



Austin

AUSTIN'S STORY

A GUIDE TO HISTORIC DESTINATIONS IN AUSTIN



Historic Sixth Street and The Driskill Hotel.

CO0146, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

DISCOVER AUSTIN'S RICH HISTORY.

With 219 sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including 17 Historic Districts and two National Historic Landmarks, Austin puts you at the heart of Texas history. From the Texas State Capitol to the Paramount Theatre, The Driskill Hotel to Barton Springs, the heritage of the Lone Star State lives and breathes throughout our city. We invite you to explore, experience and enjoy Austin's many memorable attractions and make our history part of yours.

1 THE TEXAS STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX

TEXAS STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers' 1888 Renaissance Revival design echoes that of the U.S. Capitol, but at 302 feet, the Texas State Capitol is 14 feet higher. The base is made of rusticated Sunset Red Texas granite; the dome is made of cast iron and sheet metal, topped by a Goddess of Liberty statue. The seals on the south façade commemorate the six governments that have ruled in Texas over time: Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America and the United States. Myers also designed the state capitols of Michigan and Colorado. *Congress Avenue at 11th Street. 512-305-0063. No reservations needed for groups under 10 persons. Groups of 10 and over must call 512-305-8402 in advance. Self-guided building and grounds brochures available. Visit website for current business hours. Free. Building tours available. tspb.texas.gov.*

OLD LAND OFFICE BUILDING, CAPITOL VISITORS CENTER & MUSEUM

Built in 1857 to house the state's land records, the building now features a museum with fascinating, child-friendly exhibits about early Texas. The Old Land Office Building is esteemed as the oldest office building in Texas, with a Medieval Revival style reflecting the German origins of its architect, Conrad Stremme. *112 E. 11th St., southeast corner of Capitol grounds. 512-305-8400. Visit website for current business hours. Free. tspb.texas.gov.*

TEXAS GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Every Texas governor has lived in the mansion from its construction in 1856 until arson seriously damaged the building in 2008. Precious furnishings and antiques were not in the building at the time, due to a planned repair project. They were returned to the mansion in 2012 after a meticulous reconstruction. This Classical Revival building is important not only as home to governors, but as the premier product of its builder Abner Cook. Self-taught and trained by apprenticeship, Cook made his mark on Austin as designer and contractor for 35 Austin buildings, 13 of which are still in use today. *1010 Colorado St. 512-305-8524. Free tours, with 7-day advance reservation required. tspb.texas.gov.*

NOT FAR FROM THE CAPITOL COMPLEX

Symphony Square is a collection of 1870s Texas vernacular stone buildings, brought together by the Austin Symphony Orchestra. *111 Red River St. austinsymphony.org. One block away is the 1857 German Free School building, home of the German-Texan Heritage Society. 507 E. 10th St. 512-467-4569. germantexans.org.*



Sitting at 302 feet, the Texas State Capitol sits higher than the U.S. Capitol building, and was built in 1888 as the landmark building for the city and Congress Avenue.

CONGRESS AVE. & SIXTH STREET
1913



2 CONGRESS AVENUE

Congress Avenue isn't just Austin's main street – it is the main street of Texas. Mirabeau Lamar, successor to Sam Houston as president of the newborn Republic of Texas, directed that a city be built here in 1839, specifically for the seat of government. His plan called for a 120-foot wide ceremonial boulevard from the river to the hilltop Capitol. Ever since then, the street has been the site of parades, demonstrations, athletic events, movie shoots and street parties.

There are no buildings remaining on the avenue from Lamar's time in office – the oldest dates from around 1856. Most of the historic buildings were built after 1871, the year the railroad arrived, bringing prosperity to the city. Victorian and Classical styles were popular, with adaptations for local weather and available materials. Limestone was often used, as it was plentiful and adaptable to many building techniques. Porticoes provided shelter from the elements and perches for viewing the happenings on the street. The 20TH century brought Beaux Arts, Chicago and Deco styles to the avenue.

During the 1940s and 1950s, old styles fell from favor; many of the buildings were demolished or covered with modern façades. Suburbanization followed, causing the loss of most of the avenue's retail businesses. Large office towers rose up. The 1970s saw a resurgence of appreciation for the historic buildings that remained. Restoration projects took place up and down the street. Today Congress Avenue is a National Register Historic District that continues to evolve with time.

Just a few of Congress Avenue's notable buildings:

THE OLD BAKERY

Swedish immigrant Charles Lundberg and his successors operated a bakery for many years in this 1876 building. Visitors can explore the Lundberg-Maerki Historical Collection and Art Gallery, get information about the city and shop for art and crafts by local artisans.

