

Rosedale Rambles

1993 through 1999

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1996 ROSEDALE RAMBLE

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INTRODUCTION

PREHISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE ROSEDALE NEIGHBORHOOD

What is now Rosedale lay under the waters of a great sea for some 70 million years. When the sea waters finally receded about 80 million years ago, the calcium-rich mud at the bottom of that sea began to harden into the abundant limestone rocks of our area. The nearly flat landscape of the former sea bed was rent 15 million years ago by an enormous fault that is seen today from near Del Rio, through San Antonio, Austin, and Waco to near Dallas. Locally we call it the Balcones Escarpment. Vertical displacement of the fault was some 700 feet and it produced a fracture zone a few miles wide along most of length. The Colorado River and its tributaries have ceaselessly carved and sculpted the landscape to the familiar hills and valleys of our time. Shoal Creek picks its way among the great blocks of different rock types in the fracture zone associated with the Balcones Fault. Groundwater emanating from these rocks in and near Shoal Creek forms the several springs of our neighborhood.

Archeologists have determined that the earliest ancestors of the American Indians were in Central Texas by 11,400 years ago and undoubtedly found Shoal Creek valley an attractive place (we know from archeological finds in Zilker Park that they were camping at Barton Springs at that early time). A drought was ending at 11,400 years ago, the great glaciers were retreating back across Canada, Central Texas was becoming green and luxuriant, and some of the now-extinct Ice Age animals (such as horses, mammoths, and giant bison) were still here. People hunted, fished, and collected a variety of edible plants, moving as their needs dictated. They had deer, turkey, and other game, fish and river mussels. Their numbers increased.

By 8,800 years ago these resourceful peoples had perfected use of large earth ovens which when fired could bake or steam large quantities of food for up to 24 or 48 hours. With this and other techniques of processing (such as leaching), many abundant starchy foods could be made edible and nutritious. Acorns, wild onions, wild hyacinth roots, cattail stalks, and other starchy foods could be cooked with meat, fish, nuts, fruits, berries, and seeds. With this broad spectrum of resources, a substantial population could survive in our area in good times and lean. A drought began 8,000 years ago in Central Texas and lasted about 4,000 years. Desert plants (cactus, sotol, and lechuguilla in particular) spread into the area. These, like the starchy plants of earlier times, require long cooking times, a technology that was already in place.

After the drought waned, another 3,000 years of more moist conditions followed and the versatile earth ovens continued in use. Large heaps of fire-cracked rock from these ovens dot Central Texas and are known from sites along our Shoal Creek and Hancock Branch. Even

though the local Indians were well aware of farming peoples in Mexico, the southwestern pueblos, and the Mississippi Valley, and even though Central Texas was suited to agriculture, Indians in our area never adopted the practice. Archeologists interpret this to mean that their long-successful lifeway allowed them to look with disdain upon the labors and limitations of farming.

About 800 years ago, the first of three major waves of peoples from the North swept into our area. These first peoples were buffalo hunters who had no need for the earth ovens. Three hundred years later, the first Apaches began to push violently into Texas followed in another 100 years by the Comanches who came on horseback. First Spanish and then other Europeans found only vanishing traces of the Central Texas peoples who preceded the newly-arrived Apaches and Comanches. By 1850, the 11,400 years of Indian life in and near Shoal Creek valley and Rosedale had completely ended. (For more recent historical background of Rosedale, see previous issues of the Rosedale Ramble.)

1. SHOAL CREEK BETWEEN 34TH AND 38TH STREETS – SEIDERS SPRING – This spring has never gone dry and for thousands of years has been a favored camping and living spot. In the early days of Austin, there was conflict between settlers and Indians involving this spring on Shoal Creek. Some of these conflicts are described in old newspapers and history books. All of these accounts are from the settlers' point of view; no accounts from the Indians' point of view have been located.

In 1835, in Lavaca County south of Austin, Indians killed John Hibbins and captured his wife and two small children. The Indian party traveled north tying Mrs. Hibbins at night. On the second day, the crying baby annoyed the Indians and he was dashed against a tree until he died. Some days later, they crossed the Colorado at the mouth of Shoal Creek and moved "three or four miles" up the creek and camped. Seiders Spring is 3 ½ miles up the creek. Mrs. Hibbins escaped at night leaving her 6-year-old child. She hid in a thicket while the Indians looked for her the next day. She then followed Shoal Creek to the Colorado River and traveled down the river to the homes of Jacob Harrell and Reuben Hornsby where a company of 18 rangers were encamped. The rangers, under Captain John Tumlinson, rode all night and came upon the Indians about 9 AM. The Indians dashed into a thicket along Shoal Creek. Four of them were killed and two rangers were wounded. The Hibbins child was recovered unharmed. (From John Henry Brown's Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas, Austin, n.d.)

In March, 1842, Mexicans under Rafael Vasquez invaded Texas and captured San Antonio. Residents of Austin (only three years old at the time) and vicinity hurriedly left. The family of Gideon White was one of only two dozen families in and around Austin who stayed. With so few settlers in the area, the Indians began more frequent raids. There were numerous deaths among the Austin settlers in 1842, including George Dolson and John Black near Barton Springs, and William Fox on Shoal Creek. The killings got closer to Seiders Spring and to the Gideon White home (38th and Shoal Creek) in the late summer of 1842. Judge Jayne, living a short distance east of White (just east of Lamar at 38th), was killed in his front yard and his son kidnapped. And also in late summer, two young men named Pyron and Donovan, traveling the road from Austin to Brushy Creek in a party of five (where present-day Burnet Road is located) were killed just northwest of the Lunatic Asylum (probably between 49th and North Loop). (From Frank Brown's "Annals of Travis County;" Julia Lee Sinks' "Reminiscences;" and early newspaper accounts)

Gideon White, who had built his log home on the west bank of Shoal Creek across from Seiders Spring in 1839, moved his family into town for safety. One day when White was at his home at Seiders Spring (it was called White's Spring then) checking on his stock, he was killed by Indians. The closest thing to an eyewitness account was written a few days later by Charles DeMorse, an editor and former resident who was visiting Austin at the time. "The day before we left Austin, Mr. Gideon White, well known in the region as a most valuable and worthy citizen, was killed within half a mile of his own house on Shoal Creek, by a party of about a dozen Indians. He probably fired his rifle as they bore down upon him, and then ran into a thicket where he was found in a few minutes after shot in several places. The report of the guns was heard by his family, and by a person passing, who carried the news to town. A party of citizens came out in time to see some of the Indians as they returned, but it was nearly dark and no pursuit could be made. The Indians were supposed to be Wacos, and left with such precipitation, that they did not scalp him. This was after the time appointed for the treaty at the Waco villages. Mr. White killed one of the Indians." (From the Clarksville Northern Standard) Gideon White is buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Seiders Spring is still active and can be visited by the Hike and Bike Trail. The spring is marked by the statue of St. Francis. The other water source to the north of the spring originates in the air conditioning system of the medical building just east of the creek. A historical marker stands on the west side of the creek marking the site of the Gideon White house.

2. BETWEEN 38TH AND 45TH AND BETWEEN LAMAR AND GUADALUPE – AUSTIN STATE HOSPITAL GROUNDS – As related by descendant Myrtle Seiders Cuthbertson – Work started on the main building of the State Lunatic Asylum in 1856 and over the past 130 years, many Rosedale residents have worked here. During the early days of the hospital, Edward Seiders' family owned about 125 acres (due west of the hospital) on which they raised cattle and truck farmed. Their home was Gideon White's old log house at Seiders Spring (named for Seiders who was Gideon White's son-in-law). They butchered cattle and sold meat to the hospital. In 1889, Edward Seiders' son, Arthur, started to work at the Asylum, first as an attendant, then a gardener, and finally Superintendent of the Grounds. Meanwhile, two young Mississippi girls were hired at the Asylum as attendants. One of them was Eva Cozby. Eva and Arthur met at the Asylum and attended the dances



Arthur Seiders

held at the Asylum dance hall. They married in 1891. Arthur's salary at that time was \$30.00 per month.

