



September 2024



WOMEN IN MASONRY

Jamie Davis, P.E., LEED AP

President and Principal of Ryan Biggs
Clark Davis Engineering & Surveying, DPC

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Jamie Davis, P.E., LEED AP

Jamie Davis, P.E., LEED AP, is President and Principal of Ryan Biggs Clark Davis Engineering & Surveying, DPC, a 50-person consulting engineering firm located in Clifton Park and Skaneateles, New York. With the firm for over 30 years, Jamie manages many of the firm's higher education, healthcare, and municipal projects, and her areas of technical expertise include BIM, masonry design and restoration, and investigations and studies of existing buildings.



She is currently Secretary/Treasurer for the TMS Board of Directors, is a voting member on TMS 402/602 Main Committee, is the past chair and current member of the TMS BIM-M Committee and is a current voting member on the TMS 402/602 Structural members, Reinforcement and Connectors, and Construction Requirements Subcommittees. She is also a member of the Mason Contractors Association of America, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Concrete Institute, the American Institute of Steel Construction, and sits on several committees for the American Council of Engineering Companies of New York. Jamie is a frequent lecturer and author on masonry topics.

Education

The Pennsylvania State University, Bachelor of Architectural Engineering, 1988

Professional Licensing

New York, Connecticut, Georgia – Professional Engineer (Structural)

Certifications

LEED-Accredited
Professional, CD-BIM
Certified



Learn more about Jamie Davis on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jamie-davis-p-e-leed-ap-2b99337/>

1. What piece of advice would you tell a young woman entering your career field today?

Know your stuff. Accept the fact that you are 'not the norm' in this industry- don't apologize for it but don't expect special treatment either. Be prepared, overly prepared, and pick the brain of every mason you interact with.

2. Have you mentored anyone in your field? Would you be willing to expand on this?

I have been doing consulting engineering for 36 years so I certainly have had many younger engineers working with me over the years and I suppose, by default, I am a mentor of sorts! And as much as I'm sure they are learning from their interaction with me, I also am still learning from my interaction with them. There are so many aspects to this career that you never stop being mentor and mentee!

3. What has been the most satisfying project have you been involved with?

Very difficult question. I can't say that any one project stands out, but the process of restoring masonry buildings is always satisfying.... pouring through old drawings, investigating on site, doing removals to uncover building techniques from centuries ago, discovering the root cause of issues and developing restoration strategies to extend the life of these beautiful structures, and witnessing the transformation is the most satisfying aspect of my career as a structural engineer.





Jessica Flores, MSHP, LEED GA

Architectural Historian, Building Pathologist, Historic Preservationist, and Owner of Preservation Forward

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Jessica Flores, MSHP, LEED GA

Jessica is Owner of Preservation Forward a historic preservation consultancy specializing in economic development, adaptive reuse, & rehabilitation of historic buildings with a focus on traditional building trades & materials. Preservation Forward is about understanding the built environment as it relates to a place & the people who love their historic places.

Previously, Jessica worked for the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office where she specialized in the environmental sustainability & rehabilitation of historic buildings. Jessica worked across the state of Michigan on all issues related to historic preservation.

She holds a LEED professional accreditation from the USGBC & has a Master of Science degree in historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University, a Bachelor of Arts in business administration from Ohio University, & an Associate of Applied Science degree in hands-on building preservation & construction technology from Belmont College.



Jessica has worked as a historic building pathologist & an architectural historian on a variety of cultural resource management and construction projects. Jessica has worked with hundreds of local government leaders, state agencies, developers, contractors, & involved stakeholders in order to strengthen the role of historic preservation in communities & downtowns.

Jessica also brings forth a diverse background of preservation public policy knowledge & leadership skills. She has worked on many local & state campaigns throughout her home state of West Virginia. Jessica is a former board member of Preservation Action where she represented the Mountain State for preservation advocacy and efforts.

She is a faculty member at the School of Planning, Design, & Construction at Michigan State University. Jessica proudly teaches the one & only historic preservation class at MSU! She is the former Chair and Vice Chair of the East Lansing Historic District Commission. Jessica is an Emeritus Board Member of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network. She's lobbied on Capitol Hill to convince federal legislators of the importance for appropriate legislation to preserve our nation's history.

