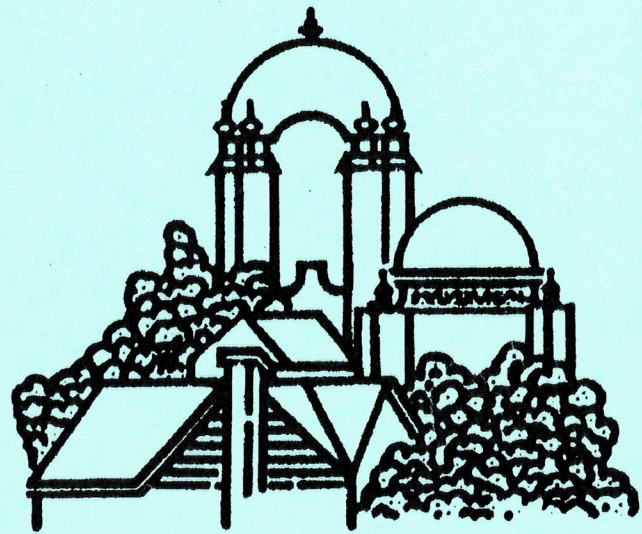


The Sixth Annual
At Home in Monticello
Tour of Homes



Presented by the
Monticello Park
Neighborhood Association
Sunday, November 12, 2000
12 pm - 4 pm

**2000 Monticello Park
Neighborhood Association**

Paul Stahl - President
Sonny Rodriguez - Vice President
Gail Christmas - Treasurer & Tour Co-Chairman
Susanne Rodriguez - Tour Co-Chairman

Board Members
Melanie Young Joan Brogley
Emilie Ehrismann Carol Pfrommer
Enrique Valdivia

The 2000 Board of Directors wishes to thank you for your interest in our neighborhood and hopes you enjoy being "At Home In Monticello."

We thank our neighbors who have graciously opened their homes to you.

We would also like to thank **Myra Hernandez**, Jefferson Tour Coordinator, and the students of **Jefferson High School** for guiding us through their marvelous school. Thanks too, to **Doris LeJeune** and her student artists for their wonderful drawings of our tour homes.

The neighborhood thanks **Jefferson United Methodist Church** for opening its sanctuary doors to visitors and for serving as our tour headquarters.

Thanks to **Los Colorines Restaurant** for spicing up the tour with interior Mexican cuisine.

We also thank **Joan Gaither** and her interior design students who assisted our home owners with their decorating needs; landscaping consultants, **Aida & Tony Cardenas**; and **Emilie Ehrismann** and **Carol Pfrommer** for their colorful descriptions of the homes!

Finally, we congratulate our neighbor volunteers for a job well done! Thank you for all of your hard work!

Send comments to: P.O. Box 5851 SA TX 78201

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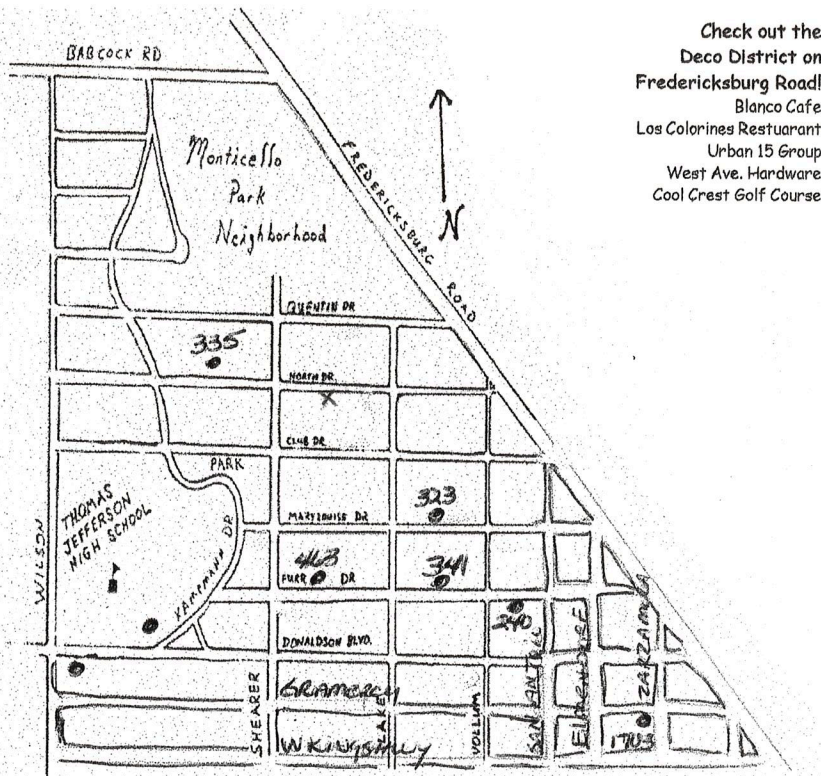
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Monticello Park 2000 Tour Map