As Superintendent of the Grounds at the Asylum, Arthur became very interested in beautifying the premises. There were many beautiful oak trees on the property, but very little had been done to improve the landscape. The southeast corner, an area of about two acres, was practically a swamp; there were some small springs originating a little further north making more or less a gully running down to the southeast corner. There was an arched entrance to the grounds at 38th Street and Guadalupe. Arthur supervised the buildings of several lakes – one large lake and several smaller ones – in that corner. Labor was cheap, plus the fact that trustees as the Asylum were glad to get out and work and some were very capable. Graveled drives were built around the lakes. The dirt dredged out to make the lakes was placed around the sides and planted with Bermuda grass. The largest lake was about 600 or 700 feet long, about 50 feet wide. It was built in the southeast corner, slanting from the corner in a northwesterly direction, then joining the smaller lakes which were located in about the middle of the park. There were two smaller lakes with islands built in the middle and they were joined by bridges built out of native cedar. These bridges were very artistic, having seats on each side and a roof overhead. There were very ornamental, made of cedar lattice work on each side of the bridges. The smaller lakes had water lilies growing in them. When Myrtle was young, she had her picture taken standing on one of the large leaves in the lake. Every morning and afternoon patients from the different wards were marched out around the lakes and then allowed to sit for an hour or so under the oak trees. For many years, people from town would drive out in their carriages on Sunday and ride around the grounds. About 1930, the lakes were drained and filled in.



Pond and Cedar Bridge

Currently the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in conjunction with the Texas General Land Office, West 38th Street Limited, and the City of Austin are building a storm water retention and filtration system of ponds which runs from behind Central Market diagonally toward the intersection of 38th and Guadalupe. Plantings, such as cattails and water lilies, will be used to naturally filter the water. A hike and bike trail and seating areas are planned around the water areas which will be completed by the spring of 1998.

Another landscaping detail from the past still survives – those beautiful roses. Quoting a 1993 pamphlet on the Walk of the Roses: “The two miles of fences [that enclose the hospital] that are entwined with ‘Blaze Climbing Roses’ served as a fitting memorial to the man responsible for their inception: Mr. J.C. McAdams, 1900-1988. Serving as Superintendent of the Texas Blind, Deaf, and Orphan School on Bull Creek from 1951 to 1965, Mr. McAdams’ background was in agriculture and education. He involved students from the University of Texas in planting roses at practically all state properties in Austin during the early 1950s. Austin State Hospital is one of the few sites where the roses have endured. The hundreds of rose bushes are tended regularly by the Hospital’s grounds crew.”

3. 3808 BAILEY LANE – In the backyard of this home stands a large old oak tree with wisteria vines high up in the limbs. In March and April, when the wisteria blooms, the tree appears to be covered with purple flowers. This breathtaking scene can be viewed from the street.

4. 1505 W. 40TH STREET – Prior to the construction of houses in the area, a small stream ran south between present-day 1503 and 1505 W. 40th. After a rain, water collected south of 39th ½ Street in a sizable pond and eventually made its way to Shoal Creek. In the early days of Ramsey Park, the swimming pool drained into this stream. In 1949 or 1950, according to neighbors, this stream was channeled in large (4’ X 4’) concrete pipe underneath the surface allowing a house to be moved into 1505 W. 40th about 1953 and placed on top of the underground stream.

5. 3924 MEDICAL PARKWAY – The Harrison/Costley Grocery Store (now gone) and House – As reconstructed from deed and other records and as related by descendants Lorraine Costley Funderburke and Richard Peterson and relatives Forrest and Wade Preece – Austin city directories show that James H. Harrison was employed as an attendant at the State Lunatic Asylum (Austin State Hospital) about 1895. About 1897, he began working for Ramsey Nursery. In 1898, Harrison purchased the north half of lot 2 and the north half of lot 3 in Block 5 of the H.B. Seiders Subdivision for \$200. At this price, there was no house. The city directory for 1898, however, noted that he lived on the north half of lot 3 at 4008 Alice Avenue (now Medical Parkway) so he built one quickly. The house faced Alice Avenue. In 1906, Harrison purchased the rest of block 5 (block 5 included all of the block from Medical Parkway almost to Bailey Lane, from 40th Street to 39th ½ Street) from John and Annie Preston. It appears that Harrison built the house at 4008 in 1898 but the store building was built about 1909 when the city directory first listed him as a grocer at that address. The Harrisons continued to live at 4008; the grocery store address was also 4008. The house faced the back of the store after the store building was constructed.

James Harrison’s wife was named Nora and they had at least two children, Pearl and Jerome, who helped at the store. The Harrisons had a woodlot and wagon yard to the south of the store. Customers from the country would drive their horse-drawn wagons to the yard and leave them while they walked across the hospital grounds, caught the streetcar and went to town. When they returned, their grocery order would be filled and loaded and they would head home. On the

north side in the store was a confectionery and on the south side, an ice house. The store carried groceries and dry goods. By 1917, Harrison and his family had closed out the store and may have left Austin altogether.

Deed records show that in 1917, J.L. Costley bought block 5 with its four big lots from the Harrisons for \$5,000. J.L.'s brother, Solon Leonidas Costley, and his wife, Allie May, and their children moved into the house at 4008 Alice Avenue and took over the Harrison Grocery Store. They later purchased the lots from J.L. They never removed the Harrison sign from the store. The Costleys (Solon and Allie May, sons Leslie and Joe Lee, and daughter, Alice) sold groceries until about 1926. They had an ice cream parlor in the confectionery with several metal round tables and chairs for ice cream customers. Son Joe Lee had a rabbitry behind the store. On one side of the store was the ice locker and next to it the feed storage room. But the horse and wagon days were past so the wagon yard and wood lot were no longer there. Sometimes, recalled Forrest Preece, Mr. Costley would be sitting on the front porch and would tell kids to just go get the candy they wanted and pay him when they left. He was trusting. Many customers bought on credit. Forrest's dad, J.S. Preece, was one who ran up so big a bill that he finally built a house for Costley on the northwest corner of 39th ½ Street and Medical Parkway to pay off his bill. The Costleys used it for a rent house. They lived in the house behind the store which, as Ed Brown remembered, had a well inside the house.



The Harrison/Costley Store

Allie May Bledsoe Costley, Solon's wife, lost much of her hearing from scarlet fever when she was 16 years old. She was engaged to a fireman first who died just before the wedding. She later met and married Solon who was 22 years older. Allie had a good sense of humor in spite of her deafness which by age 40 was total. In later life, she had a long tubed-horn hearing device that didn't work. She could read granddaughter Lorraine's lips but mostly everybody wrote to

her on paper or on a blackboard in her kitchen. In 1926, Solon and Allie moved to Longfellow Street and Solon went into business with J.L. Ives in real estate. Solon died in 1928.

In 1928, the Jarrells resubdivided the block (which originally had four big lots) into 16 smaller lots. In 1930, grocers, Alvin and Arley Peterson (whose grocery was across the street) bought the Harrison house. In 1937, Arley turned the house to face 40th Street, according to descendant, Richard Peterson. In the 1940 city directory, the house was addressed as 1105 W. 40th Street for the first time. Until 1949, relatives of Arley's wife, Lillie Booth, lived in the house but in 1949, Arley and Lillie had moved in. After Lillie died, her sister, Sallie Mussett, moved into 1105 and cared for Arley for the rest of his life. The house still survives at 1105 W. 40th Street and is on its original location though it has been turned 90 degrees. The house is now 98 years old and one of the historical treasures of the Rosedale neighborhood. It was slightly damaged by fire in 1993 but, according to city officials, is restorable. It is owned by Drs. Maurice Cohn, Milton Talbot, Jr., Thomas Hughes, and Allan Frank who office at 1100 W. 39th ½ Street. The board and batten house is typical of modest cottages built during the late 19th century. The central passage plan evolved from the log cabin form, such as that of the Moore-Hancock log house on Sinclair Avenue. The old grocery store building was demolished in the mid-1930s probably when Alice Avenue was paved because the store building intruded into the present roadway.



