



Chateau Bellevue Austin Woman's Club



This preservation project is supported in part by the City
of Austin Economic Development Department.



*708 San Antonio
Austin, Texas*

*Bremond Block
Historic District*

150th Anniversary

November 2024



“The Three P’s”

Chateau Bellevue/Austin Woman’s Club



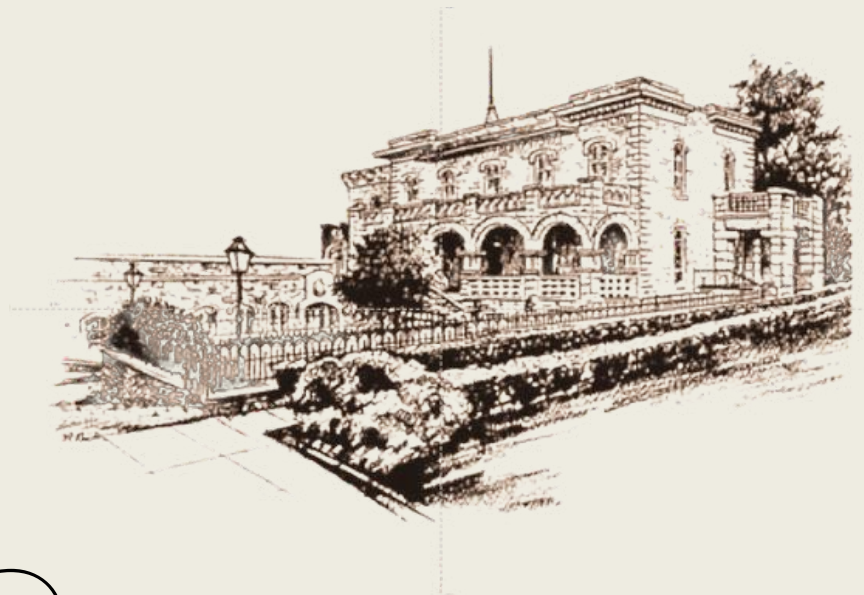
Place



People



Preservation



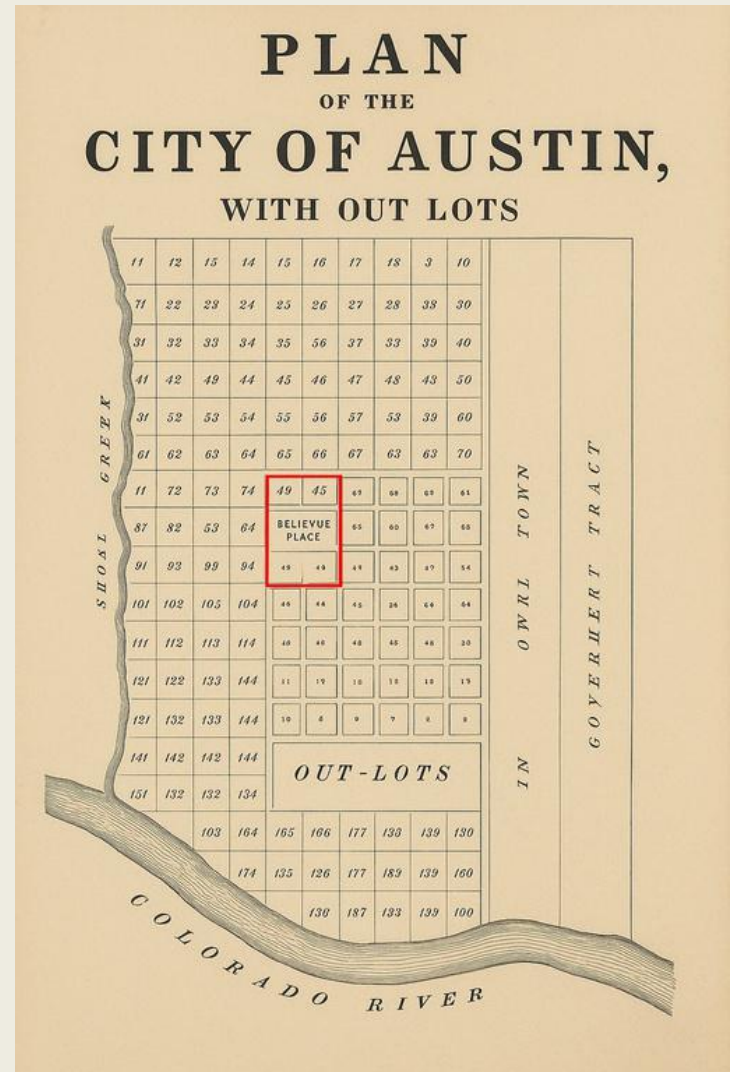
Place

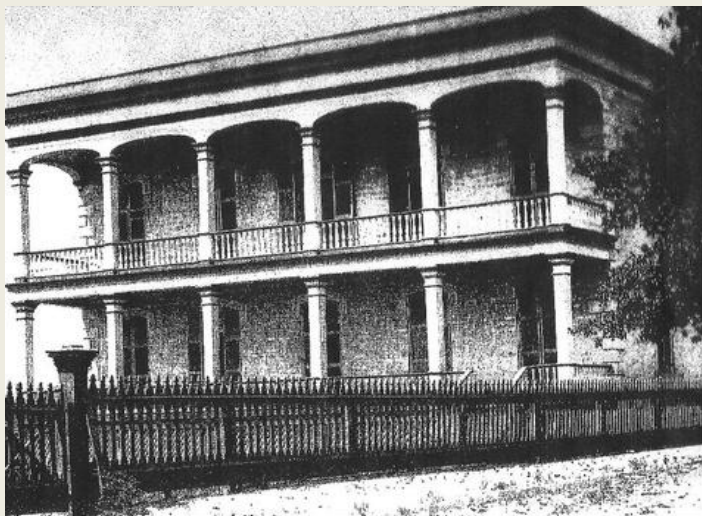
1884 - 2025



Bellevue Place Old North Castle
Villa Bellevue Chateau Bellevue
Bellevue Villa Austin Woman's Club

