### Glossary of Architectural Terms

- **Capital**: Buildings in the 19th and early 20th centuries borrowed motifs from Greek and Roman architecture. Many Victorian houses incorporated classical and Greek Revival elements. Among these are the distinctive caps, or capitals, on porch columns. Here are four possible examples:
  - Doric
  - Tuscan-Inspired
  - Ionic
  - Corinthian

- **Dentil**: A small block used as a repeating ornament resembling teeth under the soffit of a cornice. Originally used in classical architecture, they are found in later styles such as Classical Revival, Neoclassical and Beaux Arts. The word derives from dent, the Latin word for tooth.

- **Dormer**: A window that projects from a sloping roof and usually illuminates a bedroom or attic space (from the Latin word dominium, “sleeping room”). Dormers may have gabled, shed or hipped roofs.

- **Fluting**: Vertical grooves on a column’s shaft

- **Imbrication**: The practice of overlapping shingles on a vertical surface of a building. Commonly called fish scales, shingles may assume various geometric shapes.

- **Palladian window**: A three-part window composed of a central arch flanked by two narrower, shorter sections with square tops. This type of window was featured in the work of the 17th-century Italian architect Andrea Palladio.

### History of the San Pedro Aqueduct (1718 - 1912)

One of the most significant accomplishments of the Spanish Colonial residents of San Antonio was the construction of a complex and expansive irrigation system comprising dams, gates, and irrigation canals. Together, these systems, known as aqueducts, enabled the missions to thrive. Their influence extended the development of historic roadways, which often followed their wandering paths such as San Pedro Street.

In addition to the Mission Aqueduct System, the San Pedro Aqueduct or San Pedro Principal was constructed to serve the civilian and military populations of San Antonio beginning in 1718. The ditch was expanded after the arrival of the Canary Islanders in 1731 to serve their agricultural lands south of the settlement. The dam for the San Pedro Aqueduct was built just below San Pedro Springs with the route extending southward between San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River for a distance of about four miles. The ditch was two feet deep and six feet wide. Landowners paid $2 per acre to use water from this aqueduct. As the sewerage grew, problems arose with the ability to keep the ditch clean because of the dual purpose use of its waters: drinking and irrigation.

By the mid-nineteenth century, the San Pedro Aqueduct was no longer in use for irrigation. Instead, it served as the city’s main source of drinking water. By 1840 there were negative consequences. It was dirty from livestock and sewage, and a portion of the ditch was converted to flower beds. The San Antonio Housing Authority, 818 South Flores, shows a historical plaque and an unmarked portion of the ditch located parallel to S. Flores Street.

### References:


### Credits

**About Us:**

The King William Association is a nonprofit organization of residents and citizens dedicated to preserving the architectural character and the residential heritage of the neighborhood located south of downtown San Antonio. This area is protected by national and city historic designations. Your financial support of their efforts to preserve the distinctive inventory of San Antonio’s historical architecture is greatly appreciated.

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### S. Main Avenue

#### 723 S. Main • Applewhite House

Andrew Applewhite, a horse and mule trader, purchased this lot in 1919. The house appears to have been built around this time; the first city directory listing is from 1924. Applewhite retained the property until 1946, when he sold it to Gregorio Ramírez. It remained in the Ramirez family until 1978. This Bungalow Style house has a king post truss in the main and porch gables.

#### 726 S. Main • Dallas House

John Dallas purchased this plot and neighboring lot in 1886; he is apparently responsible for building this Folk Victorian house with protruding front gable. Dallas is listed in the city directory as residing here in 1887 and at 730 S. Main (ret'd) in 1888. He died this and another property (including 730 S. Main) to his wife Margaret in 1922. In 1923 the Hiller, Deutsch, and Janetz Co. built their house at 831 S. Main for $1,000. They resided there until John's death in 1931.

#### 818 S. Main • Nunn House

After buying this lot in 1904 for $140, J.H. Nunn built this two-story Folk Victorian house by 1907. At various times Nunn billed himself as an architect, builder, and structural engineer. In 1909 he sold this property for $1,100; in 1919 all in the San Antonio Light and Gazette listed the house as an eight-room two-story house with “all conveniences”. Note composite capitals on the porch.

#### 924 S. Main • Flores House

Josephine M. Flores, a seamstress, purchased this corner lot which bordered the river in 1907. Here she built the Victorian-style two-story house. The 1930 Census shows that she lived here with a servant and four boarders. This property remained in Josephine's possession until 1949.