Learn more about Jessica Flores on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessica-flores-53906836/>



[Click here to listen to Jess on our podcast!](#)

1. What piece of advice would you tell a young woman entering your career field today?

You belong in our field. We need more women in the traditional building trades that are breaking the glass ceiling in the construction industry. This is a male-dominated field, but it's rapidly turning pink. Being a woman in this field is a kind of superpower that should make you stand taller and walk with confidence. Gravitate to the tradespeople who have been in the field for over twenty years. Ask them if you can watch their craft. Listen to their stories. Learn from their experiences. There is no substitution for learning alongside a seasoned tradesperson.

2. Have you mentored anyone in your field? Would you be willing to expand on this?

I've had the fortunate opportunity to mentor several young people through my teaching at Michigan State University and through my small business, Preservation Forward. I recall, as a young person, being new to the field and the desire to be exposed to as many experiential learning opportunities as possible. I had the fortunate opportunity to intern and apprentice under some of the best in my field of historic preservation. Those experts shared with me their knowledge and expertise in a "pay it forward" mentality. It's my pleasure to return that favor and mentor a young person by having them join me on a site visit, walk the brickyard alongside me and ask their feedback on appropriate, new brick that matches the historic brick, and even join me at a city council meeting where I'm vetting a new adaptive reuse project. There are all sorts of ways to mentor young tradespeople in an impactful and meaningful way that aligns with your area of expertise. I like to expose young tradespeople to a variety of experiences so that they can understand the journey of giving a second chance to a historic building.

3. What has been the most satisfying project have you been involved with?

It's very hard to identify one historic building project that has been my most satisfying. Each project that I've had the pleasure to be a part of has had its share of challenges, successes, and nuances that leave you feeling a high level of satisfaction once it's complete. Having worked on historic buildings for nearly twenty years, you soon learn that each building has its own idiosyncrasies that you learn to pivot with and navigate. Akin to a human being, a historic building has strengths and flaws. There's an intimacy established as you begin to peel back the contemporary layers of the historic building to reveal the original, historic materials. There is much satisfaction in returning (a historic building) to its former glory. Giving a historic building a second chance for a new beginning all while preserving the building trades of generations long ago is pure satisfaction. I feel honored to help lend a hand in continuing the story of a historic building. I feel like I have a purpose that helps people. It's definitely work worth doing that I'm super passionate about.





Kemba Braynon, AIA
Associate at Quinn Evans Architects

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Kemba Braynon, AIA, NOMA

Kemba Braynon is an architect and preservationist at Quinn Evans who brings a deep interest in history to her work. With skills as an architect and writer, she develops repair strategies and crafts stories to ensure that buildings survive for future generations. Kemba began the first 10 years of her career as an architect in Chicago working on new K-12 and commercial buildings, but the Great Recession hit the building industry particularly hard.

Unable to find work in her field, Kemba accepted a position researching and writing local historic district reports with the City of Detroit. What appeared to be a professional detour instead became an introduction to the field of historic preservation and the many ways that communities can save, repair, and reuse their historic buildings.



While working at the City of Detroit, Kemba authored the local historic district reports for numerous buildings and wrote and administered preservation grants to repair many of Detroit's cultural resources including the Belle Isle Aquarium, Ford Piquette Plant, and the Scarab Club. In 2015, she joined Quinn Evans as an historic preservation architect. Her portfolio includes projects with the National Park Service, the Department of Natural Resources, Amtrak, University of Michigan, Cranbrook, as well as non-profits seeking to renovate historic buildings for community use.

Kemba is the immediate past Chair of the Michigan State Historic Preservation Review Board and has served as President for the Detroit-Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA). In 2023, she received the President's Award from AIA Michigan which recognizes outstanding contributions to the advancement of the built environment, the profession, and service to the community.

Learn more about Kemba on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kembabraynonnoma/>

1. What piece of advice would you tell a young woman entering your career field today?

Do your very best with every role and responsibility that you're given, no matter how small. Every project is an opportunity to build on the knowledge and skillset that you need to develop expertise and confidence in architecture and/or historic preservation.

2. Have you mentored anyone in your field? Would you be willing to expand on this?

I have mentored several architects over the years and found it to be very rewarding. I am currently taking a step back from mentoring, serving on boards, and volunteer work, to spend more time with my children.

