

Robertson/Stuart & Mair Historic District

The varied history of the Robertson/Stuart & Mair Historic District reflects that of Austin and the State of Texas. The district's earliest building is the French Legation, which was built in 1840 for the French representative to the Republic of Texas. At that time, the building was located in a rural area called the Outlots. After the Civil War, the Outlots were subdivided and sold to newly free African Americans and European immigrants. The African American landowners settled on the west edge of the district in a community first called Pleasant Hill and later Robertson Hill; European immigrants settled in the central and east portions of the district.

Throughout the 20th century, the district's population grew to include more African Americans, Mexican Americans, and Lebanese Americans. Significant turning points included the 1928 city plan that segregated Austin by restricting public services east of East Avenue (now I-35) and, after World War II, the exodus of predominantly white households to the suburbs. Though the district's population decreased in the postwar period, Mexican American households continued to move there, and African American community institutions in the district and nearby remained strong. After 1956, East Avenue was widened into I-35 and many properties in the Robertson Hill community were demolished.

Period of Significance: 1840-1965

Description of the District

The Robertson/Stuart & Mair Historic District is roughly bounded by the French Legation's western boundary on the west, San Marcos Street, the alley between E. 9th and E. 10th streets, Waller Street, the alley between E. 10th and E. 11th streets, Lydia Street, W. 9th Street, Navasota Street, and the alley between E. 7th and E. 8th streets (see map). It contains 123 principal buildings, of which 85 (69%) retain a high degree of historic integrity and contribute to the historic character of the district. Most contributing buildings were constructed as residences; the district also includes a church and a commercial building.

Principal architectural styles in the Robertson/Stuart & Mair Historic District include:

- Victorian and Folk Victorian (circa 1870-1925)
- National Folk (1880-1940)
- Craftsman (1910-50)
- Minimal Traditional (1940-60)

[Map of Robertson/Stuart & Mair Historic District](#)

[List of Properties](#)

[Robertson/Stuart & Mair Design Standards](#)