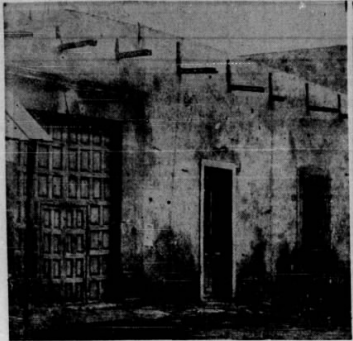


# San Antonio Historic Center Plan



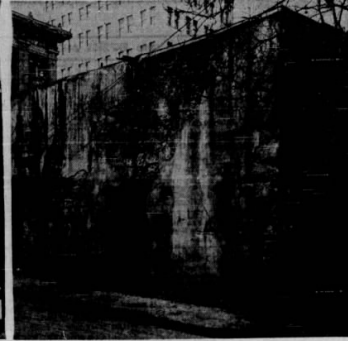
VERAMENDI MANSION

**RESTORATION SOUGHT**—In his plan for expansion of La Villita into an historical center, Chris M. Jasso suggests these old San Antonio landmarks, now destroyed, be restored. A



VANCE HOUSE

number of pictures of the old homes, centers of activity in the early days of San Antonio, are available through the Library of Congress, the Conservation Society and the Express and News



GARZA HOUSE

for restoration purposes. Others which might be in the possession of private individuals would be needed if and when a restoration project could be started.

## Comment-Opinion

Saturday, April 11, 1959

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### La Villita Expansion Idea Wins

BY ED RAY  
Editor

Expansion of the La Villita area off South Alamo into a great center of San Antonio history is Chris M. Jasso's prize-winning idea for downtown development.

Jasso, 37-year-old coffee company employe who lives at 201 Hill St., long hoped he might call attention to the fact that only one small marker at the Court House is in memory of the Canary Islanders who settled San Antonio in 1731.

He got his chance in the Downtown Development Contest sponsored by the Express and News and the Downtown Development Subcommittee of the Chamber of Commerce and won the \$50 second prize.

"Your contest put me to work in searching my dream," he said when informed by the judges his entry was among the six best. "I hope the public will study my idea—and that the Conservation Society will do something about it."

Basically, Jasso would restore at least three old historic homes now gone and add other reminders of the past to the La Villita area. (See map and full explanation of his proposal.)

The plan—similar to those in cities with rich backgrounds which have set up historic sites such as Williamsburg in Virginia—might catch on.

The Conservation Society, which watches all downtown structures and seeks to save those of historic value—often without success—already has looked a downtown tour with the Chandelier subcommittee to popular places which it feels ought to be saved.

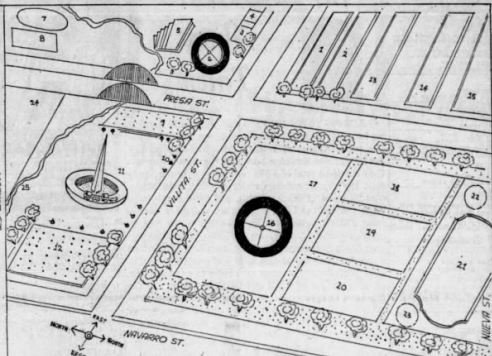
"Why not have a master plan to put or reproduce them in one area?" Jasso asked. "Then there would be no argument in the future about what ought to be saved."

Not one of the three houses Jasso would reproduce—the Veramendi Mansion, the Garza House and the Vance House—stands today.

In his letter to the contest



CHRIS M. JASSO



JASSO'S PLAN:

- 1-2-3-4-5 - Present La Villita buildings.
- 6-New Public Service auditorium.
- 7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000

about three feet high by four feet wide displaying on top a train of 18 on-driven carts showing the names of each family of pioneers, and a tall shaft rising from its base surrounding the village. Landscapes in this area should include Texas native trees such as pecan, mesquite, retama, huisache, agave and a garden of Texas wild flowers with honeycomb rock borders and flagstone rock walks.