3. What has been the most satisfying project have you been involved with?

I have been most excited by projects that have included working with building owners and communities to help find new uses for existing historic buildings. These projects have included National Register-listed University buildings that need to be renovated to create spaces that better serve the student population, to institutional clients looking to adaptively reuse the historic buildings in an entire city block to create a museum to reflect and honor the voting rights movement. With every project, we've spent time listening to the needs and aspirations of user groups and community members, documenting existing historic conditions and details, and finding creative ways to reuse a space whose purpose and needs have changed.



Tiffany Tillema
Owner of Tillema & Sons masonry

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Tiffany Tillema: The Brick Lady

Tiffany Tillema: The Bricklady

Raised in the sandpile, Tiffany Tillema began her journey into the world of work at just nine years old. A natural entrepreneur, she partnered with her husband in 1993, starting a business with nothing more than a set of scaffolding, a wheelbarrow, and a hoe. Through sheer grit and determination, Tiffany transformed this humble beginning into a thriving masonry company over the past 31 years.



Not only has Tiffany mastered her trade, but she has also emerged as a beacon of inspiration for women in the construction and trades industry. Known affectionately by locals as "the Bricklady," Tiffany has embraced this nickname, turning it into a powerful brand. Her expertise and leadership have made her a respected mentor and coach, empowering women to shatter the "brick ceiling" and achieve success in the male-dominated realms of construction and trades.

Tiffany's story is one of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment. Her dedication to her craft and her passion for mentoring have solidified her status as a true trailblazer. As she continues to lead and inspire, Tiffany Tillema, can be achieved with vision, hard work, and a steadfast belief in oneself. The Bricklady, stands as a testament to what can be achieved with vision, hard work,

Click here to read Tiffany's inspiring story about an owl in a wall.

Learn more about Tiffany Tillema on LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/tiffany-tillema-a004b2168/>

1. What piece of advice would you tell a young woman entering your career field today?

My advice to a woman who enters into not only the masonry, construction, or any male-dominated business is this: You will have men and, unfortunately, sometimes other women who will try to distract you from your work; by intimidation, harassment, teasing and other means. The best thing you can do is learn when and how to answer such intimidation. Learn to stand up for yourself, but do it with dignity.

2. Have you mentored anyone in your field? Would you be willing to expand on this?

I have mentored both women and men. Starting and running a business is not easy in the best of circumstances. When you are a woman it becomes even harder and more complicated and although in 2024 it shouldn't be true, the odds are stacked against the woman in the trades. Mentoring is a way I feel I can help women stay in a lucrative career. I am proud to say that at least two of the women I have mentored are doing well in their industries.

3. What has been the most satisfying project have you been involved with?

Its hard to decide. Ive done a lot of fun and interesting jobs in the span of 31 years. Recently we did a restoration job in my hometown of Winnsboro, Texas. I will say to restore a building is satisfying but to have the privilege of restoring one in your hometown is really exciting. The other would be the last job I worked on with my grandpa. in 2003. Grandpa was my mentor and taught me everything I know about the construction business. He was 89 when we worked on our last project together. He lived 10 more years and I look back on that last project with love and pride.





Pam Jergenson,
FCSI, CCS, CCCA, BECXP, CxA-BE, CABS
 BECx Technical Manager and Principal Consultant at
 Braun Intertec Corporation

[Read more](#)

Pam Jergenson, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, BECXP, CxA-BE, CABS



Pam Jergenson is a Principle Consultant and BECx Technical Manager for the Building Sciences Group at Braun Intertec Corporation. She is an accredited Building Enclosure Commissioning Agent and Process Provider who has worked in the construction industry focusing on building enclosures for over the last 30 years.

Pam's building enclosure work includes historic and maintenance repairs of existing buildings, and new construction. Pam is a trained whole building airtightness technician, a licensed air barrier field auditor, and a certified air barrier specialist, construction document technologist, specification writer, and construction contract administrator. Her portfolio of work includes the sectors of commercial, hospitals, multi-family, higher education, K-12, federal, state, county, and city governments; and private businesses.

Pam is an experienced Building Enclosure Consultant with a demonstrated history of working in the commercial construction industry. Skilled in third-party construction document review and observations, building enclosure evaluation, hygrothermal analysis, forensic investigation, and expert witness. Strong consulting professional in masonry, stucco, air barriers, and other exterior wall materials.