The Harrison/Costley House – 1920 – with golfer Alice Costley and neighbor Bessie Seiders

6. 4005 SINCLAIR – Built in 1947 by Calcasieu Lumber Company for Julius and Mary Kahanek. Julius and Mary Adamcik Kahanek were both born in Smithville but moved to Austin in 1947. Kahanek worked for Calcasieu for 17 years until he retired in 1964. Both Mary and Julius were Czech, and Mary's skills include baking kolaches and streudel as well as gardening

and canning. Julius was born June 1, 1899, and Mary was born November 4, 1901, making them our oldest neighbors. Architecturally, this was a common home type of the postwar period and shows vague references to the Colonial Revival style. It has a minimal front porch treated as a stoop and a nicely proportioned stone chimney, now painted, but originally like other randomly laid stonework in Rosedale.

7. 4015 ROSEDALE – Built in 1935 by Herman Ladewig from Taylor and his brothers, Erwin and Bill, for Mintor J. and Grace Myers, a retired railroad man turned electrician. The contract called for Ladewig to build a “one-story brick veneer residence and box garage” for \$3,547. The paneling on the interior walls was a cellotex sound-deadening material, state of the art in 1935. The house featured an arched doorway between the living and dining rooms and a fireplace and chimney with two dampers operated by chains. One damper was at the top of the chimney to keep rain and birds out, the other was near the firebox. This multi-gabled-roof Tudor cottage with prominent chimney and round arched entry was built facing 41st Street.

Herman Ladewig, the builder, was one of six children born to Emma and William Ladewig of Taylor, both German. Herman was an artistic and creative young man; he had two bands called “The Hungry Seven” and “The Checker Band” in Taylor in which he played clarinet. He also taught himself the basics of architecture. Ladewig began his building career in Taylor working for Ernst Groba. About the time he and Ada Ohlson married (1930), he built a “honeymoon house” of rock; that was his first house and it still stands. During the Depression, work became so scarce that in 1935 Herman at age 26 began driving to Austin every day to take advantage of building going on in Rosedale. He and his brothers, Bill (a carpenter) and Erwin (a painter and paper hanger), worked here only that one year. In 1936, Herman moved his family to Corpus Christi where he built a new refinery for the Taylor Refining Company. Throughout the 1940s, he supervised major pipeline, street, bridge, and other civil construction projects. Following that, he formed his own construction company in Corpus Christi and built a number of industrial buildings as well as homes. In 1959, he was hired as director of public works and then city manager of Port Lavaca, a position he held for fifteen years. He was in charge of rebuilding Port Lavaca after it was destroyed by Hurricane Carla. Herman and Ada had six children. He died in 1975.

The main lines of the house are unchanged. A sun room has been added to the east side and small renovations performed on the interior but the cellotex walls remain and are good insulation against cold and heat as well as sound. The previous owner, David Kramer, employed the Roving Gardener, Chris Pomeroy, to landscape the barren yard which at that time had only two large Arizona ash nearing the end of their lives and some native pecans. Current owners, Steve and Pat Muller (originally from New Jersey), are serious tree fans. They own a tree farm (Amazing Texas Farms) in Granite Shoals where they grow trees well-suited to Texas but not generally well-known. They have begun to plant trees in this yard partly to replace the dying Arizona Ash. Among the new plants in the front yard are Texas ash, chinquapin oak, two Afghan pines, a Deodar cedar, a Chinese pistache, and a Japanese Black Pine. Along 41st Street is a Forest Pansy Redbud with deep purple emerging leaves. Another has been planted between the house and driveway near a Saucer Magnolia (which has pink flowers) and a Dawn Redwood with velvet-soft needles.

Ladewig also built 4301 and 4314 Sinclair, 4314 Ramsey, and 4412 Rosedale.



Herman Ladewig ca. 1930

8. 4214 ROSEDALE – In 1933, Archie and Florence Webb purchased this lot. In 1935, when Flo and Archied decided to build a home, Flo drew the house plan and Archie engaged his brother, T.A. Webb, to build the house. It rained so much that the truck delivering lumber from Kelly Lumber Company on E. 6th Street got stuck in the mud and it took two days to get it out. This house is typical of modest 1930s houses influenced by the Tudor Revival style. Steeply pitched roofs, such as this one, evoked picturesque English cottages and are common throughout Rosedale. The Webbs moved into the house in the summer of 1937 and shortly thereafter

planted the pecan trees in the front yard. During World War II, Archie worked at the magnesium plant (the buildings now house part of the University of Texas research facility at 10100 Burnet Road) as a crew leader in the alloy division. Magnesium was used for incendiary bombs. After the war, Archie worked for several years delivering for the Railway Express.

One day as he was getting ready to go to work, a plumber's truck hit a Railway Express truck causing the top-heavy express truck to turn over only a few houses away on Rosedale. Archie was the first to arrive on the scene and found a co-worker and friend named Hunt pinned under his truck. Hunt died from the accident. In 1950, Archie went to work for the Texas Highway Department in the sheet metal shop where he stayed until he retired in 1967. In the 1950s, a small apartment for Florence's parents, Lee and Minnie Rundell, was added to the back of the house. In 1985, the Webbs added a large family room and connected it to the apartment. The Webbs continue to occupy this home – 59 years in the same house in Rosedale.

Archie Webb was born March 3, 1902, on the Peyton Gin road. He saw the first airplane to land in Austin in 1911 – he was there. One of the children with whom he grew up was Florence Rundell. Flo made him a banana cake for his birthday one year and after he married her in 1928 she continued to make a banana cake every March 3 (Archie says it tastes best the day after it is made). Since Flo's death in 1988, daughter Nettie makes the cake. We believe Archie may hold two records in Rosedale: the most years in the same house, and the most banana cakes.

9. 4301 ROSEDALE – RAMSEY PARK – Before the Ramseys purchased the southern part of Rosedale, including Ramsey Park, it belonged to the Petersons and before that it was part of the Hancock Dairy Tract. In 1866, John Hancock had purchased much of the Rosedale area.



John and Susan Richardson Hancock

He had many additional acres around Rosedale on which he grew cotton. Hancock was a progressive and serious farmer and readily tried new things. He heard that the English sparrow would eat the cotton boll weevil so in the 1870s, he imported English sparrows in little white boxes from England. He released them on his farm land, possibly near his home, The Oaks, which stood just north of Luby's Cafeteria on North Loop (it was later the Brown School). English sparrows had first been introduced into this country in 1850 in Brooklyn, New York, and were slowly spreading. But Hancock's importation assured that they got a good early start in central Texas. Bird books say that English sparrows are fighters; most native birds cannot compete with them. They raise three or four broods a year in all seasons. They feed on fruit, seeds, peas, and beans and some insects. But they don't eat cotton boll weevils. Not only the park is home to many English sparrows, but also most of the trees and houses in Rosedale. The male English sparrow has a distinctive black throat.

John Hancock was born in Alabama but came to Texas in 1847. He and at least six brothers and sisters settled in and near Austin. John was a lawyer and very soon after arriving in Texas was appointed a traveling district judge. He was a Unionist and had to leave Texas during the Civil War for fear of his life. Wife, Sue, and their only child, Edwin, remained in Austin. In spite of being a Unionist, he was also a slave owner until the Civil War. In 1870, John was elected to the United States House of Representatives for the first of four terms. While he was in Washington, D.C., his nephews, James and William Hancock, managed his farm including the dairy. Most of the homes in Rosedale north of 40th Street were in the Dairy Tract. John lived past his mind and for the last few years of his life, his son was his legal guardian. John died in 1893 and his wife, Sue, sold most of their land in 1899, including the area which now is Ramsey Park. John's nephew, Lewis, whose father owned the land just east of the park, became Mayor of Austin and the founder of the Austin Country Club (now Hancock Golf Course on Red River Street).