Monticello Park 2000 Tour of Homes

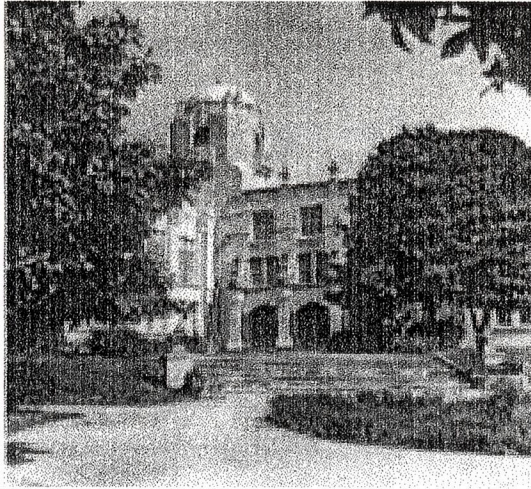
Welcome — and look around you. The Monticello Park historic district is bursting with life. We are a community working together to beautify our neighborhood. As you make yourself "At Home in Monticello," you support our efforts to transform our Monticello City Park into an aesthetically pleasing gathering space. A rendering of the master plan is on display for you at the limousine pick-up stop.

The homes of Monticello Park are an extraordinary collection of architecture including English, French and Spanish Colonial, Greek Revival, Italianate, Victorian, Tudor, Mission, and Art Moderne. Virtually every house exhibits the handiwork of individual artisans. Notice the masonry, the plaster work, the Mexican Mission tile, the arches and built-ins, cartouches and turrets — all touches that make these homes unique.

The area 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 1920s to the 1940s. 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 School District for approximately 1.25 million dollars. 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 which was originally done in colorful tile.

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



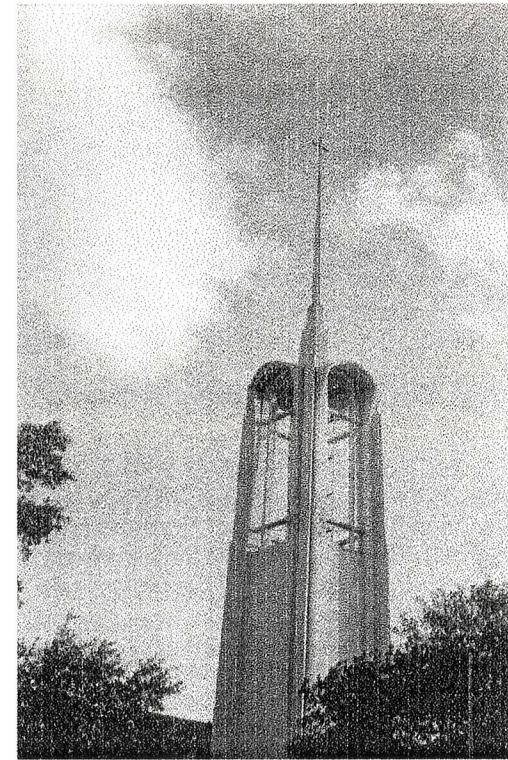
Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson Avenue

Adams & Adams, Max Frederick, Architect, 1932

Designed the year of the stock market crash (1929) by the architecture firm Adams & Adams, the palatial Spanish Colonial Revival building was an extravaganza of lavish detail inspired by San Antonio's missions as well as Spain's Alhambra. Churrigueresque columns around the grand entrance recall the elaborately carved stone trimming Mission San Jose, while a silver-capped, domed tower crowns the school in Mission style. Art Deco cast stone ornaments suggesting Maya headdresses trim the upper part of the building, and the elaborate detailing continues inside.

