

## 2013 Heritage Grant Application

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) proposes to perform repair work to the historic garden sheds of the Mayfield-Gutsch Estate. PARD will perform all the labor associated with the following aspects for the scope of work:

1. Clean and reseal the cedar posts supports beneath building
2. Improve drainage around structure—irrigation lines that are too close to the sheds re-routing of irrigation lines; installation of pea gravel perimeter to prevent back splash
3. Perform “sound & tight” (lead abatement process) on lead containing paint—PARD does not have evidence that the garden sheds were abated of hazardous material during a previous repair effort in the early 1990s. Abatement of hazardous material must be factored into repair estimates at this time.
4. Clean and repair damaged siding—The board and batten siding on both sheds contains numerous areas of rotting wood. Due to the historic nature of the sheds, every effort will be made to retail original material and follow specifications of measured drawings from Historic American Building Survey (Attachment B). Exact replicas of original battens will be milled and carefully lap-joined to original battens. All new paint will match existing paint.
5. Windows will be professionally re-glazed. A qualified contractor with historic preservation experience will be contracted to perform the work.
6. The stucco chimney on the Visitor’s Shed is detached and pulling away from main wooden structure. The chimney will be cleaned and the joint between the building and chimney will be repaired and sealed.
7. All window and door frames and screens will be cleaned and repaired.
8. The galvanized stove pipe in the Gardener’s Shed will be coated to prevent further rusting.

The repair of the Historic Mayfield Sheds will following the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation and will reference the following National Park Service (NPS) Briefs:

- NPS Brief 9: The Repair of Historic Wooden Windows
- NPS Brief 47: Maintaining the Exteriors of Small and Medium Size Historic Buildings

## Historic Visitor's Shed





## Historic Gardener's Shed





## Historic Gardener's Shed





# Historic American Building Survey: Mayfield-Gutsch House

## MAYFIELD-GUTSCH HOUSE

THE MAYFIELD-GUTSCH HOUSE IS A TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY COTTAGE ON A 25-ACRE WOODED SITE THREE MILES NORTHWEST OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN. IN 1971, MRS. MARY MAYFIELD GUTSCH, THE ONLY CHILD OF ALLISON AND LULA MAYFIELD, DONATED THE LAND TO THE CITY OF AUSTIN AS A RECREATION AREA TO BE NAMED MAYFIELD PARK.

THIS SIMPLE, ONE-STORY BOX CONSTRUCTION HOUSE WITH BOARD AND BATTEN EXTERIOR WAS INTENDED TO BE A SUMMER COTTAGE. FRONT-FACING TWIN GABLES FLANK A CENTRAL LIVING AREA ENTERED THROUGH THE FRONT PORCH IN ANTIS. A PERGOLA IS LOCATED IN THE ELL CREATED BY THE EXTENSION OF THE NORTH GABLE BEYOND THE MAIN BLOCK OF THE HOUSE. A 1930'S EXPANSION ADDED GLASS-EN PORCHES ON THE SIDES AND REAR.

THE GROUNDS, PARTIALLY ENCLOSED BY A FIELDSTONE MASONRY WALL, ARE AN ECLECTIC COLLECTION OF FEATURES COMMON TO SUBURBAN COUNTRY HOME GARDENS OF THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY, BUT ARE UNIQUE FOR A SMALL AUSTIN ESTATE. POOLS CONTAINING LILIES AND OTHER FLOWERING AQUATIC PLANTS ARE ARRANGED TO FORM A QUATREFOIL. A SMALL ROCK GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS THE NATURALISTIC PORTION OF THE GROUNDS, WHILE A SUNKEN HERB AND ROSE GARDEN WITH CENTRAL SUNDIAL PEDESTAL INTRODUCES FORMALITY. SEASONAL FLOWERS AND SHRUBS ORIGINALLY PROVIDED YEAR-ROUND COLOR AMIDST THE LARGE COLLECTION OF PALMS, CRAPE MYRTLES, AND LIVE OAKS. THE STONE WALL IS BROKEN BY ARCHED OPENINGS AND GATES, AND GARDEN ELEMENTS INCLUDE AN OVAL GRASS PATIO AND A PAVED TERRACE OVERLOOKING A SMALL STREAM. A PROMINENT FEATURE OF THE SITE IS THE TIERED, CYLINDRICAL, STONE DOVE COTE.