Austin's 1839
"Outlot System" for
Speculative
Development





1870s



1890s



1920s



1929



1939



1958



1960

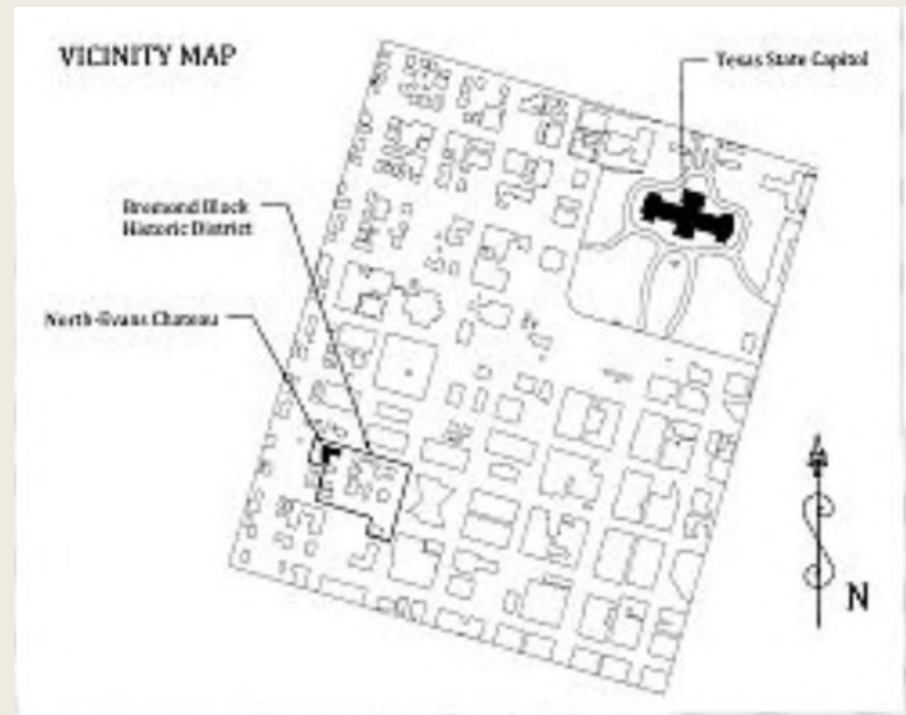
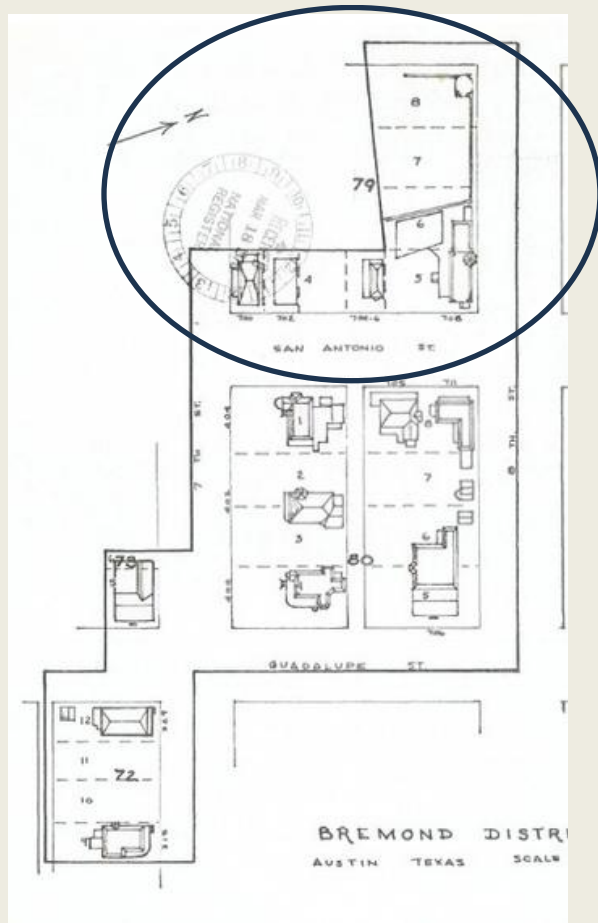


1963

Today



Bremond Block Historic District



Bremond Block Historic District

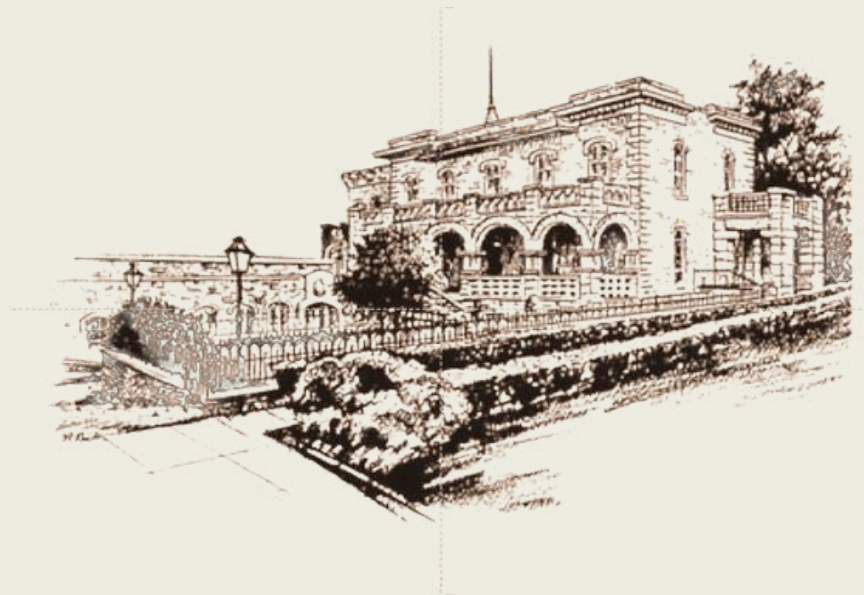
National Register 1970

- Eight homes built between 1850 and 1910
- Upper-class Victorian architecture in late 1800s Texas — few examples remaining
- West 7th Street (South), West 8th Street (North), Guadalupe Street (East) San Antonio Street (West)

Historic Markers

- 1962 Texas Historical Marker 1969
- National Register of Historic Places 1970
- Bremond Block Historic District 1974
- City of Austin Historic Marker





People

*First Owners of Chateau Bellevue –
Harvey North Family*

Harvey – 49 yrs

Catherine – 35 yrs

William – 13 yrs

George – 9 yrs

Mary – 8 yrs

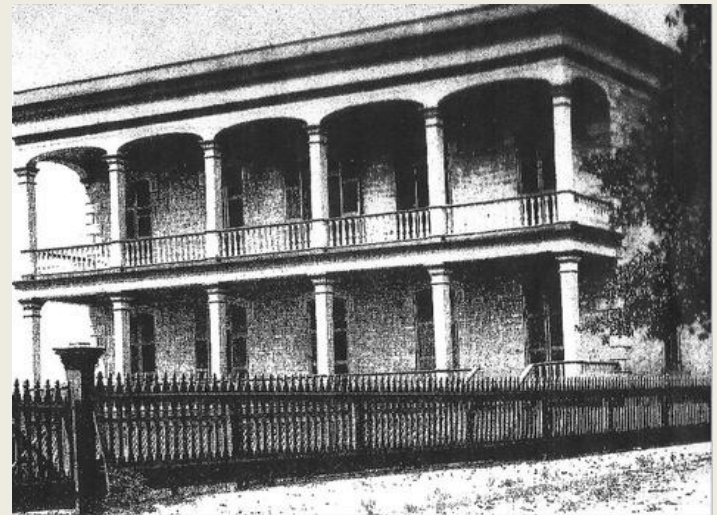
Athalie – 6 yrs



c. 1859

Bellevue Place

- Built 1874 Red brick Colonial
- On top of Shoal Creek bluff with a view of the Colorado River
- Architect not documented



Who was Harvey North?

