



The route is rated a 2, with a few steep hills; the route is on paved city streets, and is suitable for strollers, wagons, and wheelchairs.

For information on Volksmarsch and the Colorado River Walkers, contact them at PO Box 13051, Austin, TX 78711-3051, or at (512) 495-6294.

Many thanks to the Colorado River Walkers for permission to post this information.

### **1. The German Free School, 507 East 10th Street, Austin 78701**

One of the first schools established in Austin, 1852, which served not only German-speaking pupils, but children who were in need of a free education, some of them children of slaves. Julius Schütze served as the schoolmaster for years, establishing its fine reputation as an academic grammar school. The building was added on to in 182 with a second story. Kelly Stevens, an Austin artist, purchased the building in 1948 and lived there until his death in 1991. The building was deeded to the German Texas Heritage Society at that time.

### **2. The Old General Land Office Building, East 11th and Brazos**

This three-story Norman-style building was designed by German architect, Conrad C. Stremme, who was educated at the University of German and was a member of the Royal Hannoverian Commission on Public Buildings. Stremme taught architecture at the University of Dorpat in Tartu, Russia, published a book on architecture in 1842, received the title of nobleman from Czar Nicholas I.

William Sydney Porter (O Henry) worked as a draftsman in this building. The building was used as a setting for one of his short stories, "Bexar Scrip No. 2692." Along with the Governor's Mansion, the General Land Office is one of the oldest buildings in the Capitol Complex. It once housed the state of Texas' deeds, patents, maps and other records. Today it serves as the Capitol Complex Visitor's Center and gift shop. The displays inside are very interesting.

### **3. Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto**

At the grand opening of Scholz Garten in 1866, August Scholz offered free beer, a huge cast of singers and various bands to his new customers. Scholz is the "oldest tavern continuously operating at one location" in Texas.. This site has been the continuous meeting place of Texans from all walks of life . . . pioneers, weary confederate veterans, Texas legislators, writers, students at the University of Texas, businessmen, and dignitaries.

The founder and first owner of Scholz Garten, August Scholz, was a German immigrant, born in 1825, who shortly after emigrating to Texas found himself embroiled in the issues of the Civil War. He entered the conflict on the side of the Confederacy and served under Captain H. Willke until the war ended in 1865. It was then that he decided to open a tavern in Austin.

Scholz's Hall, as it was then called, became famous for concerts, dances, and social functions in subsequent years.

Before Scholz passed away in 1891, he turned the Garden over to his stepson, Theodor Reisner, who ran the business for two years before selling it to Edwin Lemp. Mr. Lemp operated "Lemp Brewery" on the property. Today the enterprise he started is known as Falstaff Brewing Company.

The Austin Sängerrunde, a German singing group, has been meeting at Scholz since 1879. It is the present owner of the property. The Sängerrunde also operates a bowling alley on the property, and holds dances often throughout the year for its members and guests.

### **4. Turner Hall, 201 W. 18th Street, Scottish Rite Temple**

This building has a history that dates back to 1872, when the Scottish Rite Society built Turner Hall. It serves as a men's club and exercise facility (turnen = to do physical exercises, in German). In 1914, the Ben Hur Temple bought the building with the intention of building a training center for its members. Shortly thereafter, the Scottish Rite bodies of Austin decided that they should build a "cathedral" on the site. They bought the Ben Hur Temple for \$15,000 and in 1915 the building was dedicated. The building served to state cultural events with an auditorium seating 800. A handsome pipe organ was installed, and it served the Shriners of Austin for many years. The building is unique in that it blends southwest mission style of architecture with Arabic accents. It is a recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

## **5. Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 16th and Congress**

Designed in the Gothic Revival style by architect August Swenson, this church was built in 1883 with the help of church members, who did most of the stone and brick work from the remains of the Capitol, which had burned in 1881. For years, the church served Lutherans throughout Central Texas. In 1961, when the state purchased the property to further develop the Capitol office complex, local preservationists successfully campaigned to save the building. The state legislature deeded the church to the Texas Historical Commission in 1969, and in 1970-71, it was restored for agency use. It currently serves as the agency's library and research center.

