

MONTICELLO PARK
Neighborhood Association

Presents

*The 12th Biennial
"At Home in Monticello"
Tour of Homes*

*Sunday, November 7, 2010
11am – 5pm*

"At Home in Monticello" Tour of Homes Committee

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Jan Peranteau

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Home Sketches ~ Jefferson High School Art Students

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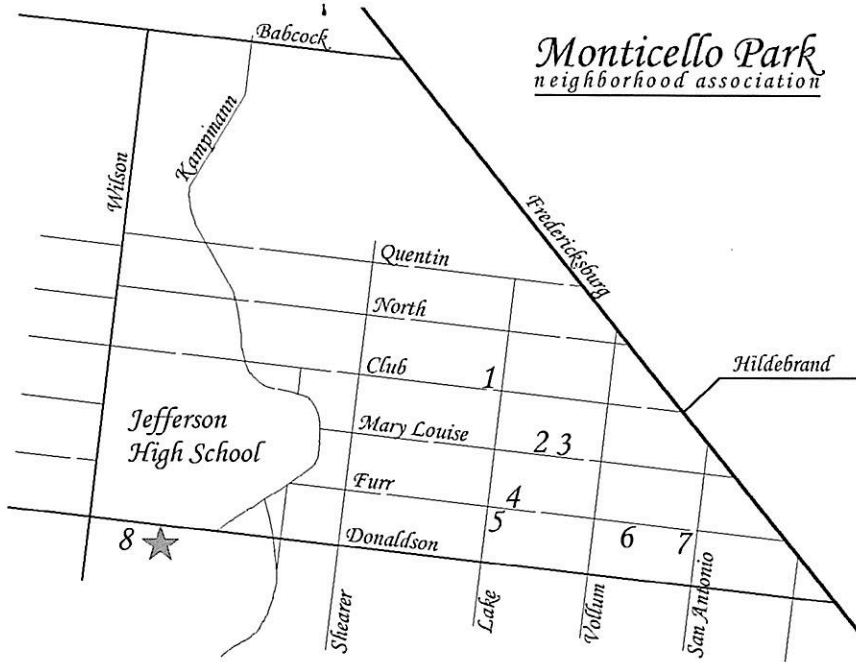
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Abu Nasser

Map



Monticello Park
neighborhood association

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association

Welcome to our neighborhood and we thank you for sharing your day visiting our homes. We are proud of our homes and the revitalization occurring in the neighborhood and surrounding commercial businesses. As you make yourself "At Home in Monticello", you support the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association's efforts to maintain our planter boxes on Fredericksburg Rd, Master Plan of Monticello City Park, and yearly projects for restoration and beautification.

The homes of Monticello Park are an extraordinary collection of architecture; Revival styles, English Tudor, Spanish Colonial, Greek, Italianate, Neoclassical, Mission, Craftsman, English Stone Bungalow and Art Moderne. Virtually every house proudly shows the handiwork of individual artisans. Notice the masonry, the plaster work, Mexican Mission tile, arches, built-ins, cartouches and turrets-all touches that make these homes truly unique.

The area that you now tour was once a dairy farm owned by George Calvert. Mr. Calvert sold his farm to developers and Monticello Park, originally called Woodlawn Terrace, grew from the 1920's to the 1940's. Its growth reflected the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression and finally World War II. The neighborhood attracted the growing class of merchants and professionals of the time. Many of the homes were designed by San Antonio Architect, Nathan Straus Nayfach.

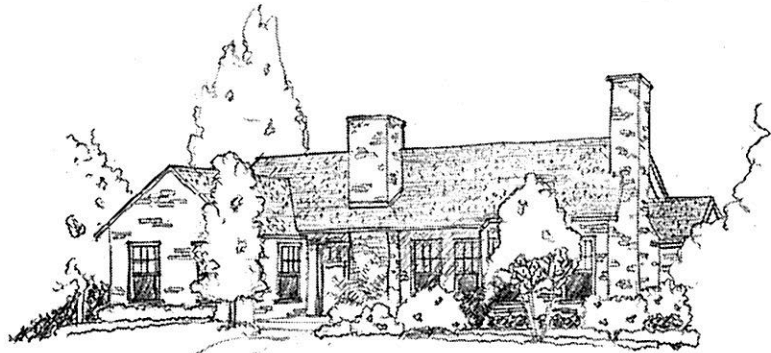
One of the developers, Leo S. Karen, sold a portion of land to the San Antonio Independent District for approximately \$94,588. On it was built the crown jewel of our neighborhood, Thomas Jefferson High School. The Spanish baroque building was designed by Max Frederick and built in 1932, much to the dismay of some who believed it to be in the middle of nowhere. Furr Drive was designed to afford a view of the spectacular dome.