Jefferson High School made such a splash when it opened in 1932 that it was featured in *Life Magazine* and *National Geographic* in the 1930s and 1940s. Two movies starring Jane Withers were made on the campus: *High School* (1938) and *Texas Girl* (1939). Today, Jefferson High School is designated a Texas Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Like movie extras from that era, you are invited to stroll through Jefferson's beautiful halls, view the awe-inspiring auditorium, and enjoy the spacious grounds and gardens.



Jefferson United Methodist Church
758 Donaldson Avenue

Main Sanctuary, 1958
Henry Steinbomer, Architect

Fascination with Sputnik and the dawning Space Age shaped the streamlined architecture of the Fifties, apparent here in the soaring belltower and metal spire topped by a cross. Inside the main sanctuary, stained glass windows and elegant ribbed woodwork reach toward the heavens with streamlined forms retaining just a hint of the Gothic style. A blue tile mosaic (also big in the Fifties) and veined peach marble provide the perfect backdrop for the huge but simple metal cross attached to the wall.

In cold weather, the chapel (completed in 1949) and sanctuary are warmed by radiant heating — hot water circulated through pipes in the concrete floor — a technology popular in the Fifties. Steinbomer also designed St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Alamo Heights, completed in 1955. Monticello Park Neighborhood Association is especially grateful to Jefferson United Methodist Church for serving as our headquarters.



Andrea Crenshaw
Johnny Flores
Joshua Longoria

The Schneider House at 463 Furr Drive

Four columns adorn the handsome facade of this two-story white brick colonial, built in 1936. The red brick porch and cranberry front door lead to an interior decorated in muted desert tones. The living and dining rooms are painted soft sage and ochre, and a glance through an archway reveals a brighter squash-blossom yellow hall and stairwell. Seven ceiling fans waft cool breezes through the house.

Floors throughout the home are fine light oak. The living room's high ceilings are set off by crown molding; a corner cabinet holds books and hides a television set. Two fine watercolors are on the walls. A pleasant little greenhouse nestles in a window of the spacious kitchen, enlarged through removal of a wall. It now looks out on a charming yard, deck and swimming pool. From the kitchen, glance outside to see the unusual palm tree motif on the wrought iron and wood backyard gate. The gate was commissioned by the owners to commemorate their Hawaiian honeymoon six years ago.

Upstairs, note the subtle striped paint below the chair rail in the front bedroom. Here you learn where the window behind the second floor false balcony leads — to a closet! The hand-hammered wrought iron bed was made for the owners in Mexico. And in a fitting display of south Texas cultural melding, it is covered with a hand-stitched quilt made by the owner's German grandmother. Each of the 12 grandchildren is awarded a quilt by this Fredericksburg resident to honor a significant achievement, in this case university graduation.

The bed is not the only unusual piece of furniture in this home. The dining room table was made from a door salvaged from the Majestic Theater's offices and the owner's grandfather found the round kitchen table in a barn.

The young owners who brought this home back to life experienced the trials and pleasures of renovation and have tips and tales to share. But ask them to tell you the best story of all —The Night the Raccoon Fell Through the Ceiling.



Samuel Abrego

The Stahl House at 341 Furr Drive

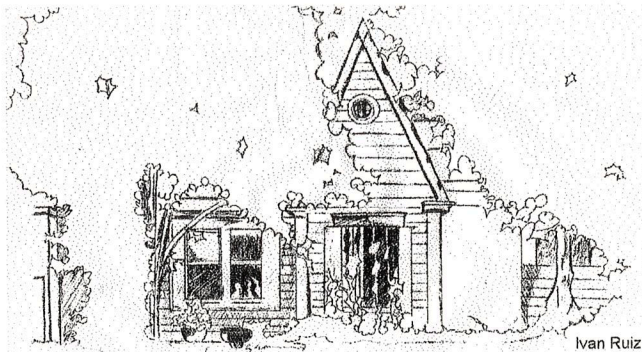
The unusual split walkway to the Stahl home, built in 1925, leads to the three arched porch where mission tile covers the floor. A leaded glass door opens to an entry hall and to the "great hall" style living room. This room features a twelve-foot beamed ceiling and a large arch framing a recessed fireplace. A crest is centered in the fireplace arch. In the front of the living room, a cozy bay window seating area contains built-in bookshelves and an unusual original light fixture. The ceiling of this nook has a mural recently painted by an artist friend of the owners.

