

Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau/Historic Landmark Commission Fall 2013 Grant Application Summary

Grant Applicant: National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Texas
Neill-Cochran House

Address: 2310 San Gabriel Street, Austin, TX 78705

Project Summary: Restoration/replacement of existing sidewalk to increase access and safety.

Requested Grant Amount: \$ 12,000.00

Matching Funds/In-Kind: \$ 4,640.00

Previous Grants Received: \$ -

Historical Significance Summary: The Neill-Cochran House was built in 1855 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas Historical Commission landmark. The two story Greek Revival home was designed and constructed by noted master builder Abner Cook.

Tourism Impact: Located near the UT campus, the house officially opened as a public museum in 1962. The house is open 5 days a week and has 2 employees and 39 active volunteers. In 2012, they welcomed 3,975 visitors.



GRANT APPLICATION

Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau
Attn: Julie Hart, VP Finance & Operations
301 Congress Avenue, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: 512-583-7205 Email: jhart@austintexas.org

DATE: July 30, 2013

HISTORIC PROPERTY AND ADDRESS: Neill-Cochran House

2310 San Gabriel Street, Austin, TX 78705

APPLICANT'S NAME: National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the state of Texas

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: 2310 San Gabriel Street, Austin, TX 78705

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER, IF DIFFERENT FROM APPLICANT: _____

TAX I.D. NUMBER/TAX STATUS: 74-1400026

PERSON PRESENTING REQUEST/CONTACT PERSON: Sheila Brenner

ADDRESS: 7432 Woodthrush Drive TELEPHONE NO. 214.934.3804

E-MAIL: brennercem@att.net FAX NUMBER: N/A

PROJECT NAME: Sidewalk Restoration and Addition

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT – PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE PROPOSED PROJECT. (IF DESIRED, APPLICANT MAY ALSO ATTACH AN ADDITIONAL SHEET MORE FULLY EXPLAINING THE PROJECT AND THE REASON FOR THE GRANT REQUEST.)

Please see attached.

PLEASE LIST HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS OF THE PROPERTY, AND IF LOCATED WITHIN A NATIONAL REGISTER OR LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (PLEASE SPECIFY WHICH DISTRICT), AND IF THE PROPERTY IS CONTRIBUTING:

Please see attached documentation from the National Register of Historic Places / Texas. The property is located in the Hyde Park District and also a Texas Historical Commission landmark.

AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED: \$12,000.00

AMOUNT OF MATCH OR VALUE OF IN-KIND MATCH: \$4,640 both in-kind and private donations

DO LIENS EXIST AGAINST THE HISTORIC PROPERTY? () YES (x) NO

IF YES, DESCRIBE THE LIENS AND AMOUNTS: _____

Sheila M. Porena
(OWNER OR AUTHORIZED AGENT, AND TENANT IF APPLICABLE)

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) TOURISM JUSTIFICATION: Include substantiation of contribution to the tourism industry in Austin (i.e., annual summary of out of town visitation, copies of promotional material, list of promotional activities, hours of operations, tours provided, etc.).
- 2) HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION: Historic photograph(s) or other documentation (especially those showing the elevation(s) of the historic property where restoration, alterations, changes, and/or improvements are planned).
- 3) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR CITY DESIGNATED LANDMARKS AND LETTER OF APPROVAL FOR STATE DESIGNATED LANDMARKS: Proof of approval for historic property alterations, if required. *NOTE: If an approval is required, the Preservation Agreement with ACVB will not be executed until such documentation has been issued and provided to ACVB.*
- 4) PROJECT BUDGET: Applicant must include a budget, specifying the major components of the restoration/preservation project with associated costs. Also include evidence of other sources of funding, i.e. your own or others' match, and the corresponding work to be performed with these funds.
- 5) THREE COMPETITIVE BIDS for the proposed work (in excess of \$5,000) must accompany the application.
- 6) PROJECT SCHEDULE: Phasing schedule and amount of funding required for each phase, if applicable.
- 7) PROOF OF OWNERSHIP/LEASE/AUTHORIZATION: Copy of the Deed or Will (if applicant is the owner) or documentation showing authorization from owner and any existing lease between owner and applicant.
- 8) INSURANCE: Proof of casualty, fire and federal flood insurance, if applicable.
- 9) PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF PROPOSED WORK.
- 10) INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN THE STATE OF TEXAS
NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE/SIDEWALK RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENTS

In 2010, the Neill-Cochran House began an extensive renovation to the interior and exterior of the home to stabilize the home and increase the use of the home for rentals, seminars and educational programs. Beginning with a foundation excavation and stabilization, lintel replacements, exterior stone and interior structure preservation, the property is now significantly increasing its rentals for events and now needs to address installing a safer, increased compliant stone walkway/sidewalk around the side and front of the structure. This has now become a priority. The original sidewalk is now over 100 years old and in need of replacement, not only from a liability standpoint, but also to enhance the property's ease of access to visitors. Although the house is currently compliant with Texas Accessibility Standards by having the required "Accessible Route," to a building entry (the parking lot path to a wheelchair lift at the building addition entrance, the front walks will require the removal and re-set of stone so that no vertical rise shall exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

As much of the original stone as possible will try to be salvaged but a great deal of new stone will be required to ensure the safety of the surface level for those walking around the property. Since the property is a designated landmark with heritage trees on the property, much care will be taken to ensure the integrity of the trees while installing pathways to resemble the original. Carolyn Kelly, an Austin landscape architect, has agreed to donate her time to design the walkway in keeping with the original style, while also incorporating the pathways into a master plan to create a Victorian garden much like the one that existed in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The first phase of the project is the stone sidewalk.

In keeping with the requirements of the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau Heritage Grant program, we have included the addition of an etched or inlaid metal stone at the joining of the pathways to commemorate the contribution by the ACVB should the this grant request be accepted.

As this home is an Abner Cook in its truest form, it is important to protect this home while also making it more accessible for the general public and continue to increase event revenue potential.

Neill-Cochran House

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 30°17′14″N 97°44′53″W﻿ / ﻿

The **Neill-Cochran House Museum** is a historic home in north-central Austin, Texas, a few blocks west of the University of Texas. It was built in 1855 as a suburban estate many years before the surrounding area was settled by other homes and businesses. The two-story Greek Revival home was designed and constructed by noted master builder Abner Cook and features prominent Doric columns and Mr. Cook's signature "sheaf of wheat" balusters.

History

The House was built on 17.5 acres (71,000 m²) northwest of town for Washington and Mary Hill, although they never occupied it. In 1856, it was leased to the Texas Asylum for the Blind, currently known as the Texas Blind Institute, to serve as its first home until Abner Cook finished the school's campus across town.

Subsequently, the House was leased by Lt. Governor Fletcher Stockdale and, it is believed, former Provisional Governor Andrew J. Hamilton. At the end of the Civil War, Federal troops converted the House into a hospital. General George Armstrong Custer was stationed in Austin during Reconstruction, occupying the blind school and, no doubt, visit the Neill-Cochran House.

In 1876, the home was sold to Colonel Andrew Neill, a Confederate veteran. Neill lived there with his wife Jennie Chapman Neill, who stayed on after Neill's death and in 1893 rented the home to Judge Thomas Beauford Cochran.

Cochran purchased the home outright in 1895 for his family and expanded and modernized the home. In 1958, the Cochran family sold the property to The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in The State of Texas. The NSCDA operates the home today as a historic house museum. The Neill-Cochran House Museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas Historical Commission landmark.

In 2007, White Rabbit Adventure Games published a walk-through computer adventure game based on the Neill-Cochran House. The game, "Sterling's Gift", features a fictional story based on published memoirs and diaries that helps the player solve a 150-year-old mystery involving George Custer's wife Libbie. Royalties from the sale of this unique game go to the Neill-Cochran House Museum.