Monticello Park Neighborhood Association is bordered by Wilson, Babcock, Fredericksburg and Donaldson. MPNA was established in 1983 and is a registered neighborhood association with the City of San Antonio. In 1995 a portion of the Monticello Park Neighborhood Association was designated a Historic District, and laid the foundation for its beginnings which now stretches in to the Jefferson Neighborhood Association.

We thank you for your interest in our neighborhood and hope your day is enjoyable "At Home in Monticello".

- 1) 305 Club Drive
- 2) 329 Mary Louise
- 3) 323 Mary Louise
- 4) 351 Furr Drive
- 5) 354 Furr Drive
- 6) 240 Furr Drive
- 7) 202 Furr Drive
- 8) 758 Donaldson Avenue

Save the date: The next "At Home in Monticello"
Tour of Homes will be November 2012



The Rangel Home at 305 Club Drive

The Rangels purchased this beautiful stone house on Club Dr in November 2007 after moving back to San Antonio from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The home is celebrating its 70th anniversary.

Over the years, the house has been home to several San Antonio families. In the short time the Rangels have owned the home; they have been impressed with how many people they have met who had some connection or familiarity with the home. In particular, everyone always mentions the wide corridor that begins in the Judge's Chamber and leads to the master bedroom. The width, length and height of the corridor make the space reminiscent of an art gallery. The study is known as the Judge's Chamber-stories passed on from previous owners indicate that the original owner of the house was a local judge. The Judge's chamber is marked by a cozy fireplace and knotty-pine paneling on the walls and ceiling. The home also features original crystal chandeliers from Belgium and France and 32 original wooden paned windows.

The home is decorated with a varied palette of furnishings, rugs, pictures and artwork, reflecting the Rangel's travels through South America and Europe and family heirlooms from Lebanon and Mexico. Prior to the Rangels, the home was owned by Susan and George Garcia who in 2001 undertook a major renovation of the kitchen which transformed it into a foodie's and wine lover's playground. This past summer, for an evening the kitchen became the workshop of San Antonio Celebrity Chef Jason Dady of The Lodge Restaurant of Castle Hills, who served his culinary creations for a dinner party hosted by the Rangels. In recent years, the Rangels have updated a bathroom, reconfigured some closets, converted the original dining room into a family room more practical for children, added pebble sidewalks in the back yard, and turned the mother-in-law's quarters into a children's arts and crafts room.

Over the years, the home and its lush gardens (which feature a koi pond) have hosted weddings, christenings, and holiday parties. Continuing in this grand tradition of the home, the Rangels have opened up their home to friends and family for celebratory dinners, Christmas receptions, Thanksgiving luncheons, engagement parties and a Gran Fiesta.



The Mireles Home at 329 Mary Louise Drive

The Mireles home is a 4500 sq ft Colonial Revival two-story. Built in 1938, on a double lot, the red brick home has a front façade of six pillars and six window groupings, each with a centered keystone, and three doghouse dormers built into the slate roof. Note the triangular pediment over the center entrance and the leaded glass sidelights.

This is a large home with ten-foot ceilings and hardwood floors. It has six bedrooms and five baths. The front door opens into the entry hall, with a main staircase to the second floor. To the left is a large living room with fireplace and beyond is the formal dining room. To the right is a bedroom with a bath and sitting room.

Across the back, and accessible from either living room or bedroom, is a huge family room with another dining area. Adjacent to the family room one finds a large kitchen with pantry and lots of cabinets and tile countertops. Off the kitchen is a complete apartment and other guest quarters. Through the butler's pantry, the circle is completed back to the dining room.

