

THE MEDALLION

BRAZOS VALLEY BECKONS

History Lessons Abound
in Bryan-College Station



As we approach the annual season of giving and Thanksgiving, I am proud to report that the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission enjoyed another very successful year.

Despite the turbulent economy and a funding landscape that is changing drastically, we generated more than \$330,000 in gifts, grants, and investment income during the past fiscal year. We also helped the Texas Historical Commission (THC) obtain a \$1.38 million grant from the Texas Department of Transportation for a new historic highways program and supported the efforts of our 20 historic sites and their Friends organizations.

We received grants for many exciting projects, including the First Lady's annual Main Street Tour, sponsored by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas. Another great partner, the Texas Land Title Association, underwrites our Historic Courthouse Stewardship Workshop. We received donations from the Houston Endowment and are awaiting notification of other grants for archeological investigations at Bernardo Plantation in East Texas. We received a second grant from the National Park Service for education and interpretation programs regarding Japanese prisoners held at internment centers in five Texas communities during World War II.

As the nation gears up for the Civil War sesquicentennial, the THC plans to continue its series of exciting interpretive projects at Palmito Ranch Battlefield National Historic Landmark. Complementing these activities in South Texas is the Texas Civil War Monuments Fund and our efforts to mark sites outside Texas. Thanks to many generous donors, we exceeded our goal for the Texas Civil War Monuments Fund for the third year in a row and as of October 3, we will have dedicated three memorials to honor Texas soldiers who fought in two battles in Kentucky and Corinth, Mississippi.

The Preservation Fellows program celebrated its fourth year with two wonderful student interns. Texas State University's Katherine Koebbe is a member of the Mohegan Indian Tribe, and her work with THC archeologists helped her utilize the skills and knowledge she needs to qualify for a great job in the future. Norris White, Jr., a graduate student in history at the Stephen F. Austin University, spent his internship developing educational materials at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site.

As the 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the THC, the Friends' mission is to build a strong financial foundation for historic preservation in Texas. We are deeply grateful to those who helped us sustain our momentum during another very challenging year.

I would like to offer a special "thank you" to the Texas Heroes, our council of philanthropists. The generosity of the Heroes allows us to recognize excellence in historic preservation and honor those who represent "The Best of the Best" in conserving and promoting the history of our state.

As December 31 draws near, I invite you to become a Texas Hero or to contribute to your favorite division or program. A charitable donation to the Friends as part of your year-end giving plan offers an opportunity to preserve our history while receiving income tax benefits. Won't you join us? We are doing wonderful things for the people of Texas, and we invite you to be our partner in this important mission.

On behalf of all of us, I send best wishes to you and yours for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Brian Shivers, Chairman
Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

Governor's Mansion Restoration Begins

State Officials Focused on Future of Iconic Texas Structure

It's been more than two years since an arsonist set fire to the Texas Governor's Mansion. While the individual, or individuals, responsible remains at large, work to restore the historic landmark is well underway.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) issued a historic structures permit to the Texas State Preservation Board in September to perform exterior restoration and rehabilitation work to the 1856 Greek Revival building. The San Antonio firm of Ford, Powell & Carson Architects and Planners, Inc. is the lead architectural firm. The project includes a new, two-story addition with a basement, attached to the back of the existing historic residence to minimize its visual impact. The permit is for exterior work only and was reviewed by THC architectural staff to ensure the building's historic integrity is preserved.

The mansion has served as an Austin home to every Texas governor since 1856, including such notable governors as Sam Houston, John Connally, Ann Richards, and George W. Bush. It is the oldest continuously occupied executive mansion west of the Mississippi River and was still in use as a family residence at the time of a 2008 fire. Severely damaged by arson in June 2008, a saving grace was that, because the mansion was already undergoing a major deferred maintenance project at the time, all of the historic furniture, artwork, and artifacts had been removed and safely stored. Even the majority of the

doors and windows were safely off-site.

The work to the historic structure includes construction of a new roof and second-floor ceiling; masonry repairs utilizing original salvaged brick; foundation repairs; restoration of the two-story wood columns and porches of the main façade; and restoration of the historic wood windows and main entrance, among other numerous less-noticeable tasks. Salvaged and recently restored materials are being stored off-site, including wood sashes, shutters, and window screens. The mansion has already undergone extensive remediation and emergency stabilization.

"We are pleased that the State Preservation Board can now move forward with restoring one of Texas' most important landmarks," said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. "The THC has carefully reviewed the plans now being put in place, and we have the confidence of knowing they will preserve the Governor's Mansion

for years to come. This will serve as another chapter in the real story of this important place in Texas' history."

In early May 2010, THC officials approved a conceptual plan for a two-story addition to the mansion to be built onto the west side of the home. The addition allows replacement of a stairway with one that meets modern safety codes, new handicapped-accessible restrooms, additional storage areas, and a new elevator to replace a damaged 1946 elevator within the historic mansion.

The Texas Governor's Mansion has withstood the elements, the ages, and arson, but its history, significance, and silhouette as viewed from the State Capitol grounds remains steadfast. As restoration work continues on this iconic structure, Texans are reminded of the enduring presence of this remarkable piece of Texas history.

This article was written by Debbi Head of the THC's Marketing Communications Division.



The Texas Governor's Mansion as it appeared before the 2008 fire (at right) and during restoration and rehabilitation work (above).



San Augustine County Courthouse Team Tackles Restoration of Historic Light Fixtures

“Insurmountable.” That’s how the design team recently described the challenges in restoring several aspects of the 1927 San Augustine County Courthouse. The courthouse received \$3.8 million in planning and construction funds through two rounds of the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program.

At a recent construction meeting, the team discussed its initial reaction to the restoration project, particularly the electrical wiring and lighting. They acknowledged that along with the learning curve inherent in these initiatives, some lucky breaks developed in the research and reproduction of the San Augustine County Courthouse’s historic light fixtures. They also noted that despite their early concerns about the seemingly overwhelming project, several historical tools ultimately made it fully achievable.

The team members add that every courthouse restoration project is a puzzle based on clues from the past. The original building design unfolds during the planning and construction processes.

“The design team works to restore public space to its historic appearance, providing a glimpse into the past,” says Stan Graves, director of the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. “At the same time, all systems are upgraded to modern standards. The challenge lies in satisfying both criteria, such that the courthouse retains its original character, yet functions to meet today’s needs.”

The San Augustine County Courthouse reflects its community’s colorful history. San Augustine was founded in 1834, along the original



Above and opposite page: Local companies worked with the THC to help replicate historic light fixtures in the recently restored San Augustine County Courthouse.

route of El Camino Real de los Tejas, a combination of historic routes totaling more than 2,500 miles from the Rio Grande near Laredo to the Louisiana border. The community was second only to Galveston as a point of entry into the Republic of Texas. San Augustine prospered in the 1920s, as the railroad opened markets for cotton and timber production. City-owned utilities provided electric light, power, sewage treatment, ice, and natural gas to supply the needs for a growing economy and population.