1006 Congress Ave. 512-974-1300. austintexas.gov.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Visit the stunning, Gothic-style St. Mary's Cathedral, just one block south of the Capitol Visitors Center. This beautiful limestone structure, designed by architect and Irish immigrant Nicholas Clayton, is registered as a Texas Historic Landmark as well as on the US National Register of Historic Places. The cornerstone was laid in 1872 and is noted for its striking stained glass and design elements which evoke natural places. *203 E. 10th St. 512-476-6182. smcaustin.org.*

WALTER TIPS BUILDING

This impressive building with its Venetian façade was designed in 1876 by J. N. Preston for the headquarters of The Walter Tips Company for machinery and ironworks. An example of the company's product can be seen in the lobby. The building's support girder is made of scrap iron from exploded Confederate shells.

710 Congress Ave.

PARAMOUNT THEATRE

The Paramount began in 1915 as the Majestic, a vaudeville theatre designed by John Eberson of Chicago, with G. A. Endress. Under the stewardship of the nonprofit Austin Theatre Alliance, both the Paramount and adjacent 1935 State Theatre host live performances, festivals and films. *713 Congress Ave. Show schedule and ticket information: 512-472-5470. austintheatre.org.*

SCARBROUGH BUILDING

This corner was the site of the first store ever built in Austin. Many years later, in 1910, it became the site of Austin's preeminent department store, Scarbrough's. Architects Sanguinet and Staats designed the eight-story, Chicago-style building. Deco alterations were made in 1929. Competition from suburban malls forced the store's closure in 1983, but in recent years retail activity has returned to the building and the avenue.

522 Congress Ave.

LITTLEFIELD BUILDING

Cattle baron George W. Littlefield wasn't satisfied with his new Beaux Arts-style bank building in 1912. He converted its roof garden to create a ninth story, making it the tallest building in Austin for a time. C. H. Page, Jr. was the architect.

601 Congress Ave.

FOR MORE HISTORY:

Download free smartphone tours of Austin's historic places. preservationaustin.org/historic-austin-tours

Considered one of the most iconic streets in Texas, Congress Avenue serves as a ceremonial boulevard leading up to the steps of the State Capitol. Since its construction in 1839, the thoroughfare has been home to many of Austin's leading businesses and entertainment venues (not to mention the city's famous bat population).



3 EAST SIXTH STREET

East Sixth Street is a National Register Historic District, with six blocks of turn-of-the-century Victorian commercial buildings. It is also the heart of the music scene in the Live Music Capital of the World®. Before the music era began, the area was a melting pot of small businesses, with owners from many cultures – European, Middle Eastern, Asian and more.

Italian immigrant Michael Paggi operated a carriage shop on property he owned at 421 E. Sixth St. from 1875 to 1905. Former slave E. H. Carrington, followed by son-in-law D. H. Lyons, owned a successful grocery at 522 E. Sixth St. from 1873 to the 1940s and were African American community leaders. Starting around 1921, Ben Garza and his brothers owned a meat market in the Randerson-Lundell Building, 701 E. Sixth St., for many years. Today crowds of music lovers and revelers keep the old buildings young.

THE DRISKILL HOTEL

Since its beginning in 1886, cattleman Jesse Driskill's hotel has been an elegant backdrop for gatherings of the powerful, the famous and the sociable. J. N. Preston's Romanesque building design features portrait busts of Driskill and his sons. An annex was added in 1930 to compete with the 1924 Stephen F. Austin Hotel on Congress Avenue. *604 Brazos St. 512-439-1234. driskillhotel.com.*

MUSEUM ROW AT BRUSH SQUARE

Austin founder Mirabeau Lamar's 1839 plan called for a public open space for each quadrant of the city. One of those spaces, Brush Square, is home now to three museums.

- The 1869 home of Alamo survivor Susanna Dickinson was built by husband Joseph Hannig. *411 E. Fifth St. 512-974-3830. susannadickinsonmuseum.org.*
- William Sydney Porter, who later found fame as short-story writer O. Henry, lived in this 1886 Victorian cottage. *409 E. Fifth St. 512-974-1398. austintexas.gov.*
- The 1938 Moderne-style Fire Station No. 1 holds the Austin Fire Museum. *401 E. Fifth St. Free. 512-974-3835 austintexas.gov.*



East Sixth Street, formerly known as Pecan Street, has always been a popular business district in the heart of Austin.



Housed in the former George Washington Carver Library building built in 1926, the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center sits on Angelina Street and is named in honor of the famous African American inventor and scientist.