Several different textures are notable in the plaster walls of the various rooms, from the heavy pattern in the living room to the more delicate patterns in the bedrooms. The dining room is furnished with a period table and buffet which belonged to the owner's grandparents. Leading off the dining room is the hall to the three bedrooms and bath. In the hall is the original telephone niche with its keyhole arch. The master bedroom contains period furnishings along with a four-poster bed.

The bath was remodeled by a previous owner and uses fixtures reminiscent of the time the home was built and earlier, with a Victorian style claw-foot tub. The baby's room features stenciled bows lovingly completed by the proud father, and a long window seat that adds to its charm. The young man of the house has the third bedroom, decorated with action figures to match his current interests.

Off the other side of the dining room, the kitchen has been recently redone by the present owners and features the original vent hood with a tiled mural beneath it. A red-and-blue tile floor opens to a breakfast area through a lovely arch. Off the breakfast area is an enclosed porch that functions as a family room with views of the yard. The family room windows are attractively covered with plantation shutters.

Outside the porch door is a flagstone patio. A detached guest house completes the picture of a comfortable family home.



The Kimball Home at 240 Furr Drive

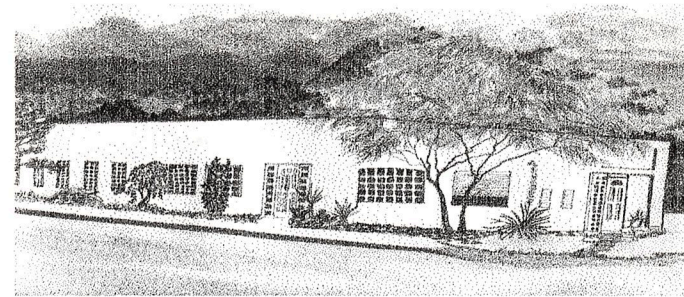
The modest exterior of this cottage belies its lively interior. The owner, a university professor of comparative literature, has added modern elements that contrast delightfully with the home's 1920s architectural features. Simple recessed and track lights shine from high ceilings edged with crown molding. 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 painters through late 20th century works.

As you enter the home, step up from the small entryway into the living room. Note the fireplace's unusual brickwork and the apparently ancient artifacts on the mantel. In fact, they are actually very modern pieces made by the owner's son, a Hollywood set designer, for a film set in antiquity. (The camera sometimes **does** lie!) A bright tribal Kilim rug leads you into the dining room. Austerely furnished, it contains a 19th century tea service perched atop an Alsatian buffet. An Indian crewel wall hanging of the same period provides a nice cultural contrast.

In the kitchen, a chimney of roughly mortared brick echoes the living room fireplace, while the room's many angles add architectural interest. A post-modern "apron" designed by the owner's son hangs on the far wall. Look up to see glass brick indicating where a second bath was carved out of a portion of the kitchen by an earlier owner. The older, and smaller, bath still has its original floor tiles, and a unique window curtain made from the wedding dress of the owner's grandmother.

The hallway contains a charming telephone niche with a Moorish arch and leads you to the wonderful master bedroom. Originally two rooms, this spacious, airy suite has a bohemian feel to it. Two old Hunter fans circle lazily above, bookshelves burst with volumes in several languages, and the settee invites a contented reader to stretch out for a long afternoon's read. The adjoining large bath contains a claw footed tub and looks out at the backyard herb garden. A relaxing bath, a steaming cup of fresh herb tea, a good book—it doesn't get much better!

the original use of which was a lace bedcover
shower curtain
lace
There are no shower curtains long in this house
displaying a collection of lithographs from
walked from various trips



Cruzitas Art Gallery at 1703 W. Kings Highway

Built as a studio and home by the photographer Ford R. Green in 1935, a studio and home it remains today. Green loved Mexico, traveled widely there, and used both Mexican design and Mexican materials in the building's construction. Thick stucco walls and glass brick windows—note the curved ones on the northeast corner—present a private face to the street, very much in the Mexican tradition, while inside, every room in the living area and gallery opens onto a spacious walled courtyard.

You will enter through the art gallery, with the household's living quarters to your left and offices and workshop to the right. This is very much the way Green arranged the space 60 years earlier. When the current owner first saw it, Green's tall photographic lamps were still massed in the studio, separated from the rest of the house by heavy velvet curtains that delighted generations of kittens. The building is 177 feet long, and the owner notes that, if the telephone rings in the bedroom while he is working in his studio, he must sprint almost a city block to answer it!