As a replacement for an 1844 courthouse, the new courthouse showcased modern technology in radiant heating, indoor plumbing, and electric lighting at a time when many rural families lived without these luxuries. The building provided a community center for public meetings and a gathering place on the

courthouse square for markets and celebrations. It was built as a symbolic source of pride in a community looking to the future.

When architect Shirley Simons designed the courthouse, he was an ambitious 30-year old with an architectural degree from Rice Institute (now Rice University). The three-story limestone building was designed with roots in the Classical Revival style from the turn-of-the-century, but hinted at a new, stripped-down style, popularized during the Great Depression years. The building was constructed with a concrete frame, with walls infilled with hollow clay tile, and then plastered. The resulting “fireproof” construction was standard practice for public buildings of the day.

Nearly 70 years later, the restoration architect and contractor were determined to tackle the challenge

of returning the courthouse to its former splendor. Most organizations involved with the project, including Scott & Strong Architects and Interior Designers, Ludco Inc., and J. E. Kingham Construction Company, had close ties to the local community.

When the design team set out to replicate the interiors of the public spaces in the courthouse, the group used an unusual amount of photographic documentation. Farm Security Administration (FSA) photographer Russell Lee spent several weeks in San Augustine in 1939 photographing all aspects of life, including events at the county courthouse. These high-quality, black-and-white prints are available online in digital format through the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division (see sidebar below). The overall intent of the FSA documentary-style images was to show Americans at home, at work, and at play, with an emphasis on rural and small-town life and the effects of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and increasing farm mechanization.

Several of the images of the San Augustine County Courthouse show the wood trim, the plaster wall finish, terrazzo floors, furnishings, and especially the light fixtures. The county was also fortunate to retain a number of historic fixtures, including some original glass shades in storage that matched Lee's photos.

While the local project team was familiar with the light fixtures from the FSA photographs, the question remained how to replicate them for the project. Bobby Terry, an electrical engineer, began searching the Internet for

possible suppliers. He eventually found a metalworking company in Seattle.

When Terry sent photos of the fixtures to Seattle, the supplier immediately recognized the style because he had owned a similar fixture. He produced original catalog pages with the full line of fixtures from the Kayline Company of Cleveland, Ohio, from the 1923 Sweet's architectural products catalog. The metalworking company sent several parts to be cast and found other pieces, such as the finials, as ready-made parts.

"This acquisition addressed the metal bases on many fixtures and the round chandeliers from the entryway and district courtroom, but team members wondered how the glass shades would be reproduced," explains THC historic interiors specialist Lisa Harvell. "The electrical engineer discovered a glass-blowing shop in West Virginia that created the shades."

On viewing the finished product, Terry reminisced, "It was fun to have the lighting turn out as well as it did. It seemed like a crapshoot to be sending the fixtures to a Seattle metalworker and a West Virginia glass maker."

When asked about the challenges associated with lighting issues, Mark Strong of Scott & Strong Architects and Interior Designers recalled the most difficult aspect was "integrating the new lighting into the historic fabric to make it functional, yet not overpowering the historic fixtures."

The architect used recessed lights in the courtroom on a separate circuit so the historic lighting level could be preserved or augmented with modern



lighting. In the offices, Steve Wright, the site superintendent, suggested a round industrial fixture because it could be installed using the original raceway, without additional surface conduit, yet provided modern lighting levels.

"Modern wiring is always a challenge to hide," says Graves. "Many walls were 'trenched' to hide conduit from view, then replastered."

Harvell notes, "Lighting can be one of the biggest design obstacles on a project if there isn't any evidence of the historic light fixtures. The FSA historic images are what make the San Augustine project so unique. They provided the project team with invaluable information on the courthouse's original interior finishes and fixtures."

She adds, "Reproducing the historic lighting on a courthouse project helps create the interior's original historic ambience and can truly be the highlight of a courthouse's restoration project." ★

Article and photos by Bess Graham of the THC's Architecture Division.



The black-and-white photographs of the Farm Security Administration (FSA) are a landmark in the history of documentary photography. To view photographs from the FSA documentation project go to Library of Congress' American Memory website (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>).

In addition, Russell Lee Photograph Collections may be found at the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin (www.cah.utexas.edu/feature/lee/) and Witliff Gallery and Alkek Library at Texas State University (<http://alkek.library.txstate.edu/swwc/wg/exhibits/rlee/bio1.html>).

Places of Honor and Repose: Restoring Texas' Historic Cemeteries

Historic cemeteries remind us of our past and the events that shaped the lives of those before us. Previous generations dedicated a great deal of time and resources to honor the final resting places of their families, friends, and elders.

Unfortunately, over time, neglect and even well-intentioned repairs take their toll on many of the artistic, architectural, and cultural features of our historic burial grounds. And, because of the vast size of our state, it can sometimes be challenging to assess the condition of and maintain the official state historical markers at gravesites throughout Texas. Successful endeavors rely on partnerships among local organizations, descendants of those interred, volunteers, and the State of Texas.

The state first commemorated the graves of its heroes in 1856, appropriating funds for those buried at the San Jacinto Battlefield. In 1894, a state marker was placed at the gravesite of former U.S. Sen. Thomas Rusk in Nacogdoches, and in 1911, Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, and Elizabeth Crockett (widow of Alamo defender David Crockett) were honored with official state grave markers at their final resting places in Huntsville, Austin, and Acton, respectively.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Louis Kemp of Houston, an avid researcher of 1830s Texas, helped secure grave markers for dozens of largely forgotten Texas Revolution and Republic of Texas figures. The Board of Control, in charge of state property, commissioned and installed these gray and pink granite markers in consultation with the Texas State Library and Historical Commission (now the Texas State Library and Archives Commission).

One of these markers was placed in Gonzales at the grave of Mathew Caldwell, an early settler, soldier, and signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Recently, staff from the Texas Historical

Commission's (THC) cemetery and historical marker programs joined the Gonzales County Historical Commission (CHC), volunteers, and Caldwell descendants in cleaning and restoring Caldwell's

