

Aldridge Place Local Historic District

Albert Buddington, a prosperous local settler, built the first home in what would become Aldridge Place in 1860. The University of Texas was established to the south in 1883, prompting the development of Hyde Park in 1891 and associated streetcar lines that connected the neighborhood to the rest of Austin. Other commuter suburbs were soon platted nearby, and in 1912 Lewis Hancock, a former Austin mayor and prominent banker, saw an opportunity. He platted Aldridge Place as “the suburb beautiful,” hewing to the nationally popular City Beautiful style.

Development was initially slow. However, the end of World War I precipitated more rapid growth, as well-to-do professionals purchased homes along the neighborhood’s winding treed streets. During the Great Depression, construction continued apace; many property owners also converted garages into apartments by adding a story. By 1941, Aldridge Place was nearly fully developed. Postwar Ranch Style and Mid-century Modern houses filled the remaining vacant lots in the late 1940s-1950s. The district retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Period of Significance: 1860; 1912-1965

Description of the District

The 34-acre Aldridge Place Historic District contains 147 residential buildings, 10 structures such as bridges and stone entry gates, historic streetlamps, and Hemphill Park. Of the 159 surveyed resources, 141 (88%) contribute to the historic character of the district. The district contains 14 locally designated historic landmarks significant for their outstanding Craftsman and Period Revival architecture.

The earliest existing building is Albert Buddington’s 1860 limestone Texas Vernacular plantation house. Other buildings include early 20th century houses built in a simple vernacular style, Period Revival-style houses built between 1919 and the late 1930s, and Ranch Style and Mid-century Modern houses built in the late 1940s-1950s. Hemphill Park retains original landscape elements from its 1912 founding, as well as rough-hewn elements constructed as part of the Depression-era Works Progress Administration’s New Deal.

[Map of Aldridge Place Local Historic District](#)

[List of Properties](#)

[Aldridge Place Preservation Plan and Design Standards](#)