

Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks

From the THC Medallion Magazine. The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) program honors structures at least 50 years old that are judged worthy of preservation. It is therefore fitting that the RTHL's 50th anniversary celebration in 2012 will be marked by a significant milestone. In the coming year, the THC will collect and compile information from Texans to create a new and improved public database in time for the program's 50th anniversary celebration. THC has awarded RTHL status to more than 3,600 worthy buildings since 1962.

As the highest honor the State of Texas can bestow on a structure, the RTHL designation is intended to recognize the outstanding resources that meet all the qualifications for designation.

The RTHL designation affords THC a 60-day notice prior to any modification, relocation, or demolition. In addition, the THC has the authority to rescind the RTHL des-

ignation and require the return of the associated marker if any resulting modifications of the structure's exterior were deemed too drastic.



Comal County has 46 RTHLs: Braschler House, Breustedt Kitchen, Church Hill School Building, Comal County Courthouse, Comal Hotel and Klein-Kuse House, August Dietz Cottage, Eggeling Hotel, First Protestant Church, Grotto at St. Peter and Pauls Catholic Church, Gruene's Hall, Gruene Mercantile, Guadalupe Hotel, Henne

Hardware Building, Hofheinz House, Hotel Faust, Herman Jonas Homestead, Stephan Klein House, Dr. Theodore Koester House, Peter Lex House, Main Plaza Bandstand, Erhardt Neuse House, New Braunfels Academy, New Braunfels Old High School, Pantermuehl House, Sattler Post Office, Joseph Scheel House, Old Schmidt House, Scholl House, Early Settler's Home, August and Karoline Tolle House, Waisenhaus (Orphanage), Johann and Gertruda Watson House, and Wilhelm Weidner House .

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the RTHL marker program, the Comal County Historical Commission has photographed all the RTHL properties in Comal County and placed them on the County's web site.

<http://www.co.comal.tx.us/CCHC.htm>

See Page 4 for Comal County Historical Commission Chairman's article.

Information:

Historic Landmark
Commission Meetings:
Second Tuesday every month
8:30 a.m.
City Council Chambers
424 S. Castell Avenue
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Cherise Bell
Historic Preservation Officer
830-221-4057
cbell@nbtexas.org

Tudor Revival Style

The Tudor Revival style is based on a variety of historic English building styles. Tudors are identified by a steeply pitched roof with multiple cross gables, a prominent chimney, arched windows/doors and are often constructed out of masonry.



The Tudor Revival Style house shown above is located within the Sophienburg Hill Historic District.



Builder of New Braunfels

Christian Herry (1854—1917)

Christian Herry, photograph left, was described by his son Alfred as being a large man about 257 pounds, 6'4" with a black beard. (Oral history tapes.) Christian was a home builder and at least two of his sons joined him in this occupation. Christian also worked on the Comal County Courthouse and served as a City Councilman.

The 1910 Census list Christian as age 55 and a Contractor of house building. His wife, and three sons, Otto, Louis and Alfred, resided in the household. The sons are all listed as carpenters of house building. After the death of his son, Louis, in 1914 Christian quit building. His son, Alfred, continued the construction business on his own.

Stock Historic District Designated

City Council approved the designation of the Stock Historic District on May 9, 2011, making this the City's second, local historic district.

The five lots located in the Stock Historic District were carved out of Original Town Lots 90 and 153.

Carl Stock received Town Lot 90 as an immigrant. Carl arrived in Texas with his bride, Maria Heim. However, the two were not yet married but presented themselves as such to be eligible for more land. The Stocks built a single-room fackwerk house which still stands today at 195 E. Coll Street. (Photo at top of next column) Unfortunately, the entire Carl, Maria and baby all died within three days of each other in May



1847 due to the Cholera Epidemic which claimed the lives of hundreds of immigrants.

Over time Lot 90 was divided into separate lots: 195, 177, and 163 E. Coll

Street.

The house located at 177 E. Coll Street was built between 1902 and 1907 and represents the Folk Victorian Style.

The Klenke-Altwein House at 163 E. Coll was built in 1905 for \$800

by the Pfeuffer Lumber Company. (See photo below) The Klenkes sold the house in 1911 to William C. Altwein for \$2,100.

According to the First Founders Book, Lot 153 was purchased by Heinrich Brasche, "a later immigrant," for \$60.00. The current house, 289 Comal Avenue, is a 1920s Bungalow with Craftsman Style Details. Based on the Sanborn Insurance Map the house was moved onto this site after 1949.