External links

- Neill-Cochran Museum (<http://www.neill-cochranmuseum.org/>)
- Sterling's Gift Website (<http://www.sterlingsgift.com/>)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Neill-Cochran_House&oldid=560728509"

Categories: Houses on the National Register of Historic Places in Texas | Houses in Austin, Texas | Historic house museums in Texas | Museums in Austin, Texas | Greek Revival architecture in Texas

Neill-Cochran House Museum

U.S. National Register of Historic Places



The Neill-Cochran House Museum in 2007

Location:	2310 San Gabriel Austin, Texas, USA
Coordinates:	30°17′14″N 97°44′53″W﻿ / ﻿
Built:	1855
Architect:	Abner Cook
Architectural style:	Greek Revival
Governing body:	The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Texas
NRHP Reference#:	70000768
Added to NRHP:	August 25, 1970

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TOURISM JUSTIFICATION
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN THE STATE OF TEXAS
NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE/SIDEWALK RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENTS

The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Texas (NSCDA-TX) was established in 1898. The NSCDA actively promotes the national heritage of the United States through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects. The NSCDA-TX purchased the Neill-Cochran House in 1958. This historic property has served as the headquarters for the organization's statewide initiative for over 50 years. Located near the University of Texas campus, the house officially opened as a public museum in 1962 after collecting significant period furnishings and other historic and cultural objects, which formed the basis for its current humanities collection.

Additional activities of the NSCDA-TX members include an annual scholarship to a Texas graduate student studying American history; annual sponsorship of an essay writing contest for high school students to attend a one-week workshop seminar in Washington, D.C.; and a scholarship for a Native American to attend nursing school. Society members also organize and sponsor annual flag programs, attend naturalization ceremonies to greet new citizens and promote broader recognition of the Bill of Rights Day. Additionally, NSCDA-TX also assists with the publication of historically significant books, the preservation of paintings, manuscripts and buildings connected with the early history of the United States, Texas and Austin.

In 2012, the Neill-Cochran received 3,975 visitors, not including event attendees and scholars and researchers who access the archives maintained at the house. The house is open five days-a-week, currently has two employees and 39 active volunteers.

Since it's official opening to the public in 1962, the home has provided "Austinites" and visitors to Austin an example of Cook's interpretation of Greek Revival style, a venue for events, educational programs such as the "Modern Times" lecture series and access for scholars and researchers to historical documents that are being archived at the house. Recently, the home has provided preservation architects working on the reconstruction of the Governor's Mansion, a true sense of what the mansion would have looked like in the mid-1800s as the Neill-Cochran is the same footprint as the Mansion prior to the fire – only 10% smaller.

In the attached Sponsorship Book for 2013, you will find some interesting historic references to the home, references to previous occupants and prior uses of the home.

The organization is actively involved in promoting Austin and other sites throughout the area. A visitor's board includes brochures from most major venues, activities and promotional materials for other historical organizations.

PROPOSED/REVISED BUDGET
for NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE SIDEWALK

Tree Protection and environment controls		\$	250.00
Demolition		\$	500.00
Limestone block, 12" x 12" x 18", 25LF		\$	750.00
Limestone pavers, 24" x 24"x 3", 325 SF		\$	9,750.00
Decomposed granite setting course, 10 CY		\$	750.00
Commemorative ACVB Plaque/Inlay		\$	1,000.00
SUB-TOTAL ACTUAL COST		\$	13,000.00

Carolyn Kelly, ASLA (in-kind)/In-kind			
Design, 6 hours	130/hr	\$	780.00
Planning, 4 hours	130/hr	\$	520.00
Implementation, 10 hours	130/hr	\$	1,300.00
Project Management, 8 hours	130/hr	\$	1,040.00
SUB-TOTAL IN-KIND		\$	3,640.00

TOTAL PROJECT		\$	16,640.00
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July 28, 2013

NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE MUSEUM WALK RENOVATION

Proposed Schedule

1. Prepare Tree Permit and submit to City of Austin Heritage Tree Reviewer.....1 week
2. Install Tree Protection and environmental controls.....1 day
3. Remove and stockpile existing limestone.....1 day
4. Spread base.....1 day
5. Mortar limestone and edge stone in place.....3 days
6. Clean up and remove tree protection.....1 day

TOTAL ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE, AFTER CONTRACTOR SELECTION: 14 DAYS