PICA 01518, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

4 OLD EAST AUSTIN

SIX SQUARE: AUSTIN'S BLACK CULTURAL DISTRICT

As one of the largest cultural districts in the country, Six Square takes its name from the literal boundary (of approximately six square miles) and is home to numerous sites of national, regional and local historic significance. Six Square celebrates African American culture year round with art exhibits, performances, festivals and other engaging community events. Stop by their office to take a tour. *1152 San Bernard St. 512-505-8738. sixsquare.org.*

TEXAS STATE CEMETERY

Since 1851, this exquisitely landscaped site has been the final resting place for many Texas leaders, including the "Father of Texas," Stephen F. Austin. Texas' fallen soldiers from the Civil War to modern times are honored here. *909 Navasota St. 512-463-0605. Visitor center on site. Free. cemetery.tspb.texas.gov.*

FRENCH LEGATION STATE HISTORIC SITE

In 1839, King Louis Philippe sent Alphonse Dubois to the Republic of Texas to represent the interests of France in the new nation. He began building a Creole-style house to entertain and impress, but left the house for others to complete in 1841. It is downtown Austin's oldest building. *Check website for visitation information. 802 San Marcos St. 512-463-7948. thc.texas.gov.*

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER GENEALOGY CENTER

Built in 1926 as Austin's first library, the building was moved to East Austin in 1933 to become Austin's first branch library. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is adjacent to the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, which was built in 2005 and is dedicated to the collection, preservation, research and exhibition of African American cultural material. *1165 Angelina St. 512-974-4926. Free. austintexas.gov/carvermuseum.*

TEJANO WALKING TRAILS

Designated by the National Park Service as a National Recreation Trail, the Tejano Walking Trails of East Austin feature historical and cultural gems in the East Cesar Chavez and adjacent Holly neighborhoods. Brochure download: tejanotrails.com

MORE EAST AUSTIN HISTORIC SITES

- The Dedrick Hamilton House, owned by one of the first freed slaves in Austin, Thomas Dedrick, is now the centerpiece of Austin's African American Cultural Heritage District, and houses the Austin African American Cultural and Heritage Facility. *912 E. 11th St. 512-974-2445. austintexas.gov/aachf*
- Victory Grill was a stop on the "Chitlin Circuit" that brought name entertainers of color to Austin starting in 1947. *1104 E. 11th St.*
- Huston-Tillotson University traces its beginnings to 1876, with buildings from 1911 and 1914. *900 Chicon St.*
- Nearby are historic neighborhoods Guadalupe, San Bernard, Willow-Spence and Swede Hill.

5 DOWNTOWN WEST

BREMOND BLOCK

Marriages joined the families of successful merchants John Robinson and John Bremond, and created a family compound. The oldest house was built by Abner Cook in 1855. Architect George Fiegel's Victorian styling predominated from 1873 to 1887. Privately owned buildings, viewable from the street. *Boundary: Guadalupe, San Antonio, West Seventh and West Eighth Streets.*

NORTH-EVANS CHATEAU BELLEVUE

Ira Evans was a prominent banker, legislator and advocate for freed slaves. Upon purchasing this 1874 Victorian Romanesque castle in 1892, he hired architect Alfred Giles to improve the house, resulting in its dramatic appearance today. It has been the home of the Austin Woman's Club since 1929. *708 San Antonio St. 512- 472-1336. Weddings, events, tours. austinwc.org.*

HEMAN MARION SWEATT COURTHOUSE

Cordova shell limestone with fossil imprints was used by Page Brothers Architects for Travis County's 1931 courthouse. In

1946, Heman Marion Sweatt, backed by the NAACP, sued the University of Texas for admittance to its law school. The case, argued here by Thurgood Marshall, moved the U.S. toward equality in education. *1000 Guadalupe St. traviscountyhistory.org.*