Back at the entry hall, the visitor ascends the stairs to the second floor, and finds a large open hallway, 2 large bedrooms with built-in window seats, and a ceramic tiled bath.

The home is furnished with antiques as well as contemporary pieces of comfortable furniture. The family room is a favorite gathering place for watching numerous sports events. The spacious backyard has been a place where politicians state their positions and the neighborhood lends an ear.



The Pfrommer Home at 323 Mary Louise Drive

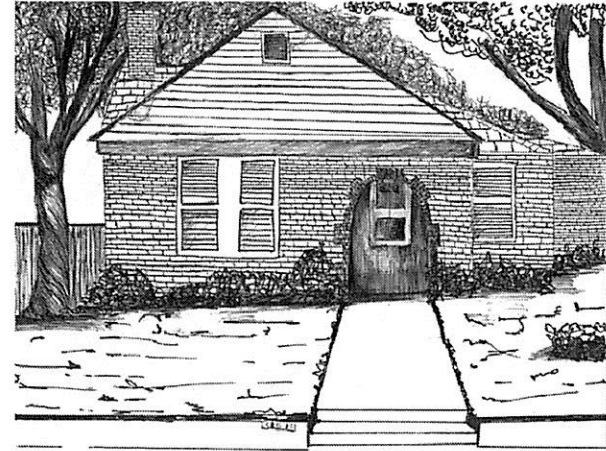
Constructed in 1932, the Pfrommer home reflects the mix of revival styles popular during the 1920's and 1930's. The half-timbered stucco suggests English Tudor, while the clay tile roof and Moorish arches add Mediterranean and Arabic touches. The architect was the late N. Straus Nayfach; he designed the Alameda Theater in downtown San Antonio as well as homes in Monticello Park.

The L-shaped tile porch frames the south and east sides of the house, while the windows and exterior doors display elaborate grilles done by a master iron worker from Mexico City, the father of the home's previous owner, Dr. Enrique Almaguer. Grilles on three of the exterior doors are wired with electric candles that still work.

The home's 2,300 square feet include three bedrooms, one used as a study, living, dining and breakfast rooms, a utility room and a mud porch. The living and dining rooms continue the Arabic motif with Moorish arches over the interior doorways and fireplace surround. Built-in bookcases to the right of the fronted china cabinet, also topped with a Moorish arch, add other distinctive touches.

In the kitchen, remodeled in 1993, hand-painted tiles from Guanajuato cover the counters, the wall behind the stove and the backsplash. The refrigerator was moved to the mud porch and niche that originally housed it turned into a charming little alcove with the addition of a mirror and half-moon tile table.

Finally, the classic 1930's master bath is a must-see with its original pedestal sink in a pale apricot, peach and cornflower blue tiles, and Moorish arches over the tub, dressing table and toilet alcove. The other bath is tiled in purple and green tiles typical of the period.



The Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word Home at 351 Furr Drive

The home at 351 Furr, built by C.M. Furr in 1929, is one of the first Furr homes on the street named for the architect and developer. Originally, the home had three bedrooms and one bath. In 1934, the owners converted the attic space into a room and added a bath. Many of the first homes built by Mr. Furr contained large attics, later to be converted from storage space to functional living space. Stairways were concealed in oversized closets, continuing to give the appearance of a one-story home.

The current owners took possession of the home in the Fall of 2008. An extensive renovation took place over a period of two years under the direction of Frank Riesenecker, San Antonio contractor and artisan. Changes were made so the home would be more comfortable and fill the needs of the Sisters who would live there. A second bathroom was added, making the home a two-bedroom, two-bath space. The kitchen was brought to 21st Century standards with new appliances and conveniences. Most significantly, the attic room was returned to storage space. The stairway was removed from the closet and the outer top front of the house was returned to the style of the original construction with a visor rather than a window. The roof, which had a dormer window, was restored to its original look and now flows seamlessly as intended.

The exterior of the home carries the same English cottage theme that characterizes Mr. Furr's designs. A light brown exterior, dotted with stones, makes this cottage unique, as most of the brick homes he built were dark brown and chestnut shades. The hardwood floors are original to the home and were refinished during the renovation. The living and dining rooms have architectural details on the plaster walls, which are highlighted with paper and paint in period style. The back porch, added during the 1970's, was completely rebuilt and made to look as if original to the structure with more artistic detailing to the railings.

