

Mary Street Historic District

Mary Street was platted in 1928 as part of the Blue Bonnet Hills Subdivision, and the first home in the district was constructed the following year. When the neighborhood was developed, its distance from downtown was a deterrent to wealthier families who preferred to live closer to amenities and businesses. Thus, the 500 block of E. Mary Street was part of a working-class neighborhood comprised of a mix of homeowners and renters, including many World War I veterans. Early residents commuted to workplaces downtown, where many were employed in federal and state government and blue-collar jobs.

Though only one block long, the Mary Street Historic District is in close geographic proximity to an important development trend that shaped the growth of Austin and other cities around the country. The rapid, largely unplanned growth of American cities following the Civil War caused concern among architects. As director of the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition, architect Daniel Burnham helped to spread a growing interest in urban planning that would continue to develop over the next several decades as the City Beautiful Movement. This movement promoted order and harmony in architecture and urban design, including incorporation of parks and green spaces. The Blunn Creek Greenbelt—including Stacy Park, to the east of the Mary Street Historic District—was initially platted in 1928 and is reminiscent of the “necklace” configuration of many City Beautiful parks.

Period of Significance: 1929-39

Description of the District

The Mary Street Historic District covers nearly 3 acres and contains 19 residential buildings. Of those 19 buildings, 16 (84%) retain a high degree of historic integrity and contribute to the historic character of the district.

The style, scale, and age of the housing stock on Mary Street is very similar to that of other houses in Blue Bonnet Hills and nearby subdivisions: primarily one-story, modest-scale homes in the Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Minimal Traditional styles. The Craftsman and Tudor Revival Styles are particularly well-represented.

[Map of Mary Street Historic District](#)

[List of Properties](#)

[Mary Street Preservation Plan and Design Standards](#)