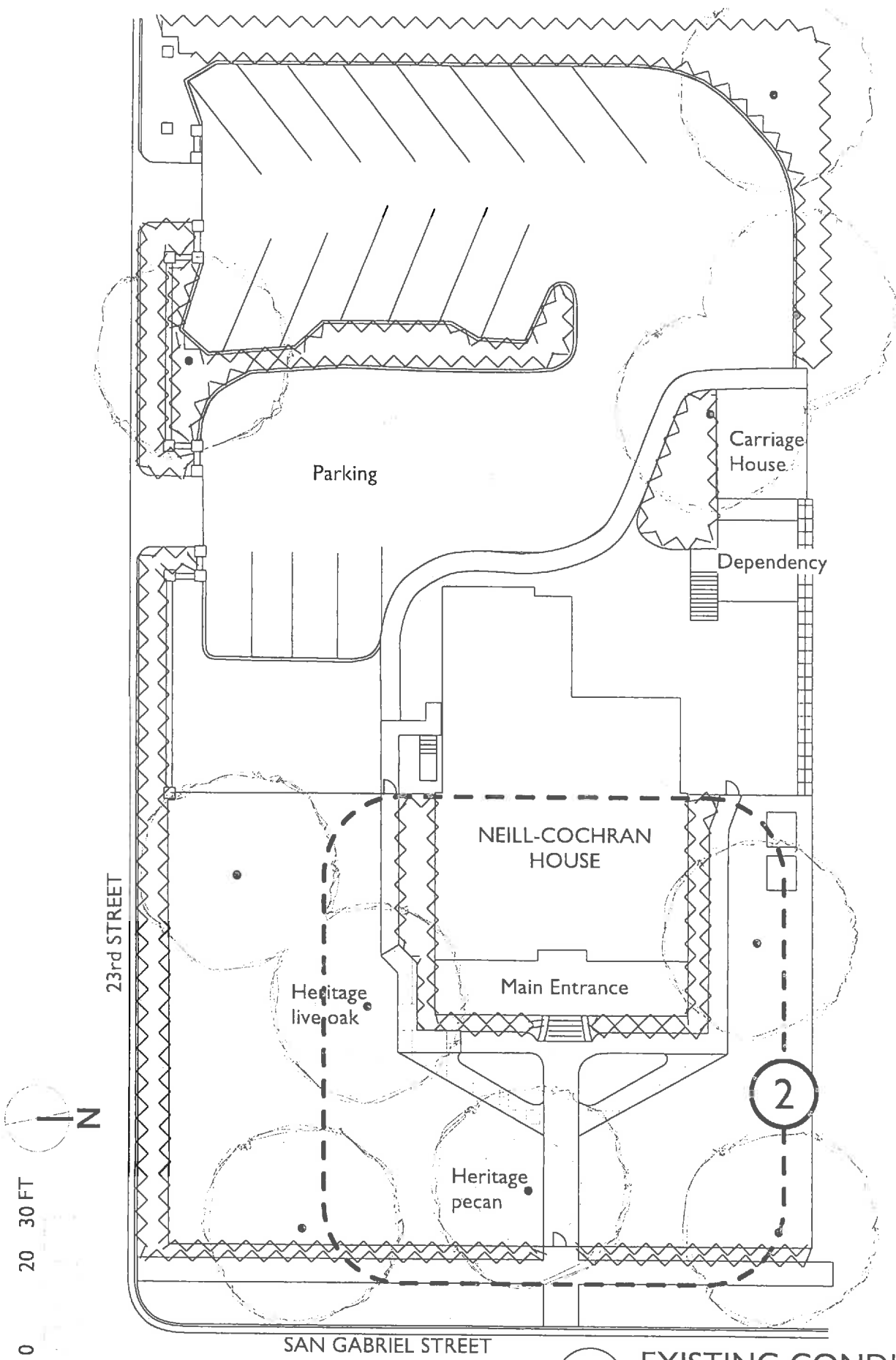
Proposed Budget

Tree Protection and environmental controls	\$ 250
Demolition	\$ 500
Limestone block 12 x 12 x 18" min length, 25 LF	\$ 750
Limestone pavers 24" x 24" x 3" min dimensions, 325 SF	\$9750
Decomposed granite setting course, 10 CY	\$ 750

TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET \$12,000

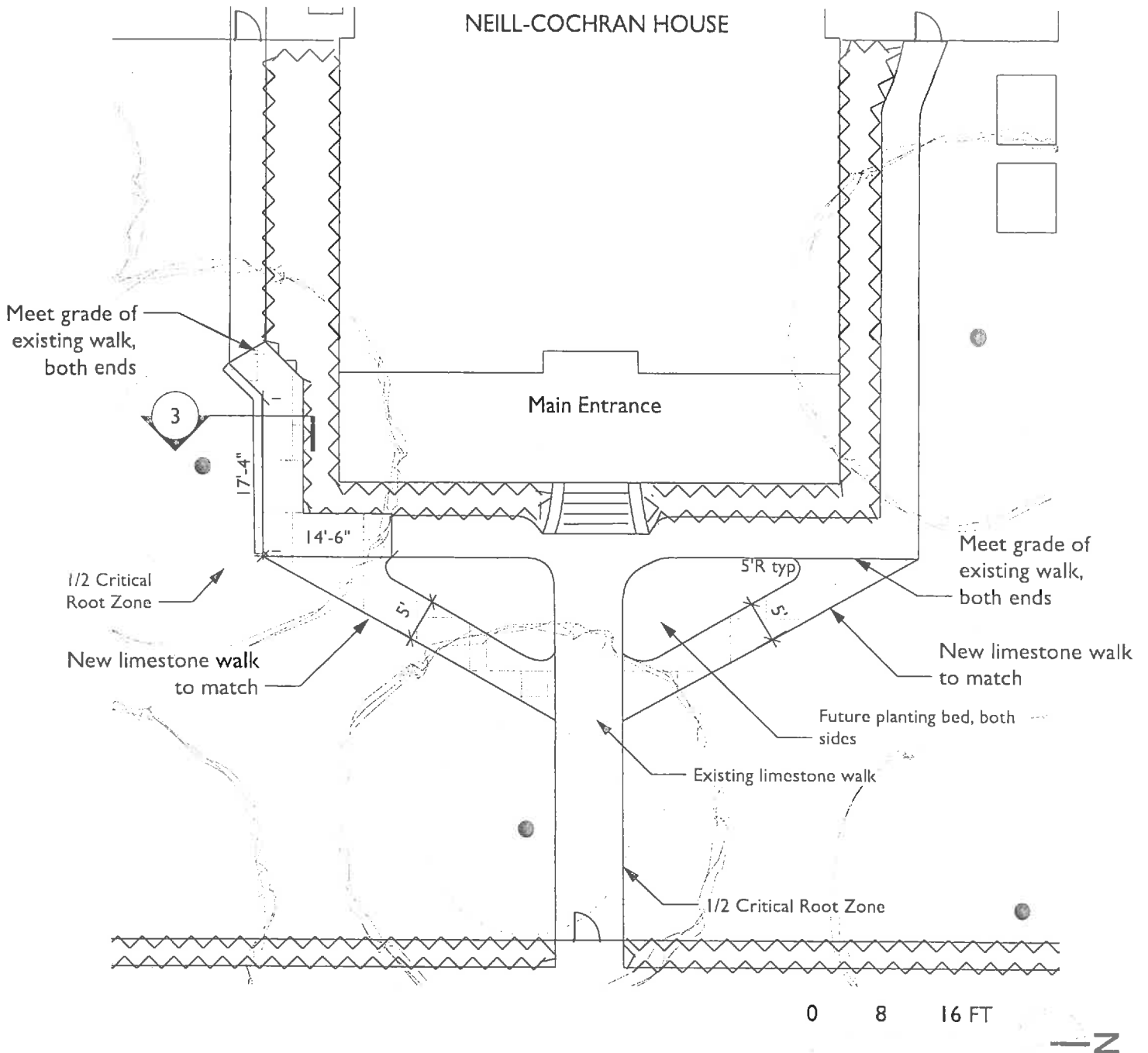
Carolyn Kelley ASLA
Landscape Architect

2905 Oak Crest Avenue
Austin TX 78704
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fax (512)857-1342
carolyn@ckla.net