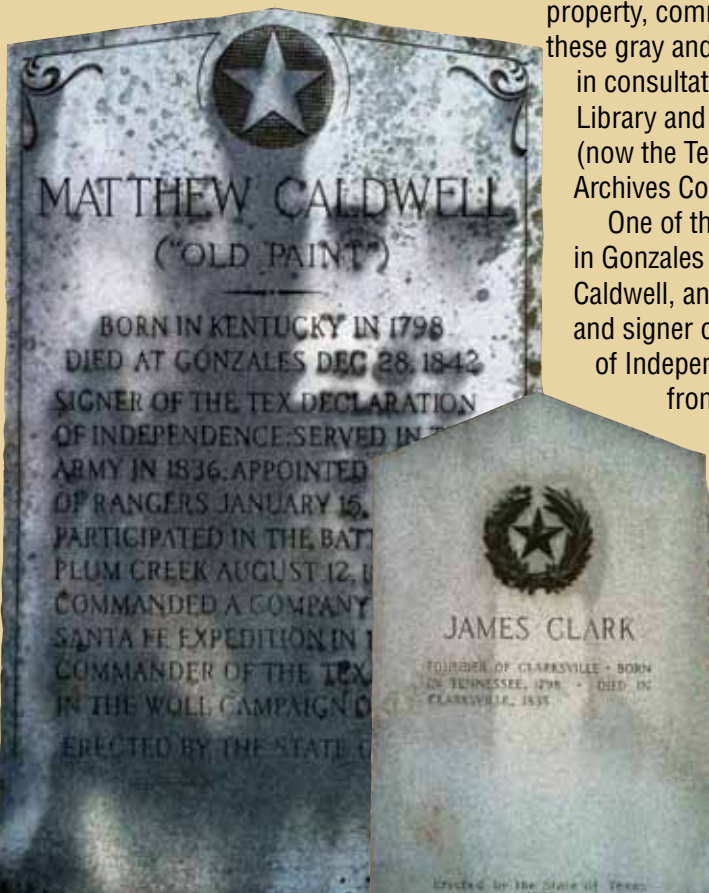
1930 grave marker.

"This event turned out to be a catalyst for renewed interest in our historic city cemetery," says Bob Burchard, Gonzales CHC chair. "In late September, we had a cemetery clean-up day with 40 adults and young people representing five organizations and groups—it was a great day for the cemetery and Gonzales, and it's started a significant awareness among our people."

During Texas' 1936 Centennial, when more than 1,100 historical markers were placed throughout the state (including 271 grave markers), gray and pink Texas granite continued as the material of choice.

"In some cases, these centennial markers are the only above-ground evidence left to mark historic cemeteries," explains Bratten Thomason, director of the THC's History Programs Division, noting that the state changed to aluminum for most historical markers in the 1960s. Granite is still used in special cases, such as the Texas in the Civil War series at Civil War battlefields in other states.

Thomason adds that commemorative memorials were placed in the spirit of patriotism, and she advises community members to take precautions when cleaning a gravemarker, whether placed by descendants or a state agency. It is important to note that proper cleaning of a gravemarker should remove soiling agents that encourage pollution to stick to the surface, which, in turn, encourages potentially harmful lichen to grow. Cleaning should not be undertaken as a method to make a gravemarker look new, since a





Opposite and above: 1930s markers across the state, including the gravesite of Matthew Caldwell in Gonzales, have been cleaned thanks to partnerships between local organizations and the THC.

significant attraction of a historic cemetery is the ability to experience a community's history firsthand and visually appreciate and connect with its cultural landscape.

As Texas' 1936 Centennial markers turn 75 years old in 2011, many CHCs and cemetery associations may want to assess conditions of the State of Texas granite markers in their communities. Approach any treatment of these historic resources with caution, since cleaning historic masonry has the potential to do more harm than good. Improper techniques can cause extreme and unintended damage to gravemarkers and monuments. THC cemetery program officials recommend the following guidelines:

- Only clean markers that are stable on their bases or in the ground, with no surface damage or loss.
- Never clean an unstable marker—record its condition and monitor it for

further damage or deterioration.

- Approach any cleaning efforts with extreme care. Clean only to the amount needed for the situation.
- Do not use bleach or muriatic acid.
- Use a soft, natural bristle brush. Do not sandblast—this removes surface material.
- Use clean water and keep the pressure at about 100 psi, similar to a garden hose. Never pressure wash.
- Keep annual records of existing conditions and any preservation efforts, both written and pictorial, to chart changes over time. Forms and resources are available through the THC's RIP (Record, Investigate, Protect) Guardian program.

Each Texas cemetery has significant and unique cultural features that should be documented and preserved. The THC estimates there are more than 50,000 historic cemeteries across the state ranging in size from large, maintained city burial grounds to rural, remote sites, including single graves. Communities can assist with

preservation efforts in several ways:

- Determine if the cemetery has been designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC). Through the HTC application process, the cemetery boundaries are recorded in the county deed record. The process also establishes a relationship between community members, CHCs, and the THC.
- Participate in the THC's RIP Guardian program. The program supports the statewide network of cemetery preservation volunteers and provides educational material, samples, and forms to participants. The RIP Guardian conservation kit includes basic tools to help volunteers determine when it is appropriate to clean and how to get started.

"Interpretive markers placed by the State of Texas add to the story of a historic cemetery," Thomason says. "Restoring the real places of Texas helps preserve our heritage." ★

This article was written by Anne Shelton and Bob Brinkman of the THC's History Programs Division.

Before beginning any cemetery preservation work, refer to *Preserving Historic Cemeteries: Texas Preservation Guidelines* at www.thc.state.tx.us/publications/guidelines/Preservecem.pdf and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training at www.ncptt.nps.gov/cleaning-a-stone-grave-marker-2007-01/.



BOUNTIFUL BRAZOS VALLEY

From Boonville to Bush, Bryan-College Station Offers Remarkable Heritage

In the late 1850s, Boonville was a thriving East Texas community, with a courthouse square surrounded by wooden buildings containing a hotel, general store, school, doctor's office, and other services. The square was centered on a hilltop offering scenic views of the surrounding Brazos River Valley, with a modest cemetery located on a plot of land just north of the bustling townsite.

A decade later, Boonville was virtually non-existent. With the arrival of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad nearly two miles to the west in Bryan, Boonville officials and residents decided to abandon the community in favor of the nearby upstart city. Structures were dismantled and lives were uprooted, with the cemetery offering the only physical remnant of Boonville's presence.

Fast-forward 150 years: Boonville's existence is even more forgotten. The land that once housed a blacksmith shop and gristmill is now occupied by the concrete expanse of a car dealership. The vanished community's story would be erased completely if not for the efforts of local historians, including Henry Mayo, chairman of the Brazos County Historical Commission (CHC).

"I just keep envisioning this little community that existed on that site—it was probably like a classic Old West town with the wooden sidewalks and merchant shops around the courthouse square," Mayo says.

Intrigued by the vanished community, Mayo set to work on a project that would ultimately reveal the precise current location of the townsite. As a land surveyor, he had access to two vital documents: a copy of Boonville's initial town plat and an aerial photo of the community's approximate former location two miles east

of Bryan. Mayo used a computer drafting program to electronically combine the two documents, placing the defined boundaries of the original cemetery lot atop the current cemetery property.

"It's an interesting perspective that really helps provide a simultaneous sense of the past and present," Mayo says. "From this document, you can see there are a couple of open acres right next to that car dealership. I'd love to get a marker or something on that property to let people know it was once a courthouse square."

Boonville's legacy also survives in the form of Boonville Days, an annual heritage fair organized by the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History. Held the first Saturday in October, Boonville Days commemorates the former



Opposite: An exhibit at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Left: the initial town plat of Boonville overlaid on a current aerial photo of the site. Below and bottom: historic downtown Bryan.

townsite and educates attendees about regional history through exhibits, demonstrations, and crafts.

“It’s a great way to let people know about Brazos County’s past and to bring forgotten places like Boonville back to life,” says Mayo, who also serves as president of the museum’s board.