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER

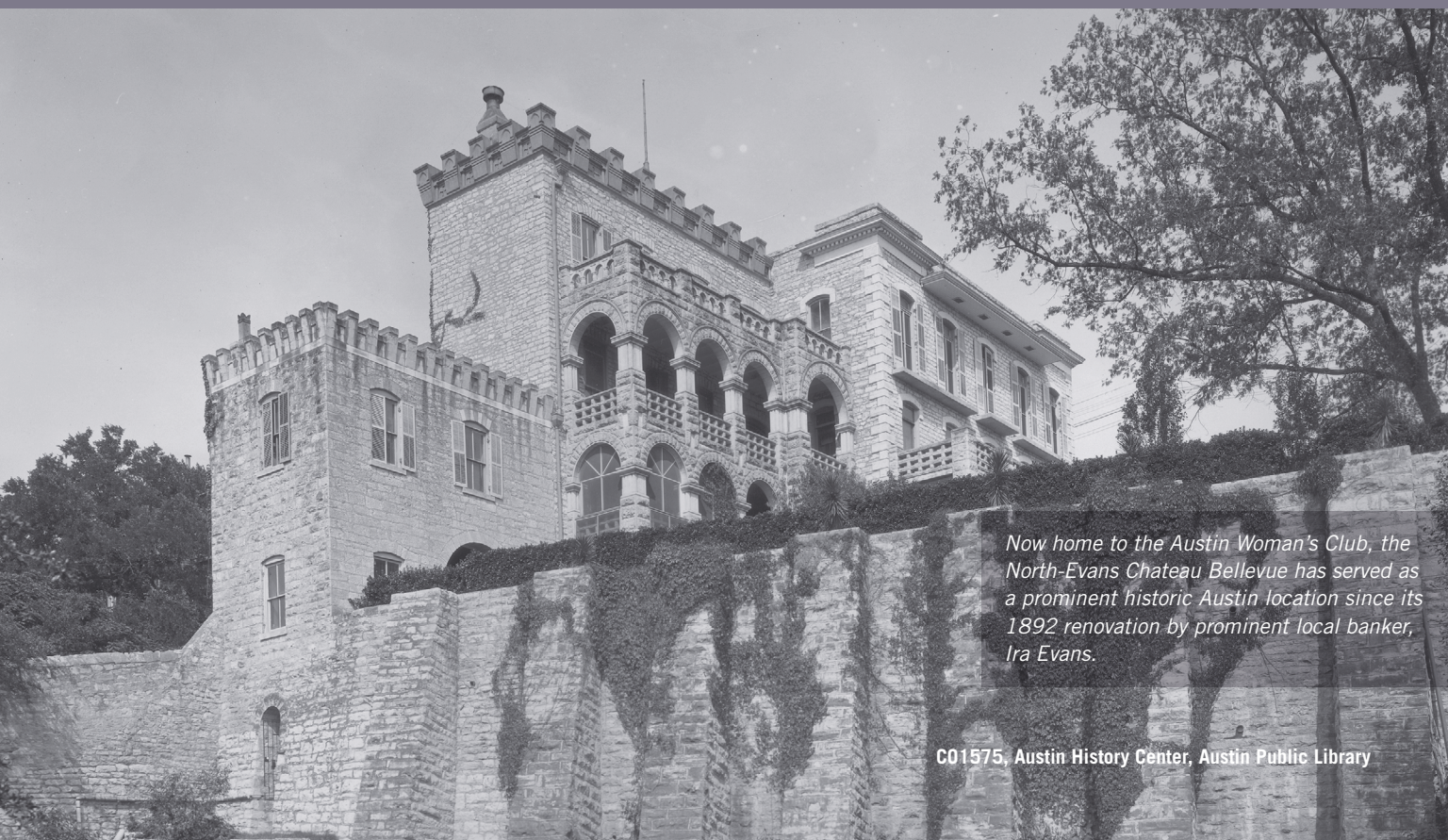
This 1933 Italian Renaissance building, once Austin's main library, was designed by Hugo Kuehne, first dean of the UT School of Architecture. Frescoes, ironwork and wood carvings were done by Austin's finest craftsmen. Interesting exhibits and events recapture Austin's past. *810 Guadalupe St. 512-974-7480. austinhistorycenter.org.*

JUDGE'S HILL NEIGHBORHOOD

Prominent Austin families lived on this high ground northwest of Capitol Hill, in homes dating from the 1850s to the 1900s. Approximate boundary: West 14th Street to MLK, Jr. Boulevard; Rio Grande Street to Shoal Creek. Private properties; view from street. The Caswell House hosts weddings, events and tours. *1404 West Ave.*

HISTORIC OPEN SPACES

Republic Square and Wooldridge Park have been designated open spaces since Austin was founded in 1839. *Guadalupe Street, at West Fourth Street and West Ninth Street.*



Now home to the Austin Woman's Club, the North-Evans Chateau Bellevue has served as a prominent historic Austin location since its 1892 renovation by prominent local banker, Ira Evans.



Local Austinites and visitors alike have taken a dip in the landmark spring-fed Deep Eddy Pool since its 1916 construction and subsequent 1935 Works Progress Administration renovation.

CO 1786, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

6 WEST AUSTIN

HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

The Balcones Escarpment, a dramatic uplift that runs along the west side of downtown Austin, has long been a desirable place for homes, from antebellum plantations and freedman's communities to showplaces for the wealthy of several generations. National Register Historic Neighborhoods Old West Austin, West Line and Clarksville contain more than 2,000 contributing properties. Before Emancipation, the area now known as Clarksville was located on Texas Governor Elisha Pease's 365-acre plantation. In 1865, Governor Pease gave some of the land to formerly enslaved workers. The area's namesake Charles Clark, a formerly enslaved man, sold some of his acreage to other freedmen in hopes of building a place where others could reunite with family and friends.