1. What piece of advice would you tell a young woman entering your career field today?

My advice to my younger self or young woman entering this field is: do your research, state what you know are the facts, when you don't know, ask questions; and show up with confidence. Research cannot be limited to a search engine. Talk with experienced people. From a historic perspective, we rely on historic text and good, old fashioned storytelling or passing of the stories. Facts are facts and when you know them, say them out loud. Being heard with the facts is important and lays the ground for your reputation. Asking questions is very revealing of your thought process and of others' unannounced curiosity. Ask questions that you might think you know the answer and ask questions that may not have an answer, but start an important discussion. Finally showing up with confidence is not easy and most of us are not born with it. Confidence is like a muscle we need to exercise, so it takes time to garner it.

2. Have you mentored anyone in your field? Would you be willing to expand on this?

I have not formally mentored anyone in my field. However, I am responsible for training others in my company and have been for a few decades. With the training comes some level of the mentoring or work philosophies that reach into client and historic stewardship and the concepts of repair, rehabilitation, restoration, and replacement.

3. What has been the most satisfying project have you been involved with?

The photos are of me in a crane basket with the contractor reviewing the chimney tops at the Glensheen Mansion in on the north shore in Duluth, MN in June 1998. This was before high viz vests were in popular use like today, but definitely with hard hats and full-body harnesses (recently throwing out the body safety belt). We reviewed each of the 5 chimneys to determine the extent of the repairs for each one. Then a series of stepped scaffolding was installed on the roof deck to have full access to the chimney and to complete the repairs. Working on the Glensheen mansion was satisfying to work so vigilantly with the chimneys and complete much needed repairs. Yet oddly sad (and common for many historic projects) that the project budget could not afford more of the much needed repairs. During the construction, we worked closely with the mansion staff to keep the tours and public viewing as active as possible.

One of the staff was keenly interested in saving a young tree sapling that had grown out of the top of one of the chimneys. The contractor tried to save the sapling during the chimney work with keeping as much of the main tap root in tact as possible; so instructed by the staff. The young sapling was replanted in the ground near the same chimney, but did not survive the move. Years later on a plane to Seattle I was ironically seated next to a former docent for the Glensheen Mansion. We had a great time sharing our stories from each side of the mansion. My stories of the chimney work on the exterior and his stories of the interior contents and the relics from the infamous murders.

Over the course of my career, I have had great opportunities to work on several historic properties from a city library, to several university buildings, to residences, to downtown office buildings. The masonry in each of these as unique, too; such as marble from the same quarry as the state capital marble, red sandstone from the Lake Superior region, brick hand-pressed at the site during construction or manufactured locally, terra cotta detailing of Della Robbia wreaths and garland, lions, and faces in relief; and ornate stone carvings of rosettes, egg and dart, icanthus leaves, and the like. To work with historic masonry, to be so close with the material



Learn more about Pam Jergenson on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/pam-jergenson-fcsi-ccs-ccca-becxp-cxa-be-cabs-1457311a/>





Malena Maiz, Design Professional
Austin, TX

Read more

Malena Maiz, Design Professional

Malena Maiz is part of the Design Team at the Texas Main Street Program. She received her architect license from Universidad de Monterrey, practiced at an architectural firm in Mexico. Continue to pursue a Masters Degree in Sustainable Architecture and Environmental Control Techniques in Barcelona, Spain. Relocated to Massachusetts, earned a second Masters Degree in Urban and Landscape Design at the Conway School. She currently provides preservation-based consulting and design assistance to Main Street districts and individual properties.



1. What piece of advice would you tell a young woman entering your career field today?

Preservation based architecture is a very fulfilling professional career. My background initiated through pursuing sustainable architecture and has grown into preservation. Historic preservation being a multidisciplinary field offers many different paths, exploring what the options are, and considering personal interests will help inform decisions.

