 19th century.

Enjoy a walk around this extraordinary property. Docents will be available to provide guided tours of both the exterior and interior of the house.

Millbrook is located in South Austin near the Johnson Smokehouse and the Behls Cabins, both of which are featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.
Moore-Hancock Farmstead (c.1849)

The Moore-Hancock Farmstead is located at 4811 Sinclair Avenue. Situated between Burnet Road and Shoal Creek Boulevard, the farm is easily reached from 45th Street, turning north on Sinclair. The farm is located on the right.

The farmstead was built in the early days of Texas statehood by prosperous merchant Martin Moore about 4 miles from "downtown" Austin. He and his wife began farming here by 1849. The site contains 3 buildings and a hand-dug well. The main building is a classic dog run log house, built of locally obtained materials, cedar with chinking. The second log building, just west of the main house, is composed of a log room and an enclosed shed. The rock and frame building on the site may have been a summer kitchen, with a root cellar below.

The farm was sold to Judge John Hancock, a former U.S. congressman, in 1866 and was used as a dairy farm by a subsequent owner. The home was condemned by the City of Austin in 1987. Mike and Karen Collins, the present owners, recognized an historic outline in the structure in spite of many additions over the years. Throughout their sensitive restoration, they have carefully documented every step of the process.

Docents will be available for tours and visitors are welcome to tour all three buildings, as well as admire the grounds, planted with native grasses, shrubs, and flower and a vegetable garden.

The Moore-Hancock Farm is located in the vicinity of the Penn House, also featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.

Penn House (c.1850, 1872, c.1905)

The Penn House is located at 3112 West Avenue in Central Austin. Take Lamar Boulevard north, make a right onto 32nd Street, take a right onto West Avenue, the home will be mid-block on your right, set back from the street.

According to family traditions, the Penn children found arrowheads around the ruins of a stone building in the family garden. The family believed that the original structure was built about 1879. The location of these ruins is not currently known. However, a portion of the Penn House dates from the early 1850s. The property was acquired by Judge Robert Lee Penn in 1903 who subsequently made various additions to the house. The larger tract was later subdivided by his widow Ada in an effort to develop the neighborhood. Her property fronted on "Asylum Avenue," which led to the State hospital. Mrs. Penn felt that the use of the more fashionable "West Avenue," would increase property values and persuaded the city fathers to rename the street although there was an 11-block gap. The Heritage Society acquired the property from the Penn heirs in 1958 and sold it in 1979. The current owner is professor of architecture, Simon Atkinson.

Docents will be available for tours of the interior and exterior.

Penn House is located in the vicinity of the Moore-Hancock Farmstead also featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.
Waterloo Compound (1852-1907)

Waterloo Compound is located at the northeast corner of Third Street and Red River west of IH 35.

Of the structures comprising the Waterloo Compound, the "Sunday House" (305 Red River) is the oldest, built by 1852 for Henry F. Hofheintz as a corn crib. The board-and-batten wood frame structure was later used as a tenant home. In 1854 Hofheintz constructed the two-story limestone structure on the corner which served as his store and residence. Hofheintz added a large stone structure to the north of the store in 1866 which was used as a domino parlor and saloon. His son-in-law Adolph Reissig purchased the store and surrounding property following Hofheintz’s death in 1880. The Reissig family operated a grocery business at this location until 1952. The Reissig family added other structures to the property. In 1966 Thomas B. Cowley, W. Cleigh Nease, and the late Leon Aubrey Nease purchased the property and undertook its restoration, referring to old photographs for original design and construction.

Docents will be available for tours and visitors are welcome to tour all three buildings, as well as admire the grounds.

Waterloo Compound is situated near the French Legation Madison Cabin, Boggy Creek Farm, and Jones Farm which are all featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.

Old Zimmerman House (1861)

Old Zimmerman House (Settlement Home) is located at 1600 Peyton Gin Road in Northwest Austin. This property is reached by traveling north on 183 (Research Boulevard) to Ohlen; east on Ohlen until it intersects with Peyton Gin. The house is on the north side of Peyton Gin just east of the intersection with Ohlen.

The home was built in 1861 on land owned by Edward Zimmerman. It was one of the first houses on the Shawnee (later Chisholm) Trail, a busy road traveled by traders, immigrants, Native Americans and cattlemen. The thick hand-cut cream-colored limestone walls are more than a foot thick and are a fine example of native limestone masonry. The steeply sloped roof rafters are constructed from hand hewn timbers of native woods believed to have been found on the property. The house currently serves as the administrative offices of the Settlement Home, a private residential treatment facility.

Docents will be available to provide information on the property. The tour will be of the exterior only.

Old Zimmerman House is situated near the Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farm, also featured on the 1996 Heritage Homes Tour.
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Activities

Lunch/Lecture

Chairs, Erma Brauer and Jane Hall featuring: Ruthe Winegarten, award winning author and editor of seven history books about Texas women. Her works include the award-winning Texas Women, A Pictorial History: From Indians to Astronauts (winner of the Fehrenbach Award from the Texas Historical Commission), I Am Annie Mae, the Personal Story of A Black Texas Woman, and Black Texas Women 150 Years of Trial and Triumph.

Her presentation will be "Brave Women of the Texas Frontier."

Following the lecture there will be an opportunity to meet the author.

Tuesday, May 7th, 1996

Bertram's Restaurant, located in the historic Bertram's General Merchandise Store (circa 1872) 1601 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas

11:00 am Social
11:30 am Luncheon
12:30 pm Lecture followed by Q & A, and Book signing

$25.00 per person Advance reservations required.

Preview Party

Chairs, Suzy and Chuck Fields and Niki and Randy Reynolds

Come and celebrate Austin's frontier history as we kick off this year's Heritage Society of Austin 1996 Heritage Homes Tour

Beginning with "An Evening at Waterloo"

The celebration will take place Friday Evening, May 10th from 7 to 9 pm at the historic Waterloo Compound which is located at 600 East Third Street, Austin, Texas, just west of IH 35.

Tickets are $40.00 per person, Reservations are suggested.

1996 Heritage Homes Tour

This year's tour features 12 historic properties selected for their significance as examples of frontier homesteads. Their architectural styles range from the rustic limestone and wood dwellings to ornate and grand two-story residences.

More extensive descriptions and history regarding significant architectural details, significant persons, and events will be discussed at each site.

Tours will take place Saturday, May 12th
Sunday, May 13th
Noon to 6 pm

$12.50 per person - in advance
($10.50 per person - in advance for HSA members)

$15.00 per person the day of the tour. Tickets will be available at all tour sites.

Mother's Day Portraits

Sunday, May 12, 1996

Capture charming memories of Mother's Day 1996 with special portraits at Pioneer Farm on the Krueger Cabin porch by "Tof." Period style clothing will be available. $15.00 for two 5x7 photographs. Sunday only, advance reservations required, limited sitting available.