

FROST TOWN URBAN GARDEN NEWS

JAMES BUTE PARK / FROST TOWN HISTORIC SITE

Art & Environmental Architecture, Inc.

December 2010

Help Our Preservation Efforts to Save this Historic 1839 Houston Home!

Our new program, with Harris County Public Infrastructure Department is to step in and help them save this newly discovered John Birdsall house as interpretive history kiosk – Frost Town at James Bute Park



Art & Environmental Architecture, Inc. is excited to be working with the professional team of *Historic Houston* to assemble this 1839, 16'x20' wood frame in the vernacular of the early Houston period. **Birdsall**, appointed Attorney General of the Republic by Sam Houston and later his law partner is credited with owning this house. Harris County, Texas Historical Commission along with the Department of Interior has established guidelines for documentation and rebuilding of this important antique artifact. Timely financial support is needed. The faster we can begin to restructure the building the less warping and damage will occur to the original local milled lumber.

The **Birdsall** home was located on Walnut just a hundred feet from where it landed as a shipping clerks loading dock office. Original wood block street pavers were recovered from this location within the Peden Iron Building and will be used as part of Arch Street. The James Bute Park will host the historic house and we are excited to be able to place the structure on Arch in the exact footprint of a previous residential building found on the Wood Map of 1868. We anticipate significant program expenses for this worthy project. Our cost will exceed the \$130,000 the county has expended on documentation and demolition. If you have any questions, please email me and I will try to address them with more information.

James Bute Park/Frost Town Historic Site Marker Dedication May 2010 at McKee Street Bridge



Commissioner Garcia speaks to crowd



Under the Big Top special guest seating



S Christian, K Amen, J Jordan, L Spanjan



Louis Aulbach guest historian



Sue Lovell, Minette Boesel, K. Farris



Ann Becker Host Marker Program



Robert Frost and Grandson Nicholas Pettit



Heritage will be inherited

Sketch of 1839 Birdsall home, this little building fits the scale of original small Frost Town houses and will be placed on old Arch street. We see from the wood map of 1868 another house was located in that exact spot.



1930's cars on depression modern bridge



Cast members of the picnic photo shoot
**Please help us save this historic building.
Your Contributions are extremely important!**

The John Birdsall Home will become an historic information and visitation center

ART & ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHITECTURE, INC.

working to build a garden

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On behalf of Art & Environmental Architecture, Inc., I can say without fear of contradiction, our members had a heart pounding, uplifting, wonderful experience dedicating the Frost Town Historic Site Marker in May. We were honored by kindness and generosity of elected officials in person as well as, certificates supporting our event from respective representatives. Supporters, friends and patrons are the direct cause of our advancements. You give us financial support, enabling us to expend, energy and capitol on what otherwise would have become a wasteland.

Now, we have a unique opportunity to help the Harris County Public Infrastructure Department satisfy Texas Historical Commission and Federal requirements conserving the John Birdsall home, (Birdsall the first attorney general, Republic of Texas) in the style of the 1839 period and site this treasure on Frost Town soil.

Our program calls for the re assembly of the building, by the professional team ***Historic Houston***. Harris County has preservation architects, archeologist, historian and landscape architects working toward the documentation of this building. Art & Environmental Architecture, Inc., is stepping up to pay all the additional cost of the assembly of the Birdsall home as well as adapting this house as the Frost Town Historic Site/ Interpretive Center. Significant expenses towards graphics, research, consultants and materials and labor to the house and grounds are planned.

An important story of the early families and characters who developed Harris County from the days of the Republic of Texas will be on display within the building. The James Bute Park surrounding area has 14 points of historic value which will be featured along with the Frost Town story.

Art & Environmental Architecture, Inc. is seeking your support to repave the Frost Town street grid, provide for external signage, additional street trees, heritage gardens, native bayou plantings, period picket fences, antique roses all complementing the Birdsall home program.

We are grateful for our contributors. Your support is extremely important as this visitor's center will be a pivotal project!



JAMES BUTE PARK AND FROST TOWN HISTORIC SITE

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ART & ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHITECTURE, INC.

dedicated to the preservation of historic structures, bridges
and our natural environmental features along Buffalo Bayou
at Frost Town Historic Site in James Bute Park
www.frosttownhistoricsite.org

- ☐ Yes, I am interested in preserving Houston's past historic structures
and our natural environmental features along Buffalo Bayou.

My enclosed contribution will help with historic consultants, archeology,
materials and labor and professional services of this exciting reassembly of the
John Birdsall home to be the future home of the Frost Town Historic Site Tourist
Center.

\$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100

Other _____

Donors will be listed on our website www.frosttownhistoricsite.org and appropriate permanent
recognition at the park will be granted in the future.

I want to know more. Please contact me.

- ☐ I want to volunteer.

Name (as you wish it to appear on web site or signage)

Address

City/State/ZIP

Home Phone

Work or Cell Phone

Email address

Make checks payable to:

Art & Environmental Architecture, Inc.

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Houston, Texas 77006-5219

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