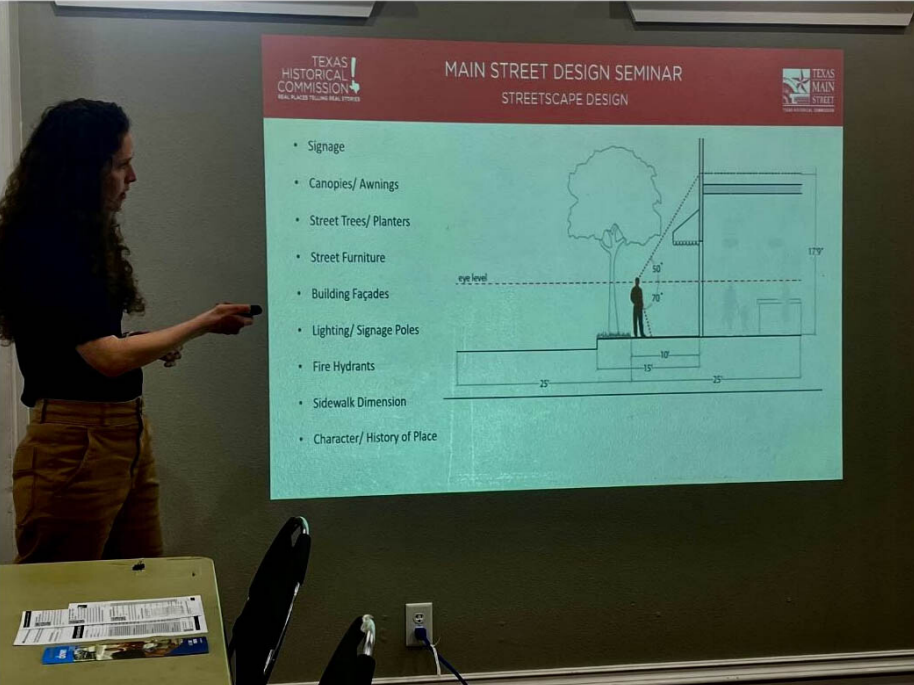
2. Have you mentored anyone in your field? Would you be willing to expand on this?

I share educational material through my current job and through past jobs/projects. I've done volunteer work that has impacted others in their communities. I haven't had the opportunity yet to mentor anyone on a one-on-one scenario, but it is something that could happen in the future.

3. What has been the most satisfying project have you been involved with?

I have been part of a couple of district projects that I feel most satisfied with. One located in my hometown in Mexico, where I was able to offer better mobility solutions while improving transit, a healthier environment, preserving the character of place and better quality of life for its community and visitors. And the other one was for a small Texas town where we offered a preservation-based design solution that help weave together a historic district while protecting its unique historic character.

There is another special building, also located in a small Texas town, that I have been part of preserving its historic character among the efforts of many other people and programs that have been involved in protecting this gem through many decades. All to say collaboration is fundamental for preservation efforts



Read about Malena Maiz on LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/malena-maiz-59411243/>





Lisa Morey, P.Eng
Owner and Founder Colorado Earth LLC

Read more

Lisa Morey, P.Eng. Founder and Owner



Read more about Lisa Morey on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisa-morey-6aab9316/>

Lisa Morey is a professional engineer and architectural designer who has been working in the construction industry since 2000. Lisa starting building with adobe bricks while living and working in New Zealand in the early 2000's. There she was involved in a design-build firm that constructed nearly 50 homes. From this work Lisa published a book, "Adobe Homes for all Climates", in 2010. Lisa's mission is to scale the natural building industry in Colorado by offering an affordable wall system made from locally obtained material. Lisa was recently recognized as a woman making contributions to reduce carbon emissions within the building sector.

Where it all began....Lisa moved to New Zealand in 1999 to study architecture after obtaining a civil engineering degree. There she met Vince Ogletree who was already building houses with "mud bricks" on Waiheke Island. Lisa began working with Vince designing and building homes until his untimely passing in 2005. Since then she has been carrying on his legacy and promoting the benefits of natural building. She can still hear him say "Nice work boys!"

Colorado Earth is fortunate to have advisors that offer support with a shared mission from a local and global perspective. In particular, we would like to thank Francesco Piazzesi (with Echale a Tu Casa), the members of The Earth Builders Guild, the Natural Building Alliance, Emu Systems, Living Craft, as well as Lopez Smolen Engineers, and the awesome team at Colorado Earth that makes it all go.

Jim Hallock was involved in the initiation of Colorado Earth and supported the production of CEB's. He has returned to Texas to continue his efforts with earthen construction.

