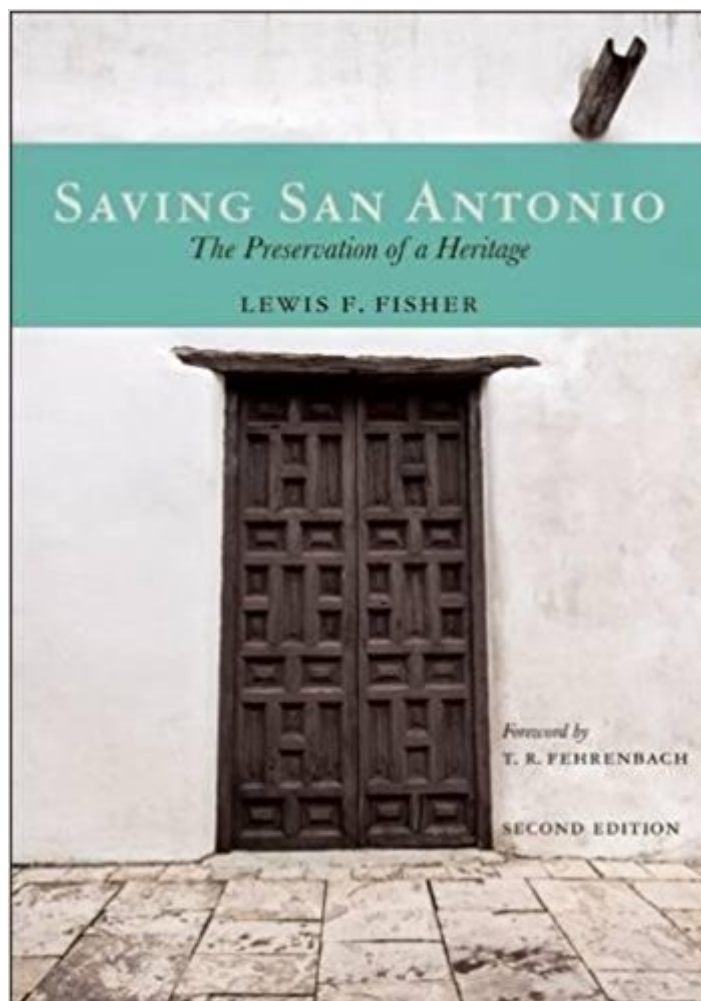


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Saving San Antonio: The Preservation Of A Heritage



Synopsis

Few American cities enjoy the likes of San Antonio's visual links with its dramatic past. The Alamo and four other Spanish missions, recently marked as a UNESCO World Heritage site, are the most obvious but there are a host of landmarks and folkways that have survived over the course of nearly three centuries that still lend San Antonio an "odd and antiquated foreignness." Adding to the charm of the nation's seventh largest city is the San Antonio River, saved to become a winding linear park through the heart of downtown and beyond and a world model for sensitive urban development. San Antonio's heritage has not been preserved by accident. The wrecking balls and headlong development that accompanied progress in nineteenth-century San Antonio roused an indigenous historic preservation movement; the first west of the Mississippi River to become effective. Its thrust has increased since the mid-1920s with the pioneering work of the San Antonio Conservation Society. In *Saving San Antonio*, Texas historian Lewis Fisher peels back the myths surrounding more than a century of preservation triumphs and failures to reveal a lively mosaic that portrays the saving of San Antonio's cultural and architectural soul. The process, entertaining in the telling, has reverberated throughout the United States and provided significant lessons for the built environments and economies of cities everywhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lewis F. Fisher, San Antonio's celebrated historian, has published forty-five books on topics ranging from San Antonio's Spanish heritage to its urban development. He has written about Texas

in every genre from sports and architecture to multicultural legends. His most recent books are *American Venice: The Epic Story of San Antonio's River and Chili Queens*, *Hay Wagons*, and *Fandangos: The Spanish Plazas in Frontier San Antonio*. Fisher was named a Texas Preservation Hero by the San Antonio Conservation Society in 2014.

This is a fascinating and entertaining account of the successes and failures of local conservation and historic preservation groups over a period of almost a century. The photographs and names in the footnotes brought back many memories, but showed me how little attention I had paid to what was happening in the historic town I grew up in. Highly recommended to any one who has ever been to San Antonio, also those who are facing conservation battles in their own locale.

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