10. 4303 BELLVUE – In the alley behind this house are several very large, beautiful pomegranates. In April, May, and June they have bright orange blossoms which attract hummingbirds. This section of Rosedale (Lee's Hill and Alta Vista) is the only area in our neighborhood with alleys.

11. 4314 SHOALWOOD – Built in 1938 by Rawls Lumber Company and contractor J.H. Waggoner for then-recently-widowed Emmer Baker. Her husband, who had worked for the Texas Highway Department, had died from injuries in a car wreck the year before. Mrs. Baker chose a plan supplied by Rawls. All the trees were here when the house was built except one. Mrs. Baker's daughter, Alta Loma "Sis," lived next door at 4312 and later another daughter, Mattie, and her husband, Paul Toungate, moved into 4314 with Emmer and continue to occupy the home. The Toungates had four children and in 1954 Paul added onto the house – it now has four bedrooms. In 1974, when granddaughter Amy was born, a volunteer oak tree appeared in the front yard – it is named "Amy's tree." Paul Toungate was a builder working in Austin, and later at the air bases in San Marcos and Del Rio. Nephew Bob Thompson, son of Alta Loma Thompson next door, worked with Toungate for a while. Paul's grandfather, Ephraim, had been a Texas Ranger. Mattie Toungate worked for the S & H Green Stamp Center, the Texas Insurance Checking Office, and then for the Texas Education Agency Rehabilitation (later Texas Rehabilitation Commission) for twenty years retiring in 1986. This Colonial Revival cottage is typical of houses built from plans available at lumber companies. Rather than a porch, it has a pedimented entry and stoop. The attractive screens cause the windows to appear to be multi-paned; this was a common Depression era technique.

12. 4400 MAYBELLE – ROSEDALE BAPTIST CHURCH – In August, 1937, thirty-seven people gathered at a home and formed the North Austin Baptist Church. The first structure used for meetings was a tent on 39th ½ Street, served with electricity by an extension cord to the C.W. Webb home. Next, a permanent site was purchased in 1939 and in 1940 the first building of the now renamed Rosedale Baptist Church was completed with volunteer labor.

In 1946, the original building was replaced and then a series of remodelings and additions began. The 1946 building was demolished in 1985 to make way for the present education building dedicated in 1986. This new building, together with the sanctuary (completed in 1965), and a third building first used to house a school, now form the campus. The church owns a parsonage on Finley Drive.

The church sponsors two missions: St. Olive Baptist Church, a black congregation, which meets at 4405 Medical Parkway, the former school building; and Iglesia Bautista Gethsemane, a Hispanic congregation, which meets upstairs in the education building.

13. 4401 RAMSEY – A Tudor style cottage typical of the 1930s, this house has the common multiple-gabled roof, minimal porch stoop, prominent chimney, and decorative screens. This style house is a romantic interpretation of English cottages which many Americans had seen during World War I or on 1920s trips to Europe. It was built in the fall of 1934 by L.W. Peter and Frank Hruzek. The contract called for a “one-story dwelling house and one double garage” for Paul and Marie Weiss. Unusual masonry work sets this house apart. Random rock walls were combined with brick quoins (corners) to produce a neat tailored appearance. The mason, Joe Sodolak, from Wallis, Texas, signed his name on the north outside wall of the house beneath the dining room window and insured his place in our memory. Some of the rock has petrified wood in it. The two front doors are original; this type of entrance (some call it Honeymoon style) allowed privacy for a newly-wed son or daughter or a boarder. The house was never intended or used as a duplex. In 1964, the large attic was converted into a bedroom and bath and the downstairs bath was cut down to accommodate stairs. The remodeling was done by then owner, Travis Philips, who lives across the street.

14. 4412 BELLVUE – In 1939, Milton Sweet purchased this lot and in 1940 engaged C. Hugo Neitsch to build a garage apartment at the back of the lot for him and his wife, Esther. Sweet and Neitsch knew each other as members of the Trinity Lutheran Church. During World War II, Sweet served in the Army Air Corps and after his release, he came through Tyler and bought a magnolia tree which he and Esther planted near the garage apartment to celebrate his safe return. The tree is 50 years old now. In 1950, when the Sweets had paid off the garage apartment, they again hired Neitsch to build the house at the front of the lot. They occupied this house until it was paid off in 1963. The Sweets then bought a house out of the neighborhood and moved. Milton Sweet worked for the Texas Highway Department for 35 years, retiring in 1976. The house has been significantly changed (picture window, asbestos siding, porch) but the garage apartment remains a typical example of the bungalow style common in early 20th century neighborhoods like Rosedale and Hyde Park.

15. 4415 AND 4417 MARATHON – The house at 4415 Marathon was built in 1938 by Forrest and J.S. Preece (out of lumber salvaged from a house at 34th and Guadalupe) for Frank R. Tannehill, a plumbing contractor, for the Tannehill family home. Tannehill also owned 4417 Marathon. The plans for 4417 were drawn by Forrest Preece but it was built by Snuffy Cummings and his father, P.G. Cummings, in 1935 or 1936. Both houses are built of rock and both have beautiful fireplaces. In 1946, the Trinity Lutheran Church bought the house at 4415

for their new Christian Education Director, Arnold E. Koepsell. The Koepsell family lived here for seven years planting the pecan trees that grow in the yard. The Koepsell family moved from this house in 1953 into a new home which they still occupy at 4419 Shoal Creek Boulevard. The Live Oak Development Company now owns both houses on Marathon.

Both are beautifully crafted houses in the Tudor Revival style. Note the gabled roofs and prominent chimneys. The stepped arches at the entries also typify the style. Petrified wood included in the rock veneer at 4417, from such areas as Glen Rose, was highly prized as an 'artistic and rustic' building material in the 1930s, popularized in part by the rustic architecture built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the state parks during the Depression.

16. 4416 ROSEDALE – The construction of this house was finished on January 29, 1938, and that date was written into concrete at the house. The house was begun by Robert E. Thiele, an electrician, and C.E. Anderson, in March, 1937, for the Thiele family home. The fireplace is made of unusual dark brown rocks which contain horn, shell, and bone shaped pieces. The rock reportedly came from the Killeen area. The second owners, Mildred and DeFlay Martin, purchased the house in 1961 and occupied the home until 1996. There are several native walnut trees in this yard and in the yard next door at 4418. It is probable that these are trees left over from Ramsey Nursery stock grown here in the 1920s.

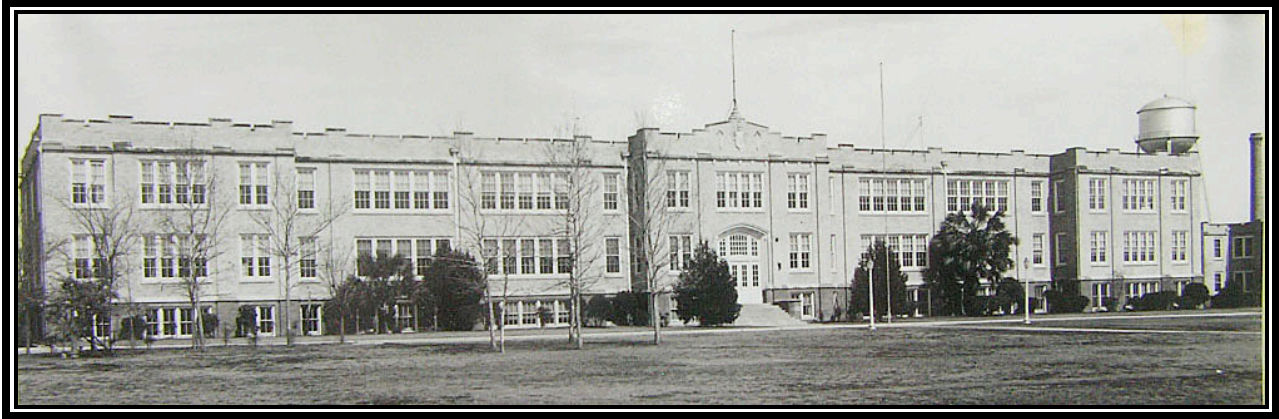
This house is a very nice example of the modest Tudor Revival style houses built in Rosedale during the 1930s. The roof with intersecting, steeply pitched gables is a hallmark of the style, as is the rock work on the entry and chimney. Note the unroofed porch, probably called a terrace when the house was built.

