

El Camino Real de los Tejas Trail

El Camino Real de los Tejas was listed as a National Historic Trail in 2004. There are only 19 historic trails in America and the El Camino Real goes right through the City of New Braunfels.

Although one thinks of a single road, in reality the El Camino Real consists of several routes. Three separate routes have been identified traversing through our town of New Braunfels.

These were routes used by Spanish explorers that became the camino real or King's Highway that followed established Indian trails and trade routes. The road's development had irreversible impacts on the native people of Texas and Louisiana linking unconnected cultural and linguistic groups and serving as an agent for cultural diffusion, biological exchange, and communication.

The establishment of Spanish Missions and presidios along the

camino real routes reflect Spain's claims in the region in the 17th Century. Spanish explorers were familiar with the Comal Springs area but showed little interest in



settling the region. The first recording of the springs is from Domingo Terán de los Ríos in 1691. Subsequent French and Spanish expeditions, including those of the Marqués de Aguayo and

Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, passed through this area. In 1756 Comal Springs became the site of the short-lived Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Mission, but rather than fortify the mission against anticipated Comanche attacks, Spanish authorities closed it in 1758.

From 1915 to 1918, the State of Texas jointly with the Daughters of the American Revolution placed 123 pink granite markers about every five miles along the route. Many still exist today. The marker shown in the photograph is located at the Corner of Seguin Avenue and Nacogdoches Road.

To learn more, check out these websites: www.nps.gov/elte

www.elcaminorealdelestijos.com

ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/library/pubs/travel/national_trail.pdf



New Braunfels Builders—A.C. Moeller

Alvin C. Moeller was born January 26, 1883. His family settled in Comaltown and he lived there his entire life. He was the third generation of Moellers to engage in the construction business. Going into business for himself in 1919.

Some of his more notable buildings are the Seele Parish House at 198 Coll Street, the Wiedeman Building (Comal Flower on Main Plaza), Lamar School, Richter Building on San Antonio Street, Hinman Building on San Antonio Street, and the Ludwig Building (Johnson Furniture) at 283 Seguin Avenue. The marble cornerstone (partially under the drainage pipe) at 185 Seguin Avenue lists AC Moeller as contractor. Go check it out!

2 Art Deco in New Braunfels

The Art Deco Style is part of the Modernistic Movement. A conglomeration of influences from many cultures and historic periods. Ornamental detailing is usually executed in the same material as the building. Hard-edged low relief decorative elements are often found around openings and along the roof edges. An excellent example exists here in New Braunfels at 201 Main Plaza.

Designed by San Antonio Architect, Harvey P. Smith, the San Antonio Public Service Company building cost about \$20,000. The Herald-Zeitung announced that 2,000 people attended the public reception held on May 9, 1930, to view the combined office and retail ice station. A driveway was constructed around the building so customers could conveniently get ice from an automatic ice vending machine. Another feature that attracted the "attention and admiration" of the public were the lighting fixtures.

The light fixtures and parapet incorporate chevrons, geometric floral patterns, and sunrise details which were popular in the Art Deco Style. Originally designed as two-story the building was built as a single-story. The current canopy was added at a later date.

Harvey Partridge Smith was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 2, 1889. He received his education at the Evanston Academy, Northwestern University, the University of Arizona, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. After working in Minnesota and California, Smith moved to San Antonio in 1915, and was hired by Atlee B. Ayres. In 1924 Smith opened his own office. In 1928 he was selected as restoration architect for the Governor's Palace in San Antonio. Smith is best remembered for his work in the area of historic preservation and the restoration of Mission San Jose.



The following information is a direct quote from the Secretary of Interior Standards for the treatment of Historic Properties.

“The Standards are neither technical nor prescriptive, but are intended to promote responsible preservation practices that help protect our Nation's irreplaceable cultural resources. For example, they cannot, in and of themselves, be used to make essential decisions about which features of the historic building should be saved and which can be changed. But once a treatment is selected, the Standards provide philosophical consistency to the work.

