

608 3rd St., Austin, TX

Past, Present and Future

As the happy new owner of the historical little cottage currently located at 608 3rd St, I cherish and celebrate it's **Past** history while I am **Presently** coordinating the move of the cottage and greatly looking forward to the **Future** of restoring and making it my home.

Since first seeing this cottage, I have been researching and documenting the history of the cottage and the stories of the people who have lived there. I have always loved historical properties and have been fortunate to restore several and make them my home.

When I first saw the little blue cottage at 608 3rd St., I was fascinated, excited and knew instantly that I wanted to preserve and respect the past life of the cottage while bringing new life to it. As "pride of ownership" is building, I drive by the little cottage frequently to ease my concerns of vandalism to the original "wavey" glass windows which are vulnerable at this time. I hope to protect and preserve it's historical value and character.

After a divorce in 2015, I returned to Texas from Colorado as my Texas roots run very deep! My entire family resides in Austin and all attended the University of Texas. My parents were from Wichita Falls, Texas as was relative James Allred, who was known as "the fighting District Attorney", and later became the Attorney General and in 1934 became the Governor of Texas.

As I enjoy exploring historical areas and upon moving to Austin in 2019, the first place I insisted on having lunch with my sister was the historical Avenue B grocery store (1909) in the historic Hyde Park area. My sister who is also a proud Texan and Austinite was a 3rd grade teacher at Hyde Park Baptist School for 27 years. Each year she took her students on a walking history tour of the historic Hyde Park area and ended the tour at the Avenue B grocery store for lunch.

As previously mentioned I returned to Texas in 2015. I purchased an adorable cottage in Brenham built in 1930 that I instantly knew was perfect for me. I restored the home and converted the garage to a guest house. The challenge was to remodel the garage to maintain the period character and design of the main house. I had to find contractors who understood my visions. Example, I purchased a kitchen unit from Round Top from the 1800's, restored it, in lieu of the recommended modern granite countertops. I purchased a clawfoot tub manufactured in 1930, restored it and it became of focal area of the 600 square foot guest house. I also purchased a vintage fireplace from Round Top that was originally from a farm house in Pennsylvania. The garage/cottage turned out fabulous and I sold the property in 2019. The property sold on the first day listed and the new owners currently are operating the property as a BNB.

Due to the quick sell of the Brenham property, I needed to purchase a new home promptly as I was not expecting my home to sell on the first day listed.

I searched every day for a new property and found a little cottage in Bellville built in 1920. The owner had passed away and the home was to be auctioned. Upon driving by the the property, I knew immediately that I wanted that little cottage (the same reaction that I had at seeing the

Brenham house and the 608 3rd St cottage), but the auction was scheduled for 3 months later, and I needed something sooner. I decided to take a chance and wait in hopes of being high bidder at the auction. I was able to tour the property before the auction and it was in the exact state and condition of the time of the owner's death. She had passed away in the living room while eating and the food was still on the counters. The scene was very sad, but I could vision her life there and how beautiful the property once was. I engaged the neighbors and learned of the sweet lady that had lived there and how the community loved her. Her Pastor stopped by and introduced himself and shared stories of her and how she treasured the gardens and flowers she grew and tended to every day. He blessed the house and said she would be very happy that I bought the little house and was restoring it, as she had not been able to maintain the little cottage for sometime.

I loved the little cottage as she had loved it!

Happily and completely surprised, I was the winning bidder at auction and I moved in immediately even though there was no air conditioning, the house had an unpleasant odor and the yard was overgrown. I took my time and restored the little cottage and loved every moment. I never intended to leave the cottage or Bellville. However, due to unplanned life changes, I felt I needed to move closer to Austin and my family. In 2019 I moved to Austin and sold the cottage in Bellville.

I have missed my little cottage and the small town community but have enjoyed being near family and Austin.

If only I could have both!

Then the best thing happened, I discovered I could have both. I found 608 3rd ST!! Just my "cup of tea". The last couple of months I have been working with Warren Wellborne in securing the house and I set out to find the perfect relocation spot. I have found a beautiful lot in historic Smithville, Texas, less than an hour drive from my family in Austin's Great Hills area. The lot is in the city and is lush with mature beautiful trees. The street is perfect for this little house to sit on as the surrounding homes are vintage and 608 3rd St will fit right in, and at some point, will shine!!

I am anxious, excited and ready to restore and live in this little cottage in the small, historic and quaint town of Smithville, whose location enables me to continue to enjoy Austin's mainstream events and activities with my family.

Dreams do come true and I will have both, a small town community close to Austin and family. And, the most unbelievable part, a little cottage rich of history and full of life!

I am so happy to share my visions and inspirations for 608 3rd St. and thankful for everyone's help in making my dream come true.

With Gratitude,

Deborah Kay Allred

Past - Bellville (1920) and Brenham Cottages (1930)



Future !!!!

608 3rd St., Austin