## **6. Texas Historical Commission, Carrington-Covert House, 1511 Colorado Street**

One of the few nineteenth-century structures remaining in the state Capitol complex, the Carrington-Covert House was constructed in 1857 for businessman Leonidas Davis Carrington. Master builder John Brandon used locally-quarried limestone to build the walls, and pine lumber for the internal beams, joists, and flooring. The materials probably came from Bastrop County. Carrington paid \$989.95 in case to construct the home, in addition to providing him with merchandise allotments from the mercantile store he owned on Congress Avenue. The Covert family bought the house and restored it in 1903. The state of Texas acquired it in 1968 after it had been used for years as an apartment building for University of Texas students and faculty. In 1971, the house was turned over to the Texas Historical Commission for restoration and to serve as agency headquarters.

## **7. The Bertram Store, 1602 Guadalupe Street**

Rudolph Bertram arrived in Austin in 1853 and began a trading post. In 1880 he began a wholesale grocery business, saloon and general store (1st floor) that served Austin for decades. Living quarters were on the second floor. The town of Bertram was named for Rudolph Bertram. Recently the building has served as a restaurant, but just recently the restaurant closed.

## **8. The Mauthe-Myrick Mansion, 408 West 14th Street**

Rafael Mauthe (1820-79), a German stonemason, built this house in 1877. He came from Sprachlingen, Wurttemberg, and settled in Austin in 1850. His wife, Mary Edwin, was Swedish.

They had three sons, William, August, Henry, and daughter Matilda. Several houses were built on this property and from the census records it appears that the houses were rented out to family members on Mary's side of the family and later to local families. Much later, a boarding house for UT students was operated on the property by Mrs. N. L. Dill, originally from Goliad. The building's architecture has been studied by historians and determined to be Greek Revival, which was introduced to Austin by Abner Cook, who designed the Governor's Mansion. It was exceptionally well-built; a fine example of German craftsmanship.

## **9. Wahrenberger House, 208 West 14th Street**

Mr. Jacob Bickler's school for boys, the Texas German and English Academy, occupied the house from 1880 to 1886. Later, the Wahrenberger house was used to house female students of the German-American Ladies College (1873). It served as a boarding house and school for the young ladies for only five years.

One of the descendants of Charles Klein, original owner of the property, John Wahrenberger, a skilled baker, who married Charles Klein's daughter, Caroline. He came to Texas from Switzerland in 1839. He fought the Indians and became one of the first permanent citizens of Austin. John Wahrenberger operated a bakery on Congress Avenue for years. John and Caroline Wahrenberger's daughter, Mary, received her formal education in Switzerland and returned to live in the house and raise her family with the help of her husband, H. E. Lindeman.

## **10. Texas Military Institutes, 1111 West 11th Street (German-English Academy)**

After the Civil War, the 5th Military District was formed in Texas and Louisiana as part of Reconstruction. The Texas Military Institute was founded for the purpose of training young men to serve in this Military District. Originally, T. M. I. began in Bastrop (1868), but later it was moved to Austin, to this site. The building you see no longer sits on the original 32 acres of land, which formed the campus when

the school was opened in 1870. The building was modeled after the Virginia Military Institute and West Point. It had lecture rooms in the building you now see, but also professors' residency, a mess hall, barracks, hospital, and other outlying buildings that served the school. It operated for ten years, but dissolved because of the rise of public education in the State of Texas. A few years later, Jacob Bickler moved his Texas German And English Academy to this site (1893-1897). In 1890, the porch was added which wraps the north and east sides of the building. Currently the building is privately owned.

### **11. Treaty Oak, 503 Baylor**

During the Republic and early Statehood days, Treaty Oak grew on the estate of James Raymond, Secretary of the Treasury for the Republic of Texas. Many notable figures visited this tree, including Sam Houston. In 1871, this land was sold to John Ireland, Governor from 1882 to 1886. Ten years later, the property was sold to W. H. Caldwell, whose heirs sold the tree with the land area reduced to the City of Austin to be used as park land.