The four treatment approaches are Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction, outlined below in hierarchical order and explained:
The first treatment,

Preservation, places a high premium on the retention of all historic fabric through conservation, maintenance and repair. It reflects a building's continuum over time, through successive occupancies, and the respectful changes and alterations that are made.



The second treatment, **Rehabilitation**, emphasizes the retention and repair of historic materials, but more latitude is provided for replacement because it is assumed the property is more deteriorated prior to work. (Both Preservation and Rehabilitation standards focus attention on the preservation of those materials, features, finishes, spaces, and spatial relationships that, together, give a property its historic character.)

The third treatment, **Restoration**, focuses on the retention of materials from the most significant time in a property's history, while permitting the removal of materials from other periods.

The fourth treatment, **Reconstruction**, establishes limited opportunities to re-create a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object in all new materials.

Choosing the most appropriate treatment for a building requires careful decision-making about a building's historical significance, as well as taking into account a number of other considerations: Relative importance in history, physical condition, proposed use, and mandated code requirements.”

An example of Restoration is the Comal County Courthouse. The Texas Historical Commission Courthouse Grant Program policy is to restore the courthouse using their original construction date. For Comal County that was 1898, so the additions that occurred after that date have been removed.

The National Park Service has an illustrated guideline available providing examples for each treatment. See <http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/> for additional information.



Help the environment!
Receive this newsletter by email. Contact Cherise at:
cbell@nbtexas.org

The Historic Landmark Commission is appointed by the City Council to protect and perpetuate historic landmarks and districts which represent distinctive elements of New Braunfels' historic, architectural and cultural heritage and to foster civic pride in the accomplishments of the past.

Soul Searching . . . Night Ramblings at the Comal Cemetery

Relive the spirit of historic New Braunfels in this night time guided tour of the Comal Cemetery. Seven in-character portrayals will be presented by volunteers who will give colorful reenactments of the lives of some of our town's most famous residents.

This event is family friendly and funds raised will be used for cemetery improvements.

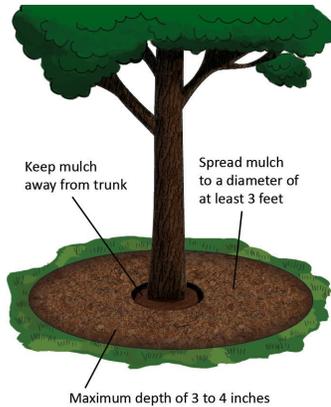
MUST PRE-REGISTER with the Parks Department. Call 830-221-4350

**Cypress Bend Park Pavilion
Saturday, October 15, 2011
6:00 p.m.
Ages 5+ Fee: \$10**

Mulching, a Great Activity for the Fall

Trees in our landscape have the same needs as the ones that grow in a forest. Trees like a layer of leaves and small woody debris over their roots (a layer mulch) that breaks down and cycles nutrients back into the tree. In urban landscapes for many trees, that cycle has been disrupted. Mulch provides many benefits in keeping trees healthy.

Here are some guidelines to use when applying mulch.



- Avoid placing mulch against the tree trunks; pull it back several inches so that the base of the trunk and the root crown are exposed.

- Organic mulches usually are preferred due to their soil-enhancing properties. It should be well aerated, so avoid sour-smelling mulch.
- Fresh wood chips also may be used around established trees and shrubs.
- For well-drained sites, apply a 2 to 4-inch layer of mulch. If there are drainage problems, a thinner layer should be used. Place mulch out to the tree's drip line or beyond.

Article written by Kelly Eby, Urban Forester, City of New Braunfels. For more information regarding trees call or email Kelly at 221-4359 or keby@nbtexas.org

Comal County Recycling Center, 281 Resource Dr. provides free mulch to the public and loads it. You must have a tarp. Tuesday-Friday 7a.m.to 3p.m. Saturday 8a.m.to 12p.m.

www.treesaregood.org