As CHC chair, Mayo has encountered other intriguing aspects of Brazos County’s history, often revealing the region’s unexpectedly diverse cultural heritage.

For example, he notes that people are typically surprised to learn the county has a concentrated population of Italians. In the late 1800s, thousands of Italian immigrants fled poor economic conditions in their home country in favor of tenant farming opportunities in the Brazos River Valley. Many families eventually purchased the land where they worked, and some still remain in the area.

Biaggio “Brazos” Varisco, a successful Italian agriculturist and developer, was instrumental in the growth of downtown Bryan. He helped finance several buildings in the city’s commercial district, including the Art Deco seven-story Varisco Building (217 N. Main St.), which remains a focal point of Bryan’s historic downtown and was once billed as the tallest building between Houston and Waco.

Mayo compiled another interesting aspect of Brazos County’s heritage for a Texas Historical Commission (THC) subject marker for the Villa Maria Ursuline Academy. The nunnery relocated to Bryan from Galveston in search of an inland location immediately following the 1900 hurricane. Though the academy remained in operation for only two decades, its distinctive sun-dried bricks have endured in subsequent buildings constructed at the site, and several were placed at the base of the THC’s historical marker (located at the corner of Ursuline Avenue and Villa Maria Road).

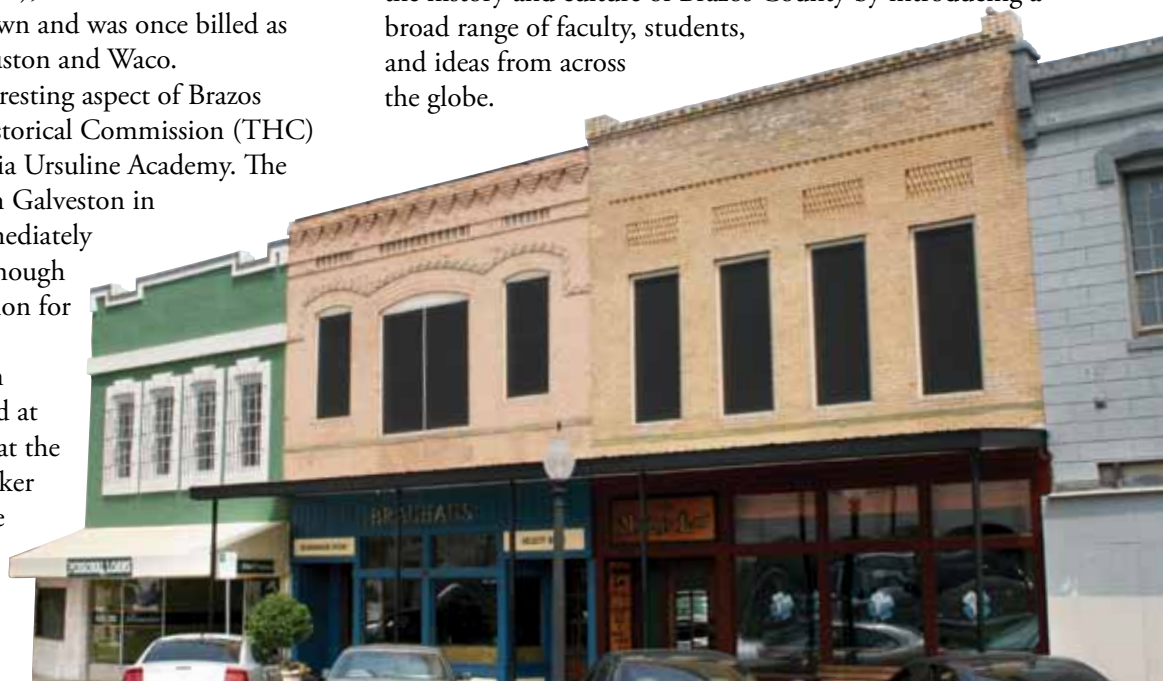


Despite Bryan’s mild rivalry with its neighbor to the southeast, College Station, Mayo acknowledges that the city’s influence—particularly from Texas A&M University—has had an indelible impact on the region.

According to the Handbook of Texas, Texas A&M opened as Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1876 as an all-male military institution with required participation in the Corps of Cadets. Despite its name, the university’s early academic focus was in classical studies before protests from farmer groups resulted in a required curriculum in agriculture and engineering.

Throughout the early 1900s, Texas A&M maintained a strong military association, providing thousands of former students as officers in both World Wars. In 1963, the Texas Legislature approved a bill changing the university’s name to Texas A&M, ushering in a new era. Women were officially admitted at this time, and the Corps of Cadets became a voluntary organization. A surge in enrollment followed, from nearly 8,000 students in 1963 to more than 25,000 in 1976. Texas A&M currently has an enrollment of 49,426.

Mayo claims the university has positively influenced the history and culture of Brazos County by introducing a broad range of faculty, students, and ideas from across the globe.





Left: Historic Main Street in downtown Bryan. Above: the Texas A&M Aggies have played football at Kyle Field since 1927. Opposite: A THC marker at Texas A&M's Corps of Cadets Center.

"A&M has created opportunities that otherwise wouldn't exist in this part of East Texas," he says. "The connections a university this size offers and the diversity that comes along with it have drastically affected the lives of many people out here for the better."

Browsing Brazos County

With Texas A&M as the region's cultural focal point, it's fitting that the campus hosts one of the nation's premier presidential museums. The **George Bush Presidential Library and Museum**, which chronicles Bush's personal and political achievements with thousands of artifacts, documents, photos, and videos, has drawn millions of visitors from across the globe since opening in 1997.

"We've made a strong attempt to put everything in context with President Bush's activities and the events going on in the U.S. and the world at the same time," says Tracy Paine, the museum's special events coordinator. "Most people who come here are surprised by the breadth of his service—they remember the big events during his presidency, but often forget about his previous leadership roles in the CIA and the Republican Party."

According to Paine, Bush and his wife Barbara have an apartment on the museum grounds, and make regular visits to the facility. They enjoy making "surprise appearances,"

shaking hands, signing autographs, and interacting with museum guests.

Paine adds that Bush developed long-standing ties with many Texas A&M graduates throughout his political career and felt an especially strong connection with the university following his commencement address there in 1989. The following year, Texas A&M dedicated 90 acres on the West Campus to house his library and museum.

In 2007, the museum completed an \$8.3 million renovation to the main exhibit on Bush's life, with a significant increase in touch-screen and video displays, including a clip of Bush's first steps in 1925.

"The video collection really makes a big difference," Paine says. "He was one of the first presidents to have such an extensive documentation of his childhood captured on a movie camera. It adds a whole new dimension to experiencing his past."

Other notable museum highlights include a replica Oval Office where visitors can be photographed at the presidential desk, a display containing a segment of the Berlin Wall, and an exhibit featuring a collection of the 3,000-plus gifts Bush received from foreign heads of state (ranging from solid-gold palm trees to small painted stones).