The legend that Treaty Oak was the site of an early boundary treaty between Stephen F. Austin and native Americans is simply a legend. There is no record of Stephen F. Austin every being at this site.

Scientists estimate this tree's age to be between 500 and 600 years. A picture of Treaty Oak is in the Hall of Forestry at Washington, D. C., where it was described as the most perfect specimen of a tree in North America.

The tree was poisoned in 1989 and received outpourings of sympathy and good luck tokens ranging from cards to cans of chicken soup from people around the world. Its offspring have been planted on the site around the remaining third of the tree.

### **12. The Fischer House, 1008 West Avenue**

See the historical marker on the property.

### **13. The Henry Hirschfield House and Cottage, 303 West 9th Street**

Henry Hirschfield was born 22 November 1834 at Schneidermuche, Posen, Germany. He emigrated to the United States from Germany at the age of 15. He served in the Texas Military Brigade as a private under Gen. E. S. C. Robertson in Georgetown, Texas.

By 1866, Hirschfield was living in Austin as the proprietor of Capital Clothing Company at Sixth and Congress Avenue. he married Jennie Melasky in 1868, whose father was also in the dry goods business. Henry Hirschfield became a very successful merchant, and by 1871, he was the first vice-president appointed to the new Board of Trade by Governor Davis. He was also a leader in the Jewish Community in Austin, charter member of the Mason's Hill City Lodge, and a leading member of the Austin Sängerrunde.

The cottage was built first in 1873, which remains to this day a fine example of expert stone masonry, built of coursed rusticated cut limestone with beaded joints. Twelve years later, work was begun on the house that you see on the property. It was designed and built by John Andrewartha out of smooth dressed ashlar limestone with incised stylized floral motifs on lintels and cut-out floral and rising sun motifs typical of Eastlake-inspired designs. The transoms have beautiful stained glass, which is original to the house.

The Hirschfields lost their fourteen-year-old daughter Carrie in 1886. Of the Hirschfield children, only Leila and Rosa married. The unmarried children continued to live at the family home after their parents died.

### **14. Heierman Building, 121-123 East 5th Street**

Mr. Nalle was contractor for the building, which was constructed in 1887. It was never a residence, but used for commercial purposes. Over the years, the building has undergone many changes, many of which were not carefully documented. Her Heierman building served as a hotel (Hotel Provident) during the 1890s.

Years later, when it was used as a funeral home, the first cremation performed in Austin took place here. Mr. Boyd Lane as a boy of 14 worked after school for Mr. Rosengreen, the funeral director. He remembers Mr. Rosengreen called him one day to tell him he was to be at the Heierman building that night. When he arrived, he was told that a man from Europe had died in Austin, and that his wife wanted his ashes shipped back to Europe. As there were no facilities for cremation in Austin at that time, Mr. Rosengreen

arranged with the Heiermans to use their furnace. Just as they were about to begin, the police arrived, asking if they were going to destroy a body. After they got approval, the cremation continued, with a large crowd of Austinites looking in the windows.

### **15. F. Weigl Iron Works, 100 Red River**

Fortunat Weigl was born on 21 March 1884 in Bad Aibling, Germany (Bavaria). His father, Joseph, was the Bürgermeister (mayor) of Bad Aibling and an iron worker. He sold and repaired bicycles, repaired machine parts, made tools and did some decorative iron work, but he did not shoe horses.

Fortunat was apprenticed at the iron shop of a man named Prester in Bad Reichenhall. It was here that he met and studied under Hans Lepperdinger, one of the top decorative ironsmiths of southern Germany. It was Lepperdinger who taught Fortunat Weigl the intricacies of iron crafting, which he brought with him to America. By the time Fortunat Weigl emigrated to America in 1913, he was married to Anna Schmidtschneider (smith who cuts).