1. What piece of advice would you tell a young woman entering your career field today?

Get familiar with the fire in you that feels drawn to this work. Recall your early childhood experiences whether it was the joy of playing with legos or building sand castles at the beach. This joy is what led you to a career in construction. Whenever the work gets tough, find your way back to the joy.

2. Have you mentored anyone in your field? Would you be willing to expand on this?

I am currently working with senior engineering students (at the School of Mines in Golden, CO) on their Capstone project. I think the best mentoring I do is to model how to run a company and share a vision for our built environment.

3. What has been the most satisfying project have you been involved with?

One of the most impactful projects I worked on was rebuilding a home for a family that lost everything in a fire. Understanding the fear they experienced being in the home while it was on fire and escaping to save their lives, provided a real insight to how vulnerable our buildings are. This family made a bold decision to build a masonry home while the neighborhood built back in frame.



Mary Corrales, Main Street Program, Grand Saline, Texas



I worked at City Hall first for about a year with the judge on the Municipal side, but I would do the utilities, so I did a little bit of everything there. That's how I started with the parks grant, the administrator handed me a book, and said here you go, we need to finish this. So I went from there. We received the grant for the parks swings and the platform around. Then the manager from Main Street quit, and this position was open, so the judge said to apply because I was not going to go up in my position. I thought about it and applied, and three years later I'm still here (haha). I do Main Street and Economic Development, so I guess you can say I'm dual lingo - literally. I do the preservation of the historical building as the Main Street Manager I have always liked history in high school, and even when I helped the students with their English as an ESL interpreter.

When I see these old building I see history, and history has a story behind it. I think 'if only these building could talk, what would they say?' The residents do talk, and the stories are endless! I want the next person to be just as passionate at this job as I'am, to keep these hundred year old buildings standing for another hundred years. This world still needs history, and we need to teach it to our generation!

I do all the Main Street events. The other half of me works with Economic Development, which is trying bring in new businesses into town, for the community, and purchasing property for businesses that need a help with a startup business. We also rent the space out, for growth, and employment.

Read more about Mary Corrales on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisa-morey-6aab9316/>

1. What piece of advice would you tell a young woman entering your career field today?

My advice to a young woman entering this career field is to believe in yourself, take the challenges that life throws at you, and always be proud of the jobs that you do whether it's a good or bad one. Know your self-worth.

2. Have you mentored anyone in your field? Would you be willing to expand on this?

I'm not sure if I've mentored anyone in this field before. I hope if anything in life I did one thing right was to at least leave a good impression on my students that I taught a few years ago. I taught them to make mistakes, that's how you will learn in life, take that hard class your junior year, get out there and learn, you'll make more mistakes along the way. Find what you love, as you only get one life so just Live your best Life!

3. What has been the most satisfying project have you been involved with?

I'm proud of our park project, it has come along way from where we started. It was a little park with old softball fields, a playground for the kids to play in, and a concession stand with not very much to choose from. Now the fields are beautiful, new swings were added, and the concession stand has more to choose from. It's a project built with many donations from different organizations, and everyone says how nice the park looks now. Our GSFY is our biggest supporter, so thank you to them. I feel it takes the community, and organizations to make these projects happen, so on this question, I'm extremely proud of all projects that happen here in Grand Saline, even if I have been involved or not!



Contemporary street view of museum at far left.

