

Neighborhood Association Information

Dignowity Hill Neighborhood Association

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Harvard Place-Eastlawn

Neighborhood Association

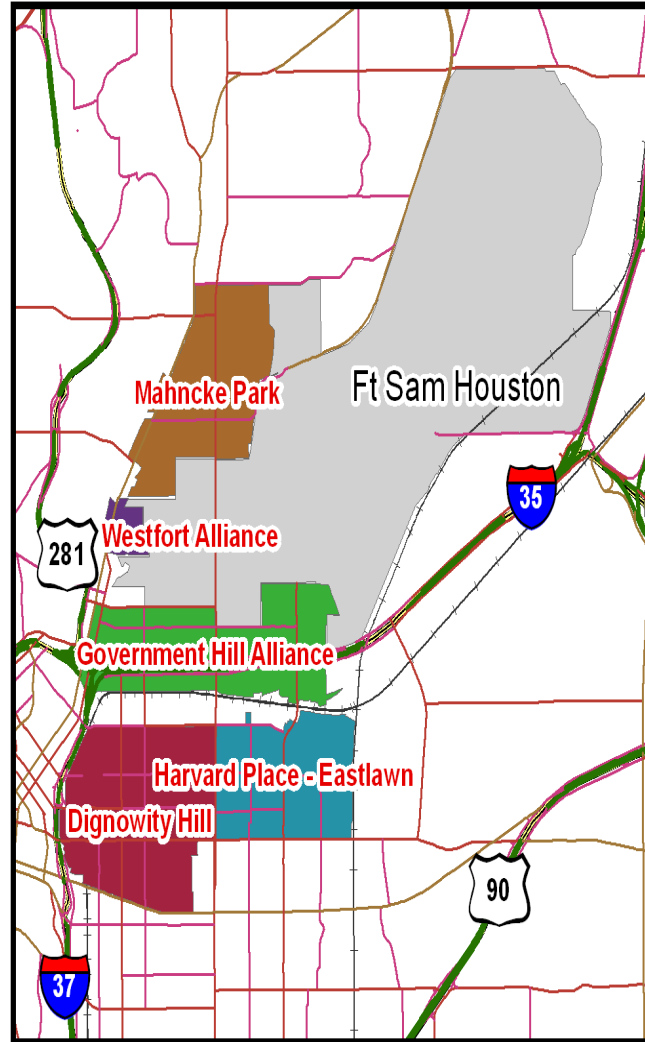
1351 Onslow Dr.

San Antonio, TX 78202

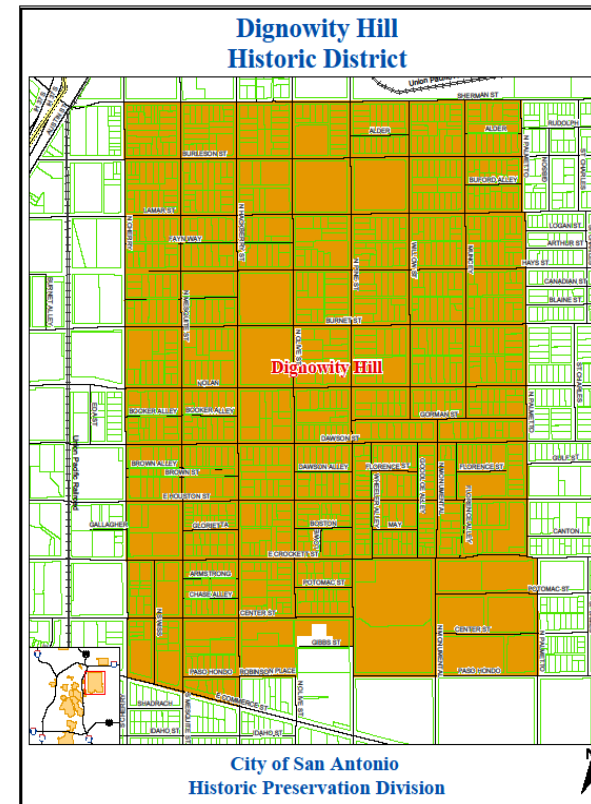
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Neighborhoods Surrounding Fort Sam Houston



FORT SAM HOUSTON AND SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS



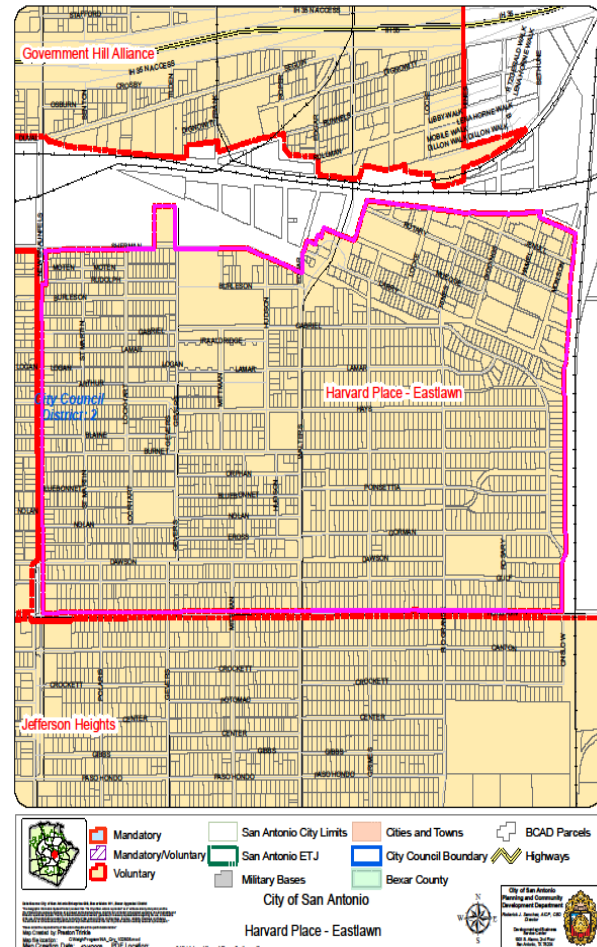
Dignowity Hill is located on the near east side, 2 miles from downtown San Antonio. Found on the National Historic Registry of Neighborhoods, it is named for Anthony Michael Dignowity, a Czech-American writer, public official and medical doctor who was born in Kuttensburg, Bohemia in 1810.