THE SITE, LOCATED ON THE EAST BANK OF THE COLORADO RIVER, HAS ALWAYS BEEN A DESIRABLE PROPERTY AND WAS MENTIONED BY STEPHEN F. AUSTIN AS A POTENTIAL HOMESTEAD. THE SITE WAS ORIGINALLY PART OF A 1,476 ACRE TRACT WHICH WAS PATENTED IN 1836 BY THOMAS H. MAYS, A BASTROP SURVEYOR, USING A LAND CERTIFICATE PURCHASED FROM DANIEL J. GILBERT. IT WAS ALSO CLAIMED BY TEXAS SUPERIOR JUDGE THOMAS JEFFERSON CHAMBERS UNDER A MEXICAN LAND GRANT OF 1834.

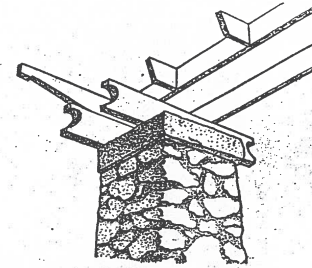
AS AUSTIN GREW IN IMPORTANCE, THE LAND PASSED THROUGH THE HANDS OF SEVERAL INVESTORS AND IN 1860 AUSTIN JUDGE ROBERT J. TOWNES PURCHASED 560 ACRES OUT OF THE ORIGINAL GRANT. HE MADE IT HIS HOME AND EMPLOYED MASTER BUILDER ASHER COOK TO BUILD HIS MANSION, EDMONT. IN 1874, HIS DAUGHTER POLLIE, WIFE

OF ATTORNEY FRED CARLETON, RECEIVED 95 ACRES IN A COURT SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING THE PRESENT SITE. THE CARLETONS, WHO OWNED THE LAND FOR 26 YEARS, MAY HAVE BUILT THE ORIGINAL HOUSE AS A LAKE RETREAT DURING THE 1890'S WHEN THE AUSTIN DAM FOCUSED INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE RIVER.