While on the A&M campus, visitors can also experience the **Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center**, which showcases the proud history of the university's iconic cadets. Dozens of displays feature artifacts and photos documenting the rituals of cadet life and university traditions such as 12th Man, the Aggie Band, and Fish (freshmen) Drill Team. Most notable is the Metzger-Sanders gun collection, an impressive assortment of firearms often used for historical research. The campus is also home to the **J. Wayne Stark University Center Galleries**, focusing on American artwork (with a strong Texas emphasis) from the 19th and 20th centuries. Of note: due to extensive renovation to the Memorial Student Center, the galleries will be closed until mid-2012.

Art lovers can experience additional A&M holdings at the **MSC Forsyth Center Galleries**. Traditionally housed in the student center (under construction), the galleries are temporarily located in downtown Bryan (110 N. Main St.), where visitors can view significant 19th- and 20th-century art glass, American paintings, and multi-disciplinary temporary exhibitions.

If You Go...

Brazos Valley African American Museum

979.775.3961

Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

979.776.2195

www.brazosvalleymuseum.org

Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History

979.209.5630

Texas A&M University Campus: George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

979.691.4000

<http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu>

MSC Forsyth Center Galleries

979.845.9251

forsyth.tamu.edu

Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets Center

979.862.2862

www.aggiecorps.org/corpscenter

While in downtown Bryan, visitors can experience several other cultural attractions representing Brazos County's past. Of particular significance is the 1903 **Carnegie Public Library**, now serving as the Carnegie Center of Brazos Valley History. In 1899, community members sought support from industrial magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, who provided a \$10,000 grant for the library. For several decades, the building's second-floor auditorium was the annual reunion site for members of Hood's Texas Brigade Association, a group of Confederacy veterans who fought under the command of Gen. John Bell Hood. The building currently houses an extensive genealogy collection, a wide-ranging selection of historical publications, and multimedia research materials.

Across the street are two of downtown Bryan's most notable historical landmarks: the **LaSalle Hotel** and **Queen Theatre**. The LaSalle, which boasts a THC Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, was abuzz with activity following its completion in 1928, hosting politicians, socialites, business travelers, and military personnel. The building was preserved and rehabilitated as a historic hotel with modern amenities in 2000.

Adjacent to the hotel is the stately Queen Theatre, recently purchased by the Downtown Bryan Association with the intent of restoring the building as a community entertainment venue. The group has organized a "Save the Queen" fundraising effort and hopes to have the exterior restored by next year with an interior renovation to follow.

Another noteworthy nearby attraction is the **Brazos Valley African American Museum**. Opened in 2006, the museum offers an impressive overview of African American heritage, from local exhibits dedicated to educational facilities and local luminaries to educational displays showcasing significant regional and national events and achievements. The museum, featured in the THC's forthcoming *African Americans in Texas: A Lasting Legacy* travel booklet, also houses an extensive collection of oral histories and accompanying multimedia documentation.

"A lot of our visitors are students, and it's fun to see the looks on their faces when they're walking through the displays," says Wayne Sadberry, museum curator. "They're not used to seeing blacks celebrated in exhibits like these. It's just wonderful to see their reactions."

Regional heritage is also highlighted at the **Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History**. According to Mayo, the facility has existed "in one form or another" since 1961. Its current location adjacent to the Brazos Valley Center opened in 1993; since then, it has carried out its mission to increase the public's awareness of the region's cultural and natural heritage. The museum hosts regular traveling exhibits in addition to its permanent displays featuring artifacts, maps, photos, and educational programs dedicated to the events that shaped the Brazos Valley's history.

For additional information about heritage tourism destinations in the area, order a free copy of the THC's *Texas Brazos Trail Region* travel guide by calling 866.276.6219 or visiting www.thc.state.tx.us. ★

Article and photos by Andy Rhodes, managing editor of The Medallion.

Building Relationships with Local Preservationists, One Oral History at a Time

For nearly five years, the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Military Sites Program has co-hosted dozens of free oral history training workshops around the state. Joining in this significant endeavor are Texas' County Historical Commissions (CHC), public school districts, museums, veterans organizations, and preservation groups.

The workshops, titled *"Here and There: Recollections of Texas in World War II,"* are part of the THC's Texas in World War II initiative, a program that honors and preserves the memories of Texans who served in the armed

forces and on the home front during World War II, and the great contribution they made to the war effort. The Houston Endowment and the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas have generously funded this workshop series, designed for people interested in learning how to conduct, record, locally archive, and preserve their community's oral histories pertaining to World War II.

According to William McWhorter, coordinator of the THC's Military Sites Program, two significant elements have made the workshop series a success. First is the benefit local co-hosts provide in organizing events in communities across the state. Second is the concerted effort by lecturers from Baylor University's Institute for Oral History to enhance the workshop series and reach more Texans efficiently by partnering in workshops around the state (March 2008 to March 2010).

"This partnership truly empowered our agency's Military Sites Program and enhanced our efforts to effectively reach people interested in learning how to establish their own local oral history programs,"

McWhorter explains.

In addition to oral

history training, the Military Sites Program is currently conducting a statewide survey of World War II military and home front sites. During the initial years of the oral history training workshop series (2006–07), THC historians observed that participants offered a wealth of knowledge and an eager pride to share stories about their communities' World War II efforts.

As a result, since 2008, each workshop has been paired with a roundtable discussion, led by THC historians, where local citizens (often CHC members and home front "veterans") provide irreplaceable first-person perspectives of their region's World War II military and home front sites. In addition, participants have provided agency historians with information on local sources of rare historic photos, site maps, and newspaper articles that have greatly benefited the statewide survey's growing database of the nearly 1,500 sites.

"Standing on historic ground and hearing the stories of those who came before us puts people in a perfect frame of mind to consider their cultural heritage and the importance of preserving it for future generations," McWhorter says. "As THC staff continues to canvass the state, they are gathering historic photos and archival newspaper articles about each site. When these are paired with contemporary photos taken by our historians, it provides a very powerful visual image showing the changes Texas has experienced over the past 65 years."

McWhorter adds that partnering with informed, motivated, and preservation-minded co-hosts has greatly benefited the THC's Texas in



Left: Bobby Hill co-hosted a THC World War II oral history workshop in Wheeler earlier this year. Opposite: the THC's William McWhorter talks with Betty Bundy about oral histories.

World War II oral history training workshop series, statewide survey, and the agency's oral history program. The most recent example of these working relationships began last year. In early 2009, representatives from the Wheeler Centennial Historical Association (WCHA) contacted the THC with news that the WCHA wanted to preserve a structure in Wheeler County with a direct tie to local veterans and World War II.

“Standing on historic ground and hearing the stories of those who came before us puts people in a perfect frame of mind to consider their cultural heritage and the importance of preserving it for future generations.”

— *William McWhorter*
Coordinator of the THC's Military Sites Program

The Wheeler Independent School District's (WISD) board of trustees recently donated the former American Legion Hall to the WCHA for the planned museum. The WCHA is currently working to establish a museum at the site of the former West-Passons Post of the American Legion, built in 1947 by residents (including local World War II veterans) and named in honor of James Passons, a local Marine who was killed in the Pacific during the war.