Four families resided in the home since first built. Monticello Park is happy to now have permanent residents with the presence of the Sisters.



The Weik Home at 354 Furr Drive

The Weik home built in 1928 and is one of the most interesting on the tour. Built by Mr. and Mrs. Gus T. Jones for a sum of \$11,340. The main house appears to be a single family dwelling, however hidden behind the Spanish Colonial façade is a unique multi-family residence creating a Spanish courtyard in the center. The home was neglected for decades until purchased by the Weik Family in 2005. Hardwood floors, arches, and heavy Monterrey finish walls create a cozy feeling throughout.

Entering you discover a small tiled vestibule that leads into the rolled ceiling living room with a faux fireplace in the corner. A French door leads to a guest bedroom that was once an open sun porch that has a view of the deck and courtyard.

The dining room features a buffet server that is Weik's favorite. Upon purchasing the home Weik discovered a kitchen that had 3 doorways and no counter space, careful planning has now allowed for a small but very capable kitchen. The glass in the kitchen cabinets was found stashed in the garage and cut to fit the new cabinets.

The master bedroom provides a full view of the courtyard and side yard. The 4 poster bed was manufactured by the famous W. R. Dallas furniture company and has been in the Weik Family for almost 50 yrs.

Sadly due to previous neglect all original tile work has been lost in the kitchens and bathrooms

Other Tid Bits: Rumor has it that it was built with ONE front door to circumvent deed restrictions not allowing Multifamily dwellings, the interior walls are 1" thick concrete stucco mixture that are almost impossible to put a nail in, crown molding has been added throughout the house, and additional interior improvements have been made to bring the home back to life.



The Kimball Home at 240 Furr Drive

This house is a true cottage: it has a gabled roof and a rose garden. The owner, a university professor of comparative literature, has added modern elements which contrast with the 1920's architecture features. Simple recessed and track lights shine from high ceilings edged with crown molding. They highlight fine oak floors stripped to a pale matte finish. All serve to set off the owner's art collection, which ranges from 17th -century Dutch masters through late 20th century painters.

As you enter, step up from the bright entry way into the living room. Note the fireplace's usual brick work and apparent "ancient" artifacts on the mantle. In reality they are pieces made by the owner's son, a Hollywood set designer, for a video requiring Egyptian sculpture. (Trick photography filled in the details.) A bright Kilim rug leads to the dining room. What is noticeable is the owner's preference for minimalism. There is just enough in this room: a Sheridan silver tea set atop an Alsatian buffet, an Indian Crewel tapestry and a china cabinet containing a set of Russian tea glasses in silver containers, among other hand crafted pieces.

In the kitchen a chimney of roughly mortared brick echoes the fireplace, there is a huge porcelain sink, the kind once popular in country kitchens, while the room's spaciousness is a reminder, that during the 20's , women actually cooked, baked, and canned, even ate there, something the owner still does.

The hallway leading to the back bedroom contains a telephone niche with a Moorish arch and displays a collection of lithographs collected on various trips in Europe and the Middle East. The bedroom is recreated from the original two tiny rooms and feels like a solarium: nine large windows frame the shrubs outside and produce serenely diffused light. Built-in shelves line two walls and contain texts written in four or five languages. The piece de resistance is the bathroom, containing a claw footed tub and an oversized antique Italian sink, and looks out into the lush green garden.

It is a nice place to come home to!



The Cannon Home at 202 Furr Drive

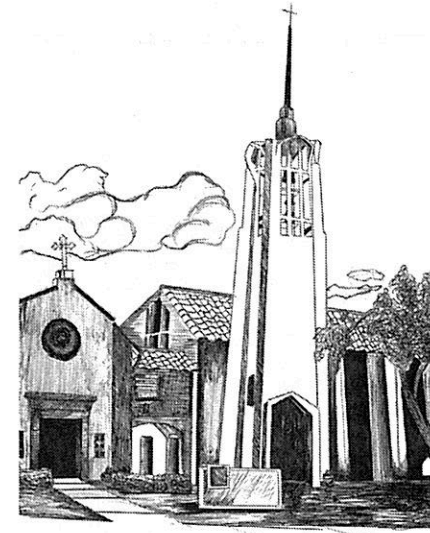
Our home was reportedly built in 1928 as part of the new development north of downtown San Antonio centered around what was planned to be a resort at the end of Club Drive. The resort of course is now Thomas Jefferson High School.