- Wealthy merchant/real estate investor. Norths
- moved from New Orleans c. 1869.
- Lived in France in 1850s.
- Harvey born 1810 in Goshen, Connecticut.
Died 1881.



1810 - 1881

Bellevue Place c. mid- 1870's



1876 - 1881

For the North Children

Villa Bellevue and Bellevue Cottage
(aka North Flats) next door to Bellevue Place



Athalie North Obituary



- In 1877, Athalie, North's youngest daughter, died from tuberculosis at 24 years old.
- She was on her way home from studying piano in Germany.

Obituary.
DIED.—In the city of New York on the ninth of July, 1877, Miss Ellen Athalie North, only daughter of Harvey and Athalie North, at the age of twenty-four years and one day.
The deceased left Germany, where she had just ended a three years course of musical instruction, only a few weeks ago in the fullest enjoyment of health. When only a few miles from Sandy Hook she was unexpectedly taken with hemorrhage of the lungs. A loving and expectant father and mother were saddened by telegraphic news of this sad event and hastened to the bedside of their beloved child. But, alas, disease had made rapid strides. In a long and painful struggle between youth and medical skill and death, the latter obtained the mastery and left grief-stricken parents to mourn the loss of a cherished darling whom they had accustomed themselves to look upon as the comfort of their old age.
May she rest in peace, and may her sorrowing father and mother and brothers be able to bear their affliction with fortitude.

“The Ghost” of Chateau Bellevue?

Reportsof footsteps, whispers, noises,
lights, cold spots, a “presence.”



1876-1881 - North Financial Reversals

- Real estate investments faltered by 1876. Harvey
- North died in 1881. In 1883 Catherine North sold
- to William Gaines at half the original cost.

Catherine North moved in with son William North

- in Villa Bellevue, next door.

Who was William Gaines?

- Owner/publisher of the *Daily Democrat Statesman* In 1891, it became *Austin Statesman*
- *Statesman*
- In 1973, the *Austin American-Statesman*

Austin American-Statesman

Gaines Family Drama

A “nasty” divorce and
child custody fight
made the *NY Times*.

A LONG FIGHT FOR A CHILD.
TO BE CONTINUED BY MRS. AUGUSTA
E. GAINES IN THE DIVORCE COURT.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 18.—To-morrow, or perhaps later in the week, the Gaines divorce suit will be called in the Circuit Court, and it will be a great sensation. Mrs. Augusta E. Gaines, the plaintiff, is the daughter of one of the most prominent citizens of St. Louis, Capt. Albert J. Evans. The defendant is Col. William P. Gaines of Austin, Texas, of a very wealthy and prominent family, part owner of the *Austin Statesman*, and identified with many public and private enterprises. Their marriage at St. George's Church in this city in 1883 was a great social event.

The fight is for the possession of a little daughter. When the couple separated, Mrs. Gaines came to the home of her parents, bringing her little four-year-old daughter with her. Col. Gaines followed and abducted the child under sensational circumstances. The mother employed detectives and soon located the little one in Austin. For eighteen months the mother made continuous, but fruitless, efforts to get the child, making three trips to Texas for the purpose. Then she resolved to do as her husband had done—steal the girl. She was assisted by her father in making all arrangements. She dressed herself as a school girl and went to Austin, and soon discovered that Col. Gaines, who traveled about considerably, always took the child and a nurse with him.

She followed them about, and finally her opportunity came in Houston. She drove in a closed carriage to where the child was at play, seized it, and drove to a landing on a bayou that runs into Galveston Bay. Her father, Capt. Evans, had a tug waiting, and they boarded it. They were caught in a storm on the bay, and after a rough experience were forced to abandon all hope of reaching Galveston, and put in at a point where the Southern Pacific Railroad could be easily reached. Meanwhile her husband, with a posse of rangers, had started in pursuit, and at the railroad station overtook the abductors. The little girl was disguised in boy's clothes, but the sheriff insisted on making an examination. The mother, revolver in hand, said she would kill him if he touched the child. Then one of the posse of rangers, shotgun in hand, came to the front and said:

“I will never assist in taking a child from its mother, Madame. I will be your escort to the Louisiana State line.”

He kept his word, and they got away. All this and much more will be brought out during the trial.

1892

Major Ira Hobart Evans
Purchase

"The Major"

- Born 1844 in New Hampshire
- Commander 116th U.S. Colored Troops
- Honor Guard in Lincoln's funeral
- Medal of Honor 1865



“The Statesman”

- Post Civil War, stationed in Rio Grande
- Agent for Freedmen’s Bureau
- 1870 Elected Speaker Texas House (youngest at 25 years)
- Founding President, Texas Society Sons of the American Revolution
- Offered an early meeting place for Texas Historical Society



“The Business Leader”

- Director, Consolidated Intn'l. Railroad & Great Northern Railroad
- President, Austin Electric Railway
President, New York & Texas Land Company (opened up West Texas)
- Co-Founder and Director, Austin National Bank



“The Devoted Christian”

- Raised in the Congregational Church
- President of the American Missionary Society and the Sunday School Association.
- On the board of trustees for the First Congregational Church of Austin and the First Presbyterian Church



"The Philanthropist"

- Founder/President of Board, Tillotson College
- A private, historically black university on "Bluebonnet Hill" in East Austin in 1875
- Now Huston-Tillotson University, co-sponsored by the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church
- Funded Evans Industrial Building