At present the gallery is dominated by an altar-triptych commemorating the 1998 San Antonio flood. Note the many small crosses—cruzitas—massed along one wall. They give the gallery its name and are made by the artist - owner from ocatillo cactus he gathers in his native Arizona; look up when you walk through the French doors to the courtyard and you will see bundles of them hanging to dry.

The floors throughout the building are made of unusual 16" square glazed Mexican tiles; in the kitchen they are set in a herringbone pattern. The white plaster walls are perfect foils for the richly hued works of the owner and his companion; simple furnishings permit the art to take center stage.

Everything about the structure suggests that it was built to give one pleasure at work and at rest. Imagine yourself walking out into the courtyard at the end of the day. Secure within its stout walls, you watch the sun go down, cast your eye over the pleasant green gardens, pour yourself a glass of wine and settle into a comfortable chair. *Qué bueno!*



Teresa Zavala

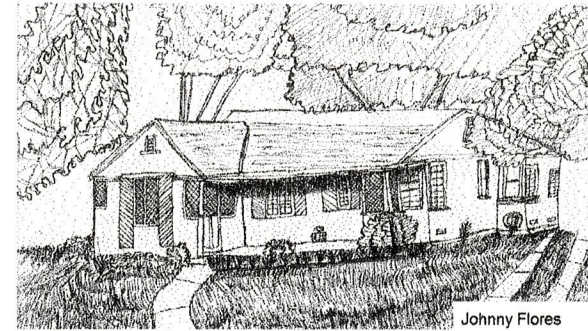
The Pfrommer House at 323 Mary Louise Drive

Constructed in 1932, the Pfrommer home reflects the eclectic mix of revival styles that were popular during the 1920's and '30s. The half-timbered stucco suggests English Tudor, while the tiled roof and Moorish arches add Mediterranean and Arabic elements. The architect, the late N. Straus Nayfach, not only designed several homes in Monticello Park but the Alameda Theater downtown.

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

The home's 2300 square feet include three bedrooms (two converted to a study and a workout room), dining and breakfast rooms, a utility room, and a "mud porch" for dirty shoes. Its many closets are unusually large for that era.

The living room continues the Arabic motif with Moorish-arched interior doorways and fireplace surround. Built-in bookcases to the right of the mantel, ten-foot high coved ceilings, and the breakfast room's built-in, glass-fronted china cabinet — also topped with a Moorish arch! — add other distinctive touches. Hand-painted tile purchased in Nuevo Laredo accents the kitchen, remodeled in 1993. Last, the classic 1930's master bath is a must-see with its original pedestal sink in pale apricot and tile in sunny peach and cornflower blue. The other bath gleams with the purple and green tile of that era!



The Bilby House at 335 North Drive

The Bilby home, built in 1939, is a Colonial Revival cottage designed by the architect of many homes in the neighborhood, N. Straus Nayfach. Its characteristic curving front walk is echoed by curving flower beds planted with seasonal color and many native perennials, including large fire bush plants.

Built by the present owner's grandparents, the living room and dining area are furnished in the "Early American" style original to the home. Mr. Bilby has stripped off old carpet and refinished all the hardwood floors to a light oak finish. The colonial style mantel covers a working gas "faux" fireplace. The dining room features an unusual low wainscoting which is echoed in the over mantel. Windows feature original wooden blinds, which the owner has had restrung.

The hall leading to the bedrooms opens off the dining area. Mr. Bilby's room has furnishings he recalls using during visits to his grandparents when he was a child. The bathrooms feature original fixtures and tile, and one has a charming built-in arched vanity. The guest room at the end of the hall features a recent acquisition, an art deco style dresser-vanity with a mirror which opens to reveal glass shelves.

The kitchen, first remodeled in the 1960's, has been reworked by the present owner to offer a view from the front of the home through to the greenery of the back garden. He opened a large pass-through from dining to kitchen and added French doors. Kitchen counters and walls are neutral toned which continues the space-expanding effect. A rebuilt pantry provides a workable utility area and more kitchen storage space.

The French doors open to a new covered deck, which in turn leads to the landscaped back garden. Mr. Bilby uses many native and warm-climate plants, including esperanza, hibiscus, plumbago, and yellow daisies. The back deck and a garden, with stone paths, offer an inviting shady refuge.

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