Today, visit the remaining buildings from Clarksville's origins: the 1879 Hezekiah Haskell House (1705 Waterston Ave.) and the 1935 Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church (1725 W.11th St.). Private residences, viewable from the street. *Approximate boundary: West Sixth Street to West 35th Street; Lamar Boulevard to MoPac.*

DEEP EDDY POOL

Just west of Loop 1, Sixth Street becomes Lake Austin Boulevard, leading to a landmark swimming pool. Built in 1916 and spring-fed, it replaced a once-popular swimming hole in the Colorado River (now Lady Bird Lake). A 1935 Works Progress Administration project improved the pool and added a bathhouse. Eilers Park and the Lady Bird Lake trail adjoin the pool. 401 Deep Eddy Ave. 512-472-8546. Free. austintexas.gov.

West 35th Street, west of Loop 1, leads to four more historic sites:

CAMP MABRY

This 800-acre site has been a military center since 1892. The camp also houses the Texas Military Forces Museum in a 1918 building. 2200 W. 35th St. 512-782-5659. Small donation suggested. texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org.

LAGUNA GLORIA

The Contemporary Austin art museum makes its home in this 1916 Mediterranean villa. Its romantic setting makes it a popular place for weddings and parties. 3809 W. 35th St. 512-458-8191. Small entry fee. thecontemporaryaustin.org.

MAYFIELD PARK

Adjacent to Laguna Gloria is a 23-acre nature preserve with wooded trails and a historic cottage. 3505 W. 35th St. Free. mayfieldpark.org.

MOUNT BONNELL

The historic hilltop has a magnificent view of Lake Austin and surrounding hills. 3800 Mount Bonnell Rd. Free. austinparks.org.

7 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

The University of Texas was founded in 1883. The architectural character of its landmark buildings was determined early in the 20th century by architect Cass Gilbert, followed by Paul Philippe Cret. They designed buildings with limestone walls, red tile roofs and Spanish-Mediterranean details. Cret incorporated Deco style with his 1937 Main Building Tower – it is the symbolic center of the university, with a variety of tower lighting schemes to signal athletic victories, academic honors and other special occasions. The original forty-acre campus has grown to encompass more than 350 acres, with large-scale buildings added to accommodate 50,000 plus students. One such building is the Mike A. Meyers Stadium and Soccer Field. Its architect was John Chase, who in 1950 was UT's first African American enrollee. *707 Clyde Littlefield Dr.*

Darrell K. Royal Memorial Stadium was built in 1924 to hold 27,000 people. Enlarged over the years and renamed to honor legendary football coach Darrell K. Royal, record attendance of 103,507 was recorded in 2018. *2139 San Jacinto Blvd.*

The Little Campus holds a building occupied by U.S. Army officer George Armstrong Custer during post-Civil War Reconstruction. *MLK, Jr. Boulevard at I.H. 35. Campus tours are available through the University's Visitor Center, 101 E 21st St. 512-471-1000. admissions.utexas.edu/visit.*

