



**South Alamo Street +
South Saint Mary's Street**
National Register Historic District



Along the Acequia Concepción

Robert H. H. Hugman
(1902 – 1980) "Father of the River Walk"

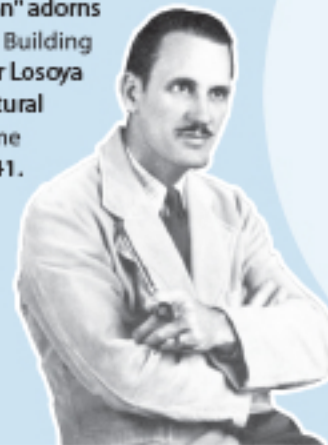
Robert H. H. Hugman is the architect now recognized as the visionary behind the world-famous San Antonio River Walk. Born in San Antonio on February 8, 1902, Robert Harvey Harold Hugman attended Brackenridge High School and graduated in 1924 from the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. Hugman, his wife Martha and their two children returned to San Antonio in 1927 and lived at 503 Madison. After Robert's father died in 1932, they moved into Hugman's parents' home at 108 Fir Street.

After downtown San Antonio suffered a series of floods, plans were proposed to convert the bend of the river into a covered concrete storm sewer. The San Antonio Conservation Society and other civic groups rallied in opposition. In 1929 Hugman introduced his proposal "The Shops of Aragon and Romula," a visionary river beautification and flood-control plan.

In 1938 his proposal was finally adopted when funds became available from the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Hugman designed 31 unique staircases, bridges, and an outdoor theater, and many other features. His landscape plan introduced 11,000 new trees and shrubs to the existing bald cypresses.

Barely a year into the project, problems developed between Hugman and Mayor Maury Maverick, who had been an early River Walk supporter. Although he lost his job directing the River Walk project, Hugman continued to advise the project's new directors. Sadly, he fell into relative obscurity in the years that followed. He did work for the military, and his private practice included several residences in San Antonio. Hugman died on July 22, 1980 at the age of 78.

Today the name "Robert H.H. Hugman" adorns the river level facade of the Clifford Building by the Commerce Street Bridge near Losoya Street. Hugman set up his architectural office at this location at the same time the River Walk was completed in 1941. A pedestrian bridge over the river was named for him to honor his exceptional vision and his long-standing dedication to bring the river to life.

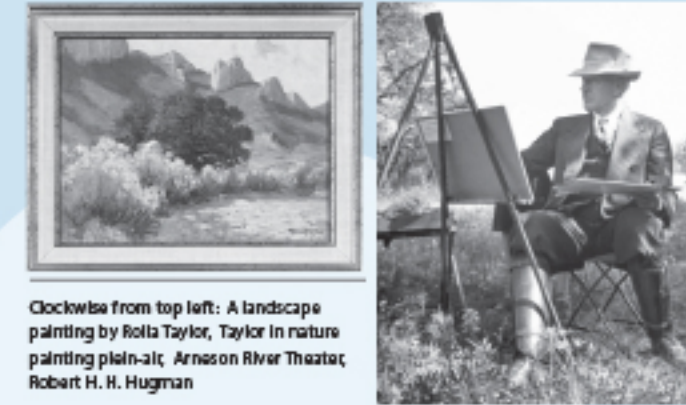


Rolla Sims Taylor
(1872 – 1970) Noted King William Artist

Taylor was born in Georgia. His family moved to Cuero, Texas when he was young, and he started his study of art there. His family moved again, this time to San Antonio. At the age of 17 Taylor continued his art studies with well-known painters Jose Arpa, Theodore Gentilz, and Robert Julian Onderdonk.

His other studies included shorthand which he used as a court reporter at the Bexar County Courthouse, and law which he studied at night to earn a law degree although he never practiced as an attorney. In a newspaper article Taylor is quoted as saying "art is a complement to law. It develops the power to observe and to appreciate the things we see."

Taylor's paintings covered San Antonio, the river, the Texas hill country, and scenes from his vacations in Mexico. His work can be seen at many local museums and the San Antonio Art League (130 King William). His work continues to appreciate: in 2006 one painting sold for \$25,000. He retired from his court reporter career after 50 years and continued to paint from his home (611 Mission Street) until his death at age 98.



