

# Austin American-Statesman

## Landmark Treehouse building demolished

Vacant for decades, it will be replaced by an apartment complex.

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After sitting vacant for nearly three decades, a landmark Austin building at Barton Springs and Dawson roads has seen its last day. Time ran out Monday for the angular structure that in its heyday in the late 1970s housed the popular Mackedrick's Treehouse restaurant and lounge. Austin-based Southwest Destructors began demolishing the building Monday morning.

Mackedrick's Treehouse closed in the early 1980s. The building had other tenants after that — including a brief re-opening of the Treehouse

— and was last in use in the late 1980s.

Passers-by snapped photos Monday as the building crumbled into a heap of steel, glass, concrete and wood. The city had ordered the demolition, citing numerous building code violations of the “dilapidated” and “unsafe structure.” . . .

. . . The building's demolition closes a chapter on a building that had a unique view of the city from its hilltop perch.

“It was a pretty swinging place,” said Jeff Coddington, now a senior vice president in Austin with Cushman & Wakefield | Oxford Commercial.

Alan Lazarus, formerly executive chef at Mackedrick's Treehouse, said he remembers the place well. Its debut came as “Austin was coming into its own” and “there was a lot of real estate money, and everybody was flaunting their money,” said Lazarus, now co-owner and chef of Vespaio and Enoteca restaurants on South Congress Avenue.

With its glass windows facing the city, “the view was amazing, gorgeous,” Lazarus said.

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