



# HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## Historic Assessment

**Property Address:** 2602 West Travis Street

### 1. Application Details

Applicant: Adrian Castillo  
Type: Historic Landmark Designation  
Date Received: 3 October 2024

### 2. Findings

The structure at 2602 West Travis Street is a one-story dwelling, built circa 1915. Maria L. Cortez currently owns the property. The subject property is located in the Prospect Hill neighborhood, two blocks east of North Zarzamora Street, and two blocks north of the West Commerce Street commercial corridor. It is situated midblock on West Travis Street, between North Calaveras Street and North Chupaderas Street. The area is characterized by well-constructed bungalows and appealing cottages.

The earliest identified references to "Prospect Hill" appear to have been made in San Antonio newspaper articles in 1884. One article (*SA Light*, 12/8/1884) refers to "Prospect Hill" at the far west side of the city as being a hill with "about 280 or more beautiful residential lots through the center of which the Prospect Hill street railroad expect to run their line..." "Prospect Hill" is the name given by its owners and the Street Car company to a track of high lands lying 700 varas directly west of the International passenger and freight depots in this city,...W. Commerce Street running directly to and through it." Alazan Creek formed the eastern boundary of the area. Owners of the property were Samuel Maverick and J.P. Moss.

The streetcar line was to run down Commerce Street, which was the center line of Prospect Hill. The original area of Prospect Hill was historically ethnically diverse with Germans, Mexican immigrants, and African Americans. Sacred Heart Catholic Church, established in 1911, originally served a largely German population. St. Agnes Catholic Church, established in 1923, served a predominantly Mexican congregation. African Americans were served by several African Methodist Episcopal chapels established in the late 1880s and Dunbar School. Within this area, Crockett School on the City's Westside was part of the early San Antonio public school system and was originally referred to as the "Prospect Hill School." It is now the center for The Mexican American Unity Council. The ethnicity of the area began to change after the Mexican Revolution of 1917, when approximately 25,000 Mexican immigrants came to San Antonio.

The subject property first appears in the 1916 City Directory as 2902 West Travis Street, the home of Robert C. Tarbutton, who was employed at that time as the secretary to the General Manager for the San Antonio Uvalde & Gulf Railroad. His father, T.S. Tarbutton, was a widely known claim agent for the International & Great Northern Railroad. He was a native of Troup, Texas, and in 1911, he was transferred to I & GN headquarters in San Antonio from the Tyler office. He purchased the subject property in 1912, but never resided there. In February 1915, after months of illness, he died at age 50 in his residence at 3015 West Commerce Street. The property was transferred to his son, Robert. The original street name was Zavala, which was renamed to West Travis in 1915. The street numbers changed after urban renewal development in the 1960s, and the subject property became 2602 West Travis Street.

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## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In 1926, Robert Tarbutton married Virginia Mae Dugger, and in April 1927 he became Vice President and General Manager of the Alamo Blue Print and Supply Company. Over the previous year, the company had tripled its business, doubled its floor space at 506 North Presa Street, and added a number of new lines to its services. The company had grown to be one of the most extensive dealers in city and county maps in San Antonio, with files containing detailed maps of every city block in San Antonio and suburban additions. They also bore the complete set of survey maps of all Texas counties, taken from the General Land Office files in Austin. After Robert's death in 1950, Mrs. Tarbutton carried on the business for many years. She graduated in art from Trinity University and was past president of the Texas Chapter of the National Federation of Music Clubs and a founder of the River Art Show. She was a life member of the River Art Group, the Woman's Club of San Antonio, and the Witte Museum and a member of the San Antonio Conservation society, the San Antonio Art League, and the Coppini Academy of Fine Arts. The Tarbuttons last resided at 203 Primrose Place in Alamo Heights, and they are interred in Mission Burial Park.

Maria Cortez purchased the property in September 2007.