We moved to San Antonio from Boston, MA in 2006 and very much wanted a colonial-style home in a historic neighborhood. We looked at another home on W. Gramercy and this one and decided to make an offer on this house as it had been generally well maintained.

We were instantly attracted to this neighborhood when we realized that my grandfather had been stationed in a nearby fire house in the 1950's. His station was #19 near the Deco District HEB, and he told us stories of racing down Club Dr. back in the day to attend to local fires. We have a picture of the old fire house in our living room. My grandfather raised my mother and her sister on Huisache St. just a few blocks from where we now live.

The former owners were Michael Forrest and Margaret Engel. Michael was a law professor at St. Mary's College and Margaret's family owns a family store out in Bergheim, TX near Boerne where I used to visit with my grandfather as a boy.

The Colonial home has been lovingly restored to its original glory inside and out: door knobs, hardware, brick walkway around casita, salvaging the claw-foot tub in the casita, refurbishing the kid's bathtub, and using native tile to re-floor the casita. The exterior colors of the home were inspired by traditional New England homes. A large pine tree was lost in the front but replaced with MPNA's initiative to beautify the neighborhood. Additional native landscaping and drought resistant plants have been added around the home.



Jefferson United Methodist Church at 758 Donaldson

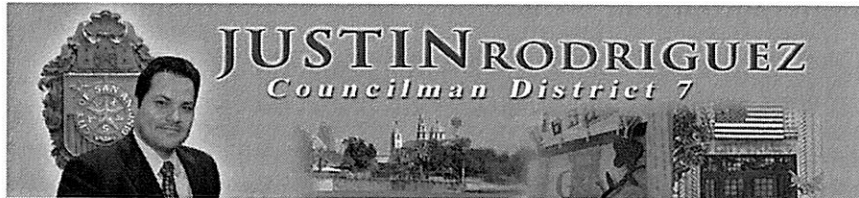
First named Jefferson Methodist Church (the United part would not come until later), a tiny congregation finally took hold in Jefferson after Victory in Japan Day (September 2, 1945). According to the history from *Tent to Tower*, no one at the time of the Jefferson High School opening could believe that the Jefferson area would ever be more than a cow pasture. How wrong they were! The church had its beginnings meeting in March of 1946 in the auditorium of the Jefferson High School and at the offices of L.E. Fite at 1001 Manor Drive. L.E. Fite was responsible for much of the housing in the area as the owner of Fite Land and Cattle. Later, his nephew, Wilbur Fite, would be a champion not only of Jefferson but also in the building of the Methodist Hospital. The end of the constraints of the Depression and World War II saw many young people relocating to the area and the building boom began. The first Pastor of Jefferson Methodist was Sterling Wheeler for whom the historic chapel was named. He was also a graduate of Jefferson High School!

War surplus tents were erected at the new site of 758 Donaldson as spring began in 1946. Weather that year and the polio epidemic made meeting difficult, but the little congregation grew. Jefferson was one of four churches planned for the area and was a partner with all including Agudas Achim Synagogue. The Wheeler Chapel was finished in 1947 and Jackson Community Hall in 1951. The sanctuary was completed in 1958, complete with beautiful mosaic depicting the space theme popular at the time. Wander around the beautiful campus and view the Lois Johnson Dining room being used by San Antonio Independent School District, the food pantry, the Jefferson Youth Centers, and all the historic, but still in use, buildings that are important to the history of this beautiful city!

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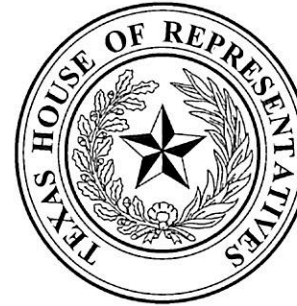
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