Dignowity immigrated to the US in 1831. He came to San Antonio from Nachez, Mississippi with a group of volunteers for the Mexican War. Dr. Dignowity built this home, often called Harmony House, on a hillside with a fine view of downtown San Antonio. The land remains as present day Dignowity Park. Dignowity sold plots of the surrounding land with its fine breezes to his various well-heeled friends. Noted San Antonio families such as the Friedrichs, Elmendorfs, Lockwoods and Otts built homes in this area. According to the San Antonio Historic Society, the area was first settled as estates with one house per block in the 1850. The homes were typically two story, constructed of limestone and brick, and reflected the best designs of their time. Dignowity Hill Historic District: within the boundaries of the neighborhood association lies the Dignowity Hill Historic District. The district was established to preserve the unique cultural and historic character of the area. The neighborhood is centrally located with easy access to downtown San Antonio. St. Paul Square, the Alamodome, the Carver Cultural Center, restaurants and other attractions are easily accessible from the neighborhood.

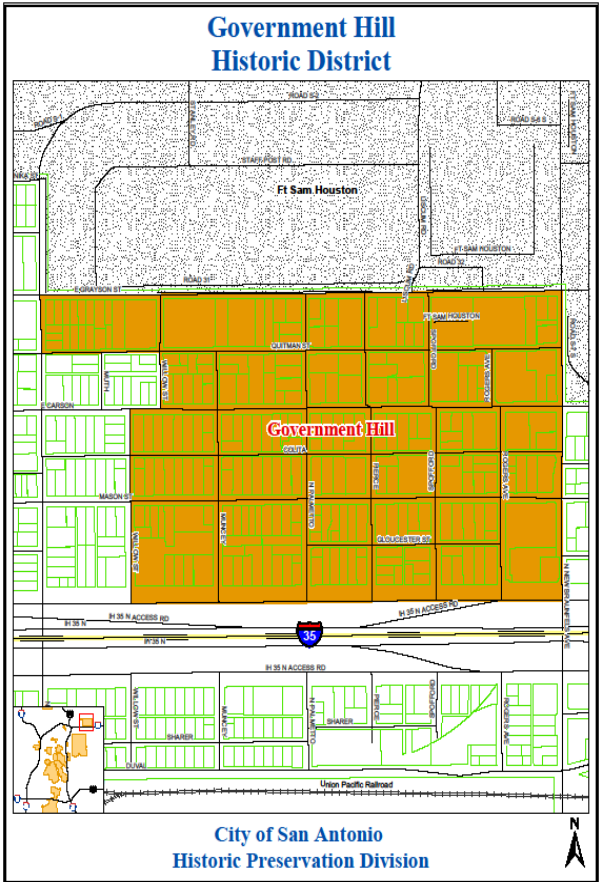
Harvard Place-Eastlawn

Harvard Place-Eastlawn is a neighborhood located in near U.S. Highway 35 and the North Pan Am Expressway. The neighborhood consists of such attractions as Onslow Park and Willow Springs Golf Course. The community schools here are Wheatley Middle School and Antioch Christian Academy.

Harvard Place-Eastlawn Neighborhood Association continues to be very active within the weed & Seed services area and also leads in problem in problem solving processes for the East Community. The neighborhood actively works with community police officers as the “eyes and ears” of the community.



The Government Hill neighborhood is one of the oldest existing neighborhoods in San Antonio and its history has always been intricately linked with that of Fort Sam Houston. In 1807, a donation of 40 acres was made to the U.S. Government of land owned by the St. Mary's College, Southern School and Thomas J. Devine. The tract was located "at the place where the Government corral is at present. The site became unofficially known as Government Hill. The city of San Antonio made another donation of 40 acres of land purchased from A.M. Dignowity and the estate of H. Polley. Before construction of the government buildings began, the site was visited by General Ord who deemed it unacceptable because of its high elevation and distance from water sources. In 1875, the city made a third donation of land, bringing the total to about 93 acres. Construction on the Quadrangle at Fort Sam Houston began in 1876, and the Quartermaster Department moved into its new quarters in 1879. In 1881, construction began on the fifteen sets of permanent officers' quarters, known as the Staff Post, and in 1882-83, the Army purchased more land in order to construct the barracks and additional officers' quarters.



With the construction of living quarters for more of the army personnel, residential development in Government Hill began. Established in 1883, St. Paul's Episcopal Church served as a chapel for the soldiers of Fort Sam Houston. Edwin Terrell, former US ambassador to Belgium, built Terrell Castle in 1894 and General John L. Bullis built the Bullis House just after the turn of the century. The original Incarnate Word Academy for Young Women and the original Texas Military Academy were located in the neighborhood, along with many saloons and entertainment establishments such as Muth's Gardens. While some of these landmarks are now gone, this does not detract from Government Hill's unique and interesting history.