### 3. Architectural Description

The subject property is a single-story Craftsman bungalow built circa 1915, with a low-pitched, hipped roof with overhanging eaves and vented dormers on the front and left sides. The right side of the roof features a cross-gabled center section that is offset from the rest of the façade. The full-width, L-shaped front porch is supported by six round columns with square capitals. In the rear is a small, concrete porch with three steps and a metal handrail. The standing-seam metal roof replaced asphalt shingles between 2013 and 2014, according to Google Street View images. The left and right façades feature sets of paired single-sash vinyl windows, and smaller one-over-one vinyl windows bathroom. The walls of each façade are covered with wooden clapboard siding.

The front yard is enclosed by metal vertical rod fencing, with an electronic gate on the east side of the property along Chupaderas Street, to access the driveway adjacent to the rear facade. There is a rear accessory dwelling unit near the back property line. This single-story casita faces Chupaderas Street and has a low-pitched, side-gabled roof with a standing-seam metal roof. The front façade has an aluminum front door, and there are two one-over-one vinyl windows to the left of the door. The left façade of the casita features two single-sash vinyl windows.

Character-defining features of 2602 West Travis Street include:

- Low-pitched hipped roof with overhanging eaves
- Vented dormers
- L-shaped front porch supported by round columns
- Rear accessory dwelling unit (casita)

### 4. Landmark Criteria

The property meets six criteria under UDC 35-607(b):

- **3: Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the community, county, state, or nation;** for its association with the Tarbutton family.

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- **5: Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials;** as an example of a 1910s Craftsman bungalow with a low-pitched, hipped roof with overhanging eaves, vented dormers, and L-shaped front porch supported by round columns.
- **8: Its historical, architectural, or cultural integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship;** as an example of a Craftsman bungalow in the Prospect Hill neighborhood.
- **13: It bears an important and significant relationship to other distinctive structures, sites, or areas, either as an important collection of properties or architectural style or craftsmanship with few intrusions, or by contributing to the overall character of the area according to the plan based on architectural, historic or cultural motif;** based on its location on a corner property in the Prospect Hill Neighborhood.

## 5. Staff Recommendation

A property must meet at least three of the 16 criteria used to evaluate eligibility for landmark designation, and this assessment determines that 2602 West Travis Street meets this threshold. Further research may reveal additional significance associated with this property.



# HISTORIC PRESERVATION



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*1. 2602 West Travis Street – Front façade*

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# HISTORIC PRESERVATION



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*2. 2602 West Travis Street – Northwest oblique*

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# HISTORIC PRESERVATION



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*3. 2602 West Travis Street – Northeast oblique*

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## HISTORIC PRESERVATION



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*4. 2602 West Travis Street – Southeast oblique*

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## HISTORIC PRESERVATION



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*5. 2602 West Travis Street – Casita & carport, front façade (East)*

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# HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS: "SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 3, 1927.

## Better Homes Booster



Dr. Paul B. Kern, pastor of the Travis Park Methodist Church, is one of the speakers for the second lecture session of the Educational Better Homes Institute in the auditorium of the Builders Exchange Building, at 2 p. m. Monday.

"Cleanliness" will be his subject.

This talk is in line with the city-wide paint-up and clean-up campaign.

Dr. Kern is an enthusiastic supporter of the Educational Better Homes Institute, because of the civic service which is being rendered.

## S. A. COMPANY IS ORGANIZED

Alamo Blue Print, Supply  
Adds to Executive  
Personnel.

With its business more than trebled during the last 12 months, the Alamo Blue Print and Supply Co., Inc., announced a reorganization Saturday to care for its rapid expansion. The company recently doubled its floor space at 506 North Presa Street, and has added a number of new lines to its services.

Officers of the new organization are Roland L. Gohmert, president and treasurer; Robert C. Tarbutton, vice president and general manager; Carey L. Lackey, vice president and sales manager, and George P. Rejona, secretary. Charles R. Southwell, who founded the business in 1906, retires from the company.

Gohmert, until recently, was prominently identified in local railroad circles. He was for many years freight claim agent for the S. A. U. & G. Railway and later the Missouri Pacific Lines. Tarbutton, for many years, was also identified with local railway circles as purchasing agent for the same lines that Gohmert was connected with. Lackey was formerly on the faculty of Brackenridge Senior School. Rejona has been in charge of the map department of the company for about eight years.

