



### 11 Ross Barham Cottage

1925

Built in 1925 by Ross W. Barham (1895-1983) for himself and his wife Matilda Hollman (1896-1981), this unique rock cottage with a flat roof and parapet walls with scupper drains is reminiscent of the type of summer cottages built at Scenic Loop Playground (now Grey Forest) in the early 1930s. From Arkansas, Barham was a contractor by trade and an amateur archaeologist and philanthropist by avocation. He and Matilda, who was from Witting, Texas, married in 1922 and moved to Helotes a year later. They built this cottage and resided here before moving to a ranch house Ross built on the corner of Scenic Loop and Bandera Road in the early 1940s.

The Barham's were civic leaders throughout the mid-twentieth century. Ross was a charter member of the Helotes Lions Club. He provided the land for the Helotes Lions Pavilion on Bandera Road. After his

retirement, Ross spent much of his spare time collecting arrowheads and fossils, some used in the fountain at the Ross Barham House at the Shops at Old Town Helotes. Matilda served as Helotes postmistress from 1953 until 1965, working out of the annex (built by her husband) next to the Helotes General Store. In 1981, the couple established a trust for the benefit of The University of Texas System for scientific research.

The Barham Cottage is a private residence.