In their efforts to preserve the structure and establish a museum, the WCHA sought guidance from a number of THC programs, including the National Register of Historic Places, reviewers in the agency's Architecture Division, the Museum Services Program, and the Military Sites Program. In addition to documenting the building's history with both primary and secondary source materials, the WCHA documented and preserved the stories of Wheeler County's veterans through oral histories.

In July 2009, WCHA member Bobbye Hill attended a Texas in World War II oral history training workshop in Lubbock at the Silent Wings Museum. After receiving training, Hill conducted dozens of interviews around the state about the former American Legion and various World War II topics, including interviews in New Mexico with former Marine Navajo Code Talkers.

Building on Hill's momentum, the

THC's Military Sites Program scheduled a workshop in Wheeler on August 21 to provide free oral history training to members of the WCHA and citizens throughout the northeastern Panhandle region. This workshop provided the WCHA

and other participants with training to preserve the irreplaceable stories of Wheeler County's veterans, the City of Wheeler, the WISD, Wheeler County law enforcement, Wheeler Volunteer Fire Department, Wheeler pioneers, civic leaders, and Lipscomb County veterans.

“The workshop equally benefited our Texas in World War II initiative's statewide survey project in Wheeler and surrounding counties,” McWhorter says, acknowledging the support of Hill, WCHA members, and Lipscomb CHC members in attendance. “World War II served as the catalyst that changed the Lone Star State like no other event in the 20th century—it played a major role in shaping the Texas mystique. Thanks to terrific local partners like the WCHA, our program plans to continue to host these free workshops and World War II-related activities as long as grant funds remain.”

This article was written by the THC's Military Sites Program staff.



Oral History Activist

The THC's Military Sites Program has been working closely with Betty Bundy and the staff at the Air Force Village I retirement complex in San Antonio. Bundy, formerly of the Port Aransas Historical Association, co-hosted a Texas in World War II oral history training workshop in August 2009. After retiring to San Antonio in 2010, Bundy's fond experiences with the Port Aransas workshop motivated her to seek out the THC's Military Sites Program to provide another free oral history training workshop in her new community.

Bundy is currently hard at work with Air Force Village I retiree volunteers and staff to establish an oral history program to preserve the countless stories of Village I residents from World War II to Vietnam. Bundy and her intrepid volunteers participated in a Texas in World War II oral history training workshop with THC historians on September 2, the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II (and the fifth anniversary of the THC's Texas in World War II initiative).

New National Register Properties Showcase the Texas Mystique



Texas' historic properties reflect a broad range of the state's dynamic cultural heritage. Several of these locales were recently deemed worthy of being added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the country's official list of significant historical resources, including more than 3,000 listings in Texas. Listing affords properties a measure of protection from the impact of federally funded projects, as well as access to technical expertise, tax credits, and grant funds to facilitate preservation. The following recently listed historic properties represent the real stories of Texas' captivating history.

HERITAGE PARK PLAZA

Fort Worth, Tarrant County

Heritage Park Plaza (1976–80) is a public park in downtown Fort Worth designed by the internationally acclaimed landscape architect Lawrence Halprin (1916–2009). The plaza design incorporates a set of interconnecting concrete rooms with flowing water walls, channels, and pools, with plantings in a structured grid pattern that includes upper and lower lawns.

An elevated walkway over the bluff grants access to vistas across the Trinity River valley, much like the 19th-century military fort that once occupied this site.

It was in Heritage Park Plaza that Halprin first experimented with a sequence of outdoor rooms to construct a narrative—a design concept that he later employed in Washington, D.C., for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. The

property is of exceptional national significance because it is the only one of Halprin's many public works to present a narrative of urban development, as its concrete walls directly refer to the fort complex and to the stone ruins of an early barrio located below the plaza. Heritage Park Plaza is the only public space within Fort Worth officially developed by the city in commemoration of the U.S. Bicentennial celebration.

THE SETTLEMENT HISTORIC DISTRICT

Texas City, Galveston County

The Settlement Historic District is the core of a community founded by former slaves after the Civil War. The district includes four historic frame residences dating from the late-19th century through the mid-20th century, and a 1943 brick commercial building. The oldest building, the 1887 Frank and Flavilla Bell home, is being restored for development as a community museum. The Settlement was the only independent African American Reconstruction community in Galveston County, and it is older than many of the mainland cities in the vicinity.

After the Civil War, members of the Bell, Britton, Caldwell, and Hobgood families worked on the Butler Ranch in northern Galveston County, and in 1867, they began contracting acreage from Judge William Jones with money earned by driving cattle up the Chisholm Trail to Kansas. The Settlement was annexed into the City of Texas City in 1953, but it retains the character of its earlier days, and many descendants of the original pioneers still own property within the historic boundaries.

FAIRVIEW RAILROAD DISTRICT

Fairview, Collin County

The Fairview Railroad Historic District contains five structures, including two arch bridges built in the 1870s by the Houston & Texas Central Railway Co. The district also includes bridge abutments and piers built for interurban rail use by the Texas Traction Company in 1908, as well as a 1915 stone dam built by the Edgar H. Bush family to create a recreational pool.



Opposite: Fort Worth's Heritage Park (photos by Rachel Leibowitz); at left: Bridge City's Cow Bayou Bridge (photo by Mark Dunn); above: the Frank Bell, Jr. House in Texas City's Settlement district (photo by Helen Mooty).

HOUSTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Crockett, Houston County

Designed in 1938 by Houston-based architect Blum E. Hester, the Houston County Courthouse is the fifth courthouse to occupy the town square, and is one of several civic buildings constructed in the city under the New Deal's Public Works Administration. The courthouse is an excellent example of late-1930s Art Moderne public architecture and, among the Texas courthouses of the period, is one of the most straightforward, yet elegant, interpretations of the style.

KLEBERG COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Kingsville, Kleberg County

For more than 90 years, the Kleberg County Courthouse has served as the center of county government. The work of master architect Atlee B. Ayres, the building is an idiosyncratic variation of the typical Neoclassical Revival courthouse built in south Texas during the early 20th century. A hybrid of Classical and Prairie School influences, the courthouse documents a brief but important period in Ayres' career, characterized by the influence of Chicago's progressive architecture.

LUTHER HOTEL

Palacios, Matagorda County

The Luther Hotel is one of the few surviving tourist and residential hotels built along the Gulf Coast as part of extensive land development schemes throughout Texas in the early 20th century. The three-story frame hotel building has withstood numerous tropical storms and one fire. It was renovated between 1939 and 1941, receiving a two-story pedimented portico supported by monumental classical columns, along with an 11-unit motor court added to the site.