17. 1207 W. 45TH STREET – TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH – The Austin Lutheran Mission Society of St. Paul's purchased this site and on October 2, 1938, Trinity Lutheran Church dedicated its church building. The church was built by charter member, Hugo Neitsch (helped by carpenter Rudolph Preece), who also built the parsonage (now gone) and several homes in the neighborhood, including his own home at 4517 Sinclair. In 1943 and 1944, an education building and school were added and over the years other structures were built for classrooms. In 1952, when the present rock church building was completed, the charming original small church building, enlarged several times and sided over, was moved to the south end of the new buildings and still stands there. After a fire destroyed the school, a new school was built but has since closed.

On Sundays, hymns played on chimes are broadcast on the loud speaker system which was purchased by one member for the church and installed gratis in 1953 by another church member, Milton Sweet. Sweet built an ingenious timer which turned on a record player each evening. After playing chime hymns from a couple of records, the timer shut off and reset itself for the next evening. On Sunday mornings, the system could be operated manually. Though the church now uses a more modern timer, the large speakers installed in the tower in 1953 by Sweet are still in use. When the system is in operation, the recorded chimes can be heard over most of the Rosedale neighborhood. At one time, the church also had a hand-bell choir.

18. 1100 W. 45TH STREET – TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED – The Blind School, which has employed many Rosedale residents, was established in 1856 (then called Asylum for the Blind). Its first home was at 2310 San Gabriel and later at Little Campus. In 1916, work began on its new quarters on 45th Street on 73 acres donated by the citizens of Austin. The plans were drawn by Atlee B. Ayres of San Antonio (who was the

State Architect at this time and also designed the Land Office Building) and construction was done by Wash and Burney of San Antonio. The buildings were very fine examples of the Mission Revival style with a stepped parapet derived from the Alamo. The porches were typical of the period and were influenced by the simple geometry of Frank Lloyd Wright's work. The garland plaque, still visible on the western-most building, is more typical of Classical Revival institution buildings, however.



Blind School Administration Building

The school had 250 pupils, 30 instructors, and 75 employees. The campus consisted of 14 buildings: a very large administration building in the center, six cottage homes, a kindergarten, superintendent's cottage, employees' cottage, power house and laundry, farmer's cottage, barns, and garage. All except the farmer's cottage and barn were constructed of reinforced concrete with yellow brick veneer on red brick foundation with stone trimming – for fire safety. Each cottage home was two-story with living room, study hall, housekeeper's room, kitchen, and dining room plus 12 student rooms, 2 teachers' rooms and baths.

By 1930, there were eight more buildings including an engineer's cottage, storekeeper's cottage, two chicken houses, and a tool shed. The administration building (which was 294' long) contained a gym, music rooms, beauty parlor, storerooms, costume room, shops, classrooms, boy scout room, seamstresses department, industrial department, library room, and typing room plus offices, closets, baths, and halls. By 1940, the broom and mattress shop supplied all State institutions and departments with those items. An average of 1400 dozen brooms per month were made entirely by students. The library contained 900 titles in Braille, including a number of magazines. A Library of talking book records was just being developed. All classrooms were connected with a public address system and radio hookup. Movies on Saturday nights and church services on Sunday mornings were held in the auditorium.

The original yellow brick buildings were covered with stucco in 1971, all except two – the superintendent's home in the southwest corner at Burnet Road and 45th and the maintenance building. The Texas School for the Blind changed its name by adding "and Visually Impaired" in 1986 so that the name would more accurately reflect the students being served. Many of the school's students have remaining vision, and some are capable of reading print. Thus the title, "The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired," is more correct in defining the role of the school. During the 1994-1995 school year, the school had 150 residential students, and another ten students who lived off campus. The school currently employs 380 staff.

In recent years the school has taken on a new role. Because local districts are offering educational services for blind and visually impaired students, the job of TSBVI has become to supplement the education programs that local school districts offer. Many of the students come now for short periods of time in order to learn specific skills, such as independent living, Braille, etc., that can be taught more intensively at TSBVI than in their local schools.

Frieda Dittrich Gest, Housekeeper and Cook:

“I worked at the Blind School from 1928 to 1937 in the kitchen and dining rooms. I met my first husband there – Babe Dittrich. He worked there from 1929 to 1933 in building maintenance. We helped supervise the students to wash their own dishes, make up their beds, clean their rooms, groom themselves. Most students couldn’t go home on holidays so all the employees helped with the students. The girls all wore different colored plaid dresses made by the same pattern by Miss Gussie and Miss Pauline in the sewing room. In May each year, there was a special program where the students showed the things they had made (brooms, sewing projects, knit and crochet things) and had learned (gymnastics, music, band). A 10 PM curfew was for everybody, even the staff (11 PM on Saturday). The night watchman always knew. We got paid \$1.00 per day and room and board.” The Gests live at 1509 W. 40th Street.

Carol Franke, Student:

“My parents moved here (4706 Ramsey) from Houston in 1946 so I could attend the Blind School. I was six years old. At first there was some question if I would be allowed since I was the first multiple handicapped student [Carol also has cerebral palsy which affects her left side]. I was a day student; my mother took me in the morning and picked me up in the afternoon. Most students lived on campus.

“I had math, reading, writing, geography, history, English, the usual, and later Spanish and music. We were taught math using a number frame. Now kids use the abacus or talking calculators. In reading, we were first taught the Braille symbols for letters and words. Braille is based on a six dot system. The dots are arranged in different ways for each letter or sign. You feel the dots with your fingers, usually the index fingers of both hands, but because of the cerebral palsy, I can use only one. Then we learned how the letters made words and sentences. In writing class, we started with tablet and a stylus. The stylus would punch holes in the paper so we learned to write by punching the Braille signs. In the 8th grade, we started using typewriters. Somewhere my mother got a one-handed typing instruction book for me to use. In geography, the maps all had raised boundaries and Braille words. Our tests were taken with paper and stylus.

“I was later in the chorus and the band (I played the trumpet) and also took piano. We had a lot of opportunities to perform for the Rotary and Lions clubs and churches. Now students learn to use a cane for walking but we had to learn a route by memory. I learned where every post and driveway was and remembered it. I couldn’t count steps because my steps are so uneven. I remember my first grade teacher, Mrs. Ella Correll, telling us if you eat oatmeal, you’ll get perfect papers. She meant a good meal gave you a good start. But I took it literally and had my mother fixing oatmeal nearly every morning. I graduated in 1959.”

Lena Lewis Phipps Pickle, Teacher:

“I started teaching in Manchaca in 1934 and after eight years there, I went to work at the Blind School as a teacher. I taught high first grade and the first thing I had to do was to learn Braille. So I learned it along with my first graders. I can read the dots with my eyes but not with my fingers. Blind children learn to read at the same rate as seeing children. Since they read by feeling dots, you have to keep reminding them to read softly so they don’t push the dots down. Even then, some children would be such enthusiastic readers that their fingers would bleed.

“Writing is a somewhat cumbersome process. We used heavy paper and a clipboard. Then a metal guide bar would be slipped over and under the paper to guide the stylus when a student punched the appropriate dots. You write from right to left, punching dots in the paper. Then you turn the paper over to read it left to right. There are 63 different combinations of dots and that gives you all the letters of the alphabet, plus an equal number of common words plus other signs (comma, period). Teachers had to know Braille to grade papers, of course.

“We taught math with a number frame. A number frame is a wooden box with many tiny slots that can hold metal tabs that have a raised number on the top – zero through nine. Students first learn the number by feel and then can add and subtract and divide and multiply just like any student.