Evans Family c. 1896

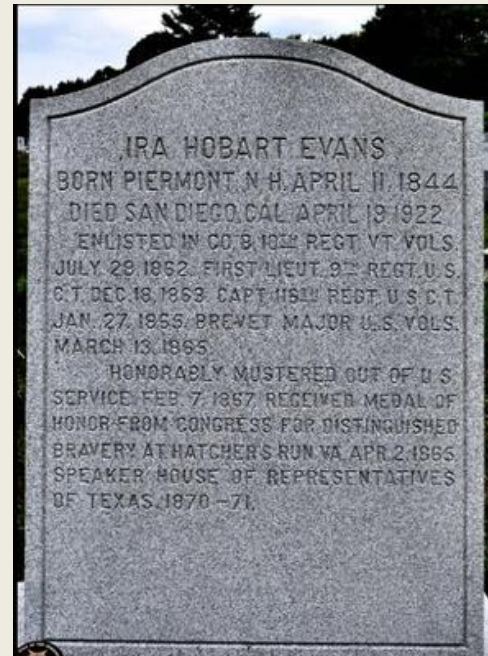


Standing: William Leslie Evans, Francese Evans,
Francis Hurlburt Evans

Seated: Hobart Yale Evans, Ira Hobart Evans,
and Wilburforce Hurlburt Young

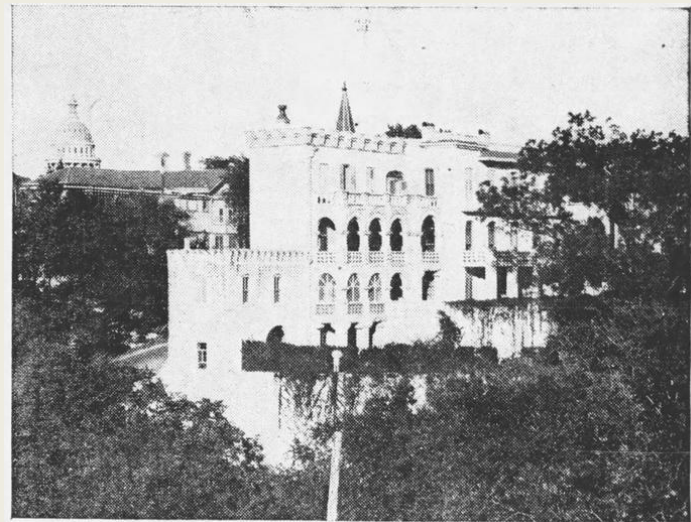
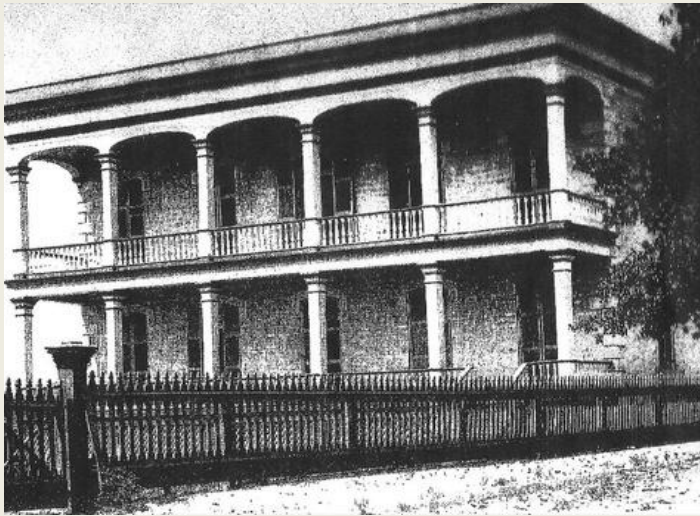
“In Memoriam”

- Born Piermont, N.H. 1844
- Died San Diego, CA. 1922



“The Extreme Makeover”

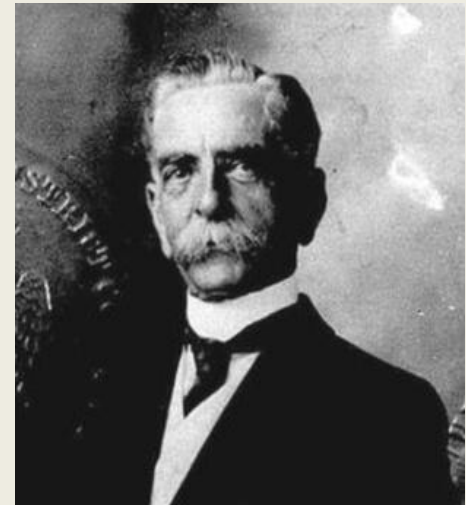
Evans hired noted San Antonio architect Alfred Giles, who created limestone arches, crenellations, buttressed retaining walls and tower.



Alfred P. Giles

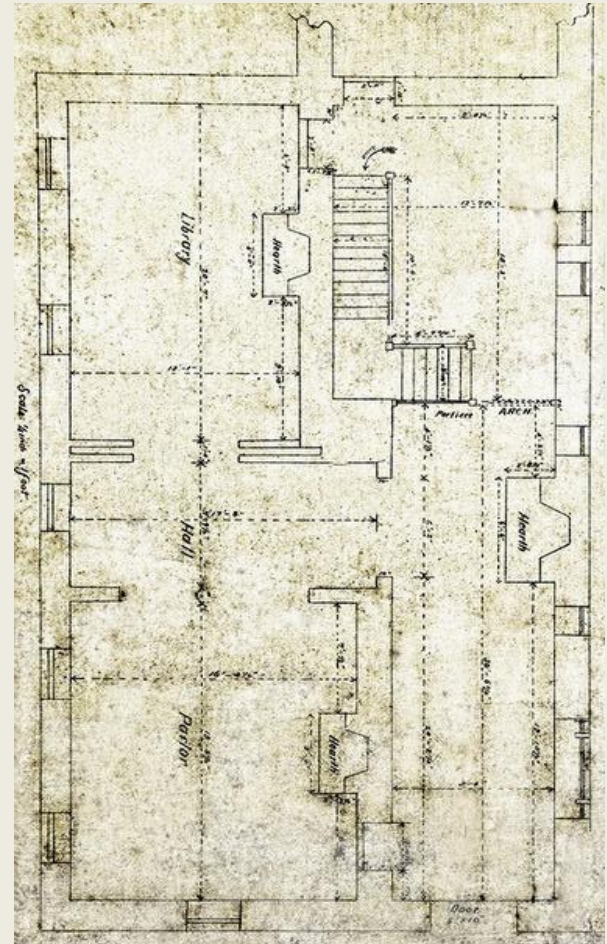
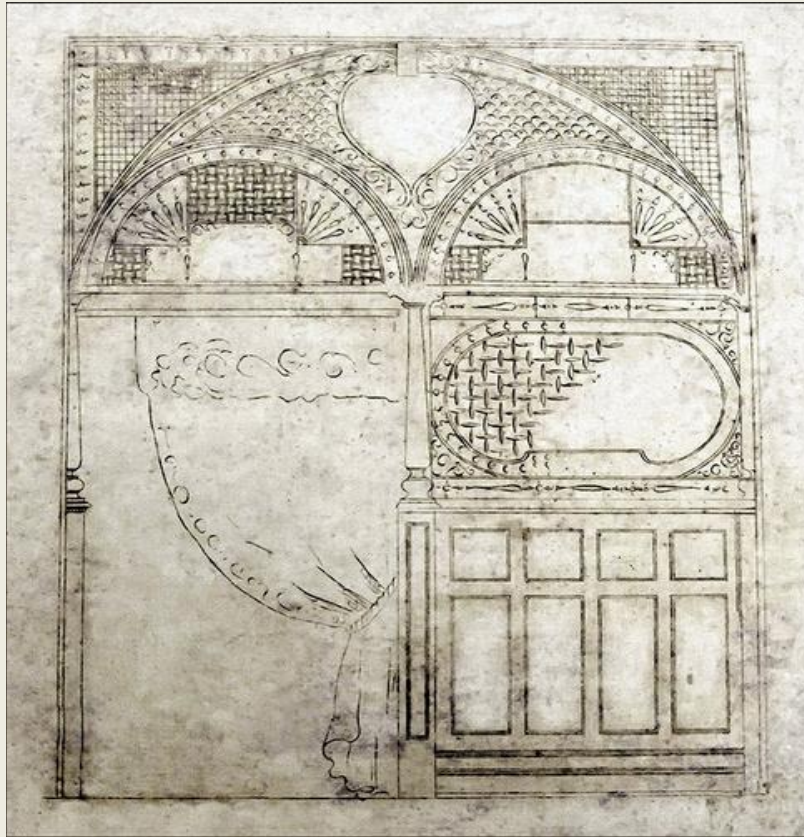
Prominent San Antonio Architect