PUBLIC MUSEUMS ON CAMPUS

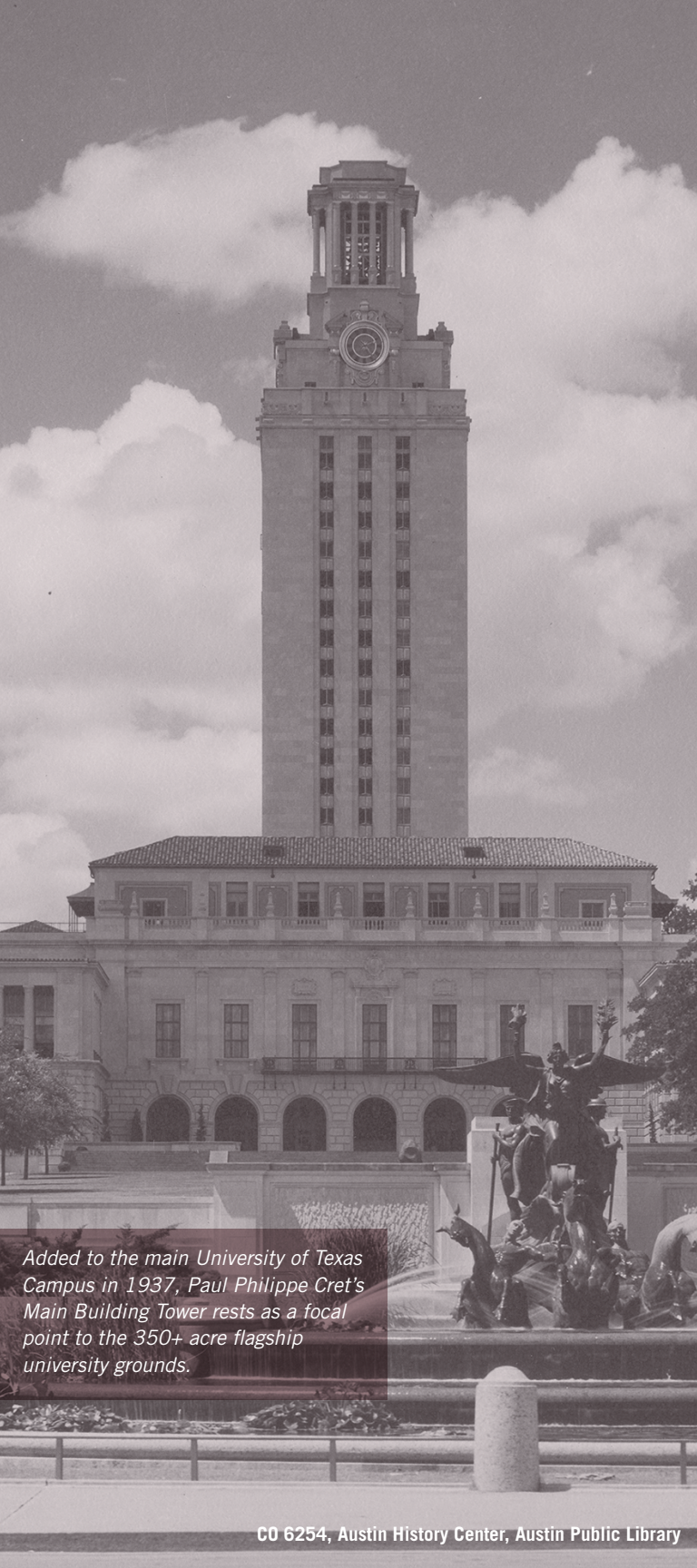
The Harry Ransom Center, Blanton Museum of Art, Texas Natural Science Center's Texas Memorial Museum, Briscoe Center for American History and the LBJ Presidential Library and Museum are all open to the public – some charge an entrance fee.

SITES NEARBY

James Wheat, a formerly enslaved man, founded the Wheatville freedmen's town in West Central Austin in 1867. Reverend Jacob Fontaine preached at the First Baptist Church, Colored and, after obtaining his freedom from enslavement, he founded several other churches and established The Gold Dollar newspaper in 1876. This was one of the first Black-owned newspapers in the South, and was likely housed in Fontaine's Wheatville home. See the structure at 2402 San Gabriel St. Although much of the Wheatville community was forced out of the area as a result of the 1928 Austin city plan, which institutionalized the segregation of Black Austinites into East Austin.

The Neill-Cochran House Museum is a close relative of the Texas Governor's Mansion. Both were built by Austin's master builder Abner Cook, within two years of one another, in 1855. Restored by the National Society of Colonial Dames, the house is open to visitors. Small admission fee. *2310 San Gabriel St. 512-478-2335. nchmuseum.org.*

Scholz Garten has been a popular place for beer and socializing since 1866. *1607 San Jacinto Blvd. 512-474-1958. scholzgarten.com.*



Added to the main University of Texas Campus in 1937, Paul Philippe Cret's Main Building Tower rests as a focal point to the 350+ acre flagship university grounds.

8 HYDE PARK

SUBURBIA IN THE 1890s

In 1891, Hyde Park was remote from downtown Austin. Streetcar service made it possible for Austin's first suburbanites to settle there. Developer Monroe Shipe created wide shady streets lined with handsome Victorian and Craftsman houses (one of them was his own home). Today Hyde Park is considered part of Central Austin, but its residents continue to take pride in their neighborhood's unique identity. *Approximate boundary: Avenue A to Duval Street; 38th Street to 45th Street.*

ELISABET NEY STUDIO AND MUSEUM

In 1892, Elisabet Ney, a German classically-trained sculptor, moved to Austin and built "Formosa," a remarkable Neoclassical and Gothic Revival studio. Two famous pieces – statues of Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin, now in the south foyer of the Texas State Capitol – were created here. The museum is dedicated to her art and legacy and houses the largest collection of her work in the world. *304 E. 44th St. 512-974-1625. Free admission. elisabetneymuseum.org.*

AVENUE B GROCERY


Nestled among large old oaks in northwestern Hyde Park, Avenue B Grocery is Austin's oldest continuously operated grocery store. Built in 1909, this white clapboard grocery and deli serves up sandwiches of all styles along with Texas-style chili and other grocery and novelty items. *4403 Avenue B. 512-453-3921. avenuebgrocery.com.*