“One year I was asked to take three students to the State Fair to show their skills. I took one 6-year-old who could read well, another who was good at math, and a 16-year-old who could use the Braille typewriter well. Everybody was fascinated watching these little ones read and do math so well. My third graders put on plays and dances. I remember one year we did Rumpelstiltskin and the students acted so well that we performed it at the end of school. I loved going to work every morning.

“Louis Braille, the son of a French shoemaker, invented the Braille system when he was 16 years old using an awl (a punching tool). He had been blinded as a young boy. So you have to capitalize it anytime you use the word Braille.

“In 1942, I earned \$92.50 a month plus room and board and laundry. I wasn’t married then. For those first twelve years I taught at the Blind School, teachers lived in the dormitories with the students. Many a night I sat on a bed trying to talk to or cuddle a child whose parents had brought them to the school in September and wouldn’t see them till Christmas. We were with our students 24 hours a day. In 1954, the school finally hired housemothers, and teachers could live off campus.

“My hearing finally go so bad that I had to retire. That was in 1971. I think it was that year that they started repairing and upgrading the buildings. Stucco would fall off in chunks and there was no heat or air conditioning in any of the buildings. It’s all changed now.” The Pickles live at 3904 Bailey Lane.

The southwest corner of the Blind School property at the intersection of 45th and Burnet Road will be the new home of the non-profit Recording For the Blind.

19. 4505 RAMSEY – This Colonial Revival cottage with a nice bay window was built in 1940 by Waldemar “Babe” Dittrich for \$2,300 for the Floyd Raymond family. The Raymond family

sold it in 1944 to J.A. Hall. The house was modeled after a home in Bryker Woods and, because it was built with an FHA loan, it was required to have lots of windows and doors for cross ventilation (air conditioning was several years in the future). The asbestos siding is not original. Waldemar Dittrich built several other homes in Rosedale including 4603 Sinclair, 4501 Rosedale, 4613 Ramsey, and 1509 W. 40th Street.

20. 4511 RAMSEY – Contractor A.R. Puckett bought this lot in Melrose Terrace from Cordelia Assmann in 1939 and hired John H. Sudbury to build this Colonial Revival cottage. Puckett sold house and lot for \$3,650. But the fellow who bought it, hoping to turn a fast profit, finally sold for a loss of \$450 to another intermediary who made only \$10 when he sold it to Lane Smith in 1940. Lane and his parents, Jenny Gertrude Lane and H. Clay Smith, lived there for many years, and the family enjoyed the housekeeping services of faithful employee Minnie Bragg Robinson. When the Smiths moved into the house, Rosedale was full of victory gardens and chickens because residents tried to aid the war effort by producing their own food. Lane Smith worked for Lomis and Sam Slaughter grocery from about 1921 to the 1970s. Neighbors recall hearing organ music from open windows in the unairconditioned home. This was Lane playing hymns on the old reed organ when he was alone. At Lane's death in 1980, the house was sold out of the family.

21. 4609 SHOAL CREEK BOULEVARD – This “Ranch” house with its low horizontal emphasis and plenty of windows was typical of the style that would dominate the area to the west in the 1950s. It was built in 1947 by J.E. Ricks (using plans drawn by Harry Hemphill) for \$12,000. Immediately following World War II, there were restrictions on building and this house fell under those guidelines. The house was built for William and Elender Plemons who ran the Plemons Grocery Store first at 4616 Burnet Road and later at 4902 Burnet Road. The Plemons home on Shoal Creek Boulevard was enlarged by enclosing the garage and making two bedrooms there. A screened breezeway led to these bedrooms. In 1963, the Plemons sold the house to Dr. Charles C. Allison who worked at the Austin Dog and Cat Hospital. Allison closed in the breezeway and opened up the dining room area. About 1990, there was a small gas explosion and fire in the house damaging the roof. While Allison was repairing the roof, he died suddenly from a heart attack. The house sat vacant for two years while the estate was being closed, causing damage to the house from the unfinished roof. The present owners made the necessary repairs, bought the house in 1993, and have done extensive renovations including turning the breezeway room into a family room with vaulted ceiling and combining the area of two bedrooms into one master suite. In the front yard is a very old large oak tree, a remnant of a large grove of oak trees that extended northeast across Burnet Road and north to Lawnmont.

22. 4609 RAMSEY – The burr oak tree in the north corner of the front yard was sprouted in 1968 or 1969 from an acorn picked up by Charles Foyt from the old Grand Prize Brewery grounds in Houston. Howard Hughes owned the property at that time but the brewery was closed. Charles' father, Arthur Foyt, kept the young burr oak in a 5-gallon bucket for a year or two while the family rented. Then in 1970, they bought this house and he planted the tree in the front yard. The acorns from burr oaks are as large as a golf ball with a cap often covering more than half of the acorn. We have been told that oak wilt rarely affects burr oaks.

23. 4616 AND 4902 BURNET ROAD – PLEMONS ROSEDALE GROCERY – As related by Bill Plemons – After working for the prestigious Bonhams Grocery in Corpus Christi for nine years, Bill Plemons came to Austin to scout out the possibilities of opening his own store. He saw the little family grocery at 4616 Burnet Road belonging to Harold A. Brown and, when asked, the Browns said they would sell the business. The property, which included the store

building and a house behind it at 1403 W. 47th, was being rented by the Browns. Bill and Elender Plemons bought the business in 1942 and got a five-year lease on the store building and house. When the five-year lease was only a year old, the owner sold the property to Bynum Naumann. Naumann, a grocer at Spicewood, reluctantly honored the full lease term (Naumann had hoped to move into Austin immediately but waited until 1947 to open his grocery at 4616).

Plemons' Rosedale Grocery was the first in Austin to have a refrigerated produce section. He also had a meat market. During World War II, meat was rationed and hard to get. Plemons would occasionally get bootleg meat from a German rancher. He would reserve this meat and any bacon he could get for his regular bill-paying customers. During the war, the federal government put a ceiling on prices of groceries. By accident, Plemons once had a #2 ½ can of peaches priced too high by 1 ½ cents and he was reported. Since this was his only offense, he was not fined but he was very careful to check the ceiling price list before marking his goods. Plemons employed one stock boy and one part-time checker. Plemons checked, cut meat, cleaned the store, and ordered stock from wholesalers.

After five years and with the lease running out, Plemons contracted with J.E. Ricks to build a new store building for him at 4902 Burnet Road and also a house at 4609 Shoal Creek Boulevard. Plemons drew the plans for the store himself. It was built of brown glazed and yellow hollow tile. Later Plemons added a back room. Plemons did well with the grocery until the early 1950s when H.E.B. and Big Bear, two fairly large grocery store chains, both opened stores at Burnet Road and Koenig. Plemons' business suffered and he sold to Hiram Reed in 1951. The Plemons continued to live on Shoal Creek Blvd. and Bill operated a hardware store first at 183 and Burnet, then Tarrytown, and now at Airport Blvd. and 11th Street. Plemons' first wife, Elender, died of cancer in the 1960s. Later Plemons courted long-distant the widow of his former boss in Corpus Christi, and after five years he and Gladys Bonham married. He tried retirement once but now works daily at the hardware store with son, Billy. His wife, Gladys, died in 1994. The grocery store building held a beauty school for many years and now houses Top Drawer. The tile has been covered with paint.

This building is a good example of mid-century modernism; it exhibits only simple geometry of windows/doors and a modest canopy. This marks the beginning of the automobile culture in post-war Austin, as the suburbs grew beyond the central city and arteries like Burnet Road developed with car-driving suburbanites in mind.