COW BAYOU SWING BRIDGE

Bridge City, Orange County

The 1940 Cow Bayou Swing Bridge is one of the last three historic moveable highway bridges in Texas. The still-operable swing span rotates on a center-bearing pivot, powered by an electric motor. The construction of the Cow Bayou Swing Bridge completed the last gap in the most direct route between the cities of Port Arthur and Orange. The route was improved by the 1938

construction of the Orange-Port Arthur Bridge (now known as the Rainbow Bridge) and other work to pave, widen, and straighten the road. In recognition of the importance of these two bridges to the local economy, the city of Prairie View changed its name to Bridge City shortly after construction was completed.

INCARNATE WORD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

San Antonio, Bexar County

The University of the Incarnate Word Administration Building, constructed between 1921 and 1922, is significant in the field of education, offering elementary, secondary, and college-level education throughout its history. Local architect Frederick B. Gaenslen designed the five-story, U-shaped, reinforced-concrete building in the Italian Renaissance style with moderate regional influences. ★

This article was written by Adrienne Campbell, Rachel Leibowitz, and Gregory Smith of the THC's History Programs Division.

For more information about the National Register program and eligibility requirements, contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512.463.5853 or history@thc.state.tx.us.

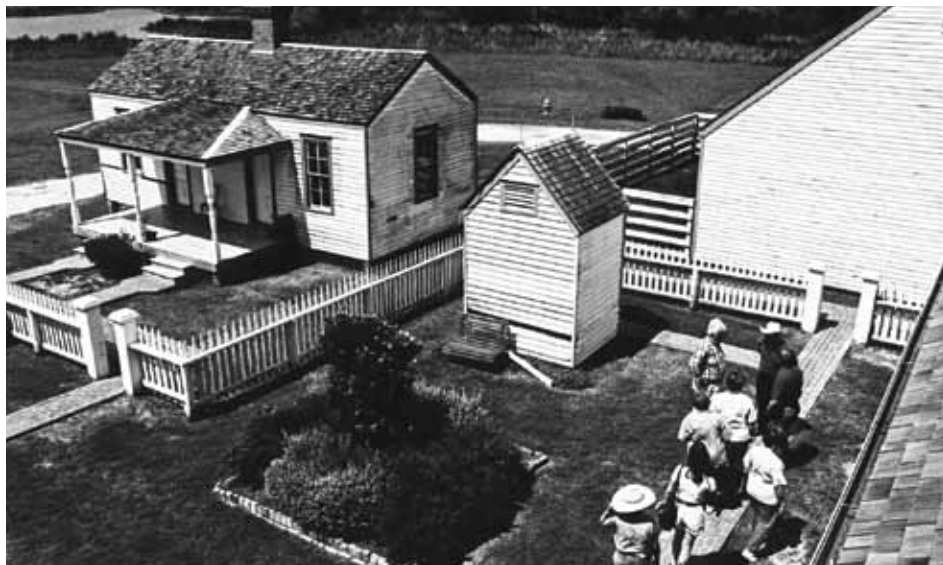
Commemorate the 175th Anniversary of Texas Independence

2011 will mark the 175th anniversary of Texas Independence, and communities throughout the state are planning special events to highlight this milestone.

On March 2, 1836, after more than a year of failed negotiations, Texan delegates met at Washington-on-the-Brazos and drafted a formal Declaration of Independence from Mexico. Citizens adopted a constitution and voted to raise an army under Gen. Sam Houston. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is marking the 175th anniversary of Texas Independence and the 75th anniversary of the Texas Centennial by promoting the more than 1,100 granite and bronze markers, monuments, and buildings placed throughout Texas in 1936.

The 11th Annual Texian Rally, held January 25–26, 2011, will highlight the 175th anniversary of Texas independence at the conference center at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. From April 8–10, 2011, the Runaway Scrape will be reenacted at the George Ranch in Richmond, remembering the approach of Santa Anna's army through the area and the panic that it caused.

Numerous other events are scheduled throughout the Texas Independence Trail Region in 2011. Visit www.texasindependencetrail.com and view the Calendar of Events link for more information.



Texas' 175th anniversary will be celebrated at Richmond's George Ranch Historic Park in April 2011.

Give Thanks for Your Local Preservationists

The December deadline is quickly approaching to nominate your local preservationists for one of the THC's numerous preservation awards. The awards will be presented at the agency's annual conference held in Austin, March 31–April 2, 2011.

The THC honors individuals and organizations committed to saving the real stories of Texas and our state's historic treasures. The Award of Excellence in Media Achievement serves to increase awareness of Texas' historic and prehistoric resources by promoting outstanding reporting through print or electronic media on preservation and/or heritage tourism issues. Other awards include two of the THC's most prestigious honors, the Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award and Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology. For a complete listing of the THC's awards visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. on December 10, 2010. For more guidelines contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512.463.5853.

Mark Your Calendars!



The THC's 2011 Annual Historic Preservation Conference is planned for March 31–April 2 at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol hotel.

As in years past, the conference will feature informative seminars, dynamic workshops, and educational tours showcasing diverse preservation-related topics. Featured guests and a keynote speaker will be announced in the coming months on the THC's website (www.thc.state.tx.us) and in future editions of *The Medallion*.

The conference alternates yearly between Austin and other Texas locations to reach as many preservationists as possible. For more information, call 512.463.6255.



African American Heritage Booklet Slated for December Release

The THC's latest heritage travel guide, *African Americans in Texas: A Lasting Legacy*, will be released on December 2 at a launch event in Dallas at St. Paul United Methodist Church. The 72-page booklet is the largest travel guide ever produced by the THC, and it features cultural and historical sites across the state that are significant to the African American experience in Texas. Throughout the guide, rich history and stunning photos are interwoven with biographical profiles and a timeline to key figures and events.

Also at the December 2 event, the THC will launch its first travel guide companion website, AfricanAmericansinTexas.com. The website features additional sites, photos, and resources not included in the booklet.

One of Dallas' oldest African American churches, St. Paul United Methodist Church was founded in 1873 in Freedmen's Town. Now an anchor of the Arts District, it is prominently featured in the THC's new booklet, along with Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, located across the street. The THC is honored to hold its launch in this exalted locale.

After the launch, the free booklet will be available for download, or print copies may be requested by calling 866.276.6219. For more information about the launch, contact Dineen Mansfield at 512.475.1576 or dineen.mansfield@thc.state.tx.us.



St. Paul United Methodist Church
(photo by Manny Rodriguez Photography)

THC Accepting Fehrenbach Book Award Nominations

As 2011 marks the 175th anniversary of Texas independence, a milestone in our state's past, consider nominating a local Texas history author for the THC's T.R. Fehrenbach Book Award. Named in honor of historian and THC Commissioner Emeritus T.R. Fehrenbach, the award recognizes writing based on original research that preserves, records, and recounts the prehistory or history of the state.

Books submitted for the award must have a 2010 copyright date and a minimum print run of 200. The 2009 winning book, *Polio Years in Texas: Battling a Terrifying Unknown* by Heather Green Wooten, utilized extensive archival research and interviews with Texas polio survivors and their families to produce a detailed and intensely human account of the epidemic's effect on Texas and its aftermath.