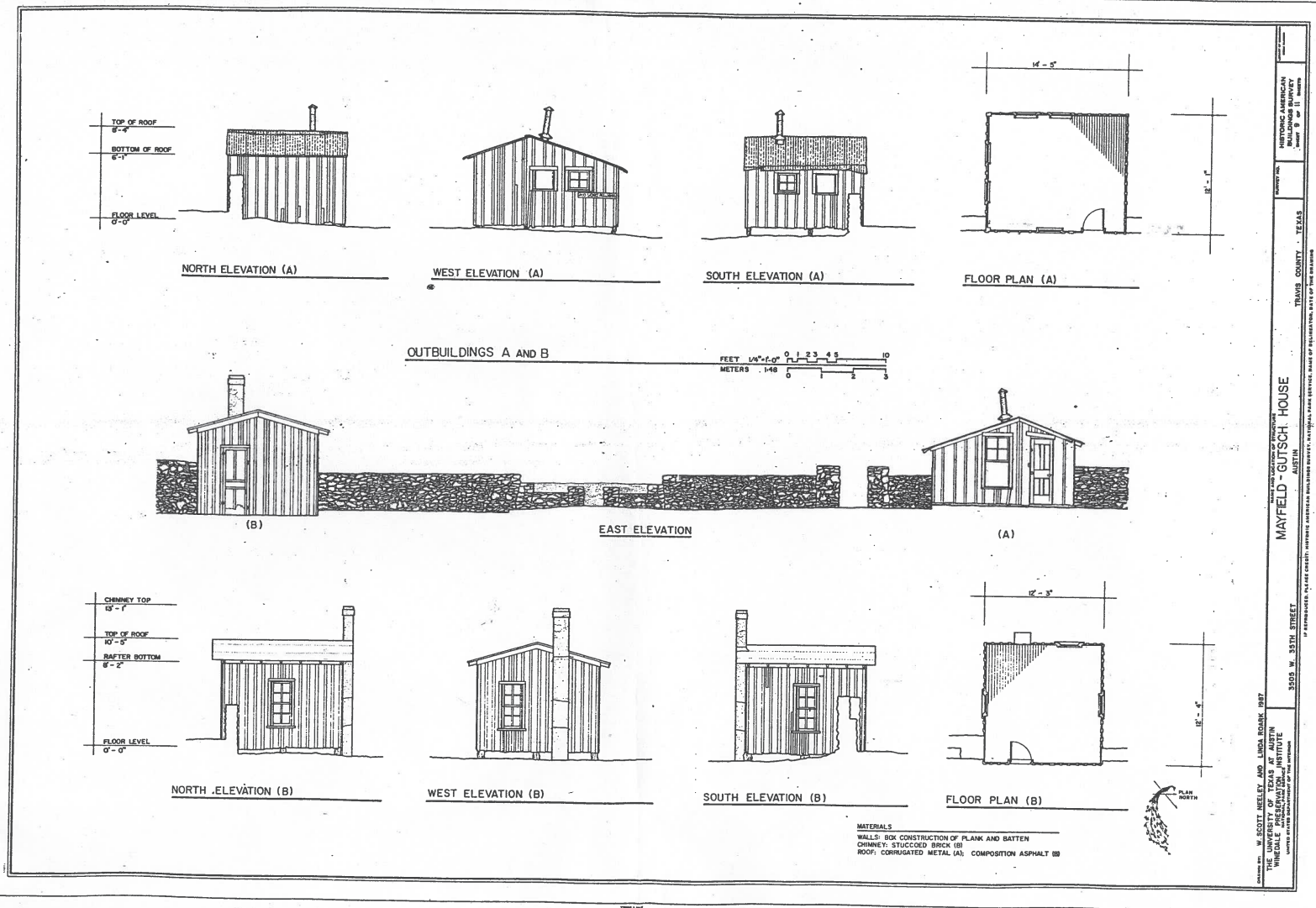
AFTER A FLOOD DESTROYED THE AUSTIN DAM IN 1900, THE PROPERTY WAS SOLD SEVERAL TIMES. IN 1909, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE ALLISON MAYFIELD, THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION, PURCHASED 28.34 ACRES WHICH APPROXIMATES THE PRESENT SITE. MAYFIELD MAY HAVE BUILT THE COTTAGE DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1909 AND 1920 WHILE HIS FAMILY WAS LIVING AT THE DRISKILL HOTEL. HE BEGAN THE EXTENSIVE AND BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPING BEFORE PASSING THE LAND ON TO HIS DAUGHTER, MARY. SHE MARRIED MILTON R. GUTSCH, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, IN 1918. HIS STRONG INTEREST IN BOTANY INSPIRED THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE GARDEN. TOGETHER THEY ADDED THE LILY PONDS, INTRODUCED EXOTIC AQUATIC PLANTS, AND IMPORTED SEVERAL VARIETIES OF PEACOCKS, SOME OF WHICH STILL ROAM THE PROPERTY AND ROOST IN THE LIVE OAKS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1971 WILL OF MARY MAYFIELD GUTSCH, THE CITY OF AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERS THE SITE. IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC YEAR-ROUND AND PROVIDES A SETTING FOR A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS WEDDINGS, GROUP MEETINGS, MEMORIAL SERVICES, BOTANICAL STUDIES AND NATURE WALKS. PLANS ARE CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED FOR RESTORATION OF THE HOME AND GARDENS BY THE AUSTIN NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION GUILD.

THE DOCUMENTATION OF THE MAYFIELD-GUTSCH HOUSE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN WINEDALE INSTITUTE IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. THE PROJECT WAS CONDUCTED IN JUNE 1987 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF PROFESSOR WAYNE BELL, F.A.I.A., DIRECTOR OF THE WINEDALE INSTITUTE, AND BESS ALTHAUS GRAHAM, GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT. DRAWINGS AND TEXT WERE PREPARED BY: ANA CAROLINA CASTILLO, PATRICIA KEHOE CLARK, PETER CRENNELL, ANN CUTHBERTSON, ELIZABETH C. FRANK, LESLIE GILES, NANCY LEISER, W. SCOTT NEELEY, KATHY A. PANAK, GEORGIA PEKOUJAS, LINDA ROARK, DONNIE SCHAEFFER, ANNE PARMLY TOXEY, AND TERESA W. WINGFIELD. PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION BY LINDA ROARK.