24. 4701B BURNET ROAD – In the late 1930s, Sherrard J. "Hub" Hubbard, son of A.B. Hubbard who ran the Baseball Inn at 4701 Burnet Road, completely remodeled a small frame house (now gone) located behind the Inn. He enlarged the small house and veneered it with rock and this was his home for about 45 years. In 1940, Hubbard joined the Austin Fire Department. In 1946, he and Polly Sanders married. According to fire department records, Hubbard was promoted to district chief in 1956 and in 1972, the Austin City Council promoted him to Section Chief of Operations. When he retired in 1980, it was as Chief Hubbard. Polly Hubbard retired in 1984 after working twenty-four years for the Secretary of State's office. Hub Hubbard was born in 1918 and spent much of his childhood in Rosedale at the Hubbard home at 3906 Bailey Lane. He spent another 45 years in Rosedale at 4701B Burnet Road. In 1980, the Hubbards moved out of the neighborhood.

There were numerous other firemen living in the Rosedale area in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s: Doc Boling (1203 W. 44th), Robert "Bob" Sunday (4100 Ramsey), J.D. "Jake" Spillar (4200 Sinclair), Charles Ehrhardt (Ramsey), Vernon Sobeck (37th and Wabash), Morris Basey (1008

W. 34th), Bill Oertli (4008 Medical Parkway), Terrell Hickman (4110 Burnet Road), Silas Foster (1601 W. 47th), Hugh Brinkley (4200 Marathon), J. Laurel Gray (4701 Sinclair), Jim Bogle (1401 W. 40th), Paul Anderson (4512 Ramsey), Harold Kalitta (1406 W. 51st), Jack Prather (4801 Woodview), Leland Priest (4304 Shoalwood), Woodrow Lee (4306 Rosedale), and Bill Smith (4510 Ramsey).

25. 4702 SINCLAIR AND 5007 LYNNWOOD – Headlines of the Austin American for May 26, 1971, read “Man Jailed in Slaying; Child Safe.” On the preceding Monday night, 10-year old Bill Martinez of 5007 Lynnwood walked across Burnet Road to help 7-11 night clerk, Joe Guerra, clean up at closing. All the Martinez boys had small jobs. When he did not return after closing, his parents called police and reported him missing. Police found the clerk dead in the locked store, hands tied behind him and shot four times in the back. Bill was missing. A search was conducted that night and the next day for Bill while police followed up on tips given by neighbors and patrons of the store. That evening a 20-year-old unemployed school janitor was arrested and questioned. Police went to his home, a small building behind 4702 Sinclair, and found a scared but unharmed Bill Martinez. The janitor had taken him from the store to 4702 Sinclair and forced him to crawl under the building. He threatened him and told him not to come out but did give him a small transistor radio. One of the family renting the main house at 4702 had heard music all day but didn’t realize it was coming from beneath the building in his backyard. All the money taken in the robbery and two weapons were recovered. Bill was a 5th grader at Rosedale School.

This Colonial Revival home at 4702 Sinclair was built by C.E. Hankins in the summer of 1940 for \$3,000 for Albert and Lillian Haaf. It was completely remodeled in 1993. Hankins also built 4420 Marathon and 3811 Tonkawa Trail.

26. 4703 RAMSEY – This modest brick cottage typical of the late 1930s was built by Godwin Brothers General Contractors in the summer of 1939 for \$3,800 for William H. Thompson. The Forrest Trafton family bought the house in 1945. They put in a victory garden which took up the entire backyard. They continued to garden for years after the war. The giant catalpa tree in the back yard was a volunteer that came up as the garden was phased out about 1953. Forrest Trafton and his father, Will Trafton, had come to Austin in 1932 to operate a tile and marble business. In 1945, they moved the business into permanent quarters at 3700 Guadalupe where the fourth generation is now part of the business. When the Traftons decided to remodel their home on Ramsey in 1950, they incorporated tile and marble in the plan. A large family room was added to the back which has ceramic tile wainscoting with knotty pine paneling above. The floor also is tile. The kitchen was doubled in size and a marble sill was installed in the pass-through. The family lived here until 1975 but have rented out the house since that time. The original brick has been covered with paint.

27. 4706 RAMSEY – This modest 1930s cottage with stoop was built in 1939 by contractor Elbert J. Hood and sold by Hood to first residents, George and Lucile Bryant for \$3,400. Second residents were the Charles Bradford family. In 1946, Henry and Pauline Franke bought this house so their oldest child, Carol, who was blind, could attend the Blind School. Henry was a machinist with Hughes Tool Company in Houston. Hughes gave Henry two years leave with some compensation to allow him to relocate his family and give Carol a good start. Henry later worked for twenty years at the University of Texas machine shop keeping the power plant operating. In the early 1950s, Pauline organized the PTA at the Blind School and served as its first president. Pauline later worked for Frank Rundell, builder. Daughter Carol graduated from the Blind School in 1959. From 1964 to 1985, Carol worked for the Texas State Library putting

out a newsletter and other material in Braille. Pauline would read the material into a tape recorder and Carol translated it into Braille. Carol would make copies on a Thermoform machine. Henry would collate and staple and then deliver the boxed material to the library. Daughter Judy graduated from McCallum in 1960. Henry died in 1985 and Pauline in 1988. The Franke family still occupy this home which now has vinyl siding and aluminum windows.

28. 4714 RAMSEY – Built by contractor-carpenter Clarence E. Henderson in the summer of 1939 for \$3,200 for Lee Killgore. Killgore sold it the next winter to Eddie and Mabel Norwood. The Norwood family had lived in the Garfield area for several generations and Mabel's family, the Burches, were from old Del Valle (where Bergstrom now stands). When the Norwoods bought this home, they had outside blinds fastened to the screens – the blinds keep out rain but let in plenty of light and air. Eddie had a gunsmith shop in the building behind the house. He was a shooting enthusiast and fired with the best in the country often bringing home medals. Three cases of medals attest to his skill with a 22 rifle. He won at least 50 medals shooting with the Austin Rifle Club and other medals from the Trinity Rifle Club, the Texas State Guards and State Matches, the Oklahoma Rifle Association, and the Bayou Rifles. He also liked to hunt deer and antelope. Eddie worked at the Ford place for many years and later he ran heavy equipment (like the giant cranes) on construction sites. But he spent as much time on guns as his family of six daughters allowed. In his gun shop, he made the first rifle that neighbor boy, Bill Trafton, owned. The Norwoods have six daughters: Marie, Betty, Harriet, Dorothy, Earline, and Barbara. Four of them graduated from Austin High and the last two from then new McCallum High School. The Norwood family still occupy the home. Architecturally, this home is a very interesting example of the stripped down Moderne houses of the 1930s. There are no historical references here, just a clean “machine for living.” This must be one of the earliest examples of a garage incorporated into the house in Rosedale.

29. 4801 WOODVIEW – This Colonial Revival cottage was built in 1948 by Rufus Paschall, son Julian, and son-in-law Bud Harris for Paschall's daughter and her husband who still live here. Woodview was in the subdivision called Rosedale Estates platted by H.F. Nitschke in 1940. Rufus Paschall was from Hall County and learned to do carpentry from his father. Rufus built several homes in Rosedale (including 4307 and 4705 Sinclair), worked on Tom Miller dam, and was a carpenter on several military bases (Brownwood, Killeen, and Austin). The house has a nice “sweep” (curving profile) to the roof linking gable and porch.

30. SHOAL CREEK AND 49TH STREET – Fiset's DAM – In 1900, Franz Fiset, who had purchased much of John Hancock's farm land the year before, hired Arthur Seiders to build a dam on Shoal Creek. Forrest “Toddy” Preece related the following story about the dam as it was told to him by Frank Jennings, Sr. “One day in the early 1930s, work was slack and Frank Jennings, Sr., his brother-in-law, and his younger brother, Charlie Jennings, took their fishing poles and headed for Shoal Creek to do a little perch fishing. They climbed down the bluff to the top of the dam, about three feet below ground level. The top of the dam was about eighteen inches wide and on the downstream side about fifteen feet to the water. As they approached the center of the dam, the brother-in-law made as if to push Charlie off the dam and in doing so caused the youngster to lose his balance. He began to fall and the brother-in-law tried to catch him only to lose his balance so that both fell. Charlie landed on the splash apron and the brother-in-law fell partly in the water, but his legs hit the concrete breaking both. Charlie was dead on arrival at the hospital with massive concussion of the head.” The dam still exists but is on private property.