HANCOCK GOLF COURSE

Founded in 1899 as the original Austin Country Club, this beautiful and quiet 9-hole course is situated alongside Waller Creek at the eastern edge of Hyde Park. Harvey Penick, University of Texas golf coach for more than three decades, began his career as a caddy here at what is now one of the oldest courses in the United States. *811 E. 41st St. 512-978-2330. austintexas.gov/departments/hancock-course.*

JOURDAN-BACHMAN PIONEER FARMS

This living history park, about twenty minutes from downtown, gives visitors an experience of rural life in 19th-century Texas. The restored farmsteads house live animals, including longhorn cattle. *10621 Pioneer Farms Dr. 512-837-1215. pioneerfarms.org.*



The Elisabet Ney Studio and Museum rests in the historic Hyde Park district just north of downtown, and housed the remarkable German classically trained sculptor beginning in 1892.



Located just south of the main Zilker Park area, Barton Springs is an enclosed swimming pool from the Austin Edwards Aquifer. Jump in year-round to enjoy stable spring-fed temperatures and beat the Texas heat. (Photo taken early 1960s.)

PICA 01009, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

9 ZILKER PARK

ANDREW JACKSON ZILKER'S LEGACY

Citizens of Austin enjoy a lush 350-acre park in the heart of the city thanks to the generosity of Andrew Jackson Zilker, an early Austin businessman and philanthropist. During the Great Depression, federally-funded improvement projects enhanced the park's natural beauty.

BARTON SPRINGS

The springs are named after William Barton, who arrived in the late 1830s, shortly before the city of Austin was created. As a slaveholder, Barton brought Austin's first African Americans to the local community. In 1898 geologists identified the Edwards Aquifer, which provides water running through limestone channels to feed the springs. Environmentalists have been fighting threats to the aquifer for years. The City of Austin has acquired many acres in the recharge zone to protect it. In 1997 the Barton Springs Salamander, which exists only in this area, was designated an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service. Barton Springs' swimming hole is an Austin institution. In 1960, Austin High School student Joan Means Khabele was the first Black person to jump into the then-segregated pool, igniting "swim-in" protests that led to the desegregation of Barton Springs Pool and Zilker Park in 1962. Its 1947 Bathhouse was designed in Moderne style by Dan Driscoll, an architect for the City of Austin. 2101 Barton Springs Rd. 512-974-6300. Open to the public – free. austintexas.gov/departments/barton-springs-pool.

ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN

The botanical garden, with its 1964 building, represents a collaboration of 31 local garden clubs. The Taniguchi Garden was completed in 1969 by Isamu Taniguchi, who placed many of the stones with his own hands. The 1840s Swedish Log Cabin and 1866 Esperanza Schoolhouse were moved to the park from their original locations. 2220 Barton Springs Rd. 512-477-8672. Open to the public. Small entry fee. zilker garden.org.

10 LADY BIRD LAKE & OLD SOUTH AUSTIN

LADY BIRD LAKE

In 1960, a dam was built on the Colorado River to create a lake local to downtown Austin. Originally called Town Lake, it was the seventh in a chain of lakes along the Colorado. Lady Bird Johnson led a campaign in the 1970s to add a trail system and landscaping to the waterfront. After her death in 2007, the lake was renamed in her honor.

ANN W. RICHARDS CONGRESS AVENUE BRIDGE

Originally built in 1910, the bridge received improvements in 1980 that attracted an unexpected colony of 1.5 million bats. Migrating from Mexico during the warm months of each year, the bats can often be seen flying out from under the bridge at twilight as they emerge in search of insects. *Congress Avenue at Lady Bird Lake.*

HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS

In 1886, Austin's first permanent, free bridge opened the door for development on the south side of the city. Fairview Park, begun in the 1890s, had large lots with Victorian homes commanding views of the city. Travis Heights was developed later on adjacent land in 1913. A greenbelt winds through the neighborhoods. *Approximate boundary: South Congress Avenue to I.H. 35; Riverside Drive to Monroe Street. Private homes; view from the street.*

Big Stacy Park has a free public pool, with warm water from an artesian well. *700 E. Live Oak St. 512-445-0304. austintexas.gov.*

SOUTH CONGRESS AVENUE (SOCO)

The buildings on South Congress Avenue, mostly from the 1930s, are modest, but they have been adapted in creative ways for locally-owned shops and restaurants. Notable sites include a restaurant in a converted feed-and-seed store from the 1800s, and two motels from the 1930s. 1000 – 1900 blocks of South Congress Avenue. Farther down Congress Avenue is St. Edward's University, with an 1888 Gothic Revival main building designed by Nicholas Clayton. *3001 S. Congress Ave. visitaustin.org/south-congress.*

Originally called Town Lake, this popular Austin attraction was created in 1960 as part of the Texas Colorado River and renamed in 2007 to honor former President Johnson's wife, Lady Bird Johnson.