- 135 major works in Texas
- 24 in Mexico
- Courthouses, banks, hotels, homes, schools, and other civic structures
- Many still standing and listed on historical registries



Giles Architectural Plans

Evans Remodeling 1892



Giles Projects in South Texas



Web County Courthouse
Laredo



Wilson County Courthouse
Floresville



Oge House
San Antonio



Groos Homestead
San Antonio

1929 - Austin Woman's Club

- Paid \$36,000 from the Evans estate (Mortgage fully paid in 1938)
- Austin Woman's Club was chartered in October 1929



Chateau Bellevue

- 96 years and counting!
- 120 founding members
- 12 Clubs joined together—
Settlement Club, Reader's
Guild, Jewish Council of
Woman, Violet Crown
Garden Club



Founding Members Austin Woman's Club



MRS. PERCY U. PENNYBACKER



MRS. MIRIAM A. FERGUSON
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS



MRS. SAM J. SMITH
FOUNDING PRESIDENT



MISS LILA CASIS



MRS. LOOMIS SLAUGHTER
HISTORIAN



MRS. ZACHARY T. SCOTT

Austin Woman's Club

501(c)(4) Non-Profit

- Conduct and support educational activities and programs for women — literary, civic, historical, artistic, and cultural
- Became 501(c)(3) in 2008 for preservation



Austin Woman's Club

501c3 Non-Profit

- Preserve historical and architectural heritage of Chateau Bellevue
- Community service to include education, civic, and social





Inside!

San Antonio Street Entry



1890s



Now

Third Floor Bedroom



1890s



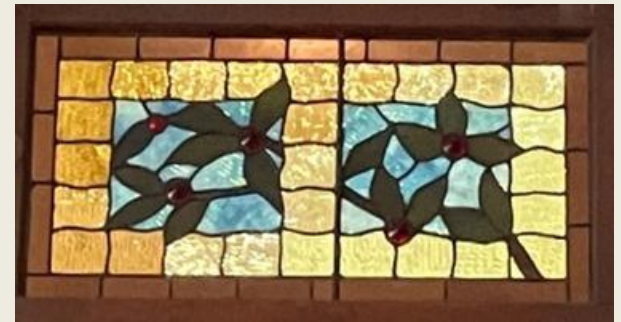
Now

Author O. Henry's bedroom furniture.
(William Sidney Porter – "Gift of the Magi")

Stained Glass



Flanagan & Biedenweg (Chicago)
Grand Prize
1904 St. Louis Exposition



Evans' Library / Office c. 1898



Major Ira H. Evans (at right) with
his brother-in-law, Capt. Thomas A. Yale

President McKinley's Desk



On loan from the Evans Family

Evans Dining Room



Austin National Bank Vault



Vault Hidden behind mirrored door at end of dining room

Gentleman's Parlor



Ballroom / Dining Room



Added in 1960s

Elaborate Woodwork



Sliding Doors



Curly Pine Staircase

Fireplaces ~ Seven Total





Preservation

2010-2025

2010 Named by Preservation Texas/ National Preservation for Historic Trust as

“Most Endangered Places in Texas”

- Limestone mortar deterioration
- Electrical system
- No Central HVAC
- Ongoing issues



Past Preservation

STAINED AND BEVELED GLASS

Eighteen stained glass repairs

\$18,553 2011 DAR Grant



Past Preservation

STAINED AND BEVELED GLASS



Past Preservation

STAINED AND BEVELED GLASS



Past Preservation

BATHROOMS

2013 — Employee 1st Floor	\$4640
2013 — Ladies 1 st Floor	\$10,190
2013 — (3) Ballroom 1st Floor	\$25,685
2014 — Bride's 2nd Floor	\$7358