Clockwise from top left: A landscape painting by Rolla Taylor, Taylor in nature painting plain-alc, Aragon River Theater, Robert H. H. Hugman



Credits

About Us:

The King William Association is a nonprofit organization of residents and citizens dedicated to preserving the architectural character and the residential heritage of the neighborhood located south of downtown San Antonio. This area is protected by national and city historic designations. Your financial support of our efforts to preserve the distinctive inventory of San Antonio's historic architecture is greatly appreciated.

For more information or to make a contribution please contact us at:

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This publication is part of our continuing mission to educate the public on the history and unique architecture of the King William Area. The project was partially funded by the Texas Commission on the Arts and is the result of a concerted effort to research and publicize noteworthy properties.

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Bonham Academy



Bonham School class in 1900; Facade of original building.



(James Butler Bonham Elementary) • 925 South St. Mary's Street

Opened as School #10, this campus was often called the Garden Street School because it faced that thoroughfare (now called South St. Mary's Street). In 1902, the school was renamed to honor Texas hero James Butler Bonham. Although he was born in South Carolina, his lasting friendship with William Barrett Travis brought him to Texas. They both died at the Alamo on March 6, 1836.

Bonham Elementary School was built to serve the King William area of San Antonio. Despite some question about the actual year of its beginning (1889 or 1893), it is the oldest continuously operating school in San Antonio.

Originally King William was the wealthiest residential area of the city and many prominent business and civic leaders were students here.

Bonham is one of the best and oldest examples of San Antonio's school buildings constructed in the Victorian style. The building is a two-story, load-bearing structure of stretcher bond coursed brick trimmed with pink granite.

In 1903 Bonham School had an enrollment of 532 students in eight classrooms. In 1912, wings with four rooms each were added on either side of the original central building.

The windows were placed very high in these classrooms, disregarding any consideration for cross ventilation, so that students could not look outside.

In 1978 Bonham was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2015 the school embarked on an ambitious renovation and expansion, with additions that include a black box theater. The King William Association has provided grants to the school for several decades, insuring that this inner city school remains viable.

S. Alamo, Pereida and S. St. Mary's Streets



1032 S. Alamo • Haenel House (former KWA office)

Gustav and Augusta Haenel purchased this and an adjoining lot in 1881 for \$700 then had this house built the following year as rental property. They sold this house to their son Edward who continued to rent the house. By 1991 the house had been divided into a duplex.

Part of the the King William Association (KWA) Charter is to restore historic buildings and make them functional again. In 1991 the KWA purchased the building for \$28,000. Local architect and KWA member, Charles Schubert was hired to rehabilitate the house into an office while restoring the original "central passage" plan. Front porch columns were reconstructed from wood pilasters still intact. The scrolled pieces above the columns were fabricated based on the imprints on pilasters. This was KWA's office space until 2015.

317 Pereida • Huth House

In June 1883 Dorette Heuermann, as a single woman, purchased two lots from the developers for \$800. Later that year Dorette married G.W. Huth. Within three months G. W. Huth was awarded a building

permit for a "soft rock dwelling, 34 x 42, north side Pereida Street, \$1,500." Huth operated the Huth Seed Company. G. W. and Dorette Heuermann Huth conveyed this property to Sophie Louise Huth in 1889 for \$1,000, and thirteen years later Sophie Louise deeded it to her daughter Emilie for "love and affection."

1101 S. St. Mary's • Taller / Studio Carlos Cortés

Carlos Cortés is a third-generation "faux bois" or "trabajo nístico" concrete artisan carrying on a family tradition with roots in San Antonio around 1924. Carlos' great-uncle Dionicio Rodriguez brought this European form of sculpting to the U. S. from Mexico City and taught it to Carlos' father, Maximo Cortés. Dionicio's work is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Carlos' concrete sculptures fit in garden settings or as larger public art installations in the urban landscape. One example is the bus shelter in the small park at S. Presa and Callaghan Avenue. His workshop has been located at 1101 S. St. Mary's Street (at Pereida Street) since 1997.

King William Subdivisions