Nominations are due by December 31, 2010, at 5 p.m. Up to three awards will be presented. For additional information contact Adriane Reams of the THC's Marketing Communications Division at 512.463.8886 or adriane.reams@thc.state.tx.us.

Angelo State University Program to Award West Texas History Fellowships

Angelo State University (ASU) recently announced the third year of its Excellence in West Texas History Fellowship Program, which awards two post-doctoral fellowships valued at \$45,000 each. The fellowships are available for scholars interested in West Texas history who have completed a Ph.D. or students who are currently completing their doctoral work.

The fellowships will be awarded for studies covering topics such as race, cultural, ethnic, gender, and community

studies as well as Western, environmental, economic, and labor histories. Studies using fresh primary sources, along with original insights, will be given the strongest consideration. For more information, visit www.angelo.edu/services/library/wtcoll/fellowship1.html or call 325.942.2164.

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, ASU is also promoting a new award for best manuscript on Texas history and literature. Texas Tech is currently accepting submissions for the Lou Halsell Rodenberger Book Prize in Texas History and Literature, awarded biennially for the best manuscript on or by a woman whose writing illuminates Texas history, culture, and letters—particularly in West Texas and the Texas border region. For submittal guidelines visit www.ttup.ttu.edu/rodenberger_prize.html. ★

Varner-Hogg Plantation: A Story to Remember

The story of the THC's Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site mirrors the real story of Texas and its diverse landscapes and industries. Founded in 1824 by Austin colonist Martin Varner and later owned by Texas Gov. James S. Hogg, the site has been preserved and interpreted to provide visitors the opportunity to experience two centuries' worth of Texas history and the varied uses of the site over time.

In 1834, the property changed hands from Varner to Columbus R. Patton, whose family moved to the site with approximately 50 slaves. Slaves built a plantation house (once known as Patton's Place), a smokehouse, sugar mill, and their own quarters with handmade bricks from Brazos River mud. Through their labor, Patton built a successful sugarcane enterprise.

Over the years, property ownership changed several times with sugar production continuing as the primary use until 1889, when the Texas Land Company repurposed it for ranching. African American laborers adapted to new roles as cowboys and the land was utilized for livestock until 1901, when James S. Hogg, the first native-born Texas governor, purchased the land for his family. He believed that oil would be found on the property as well.

While large quantities of oil were never found during his lifetime, Hogg's will precluded his children from selling the mineral rights to the property for at least 15 years following his death in 1906. Within that time, the Hogg heirs struck oil, making them very wealthy.

"While none of the Hogg children made the Patton Place home, they each



Varner-Hogg's plantation house, once known as Patton's Place, will be decorated for an 1800s Texas Christmas in December.

spent a good amount of time at the site," explains Sue Miller, site manager at Varner-Hogg. "Long weekends with visitors, dinner parties, and outings to the country brought them to the house pretty regularly."

In 1919, the Hoggs made several modifications to the house, resulting in its current appearance. In 1958, Ima, the governor's only daughter and surviving child, donated the plantation to the State of Texas. Before turning over the property, she furnished the home to reflect her father's love of history and her own admiration for George Washington and other early Americans. Today, the site includes the grand plantation house, pecan orchards, numerous original outbuildings, and outdoor features including the governor's bathtub, Patton's cemetery, and sugarcane mill remains.

Varner-Hogg Plantation is currently undergoing a number of renovations

that will enhance the purpose of the buildings and the interpretation of the site. The 1920s oil field office and bunkhouse will transform into the new Visitors and Programming Center (scheduled to be open to the public in 2011). The maintenance shop was completely restored and plans are in place to update the public restrooms. Staff is also working with consultants on a new interpretive vision for the site.

"It's an exciting time at Varner-Hogg," Miller says. "So much is happening on the plantation—our staff is looking forward to a great year."

Visitors are encouraged to attend the site's upcoming Evening at the Plantation event, when the plantation house is decorated for an 1800s Texas Christmas featuring guided tours, live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and a variety of hot and cold beverages. The event will take place December 4, 2010 from 5–8 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$12 per person in advance and can be purchased at the site. for more information, please call 979.345.4656.★

This article was written by Sarah Tober of the THC's Marketing Communications Division.

Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site
1702 N. 13th St., West Columbia, TX
979.345.4656
www.visitvarnerhoggplantation.com
Open: Tuesday–Sunday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.



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Our Mission

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations.

County Historical Commission TIPS & TOOLS

According to Chapter 318 of the Texas Local Government Code, County Historical Commission (CHC) appointments should take place during January of odd-numbered years. Now is the time to check in with existing appointees to see if they are willing to continue serving and to find potential new appointees to ensure that CHC momentum is maintained or increased.

The county commissioners court appoints CHCs to initiate and conduct programs suggested by the court and the THC for the preservation of the county's cultural and historic resources. The state statute also instructs CHC programs to be consistent with the Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas, which is why CHCs played such an important role in the recent regional planning forums.

While the statutory selection criteria are fairly general—members should have an interest in preservation and reflect the diversity of the county—an effective CHC requires individuals who are committed to saving the resources and sharing the stories that define their county's history.

CHC candidates should be able and willing to:

- Attend all meetings and participate in CHC events.
- Work well with people and organizations.
- Travel outside county lines to attend preservation education opportunities.
- Provide ongoing updates on CHC activity to the county commissioners court.
- Receive and respond to inquiries about area historic resources in a timely manner.
- Visit historic properties to provide



Above: Ann Choate and Rose Duke welcomed participants to San Angelo's regional forum for Texas' Statewide Plan. Below: The Tom Green CHC hosted San Angelo's regional forum at the historic Cactus Hotel.



current information on site conditions.

- Update surveys and property inventories.
- Identify gaps or untold stories within the existing interpretation of county history.
- Understand the need to address and promote a diverse interpretation of county history.
- Ensure information collected today will be accessible in the future.
- Be a positive influence for the cause of preservation at home and abroad.

For more information about CHCs and new appointments, contact CHC Outreach Program staff at amy.hammons@thc.state.tx.us or amber.nunez@thc.state.tx.us.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

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WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

Where on Earth? You tell us! Write to the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276. You also may fax your answer to 512.463.6374 or email it to medallion@thc.state.tx.us. The first three people who correctly guess the site will be named with the answer in the January/February 2011 issue of *The Medallion*. The first correct mail answer will be counted, even if correct emails and faxes arrive first. Limit one prize annually per contestant.



Want a clue? Built in 1931, this 170-foot tall tower's exotic appearance earned it an official nickname referencing an architectural landmark in the Far East.

Answer to the photo from the last issue: The limestone

lintel pictured above is located over the entryway of the Centennial Museum at the University of Texas-El Paso. The carved scene depicts Cabeza de Vaca's early exploration of West Texas.

Congratulations to the only two readers who submitted the correct answer: Bobee Boyett of Lumberton and Mike Laverde of El Paso. They will receive prizes from our Texas Heritage Trails Program, the THC's regional tourism initiative, as a token of our appreciation for taking part in the fun. Thanks to all participants! ★



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