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### W. Guenther Street

#### 210 W. Guenther • Jones House

T.E. and Virginia Jones, Jones purchased this lot from Mary Guarenal in 1907, and immediately obtained the services of E.B. Levin to build a “four-room cottage” for $7,500. In 1908 T.E. worked as a barber at the Imperial Barber Shops by 1917 he was identified as the proprietor. The following year they sold this property to Allen Irvin for $2,200.

#### 222/224 W. Guenther • Civitello House

Dorvalle Mary Guarenal sold this lot to Edward Smith in 1907 for $570. The 1908 city directory shows Mrs. E. Smith as a resident of the property. The 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows Mrs. Smith’s house as a single residence. In 1920 Smith sold the property to Samuel and Genevieve Civitello for $3,000. Seven years later the Civitello’s hired David Longon to enlarge the existing residence into a duplex for $4,700. This Bungalow with Craftsman Style details has a unique double dormer window.

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### Johnson Street

#### 203 W. Johnson • Kring House

In 1907 Frank Kring was a partner in Kring and Pleifling - male and home traders. While Kring is listed in the city directory as the first occupant of this dwelling, it apparently existed when he purchased the property in 1906 for $2,200. Like 824 S. Main, this Victorian’s cross gable is unusual, as is its side facade.

#### 216 W. Johnson • Loustaunau House

French-born Jean and Alexine Loustaunau immigrated to America in 1867. In San Antonio, Jean co-founded La Maison Blanche, a French restaurant on Market Street. He was also proprietor of the Elite and Southern Hotels, both fronting Main Plaza. Considered the “place to eat” in the city, it was said that the Elite “served bishops and gamblers in equal favor” (San Antonio Light, 6/1/1931). The Loustaunau purchased this lot in 1910 for $590. In 1931 Jean was exiled on the front page of the Light. It was called one of the “last of early San Antonio hotel men.” The property remained in the Loustaunau family until 1976, when Leila Reuter Loustaunau sold it for $26,000.

This high style Queen Anne house features a pressed metal roof, a round corner tower with a finial-capped conical roof and an ornate Palladian window in the cross gable.

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### Fire Station #12

1102 S. Flores Street

This Spanish Colonial Revival style fire station was built with reinforced concrete, brick exterior, cast stone trim and coping and wrought iron balconies. It was designed by architect Richard Vanier Stratton and constructed in 1925 for $26,568. The station was sold in 2003 then converted into a condominium with two units.

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### U.S. Arsenal/H-E-B Corporate HQ

In 1858, the U.S. Army chose San Antonio as the permanent location for the arsenal. Captain Robert H. K. Whitley was dispatched to select a site. He arranged for the purchase of land which consisted of seven- and three-quarter acres belonging to ex-Governor Thomas Bell and eight additional acres belonging to Gregory Devine.

Bell’s acreage was the old homestead of Dr. James Devine, former Mayor of San Antonio. At the time of its transfer to the Army, Devine’s house was only several years old, as Captain Whitley occupied the house. The Commander’s House is still recognizable today, even after several additions and improvements.

Construction began in earnest in November 1859. However, when Texas seceded from the Union in 1861, at the start of the Civil War, the Army was forced to turn over the property. The Office Building (now the H-E-B Visitor Center) was the only structure completed when Confederate forces occupied the Arsenal. They used the supplies to support their war efforts from 1861 to 1865. After the Civil War, the U.S. Army once again took possession of the Arsenal and expanded it. In 1899, the Arsenal was decommissioned and used as federal government offices. The Arsenal was designated a Texas Historic Landmark in 1964 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969.

In 1972, two acres and three buildings were transferred to the City of San Antonio and became the Commander’s House Park. The Commander’s House has served as a senior citizen center since 1978. Several of the remaining buildings were torn down before H-E-B stepped in and bought the remaining 10 acres in 1992. For their efforts, H-E-B Corporation, and the architectural firms Barton Cos and Chapman/Urbita won national design awards for their historic preservation and adaptive reuse of the Arsenal. In 1985, H-E-B Partners moved into the Arsenal.

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This publication is part of our continuing mission to educate the public on the history and unique development of the King William Area. This project is the result of a concerted effort to research and publicize noteworthy properties.

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