The company has grown to be one of the most extensive dealers in city and county maps in San Antonio. Their files contain detailed maps of every city block in San Antonio and suburban additions. They also have the complete set of survey maps of all Texas counties, taken from the land office files at Austin. Their facilities for making blueprints are complete.

In addition to maps, the company also handles a complete line of drafting and office supplies.

managed by the Chadwick-Springer Company.

Vella has purchased considerable San Antonio real estate in the two years in which he has been a resident of this city.

7. San Antonio Express (April 3, 1927), pg. 43

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time Monday night."

### Services Tuesday For R. C. Tarbutton

Funeral services for Robert C. Tarbutton, 57, 203 Primrose Place, will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Porter Loring Chapel. Interment will be in Mission Burial Park, with Mr. Melvin Roberts officiating.

He died in a hospital Sunday. Tarbutton was born in Troup, Texas, and came to San Antonio when he was 18. He worked for the I.&G.N. Railroad here, and owned the Alamo Blue Print and Supply Company.

Tarbutton was a Mason, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Traffic Club and the Federation of Music Clubs.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Virginia Mae Tarbutton, and sister, Mrs. Floy Cadwallader, both of San Antonio.

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8. *San Antonio Express* (March 27, 1950, pg. 2)

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## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1700 S.E. Military Dr.

### TARBUTTON

Mrs. Virginia Mae Dugger Tarbutton, a member of a pioneer Texas family and a San Antonio businesswoman and friend of the arts, died at her home in Alamo Heights last week at the age of 76. Mrs. Tarbutton's grandfather, Hardy Dugger, moved to Texas from Tennessee and homesteaded a farm south of Seguin before the Civil War. The Dugger cemetery is located four miles south of Seguin; the old Dugger school, adjacent to the cemetery, is now the Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church. Mrs. Tarbutton was born to W. L. and Rose Dugger in Seguin on July 1, 1906. Educated in the San Antonio public schools, Mrs. Tarbutton took a job with a local railroad company and there met Robert Tarbutton of Troup, Texas, whom she married in 1926. Tarbutton acquired an arts supply business and built it into Alamo Blue Print and Supply, a flourishing business located on South Presa Street just south of Houston Street. After his death in 1950, Mrs. Tarbutton carried on the business for many years. She graduated in art from Trinity University and was past president of the Texas Chapter of the National Federation of Music Clubs and a founder of the River Art Show. She was a life member of the River Art Group, the Woman's Club of San Antonio, and the Witte Museum and a member of the San Antonio Conservation Society, the San Antonio Art League, the Coppini Academy of Fine Arts, the Trinity University Alumni Association, and the San Antonio Chapter No. 3 O.E.S. Survivors are her sister, Beatrice, Mrs. Maurice Gill, San Antonio; her brother, W. L. Dugger of Rockport and San Antonio; her aunt, Mrs. Florence Zuehl of Zeuhl and San Antonio; four nieces and nephews, Richard D. Vaughan of Ormond Beach, Fla., Mrs. Barbara V. Long of San Antonio, Roy A. Dugger of Austin and San Antonio, and Ronnie Dugger of Austin and San Antonio; and seven grandnieces and grandnephews, Cindy Simmons of Hackettstown, N.J., Kathy Vaughan and Robert B. Vaughan of Ormond Beach, Fla., Curt Long of Blacksburg, Va., Michael Dugger of Austin, Gary Dugger of Tehachapi, Calif., and Celia Dugger of Cambridge, Mass. Visitation until 12 o'clock noon Monday. Service Monday at 1 o'clock in the Colonial Chapel of the Porter Loring Mortuary. Dr. Perry F. Webb officiating. Interment in Mission Burial Park. Arrangements with

**Porter Loring**  
1101 McCULLOUGH 227-8221

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*8. San Antonio Express (December 13, 1976, pg. 37)*

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