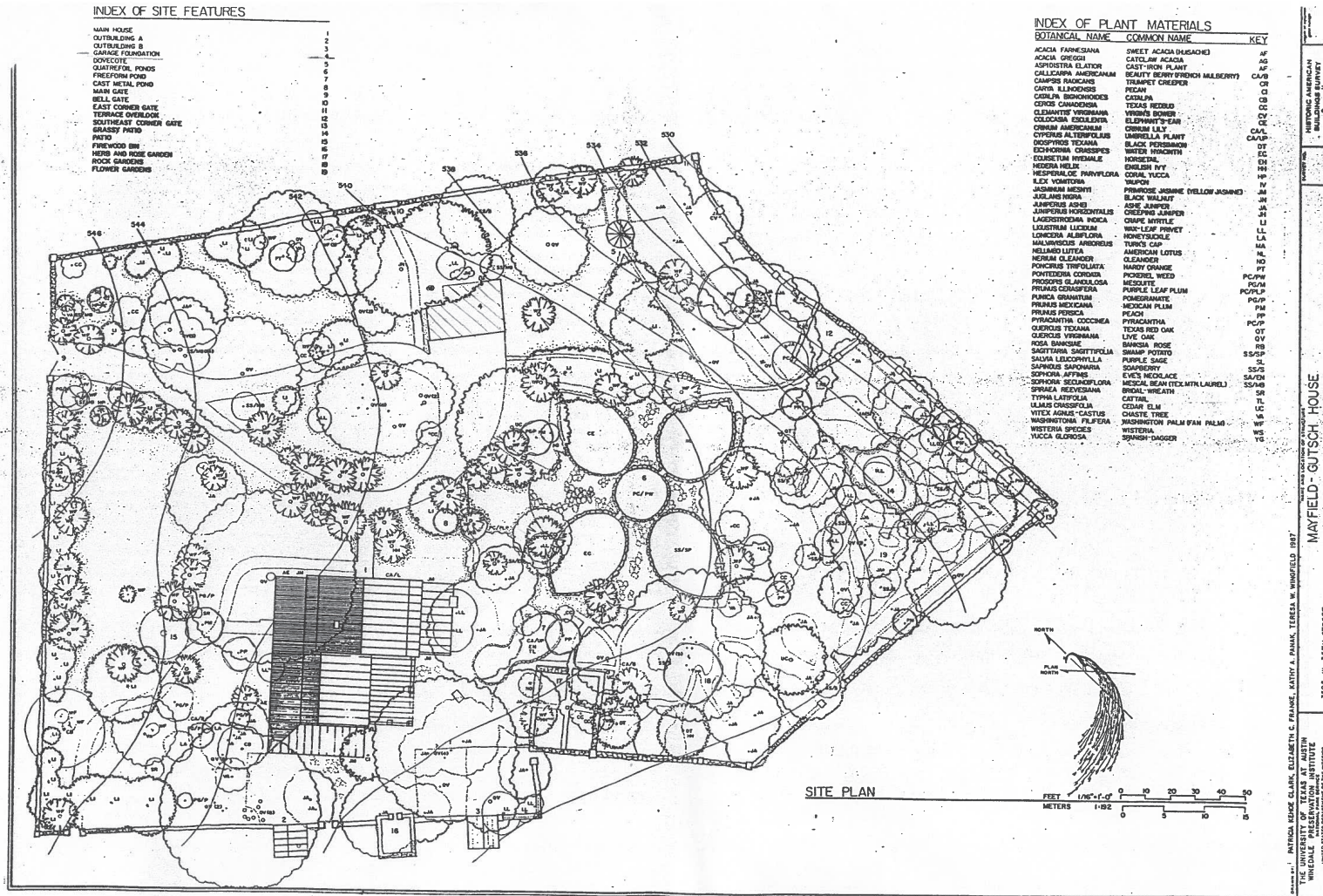


# Historic American Building Survey: Mayfield Garden Sheds





# Historic American Building Survey: Mayfield-Gutsch Site Plan





# Mayfield Wall Repair