In preparation for their move, the Weigls sold all their possessions except that which they could carry to Texas. They took the SS Breslau and landed in Philadelphia, then sailed around the Florida peninsula and followed the coast to Galveston, where they disembarked for Austin. They were met at the train station by Anton Stasswender, friends from Germany who had preceded them to Austin.

Fortunat worked first as a plumber. He was slow to acquire proficiency in English, so he worked for a German plumber until he could get established. When the old Main Post Office was being built at Sixth and Lavaca, the supervisor was Willie Dieter, who could speak German, and who hired Fortunat to help in the construction. He was offered the opportunity to do some iron work and later established his own business, which was moved several times. In 1935, he moved his ironworks to this site.

Fortunat Weigl forged many fences that are still standing today, such as the fence at the Hirschfield House, the Smith House, and other decorative works. Examples of Weigl's work are evident all over Austin. Fortunat Weigl once told his sons the following just after World War II: "Boys, our family came to this country to be free. If we want to stay free, we're going to have to stay small." And they did.

### **16. Hofheinz-Reissig Store, 3rd and Red River Streets (northeast corner)**

Originally built for German emigrant Henry Hofheinz just three blocks south of Austin's present Sixth Street Commercial Historic District, the Hofheinz-Reissig Store is an example of late nineteenth-century commercial architecture with German influence and of native ashlar limestone. It was originally a saloon on the first floor and a residence on the second floor. It is the only surviving complex of this kind in Austin, which is now becoming the model for Kirk Watson's vision of a revitalized downtown (residential and commercial use mixed in building permits).

### **17. Hannig Building, 206 E. 6th Street (right side of street)**

Renaissance Revival trends prevail in this eclectic, ornately detailed structure. Designed by architect J. N. Preston, the building was acclaimed by local press as an elegant contribution to the city, comparable to the Walter Tips Building on Congress Avenue (our next site). It is still one of Austin's finest late nineteenth-century Victorian commercial buildings.

Joseph Hannig was a cabinet maker and undertaker as well as the fourth husband of Susanna Dickinson, a survivor of the Battle of the Alamo.

### **18. The Walter Tips Building, 810-812 Congress Avenue (west side of street)**

Walter Tips was born in Elbersfeld, Prussia, in 1841. His father and mother emigrated to Texas in 1849, when Walter was eight years old. Walter's brother, Edward, opened a hardware store at this site before the Tips Building was constructed. After the Civil War, Walter Tips went into the hardware business with William Clemens in New Braunfels, Texas. When Edward died suddenly in 1872, Walter and his partner Clemens bought the hardware business on Congress Avenue. His partners still ran the store in New Braunfels, while Walter Tips became the sole proprietor of the Austin store.

Jasper Preston built the Tips Building, a three-story stone building which masterfully blends Venetian Gothic and Italianate Renaissance Revival styles. The east façade has five bays, framed by fluted and banded pilasters with Corinthian and foliated capitals.

Large open spaces were maintained on the interior by means of a cast-iron colonnade spanned by cast-iron arches running the length of the building down the center at the first level and by a similar

colonnade of wood members at the second level. The original construction has two skylights. The interior of this building is therefore as remarkable as is the exterior, which unfortunately not been preserved because of a series of fires that destroyed major portions of the wood columns, which were replaced by steel. Franklin Savings is the current owner of the building.

