

Why Do We Want to be a National Register District?

Creating the Old West Austin Historic District is part of an ongoing effort to preserve homes in this wonderful Central Austin area. It will maintain property values and the resulting tax base for the city. Having a district offers a way to encourage maintaining the integrity of homes to preserve the unique architectural features of our proposed district. Historic District status offers federal protection and helps mitigate, when possible, negative impacts (particularly from highway development) for more reasonable, aesthetic solutions.

Pease Park is a focal point in the development of OWAHD and has been included. Hyde Park, Camp Mabry, Sixth Street, Clarksville, Zilker Park, and the Moonlight Towers have already been placed on the National Register.

Where We Are in the Process:

- Since November 2000, neighbors and businesses have donated more than \$29,500, \$2500 gifts in-kind, and our dedicated volunteers have clocked more than 8,000 hours of service.
- The balance needed to complete the nomination is \$14,000. Please support our effort by sending in your donation today.
- The Total Project Cost for completing the nomination is \$45,000. We have two professional historians under contract researching and writing the narrative we must submit with our nomination to the Texas Historical Commission in 2002. We enter our second year right on schedule - with half of the work completed.

Old West Austin Historic District Facts:

- OWAHD will be part of a federal program (through the National Park Service) administered locally by the Texas Historical Commission, a state agency.
- A National Register historic district is “a significant grouping that may include sites, buildings, structures or objects 50 years of age or more united by history and / or architecture.”
- The Old West Austin Historic District (National Register Eligible) has completed the historic survey work and identified 64 percent of the homes in the proposed district as “contributing historic” properties.
- **National Register designation imposes no restrictions on property owners.** It does NOT require OWAHD homeowners to provide public access, maintain the property, have a sign on their property indicating the designation, or impose restrictive covenants of any kind. You may, however, purchase a National Register plaque once the district is established.
- Whenever possible, National Register districts receive extra consideration before any federal projects -- such as highway construction -- take place.
- The OWAHD will submit homes to the National Register as they become eligible.
- Property owners will ALWAYS have the final say on changes they want to make to their homes.

www.OWAHD.org



Old West Austin Historic District

Dear Homeowner,
Regarding your home located at:

_____ Congratulations! Your home has been identified as a “Contributing” historic* property in the future Old West Austin Historic District.

_____ Welcome to owning a home in the future Old West Austin Historic District! At this time, your home has been identified as:

- A “Non-contributing” historic property.**
- A “Non-contributing” property (built after 1953.)

You will still enjoy many of the same benefits as contributing properties.

*If you have documentation that your home has special historic significance (a famous person or family lived there, historic event happened there) you may also be eligible to apply for City of Austin ‘H’ zoning, providing a 50% (land) & 100% (improvement) tax abatement for your property. For more info on “H” zoning, check with the COA Landmark Commission office at 974-3530.

**Because the survey was performed from the curb, it is possible we made a mistake or need more information. If you have reason to believe your home looks very much the way it did when it was built (integrity, with minimal alterations) and is at least 50 years old, please contact Candace Volz immediately at 477-2488.

Please support OWAHD today with a tax-deductible donation!

Can I Remodel in a National Register District?

YES!! It is possible to successfully remodel in a National Register district. There are no restrictions on interior remodeling. The goal in exterior remodeling for historic properties is to maintain the architectural features, height, and integrity of the home when viewed from the street.

Prior to issuing City of Austin permits, all Building, Remodel, Demolition, and Sign requests for **historic and non-historic** properties will be reviewed to help maintain the architectural features of the district.

This is done as a “free service” by the Landmark Commission office at 974-3530. Their mission is to maintain the district’s character, but as always you have the final say on changes to your home.

Small remodeling projects (generally rear additions/outbuildings 600 square feet or less) can be reviewed by the City Historic Preservation Office staff in seven days or less. Larger projects require City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission review at their monthly meetings. City historic preservation staff is available to meet with you early in your project development, and give you advice to ensure a sensitive historic exterior addition project.

* Please note that National Register Districts are not under the same guidelines as City of Austin zoned “H” properties. YOU apply for “H” zoning because the property has a very significant history and uniqueness. Maintenance of these homes is rewarded with a property tax abatement.

Proposed Old West Austin Historic District



Preservation is a key element of Smart Growth and reducing urban sprawl. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of properties significant in American history, architecture and archeology. Listing in the National Register denotes that a property is worthy of preservation. Properties successfully nominated and listed in the National Register are:

- leaders in stabilizing property values within historic areas;
- important components of local heritage tourism programs;
- integral in the development of local heritage education initiatives; and
- afforded some protection from federal activities.

The Old West Austin Historic District includes many of the homes in the Bryker Woods, Pemberton, Old Enfield, and OWANA neighborhoods. Final district boundaries are at the discretion of the Texas Historical Commission. For more information, visit the Texas Historical Commission on the Web at:

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/>

and, visit our Web site at:

<http://www.OWAHD.org>



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How YOU can help.

We have a \$14,000 need, please give what you are able.

Your donations to date: \$ _____

Yes, I want to participate in preserving neighborhoods and help with the Old West Austin Historic District's one-time \$14,000 immediate need. Please accept my 2002 tax-deductible donation for:

_____ Founder	\$1000
_____ Sponsor	\$700
_____ Gold Circle	\$200
_____ Silver Circle	\$100
_____ Bronze Circle	\$30

To donate by Credit Card visit:

<http://www.Charitygift.com>

Give via: Old Enfield Improvement & Preservation Fund*

To donate by Check:

Make check payable to: Old Enfield Improvement & Preservation Fund: Attn: Nat'l Register Nomination*
Tax ID# 74-3000382

mail check in return envelope provided to:

OWAHD c/o Laurie Virkstis
1700 Wethersfield Road
Austin, Texas 78703-3329

Donation questions? 482-0699

* Be sure to include the property address if you are not currently living in the house.