31. 4902 WOODVIEW – Built in 1947 by L.L. “Dude” McCandless and sold in 1949 to Joe M. and Ann Brown for \$8,100. The Browns and their three children lived here for about 15 years. Joe worked for Capitol Chevrolet. The house has never been enlarged but the garage was converted into a studio by an artist who lived here in the 1980s. The house has a large front porch and present owners have added a patio to the back. This style home was a 20th century interpretation of the center-passage form like that of the Harrison-Costley House. This home is typical of those from plans furnished by lumber companies although this one is a little more prestigious than most. This may have served as a ‘model’ house to attract that first wave of postwar home buyers to a new area in the neighborhood.

In 1946, land owner Adolph Kohn sold about 60 lots in the Shoalmont Addition Section 2 to McCandless. Dude McCandless, his brother Clarence, and nephew Vernon Perry, all carpenters, built most of the houses on Woodview, on the east side of Shoal Creek Boulevard, and on the west side of Shoalmont Avenue between Hancock Drive and the creek. Dude had earlier been in the lumber business and during World War II had worked as a carpenter on army bases. His dad, William, was a blacksmith in Creedmoor. Operating under the name McCandless Homes, he built homes and commercial buildings from the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s. Among his buildings were the Villa Capri Motel, Terrace Motel, and Skyview Baptist Church. After about 1955, McCandless went into prefab home construction under the name Ready-Built Homes, one of which was purchased by President Lyndon B. Johnson for a ranch at Johnson City. He was also owner of Ace Lumber Company. He retired in 1990 and died in 1991 at the age of 84. This is the only area in Rosedale where the same builder constructed most of the houses.

GROWING UP IN ROSEDALE

1900-1910: Myrtle Seiders Cuthbertson (lived at 1106 W. 38th Street) – About 1902 or 1903, “one family that lived in our neighborhood were not friends – about 39th and Alice Avenue. A mother and two grown daughters, now I know the girls were prostitutes. Back then, I only knew no one would associate with them. One day as I was passing, their calf got out and the mother was trying to get it back in the yard. I helped her to corral it and she insisted I come in for some refreshment. I was a little nervous, but I went in. The house was so pretty inside. I do not remember the furniture but that it was so pretty and so clean. She served me cake and tea and seemed so nice. I just could not understand why no one liked them. I did not tell my mother about going in, afraid of being scolded and so I could not tell her how nice they were.”

1910-1920: Ed Brown (lived at 4101 Medical Parkway) – “There were preachers that would hold meetings out under the trees and one time about 1917 or 1918, a preacher held a meeting beside the Costley store. Some of us kids didn’t like those meetings. So me and some of my brothers and some other neighborhood boys got us about three dozen rotten eggs. We got on the north side of the store and threw those eggs over the store on the preacher and congregation. The preacher came around the store building and yelled ‘I love you anyway! Now go on home!’ Mama grounded us.”

1920-1930: Forrest “Toddy” Preece (lived at 4212 Medical Parkway) – “I caddied at the Austin Country Club (now Hancock Recreation Center and golf course at 811 E. 41st Street off Red River) from 1919 to 1928 (third grade until I graduated). The Preece boys, the Durbins, the Browns – we were all caddies at one time or another. One of the Durbin boys (Robert) turned out to be city champion golf player after he became older. My older brother, Wade, was already caddying and he got me started when I was nine years old. He took me there and introduced me

to the Caddie Master who was Mr. Harvey Penick. I wasn't a very big boy. At nine years old, I weighed 50 pounds. It was a lot of fun, and, of course, I made a little money – bought my clothes and my school books and my lunch. After I got into high school, lots of times I walked from the high school to the country club and then caddied. Sometimes I'd ride the street car up to 42nd and Avenue G and walk on over to the country club and caddie sometimes as many as 18 holes."

1930-1940: Vic Elam (lived at 4005 Marathon) - "In the early 1930s, we used to play on the State Hospital grounds. There were stiles over the fence at about 39th, 40th and 41st streets. We weren't supposed to be in there. Old 'Graysuit' (Mr. Blair) was a guard there and he'd run us off after a while. But when the Hospital baseball team would finish practice, we could go in and play baseball on their field. It was a real nice field with roofed grandstands. Dr. Dinwiddie, the superintendent, was a baseball fan and he used to hire employees for the hospital who could play baseball. He had some ex major league players and some Texas Leaguers who couldn't quite make the big teams and some U.T. players. The team was called 'State Hospital' but they played the 7-Up 'Nu Icy Bottlers' and the Elgin 'Butler Brickers' and teams from Llano and Richland. The field was just south and a little east of Central Market. There was a gate on 38th about midway between Guadalupe and Lamar where you could drive in and park. We didn't have a team, just a bunch of boys who wanted to play some baseball. We also played baseball in an open field at 42nd and about Burnet Road. The kids I remember playing with here were Earl Sears, Willie and Melvin Reid and their sister, Bertha (I think that was her name), and Dickie and Hazel Preece. Those girls could really play baseball. That would have been in the late 1920s because the Reids moved about 1930."

1940-1950: Rosalynn Koepsell (lived at 4415 Marathon) – "The church (Trinity Lutheran Church) used to sponsor activities weekly or so for the youth to bring them in and keep them together. One of the games remembered is a scavenger hunt and it seems like it was always on Halloween. We were too big to go trick or treating. Someone would make a list of 15 or 20 things we were supposed to find and we'd split into two or three teams and head in different directions. We had a time limit so we had to hurry from house to house asking people if they could give us any of the things on the list. Maybe the list would include a green feather, a pink ribbon, a key, a playing card, a hazelnut – things people wouldn't mind giving us. Whichever team got everything on the list and got back to the church before the time ran out would win. I don't remember what the prize was for winning – maybe we got to have refreshments first. I remember the couple at 45th and Burnet Road (he was blind) had huge pecan trees and they always gave pecans to 'trick or treaters' and they insisted on giving us pecans – pecans weren't on our list, but we got and enjoyed them anyway."

1950-1960: Dale Martin (lived at 4911 Lynnwood) – "In the fourth grade at Rosedale I took a piece of granite, cut and polished by my father, to school for show and tell. When I got ready to come home with it, a girl said it was hers and we had an argument. I got sent to the principal and I decided never to come back to that school. My great aunt and uncle (who raised me) let me enroll at Trinity Lutheran School. Mr. Koepsell taught the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in one room. He'd work with the 4th graders and give them an assignment and then move to the 5th graders and so on. He had an inkwell on his desk. One April 1st, I slipped in and took the cap off and laid a fake tin inkspot beside the open bottle – it really looked real. Mr. Koepsell came in, saw it, and demanded to know who had spilled his ink. I finally said 'April Fool' and picked up the inkspot. But I had to touch my toes and take a paddling anyway. It didn't cure me. I used to buy bottles of Coke at Petersons Grocery and slip them into class. I'd pop the cap off and put a little Lic-M-

Aid in the bottle and hand it to someone. The Lic-M-Aid would make it start to fizzing like crazy and whoever had the bottle would get in trouble.”

PHOTO CREDITS: Austin State Hospital grounds courtesy of the Austin History Center; Arthur Seiders courtesy of granddaughter Dorothy Cuthbertson Evans; Harrison/Costley Store and house courtesy of descendant Lorraine Costley Funderburke; John and Sue Hancock courtesy of descendant Nell McCutchan; Blind School courtesy of the Austin History Center; Herman Ladewig courtesy of daughters Marlene Malone and Janis Wisocki.

If you notice any mistakes in these notes or can add additional information about these subjects or other subjects in the Rosedale neighborhood, please call Karen Collins, 323-2470. Your help in collecting and preserving our Rosedale History is greatly appreciated.

1996 Rosedale Ramble Map