Past Preservation

BATHROOMS



Past Preservation

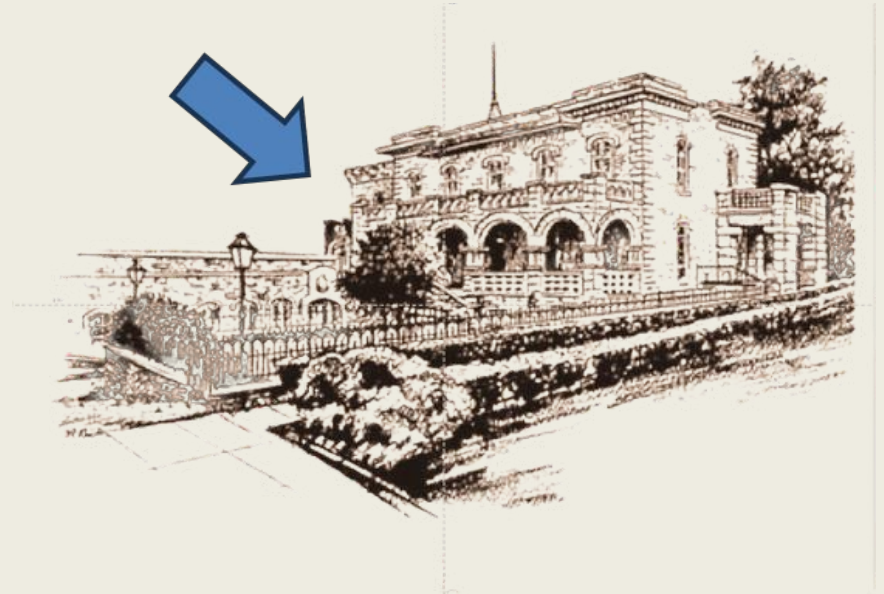
BATTLEMENTS

2014 -18 — Repair South, North and West battlements. \$228,058



Past Preservation

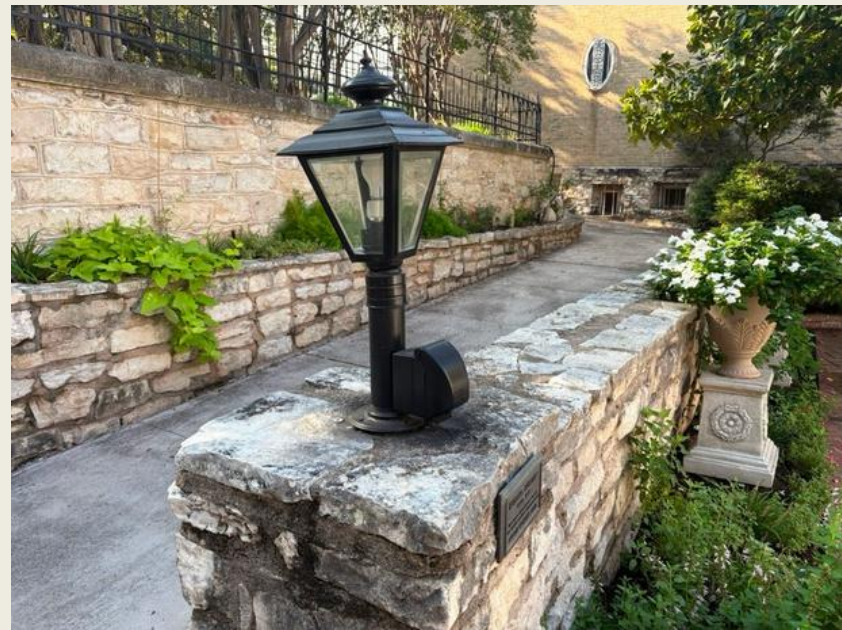
BATTLEMENTS



Past Preservation

DRIVEWAY OFF SANANTONIO ST.

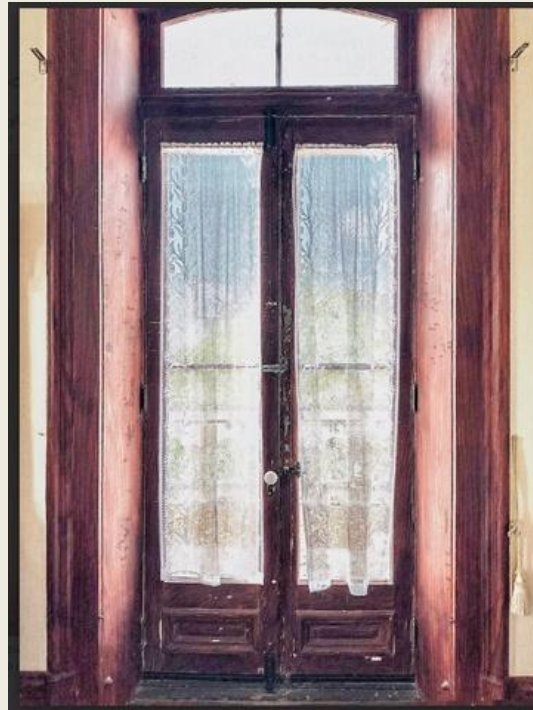
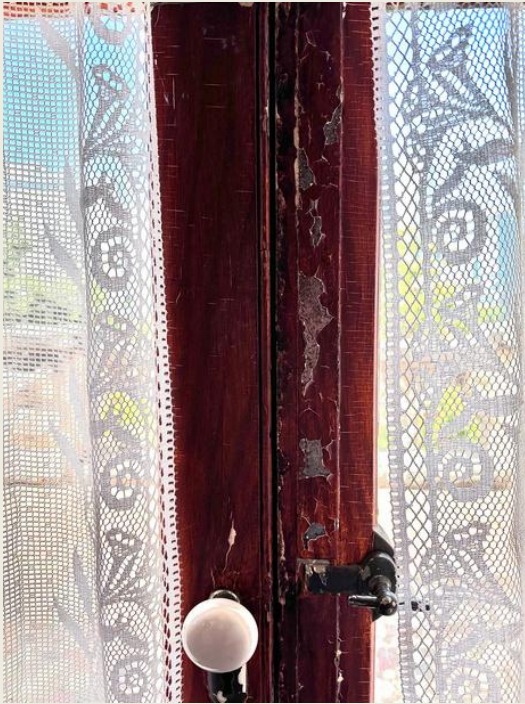
2022-2024 — New retaining wall between upper patio and lower courtyard; driveway curve altered.
\$54,000



Past Preservation

3RD FLOOR DOORS

2022-2023 Three Sets of Doors Refurbished
\$38,500



Past Preservation

UPPER PATIO

2022— Converted grass yard into brick patio.
\$30,000



Past Preservation

NUECES PARKING LOT & MAIN ENTRY

2022 — Wall, entry, ramp, and ADA handrail.
\$53,000



Past Preservation

BALLROOM DOORS

2023-24 Replaced ballroom door after water damage \$27,000



Pressing Preservation

PARKING LOT WALL

- Nueces wall in danger of crumbling into parking lot
- Two-Phase Project
2025 temporary
buttress installed
\$9200

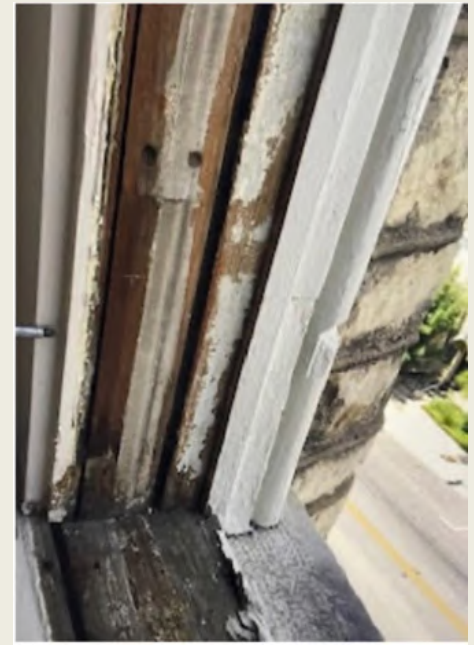
Need new 100 foot
retaining wall
Est. \$200K