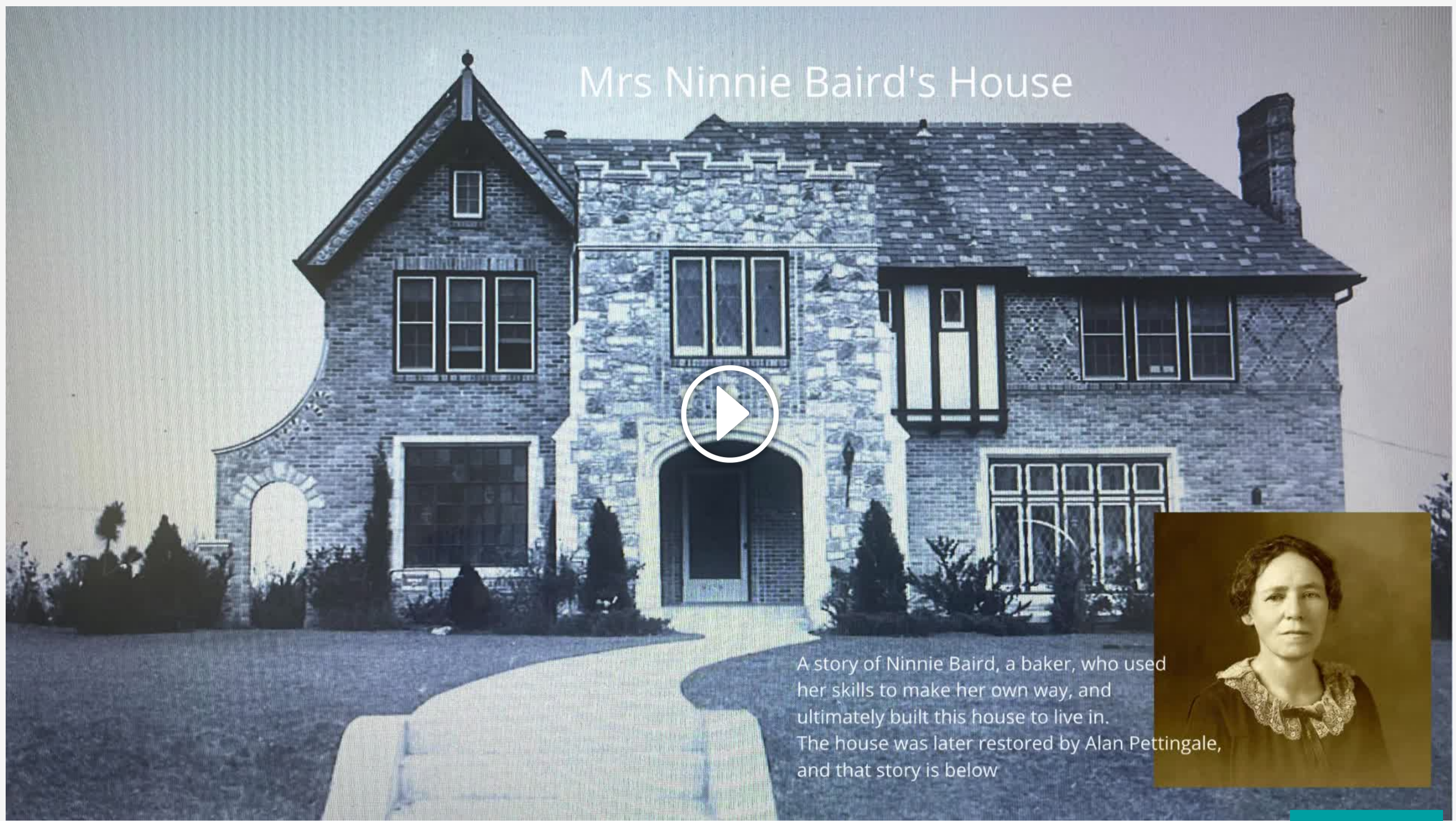


Historic street view from the 1900s

Mary is leading the way to restore the future home of the Grand Saline Sal Museum, working closely with a masonry restoration consultant and historic structural engineer.



Alan Pettingale on a recent consultancy visit



Mrs Ninnie Baird's House

A story of Ninnie Baird, a baker, who used her skills to make her own way, and ultimately built this house to live in. The house was later restored by Alan Pettingale, and that story is below

Watch this video to see Alan Pettingale's restoration of Mrs. Baird's beautiful house.

[Read more](#)

Mrs Baird's Story

6729 Lakewood Blvd, Dallas TX

Mrs. Baird's house was built at 6729 Lakewood Blvd, in Dallas TX is described as being a:

"Spectacular Lakewood Blvd home on oversized lot originally built by Dines & Kraft in 1932 for the Baird Bread family. Located in a prime block on the street offering 4 bedrooms, 4.1 baths, 3 living areas. Features include a sweeping iron staircase, fireplace and stained glass."

This house is the end point in a true rags to riches story of a woman making the most of her skills, to provide for her family - and growing that business into a major Texas industry.