## 12K Route

GTHS and CRW walk  
September 12, 1998

## 12K Route

	A	B
1	START at Old German Free School, 507 E. 10th	0000
2	W (up hill) on 10th to San Jacinto (2 1/2 blocks)	285
3	N (R) on San Jacinto to 11th (1 block)	394
4	W (L) on 11th to Old General Land Office, 11th & Brazos, gate through fence	519
5	NW along curving sidewalk to State Capitol, South Entrance	755
6	N through State Capitol, out North Entrance to 15th St. (if Capitol closed, go around)	1045
7	E (R) on 15th St. to San Jacinto, stay on right side of 15th (2 blocks)	1313
8	N (L) on San Jacinto to 18th, pass Scholz Garten, 1607 San Jacinto (3 blocks)	1634
9	W (L) on 18th to Lavaca, Turner Hall, now Scottish Rite Temple, 207 W. 18th (4 blocks)	2112
10	continue W on 18th to Guadalupe (1 block)	2223
11	S (L) on Guadalupe to 16th, Bertram Store, 1601 Guadalupe (2 blocks)	2400
12	E (L) on 16th to Gethsemane Church at SW corner of 16th & Congress Ave. (3 blocks)	2740
13	up stairs in front of church, take sidewalk around the S (L) side of church to Check Point 1	2850
14	Check Point 1 in patio of Texas Historical Commission in back of Gethsemane Church (1/2 block)	
15	W from Check Point 1 to Colorado St. (1/2 block)	2876
16	S (L) on Colorado to 14th (1 1/2 blocks)	3060
17	W (R) on 14th to Lavaca, pass Wahrenberger House, 208 W. 14th (1 block)	3175
18	continue W on 14th to Rio Grande, pass Mauthe-Myrick Mansion, 408 W. 14th (4 blocks)	3610
19	S (L) on Rio Grande to 12th, pass ACC Rio Grande campus and moontower (2 blocks)	3876
20	W (R) down hill on 12th to Lamar, stay on left side of 12th (3 blocks), eateries at 12&Lamar	4292
21	continue W on 12th up a steep hill to Blanco (3 blocks, on left they are "No sign", Castle Ct., Blanco, on right "No sign", Castle Hill, Windsor)	4570
22	S (L) on Blanco to 11th (1 block)	4669
23	E (L) on 11th to German-English Academy, 1111 W. 11th (1 block)	4770
24	U-turn and go W on 11th back to Blanco (1 block)	4872
25	S (L) on Blanco to 6th (4 blocks, on left side they are 10th, 9th, 7th, 6th; on right 10, 9, 8, 6)	5411
26	E (L) on 6th to Baylor, eateries on left side of 6th (1 block)	5576
27	S (R) on Baylor to Check Point 2 under Treaty Oak (2/3 block)	5654
28	S from Check Point 2 to 5th St. (1/3 block)	5703
29	E (L) on 5th to Lamar (1 block)	5856
30	N (L) on Lamar to 6th st. (1 block)	6007
31	E (R) on 6th St. to West Ave (3 blocks, West Ave. is just after crossing Shoal Creek)	6340
32	N (L) on West Ave. to 11th, past Fischer House, 1008 West Ave. (5 blocks, 4 on left side)	6892
33	E (R) on 11th to Lavaca (5 blocks)	7445
34	S (R) on Lavaca to 9th (2 blocks)	7661
35	W (R) on 9th to Guadalupe, past Henry Hirshfeld House, 303 W. 9th (1 block)	7747
36	S (L) on Guadalupe to 5th (4 blocks)	8163
37	E (L) on 5th to Trinity, pass Heierman Building, 121-123 E. 5th (6 blocks)	8881
38	Check Point 3 in front of Fire Station at 5th & Trinity	8897
39	S on Trinity to Cesar Chavez St. (1st St.) (4 blocks, 3 on left side)	9300
40	E (L) on Cesar Chavez St. to Red River, Ironworks Barbeque, F. Wegl Iron Works	9496
41	N (L) on Red River to 3rd St., Hofheinz-Reissig Store, now Leather Bench at NE corner	9824
42	continue N on Red River to 6th (3 blocks)	10021
43	W (L) on 6th to Congress Ave., pass Hannig Building, 208 E. 6th (5 blocks)	10584
44	N (R) on Congress to 8th, pass Tips Bldg, 708-712 Congress, capstone says Franklin Federal - Tips Bldg. (2 blocks), eateries on both sides of Congress	10800
45	continue N on Congress to 10th (2 blocks)	10998
46	E (R) on 10th to Old German Free School, 507 E. 10th (FINISH) (4 1/2 blocks)	11506