Pressing Preservation

BALLROOM DOORS

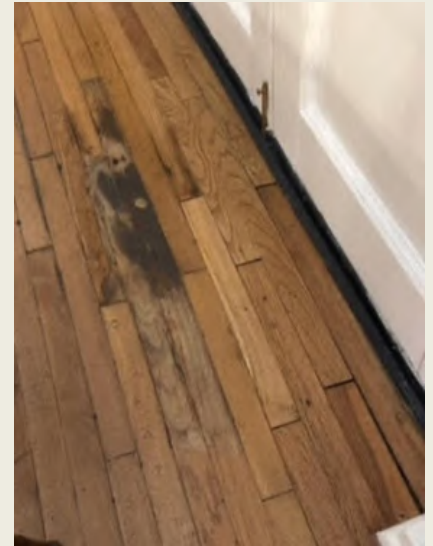
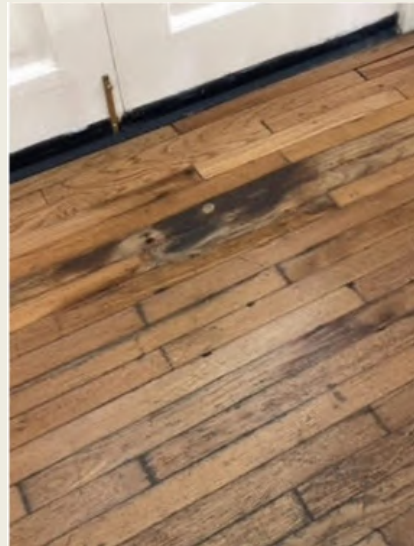
Replace nine doors to remedy water damage and prevent damage to doors and floors. Est.\$85K



Pressing Preservation

BALLROOM FLOORS

Restore ballroom floors from water damage
Est. \$TBD



Pressing Preservation

PEELING LEAD PAINT

Remove peeling/chipped paint from 3rdfloor
Est. \$TBD



Pressing Preservation

HVAC



Pressing Preservation

HVAC

- Air exchange inadequate. Current window units allow outside weather to “leak” into interior.
- Phase 1 2025 Feasibility Study COA Grant \$30K
- Phase 2 Installation Planning/Bids
- Phase 3 Contractor Installation TBD

Pressing Preservation

CARRIAGE HOUSE

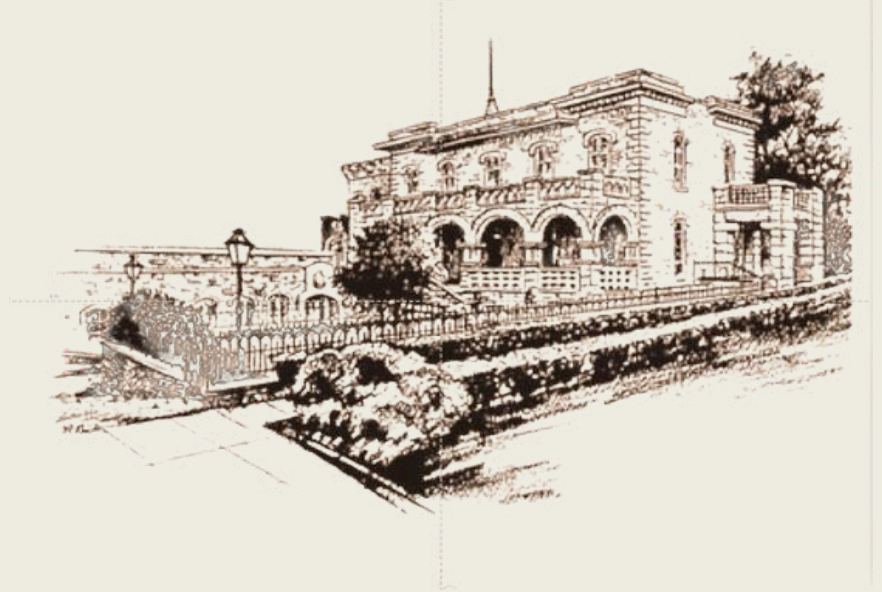
Severe footing/foundation subsidence
Limestone walls are cracking. Est. \$100K



Bottom Line

2010-2025 Spent

Pressing Preservation Projects	\$520,830
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Community

Non-Profit Guests in 2024-2025

- Over 7600 guests from 48 non-profits held meetings/events
- Including — SAR/DAR, Austin Symphony, YMBL, Austin Junior Forum, Dance Club of Austin, Texas Supreme Court, Lloyd Lochridge Law

Weekly Lunch Programs

Preservation/Education/Cultural

AWC members meet weekly with speakers on history, preservation, education, health, music, arts, travel, and culture.



Web Access to Programs



Historical and Educational Programs

February 20, 2025 "UT Austin's Public Arts Program is Extraordinaire" Catherine Whited — Education Coordinator, LANDMARKS • Public Arts Program • UT Austin

March 6, 2025 "Joint Meeting with the American History Club" Cindy Stone, American History Club

March 27, 2025 "AUSTIN'S GILDED AGE: We Were Just a Little Weird Back Then, Too!" James Haley, Historian and Author

April 24, 2025 "The Briscoe Center: Where History Comes to Life" Erin Purdy — Deputy Executive Director, Briscoe Center or American History, UT Austin

May 15, 2025 "Austin's "Gateway to History" is on Guadalupe" Charles Peveto — President, Austin History Center Association Adam Powell — Executive Director, Austin History Center Association

May 29, 2025 "An Overview of Historical Sites | Texas Historical Commission" Inez Wolins — Assistant Deputy Executive Director of Historic Sites Texas Historical Commission