Mrs. Ninnie Baird



Mrs. Baird's first commercial oven



Mrs. Baird's delivery wagon



New Delivery trucks



Ninnie Baird and her great-granddaughters Sherry Whitehead and Barbara Winter in the house she built

From Humble Kitchen to Texas Icon: The Story of Ninnie Baird and Her Bread

Fresh from the Oven: A Texas Legacy Begins

For over a century, Mrs. Baird's Bread has been a beloved staple in Texas kitchens. But its story starts not in a giant factory, but in a small Fort Worth home kitchen. Ninnie Baird, known for her exceptional baking skills, began selling her delicious breads to neighbors in 1908. Necessity fueled her entrepreneurial spirit - her husband's declining health meant the family needed a new source of income.

Family Business, Family Support

With her sons delivering loaves by bicycle, and her daughters managing the home, Ninnie's business was truly a family affair. Early success led to a used commercial oven in 1915, followed by a horse-drawn delivery wagon with young Hoyt at the reins. Their landlord even helped by building a dedicated bakery space next to their home, complete with a wood-fired brick oven.

Scaling Up: From Retail to Wholesale

As demand grew, the Bairds traded their horse-drawn wagon for a delivery truck emblazoned with their first catchy slogan: "Eat More Mrs. Baird's Bread!" They moved beyond retail sales to secure wholesale accounts, showcasing their commitment to growth.

Building an Empire: Expansion and Innovation

By 1919, the family knew they needed a bigger space. A new bakery with a gas-fired oven and a bread wrapping machine allowed them to meet the skyrocketing demand. The success of this bakery spurred further expansion, with new additions every year for nearly a decade.

Beyond Fort Worth: Spreading the Mrs. Baird's Love

Ninnie's sons, recognizing the potential, convinced her to expand beyond Fort Worth. New bakeries opened in Dallas, Houston, and Abilene, each managed by a Baird son. Keeping pace with industry trends, Mrs. Baird's embraced innovations like hand-twisted bread, offering customers unique and delicious options.

A Legacy That Lives On

Ninnie stepped back from daily operations in the 1920s but remained a guiding force until her passing in 1961. By then, the company she started in her kitchen had grown to 12 plants, employing over 2,500 people. It was the largest family-owned bakery in the US. While the company was sold in 1999, Ninnie's legacy lives on. The Ninnie L. Baird Foundation continues her spirit of giving, and her bread remains a beloved symbol of Texas home-cooking, carrying the warmth and flavor of a family business built on love and ingenuity.



Who Are The Editors?

Alan Pettingale

Historic Restoration Assassin

[Alan Pettingale](#) has over thirty years experience assessing brick and masonry structures for damage, and is well known within the industry for specialized remediation techniques. He brings experience of restoring old buildings from his work in England.

Alan is currently a consultant within the masonry restoration world, usually assisting managers of Main Street Programs to understand what lies behind the brick facades of their towns. Alan is also the co-host of the podcast [BrickTalk.Live](#), and the man who came up with the idea of the [Masonry Restoration Magazine](#).

Alan is also a speaker, and will be presenting at The World of Concrete in Las Vegas with Michael Schuller in January 2024. Alan also gives presentations on masonry problems and how to repair them, and will soon be offering online training through the Masonry Restoration Academy.



Not all blocks are solid clay or cement!

Gillian Lancaster

Grey-Haired Media Maven

Gillian Lancaster is a U Penn grad, a liberal arts educated baby boomer with a background in visual communications. Despite starting her working life as a classroom music teacher, she is now a freelance [graphic and web designer](#). Since her graduation from Penn she has grown her teaching and consultancy business, through working with churches, entrepreneurs and dreamers.

When not in front of a computer she is an NPR listening, coffee drinking, New York Times crossword-aholic. Gillian has itchy feet so loves to travel and compulsively take photos while doing so. She is also an ex-pat Briton, now living in the north east of the US.

In addition to working with Alan to create and maintain his websites, she also co-hosts the BrickTalk.Live podcast with Alan Pettingale and edits and writes for the Masonry Restoration Magazine.

The photos on this page are from a recent visit to Grand Saline in Texas, where we met Mary Corrales and explored the historic buildings being restored by the city.

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cause:
**Women in
Masonry**



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donation.](#)

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IN MASONRY**

Help TMS raise \$5,000 for
the **Women in Masonry
Fund** by the 2024 Annual
Meeting in October, and Ece
Erdogmus will contribute an
additional \$1,000!

GOAL!

\$5,000

\$300

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