

Castle Hill Local Historic District

James Raymond, the last treasurer of the Republic of Texas and the first Treasurer of the State of Texas, originally owned this area as part of 200 acres west of downtown Austin. Raymond sold 32 acres of this land to the Texas Military Institute (TMI), which constructed the iconic "castle" structure in 1869 that is now the namesake for the district. In 1871 Raymond platted the first subdivision in West Austin, "Raymond Heights," consisting of large lots along West 6th Street. Most of these lots were developed with large mansion properties, five of which, built between 1872 and 1877, remain in the district with little alteration. By the end of the 1870s, TMI had once again moved, later to become what is now Texas A & M University. The "castle" then served as a German school for the next decade.

The Castle Hill Local Historic District comprises most of the eastern portion of the West Line National Register Historic District (NRHD), named for the establishment of the City's first streetcar line, which ran along what is now West 6th Street. Much of the second wave of development during the period of significance (1870-1960) for Castle Hill occurred as a result of the availability of this transportation for working class families and individuals.

Period of Significance: 1870-1960

Description of the District

Within the approximately 39 acres of the Castle Hill Historic District, there are 175 properties of which 116 were considered contributing at the time of designation. Within the district are 16 city landmarks including Fire House #4 and a "Moonlight Tower" at the corner of West 12th and Blanco Streets. The district is primarily residential, except for Fire House #4, built in 1908, and commercial properties along West 6th Street. Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles dominate the earliest buildings constructed during the end of the 19th Century, some of which were large family mansions. Smaller buildings built after the turn of the century tend to be bungalows and Classical Revival style homes. The overall blend of architectural styles reflects the transition from the Victorian Age to the 20th Century and the development of west Austin.

[Map of Castle Hill Local Historic District](#)

[List of Properties](#)

[Castle Hill Local Historic District Preservation Plan and Design Standards](#)