EXISTING CONDITIONS
Scale: 1" = 30 ft

NEILL-COCHRAN HOUSE



7-28-2013

Carolyn Kelley, ASLA
Landscape Architect

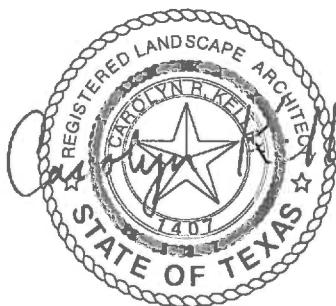
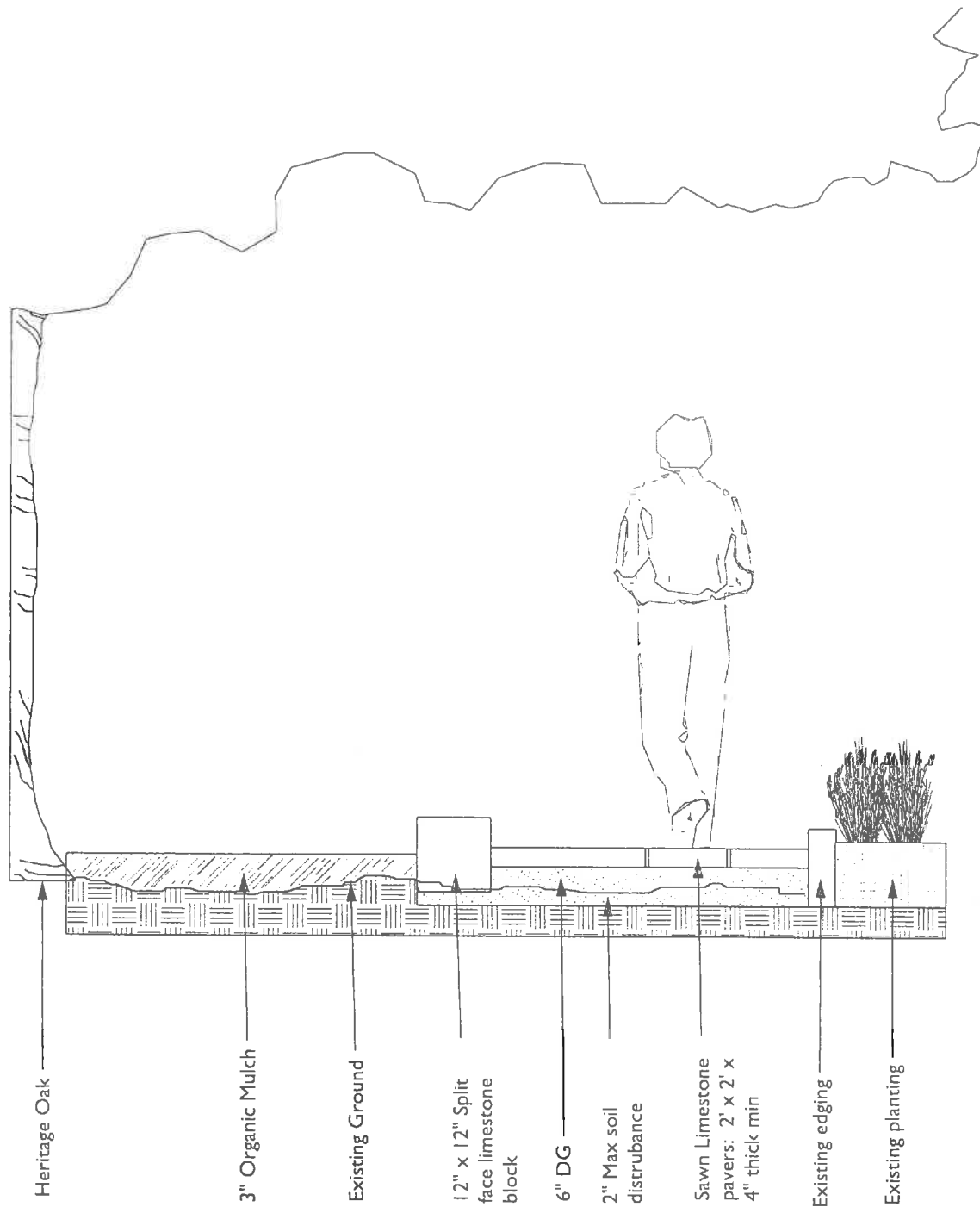
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LANDSCAPE PLAN

Scale: 1/16" = 1'-0"



7-28-2013

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WALK DETAIL

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"