HISTORIC AUSTIN: WHERE TO GO

- 1 THE TEXAS STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX** | 1856-1888
Capitol, Land Office Bldg., Governor's Mansion. *11th Street to 15th Street; Colorado Street to Brazos Street*
- 2 CONGRESS AVENUE** | 1856-Present
Old Bakery, Paramount Theatre, Walter Tips Bldg. and more. *Lady Bird Lake to 11th Street*
- 3 EAST SIXTH STREET, EAST FIFTH STREET** | 1860s-1900s
Turn-of-the-century commercial district, The Driskill Hotel, Dickinson & O. Henry Museums. *Congress Avenue to I.H. 35*
- 4 OLD EAST AUSTIN** | 1841-1940s
State Cemetery, French Legation, African American and Latino cultural heritage sites. *I.H. 35 to Chicon Street; Lady Bird Lake to MLK, Jr. Boulevard*
- 5 DOWNTOWN WEST** | 1850s-1930s
Bremond Block, North-Evans Chateau Bellevue, Heman Marion Sweatt, Courthouse, Austin History Center, Judges' Hill, Wooldridge and Republic Parks. *West Seventh Street to MLK, Jr. Boulevard; Lamar Boulevard to Colorado Street*
- 6 WEST AUSTIN** | 1850s-Contemporary
Historic neighborhoods. *West Sixth Street to West 35th Street; Lamar Boulevard to Lake Austin*. Nearby: Deep Eddy Pool, Laguna Gloria, Mayfield Park, Mt. Bonnell, Camp Mabry
- 7 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN** | 1883-Contemporary
Historic campus buildings, museums. *Guadalupe Street to Lafayette Avenue; MLK, Jr. Boulevard, to West 27th Street*
- 8 HYDE PARK, NORTH AUSTIN** | 1890s-1930s
Historic neighborhoods, Elisabet Ney Studio and Museum. *38th Street to 45th Street; Guadalupe Street to Duval Street*
- 9 ZILKER PARK** | 1840s-1940s
Barton Springs, Zilker Botanical Garden. *Barton Springs Road; Azie Morton Road to Loop 1*
- 10 LADY BIRD LAKE, OLD SOUTH AUSTIN** | 1888 –1960s
Historic neighborhoods, South Congress Avenue (SoCo). *Lady Bird Lake to Monroe Street; South Congress Avenue to I.H. 35*

MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES, CULTURAL CENTERS

Austin has more than 35 museums, cultural centers and libraries, plus the public library system. Some are listed here. For a complete list, see austinemuseums.org.

- A. Bullock Texas State History Museum**
1800 N. Congress Ave. | 512-936-8746 | thestoryoftexas.com
- B. Dolph Briscoe Center for American History**
2300 Red River St. | 512-495-4515 | briscoecenter.org
- C. George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center**
1165 Angelina St. | 512-974-4926 | austintexas.gov/carvermuseum
- D. Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library & Museum**
2313 Red River St. | 512-721-0200 | lbjlibrary.org
- E. Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center**
600 River St. | 512-974-3772 | maccaustin.org
- F. Harry Ransom Center**
300 W. 21st St. | 512-471-8944 | hrc.utexas.edu
- G. Neill-Cochran House Museum**
2310 San Gabriel St. | 512-478-2335 | nchmuseum.org
- H. Texas State Capitol Visitors Center and Museum**
112 E. 11th St. | 512-305-8400 | tspb.texas.gov



MOONLIGHT TOWERS

Considered in 1895 to be a modern way to illuminate cities, the towers now exist only in Austin, where they are regarded with affection. Half of the city's original 31 towers are being preserved.

FOR MORE HISTORY:

Download free smartphone tours of Austin's historic places. preservationaustin.org/historic-austin-tours





VISIT Austin

LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD®

ONLINE AUSTIN HISTORY RESOURCES

Austin History Center
austinhistorycenter.org

Austin Museum Partnership
austinmuseums.org

City of Austin
austintexas.gov

Preservation Austin
preservationaustin.org

Texas Historical Commission
thc.texas.gov

Texas State Historical Association
tshaonline.org

Our Visitor Center welcomes you to Austin with maps, city information and walking tours.

AUSTIN VISITOR CENTER
602 E. Fourth St.
512-478-0098 | visitaustin.org