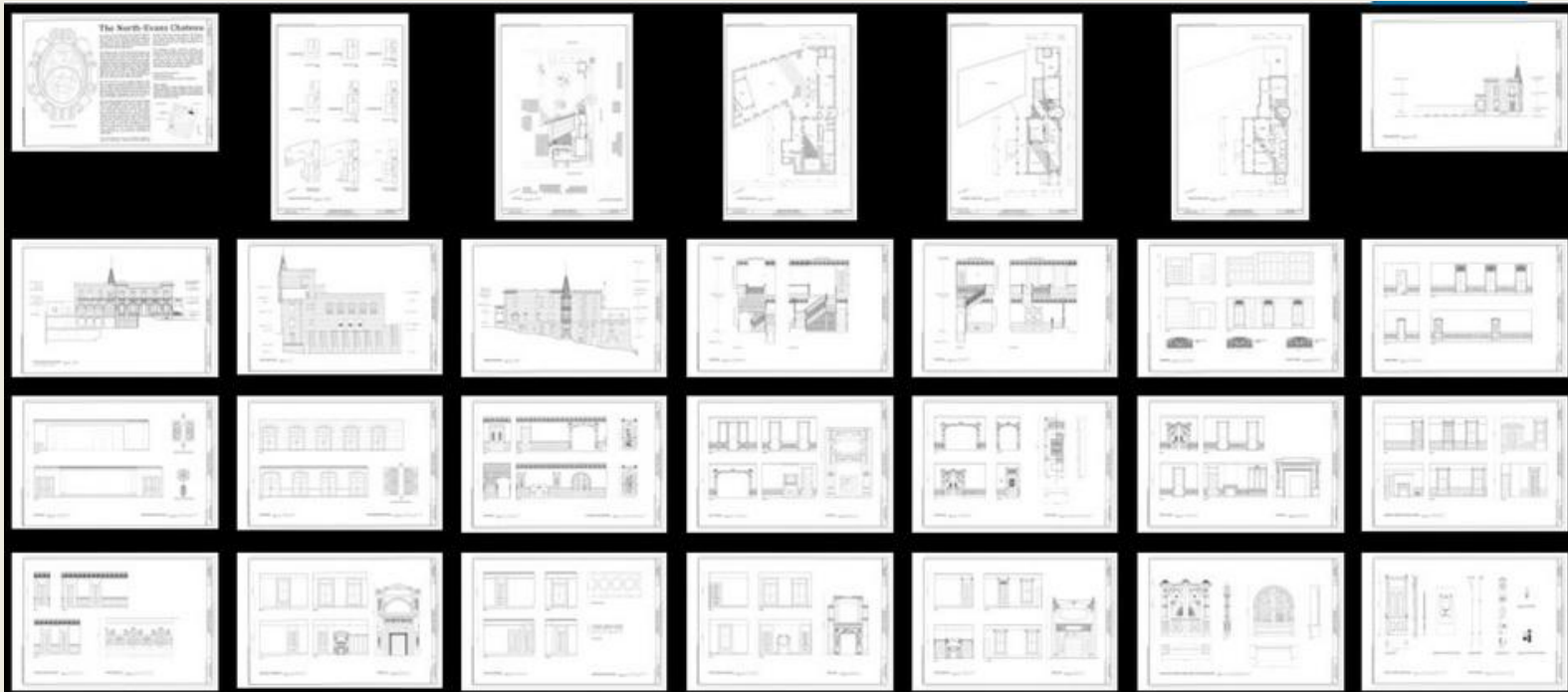
June 19, 2025 "Pompeo Coppini: Italian Classicism in the Lone Star State" Karen Pope, Ph.D., Art Historian

Learning Lab-

UT Architecture Student Class Project Peterson First Prize!

LIBRARY
LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

**North-Evans Chateau, 708 San Antonio Street, Austin, Travis County,
TX Drawings from Survey HABS TX-3549**



Learning Lab -



UT Austin's School of Human Ecology
Historic Apparel Collection & Exhibit Management Course
18 students
November 2024 Exhibit "The Gilded Age"

Learning Lab~



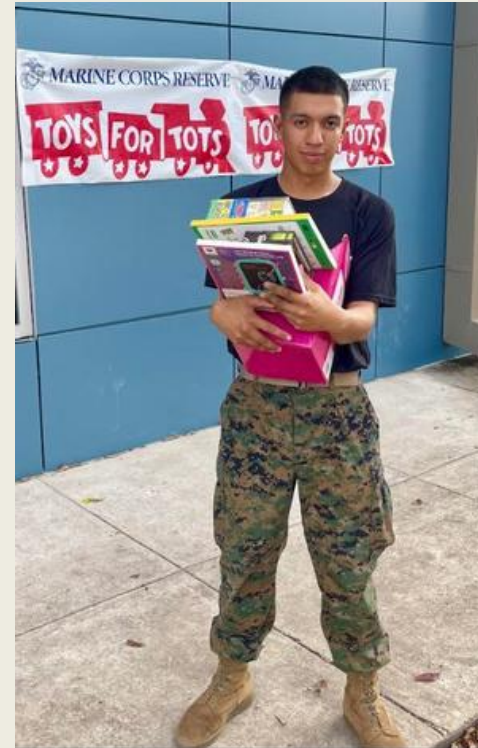
UT Austin's School of Human Ecology
Historic Apparel Collection & Exhibit Management Course
25 students
Oct - Nov 2025 Exhibit
"Beyond the Parlor" —
Founders of the Austin Woman's Club

Community Support
Over 600 visitors
Austin Museum Day — September 2025



Community Support

- Kerrville Flood Victims
- Jeremiah Program
- Toys for Tots
- Blue Santa
- Any Baby Can
- Dress for Success
- Ft. Hood Servicewomen



Endowment Fund

Howson Mohrmann Scholarship

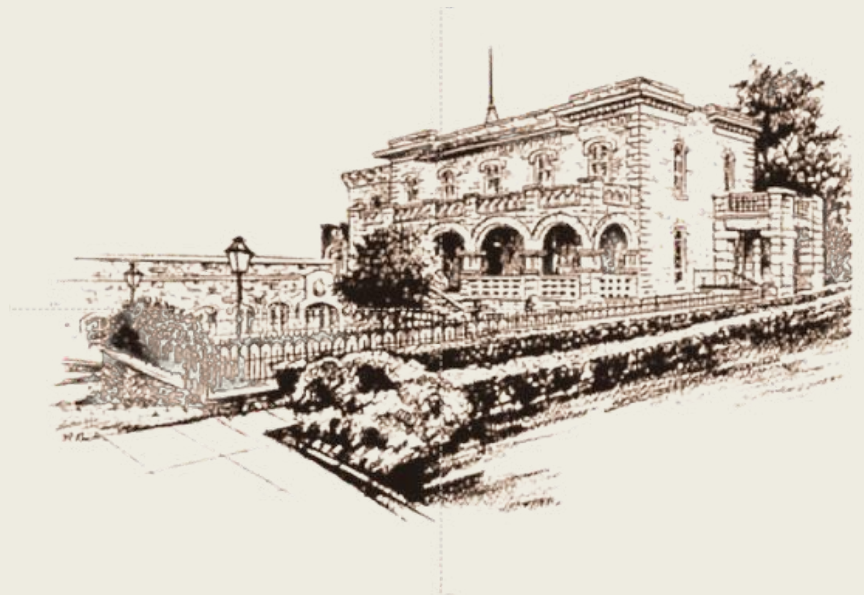
- Established 2008 42 women undergraduate
- senior/graduate recipients from UT Austin
- Open Studying architectural/historical
- preservation Female graduate of a Texas high
- school



Austin Community
FOUNDATION

In the Movies ...





Call to Action!

Take a Tour!

- Reserve at 512-472-1336 or email: office@chateauatx.com
- Mondays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- \$5 donation per person (children under 3 free)
- Schedule ahead for large or special groups.
- Virtual tour is online.



Book Your Next Event

Weddings, corporate events, business/organization meetings, and social gatherings



Support Historical Preservation

- Cultural & Historical Value – tangible links to the past, authentic evidence of Austin's heritage
- Community Identity & Pride – anchors sense of place, provides continuity and recognition
- Educational Resource – 'living textbooks' for architecture, design, and history

Support Historical Preservation

- Economic Benefits – boosts heritage tourism, revitalizes neighborhoods, raises values
- Sustainability & Environment – reuses resources, avoids waste, climate-adapted designs
- Civic & Social Cohesion – unites citizens, experts, and leaders in stewardship



Support AWC