12—Facing the monument and the Veramendi mansion should be reconstruction of the Garza House which was in that area the main bank and called Spanish money in 1818 and later in 1825 Milan. It could be set up again to celebrate Spanish playmen for tourist souvenirs.

13-14 - These two buildings should house a spacious Spanish and Mexican art curio shop. The three streets should be named for some of the island—Santa Cruz, Las Palmas, Canaria.

15—A post office substation with facilities for packing, shipping and mailing should be built. 16—A modern multi-story Spanish villa should have a kiosk or a bandstand. Its construction should be of colonial style and spacious enough to accommodate a regulation band. Basement rest rooms would be needed. 17—Parade grounds for assembly and drilling and outdoor dancing should be provided. 18-19—Open air dining patios for 100 people should be built—ideal for civic affairs, conventions—with all hostesses dressed in native costumes. 20—Another famous landmark should be restored and live again

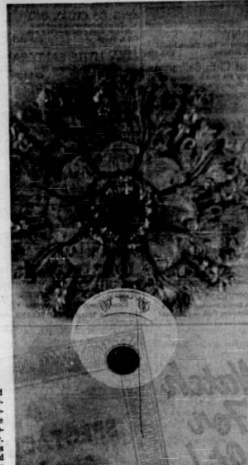
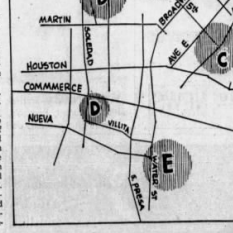
### Downtown Walks Developed This Idea

Mrs. C.W. Sullivan has walked around downtown San Antonio so much from her home at 515 Fifth St. that she has made many notes during her nine years residency about how the heart of the city should be redeveloped.

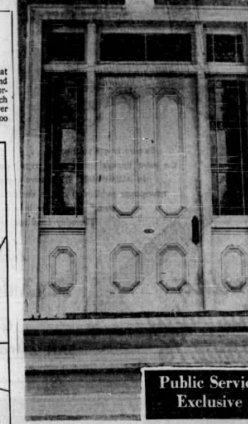
She put most of them into a plan for the Downtown Contest and came out third prize winner. A native Texan, Mrs. Sullivan has traveled a great deal, but feels the charm of San Antonio couldn't be matched if redevelopment were undertaken. Her husband is a retired Air Force officer.

Her plan follows:  
A. (1) Clear out and make park of area between 4th and 5th streets and west of Ave. A to the river.  
(2) Eliminate dog-leg at 5th and McCullough from the bridge to Ave. B and 5th St.  
B. Make a park of area bounded by St. Marys, Covert, Soldado, Grand and Augusta streets.  
C. (1) Make a traffic island where Austin, Elm, Nueces, Nacogoches and Fifth streets meet.  
(2) Convert block bounded by Fifth, Nacogoches, Fourth and E into a landscaped park with free parking privileges.  
D. Sell City Jail site and Police Headquarters Area to Hilton for expansion or convert into a park.  
E. (1) Clear the area bounded by North, Water, Adams streets, for location of Police Headquarters and Jail Site and release area for future Civic Center.  
(2) Clear area west of S. Alamo St. between Martin St. and La Villita.  
F. (1) Bend every effort to change the present location of City and County buildings, and to establish a Civic Center which would stimulate civic pride and elevate the character of the city.  
(2) Avoid further concentration in an already over-crowded so-called Civic Center both unpleasant and inadequate and re-

lease these areas to business enterprises for economic advancement.  
(3) Delegate members of the City Planning Agency to visit cities, both smaller and larger, which have not defeated similar areas to business enterprises for economic advancement. He actually sees the results of corrective planning and action, such as San Francisco, Vancouver B.C., Pittsburgh and others too numerous to mention.



VANCE CHANDELIER—This photograph of the Vance House chandelier from the Library of Congress could help in the restoration of the old home under the historic center plan.



VANCE FRONT DOOR—This photograph of the Vance House front door also could be of assistance to architects in a restoration project of the now destroyed colonial home.