W. Mill Street Gains Historic District Status

City Council approved the City's third historic district, the Mill Street Historic District, on June 13, 2011. The District abut both sides of W. Mill Street from N. Academy Avenue to N. Guenther Avenue and includes part of Ferguson Street.

West Mill Street represents both Town and Acre lots distributed and sold in 1845 by the Verein. Town Lots include 213 through 216 and Acre Lots 1, 2 and 168. The Ferguson and Hesler Firm purchased Acre Lot 2 from Charles Siebert on April 17, 1847, (Volume A, Page 28) then divided the property into 10 lots and added a road named "Ferguson Street". This subdivision is representative of the rapid growth experienced by the City. Houses representing the "German Settlement Period" include the George Ullrich Haus at 528 W. Mill Street, the Habermann House at 543 W. Mill Street (photo below, left), the house at 554 W. Mill and the Geue-Milburn House at 185 Ferguson Avenue.

Mill Street Historic District is home to the New Braunfels Academy, a local landmark and Registered Texas Historic Landmark. In 1858, New Braunfels' citizens voted unanimously to impose a tax for the support of a public school

eighteen years before the Constitution of 1876 provided for such local taxation throughout Texas. "In 1884, the City purchased lots 213 and 214 for the use of schools. In January of 1913, the school board voted to purchase lots 215 and 216, plus form an independent school district separate from the city. June of that same year, San Antonio architecture firm CV Seutter & Shand were engaged for \$500. Local contractor Adolph F Moeller had the lowest bid of \$44,873 and took eleven months to construct with a cost overrun of \$5,500. This is the "Academy" that stands today in 2011 (photo left) and is the anchor of the Mill Street Historic District.



The Railroad came in 1880 and laid the track on Hill Avenue. In the 1881 Augustus Koch's "Birds Eye View Of New Braunfels" map, nine houses are visible on the 500 block of W. Mill Street. In 1902 a portion of W. Mill Street is shown with houses at 477 and 480 W. Mill Street.

Most houses within the historic district were built prior to 1915. However, one locally designated landmark, the Schleyer Homestead, (photo below, right) was designed by local architect Jeremiah Schmidt, and built by local contractor Alfred Herry in 1928.





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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.

Free Historic Homeowner Fair

Saturday, August 27

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Jefferson High School

723 Donaldson Avenue, San Antonio

www.sanantonio.gov/historic

The Comal County Historical Commission

A Letter from Karen Boyd, Comal County Historical Commission Chair:

The Comal County Historical Commission (CCHC) has 18 members from all different areas of Comal County appointed by the Comal County Commissioners and Judge Sherman Krause. Our goal is to protect and preserve the County's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations. We receive training and assistance from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and work directly with the Comal County Commissioners.

The CCHC is a Certified Local Government which requires us to seek out and conduct surveys of historic and prehistoric resources in the county. In addition, we are able to apply for grants that allow us to perform these duties. We also have a consulting relationship with TXDOT so that they may up-

date and expand our transportation systems in a responsible way regarding historic preservation.

The CCHC also conducts the THC marker program in Comal County. There are more than 90 markers in the county. The Commission recently

photographed and surveyed the 50 Recorded Texas Historical Landmark properties in the County and will complete the 35+ remaining THC markers this fall. There are also many cemeteries in Comal County that have THC markers. The marker information can be found on the THC website at www.thc.state.tx.us in the Atlas Section. The CCHC is also working on developing partnerships with other organizations in the County that have historic focus such as

the City of New Braunfels, Schertz Historic Society and the Sophienburg Museum.



in the development of the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail in Comal County. In 2007, the CCHC hired Hardy, Heck and Moore to do a survey of the "known" and "unknown" historic resources in Comal County. A final report was received in the fall of 2010 and there are a significant number of previously "unknown" and undocumented resources. The CCHC has divided the County into 4 quadrants and will seek funding and begin the process of documenting these historic resources. The documentation will include eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. To obtain THC historical marker information visit the THC website or contact Sami Devillier, CCHC Marker Chairman samiken@sbcglobal.net. To receive information concerning the Comal County Historical Commission, contact Karen Boyd, CCHC Chairman at bboyd3@satx.rr.com.

We are committed to assuring Comal County's significance