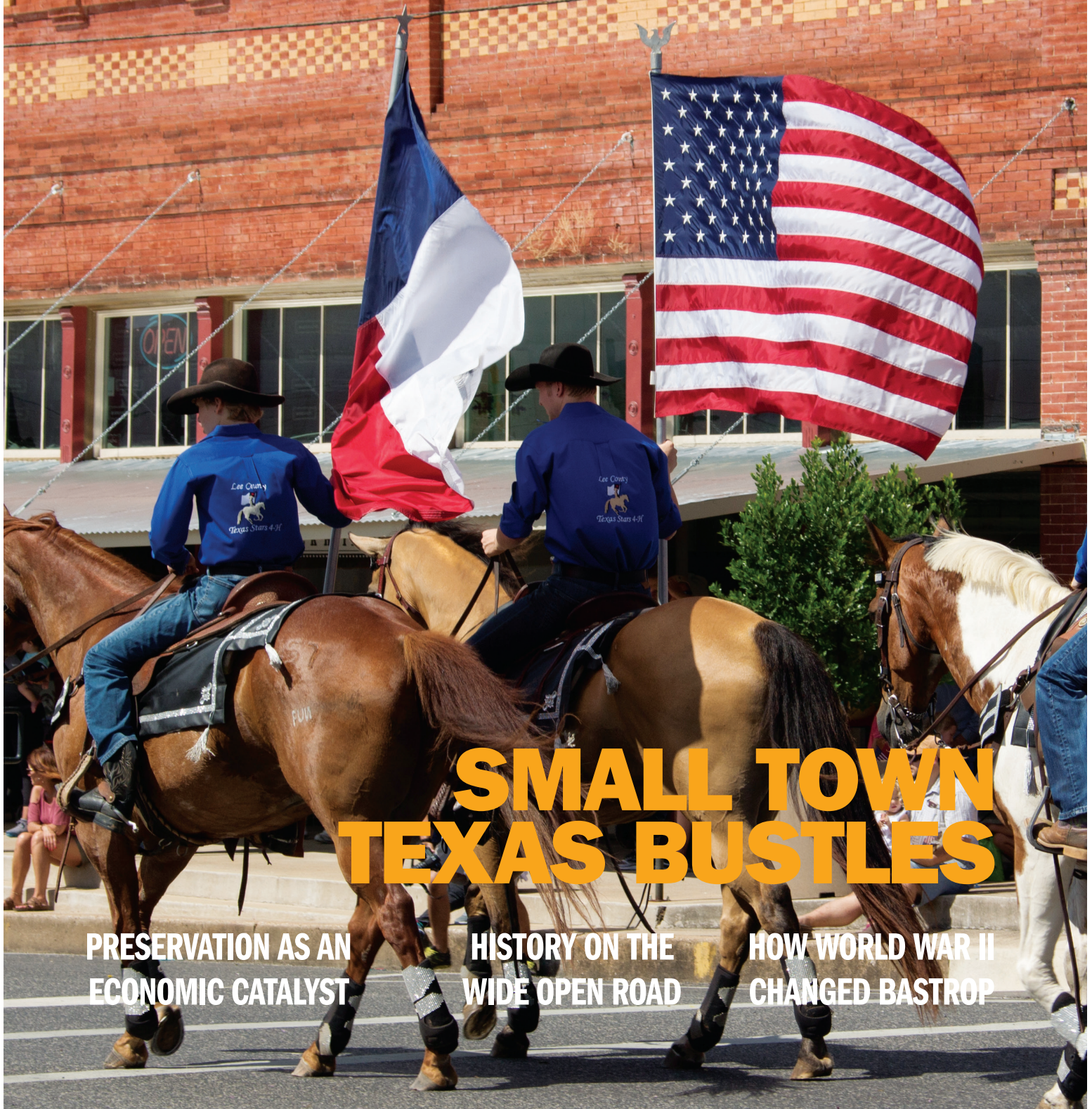


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The small town of Elgin celebrates Western Days with a parade that brings people downtown. Photograph courtesy of Renee Boyle.

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A Legacy of Giving Continues as THF Turns 65

The Texas Historical Foundation celebrated a milestone on January 11, when the organization marked its 65th birthday. THF continues to fulfill its mission of providing financial support to preservation groups, including the following recent grant recipients:

- **Montopolis Productions**, Austin, was the first to be awarded a grant from the newly established William Jack Sibley Arts Endowment (see below). The gift will help fund a multi-media concert that features historical and ecological points of interest in the state.

- The **University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Foundation**, Edinburg, received a grant for print materials related to “War and Peace on the Rio Grande,” a museum exhibit and special event.

- **The Foundation for the Preservation of the Historic Millett Opera House**, Austin, will use its grant to repair and restore the 1878 downtown building.

- **Caddo Mounds State Historic Site Friends Association**, Alto, won support for a project to create four Caddo-based videos geared for a K-5 audience and for associated historic and cultural site preservation work.

- THF’s second grant to **The Bryan Museum**, Galveston, will provide free student memberships (K-12) and three new touch carts for tactile experiences with artifacts related to Texas and the American West.

- **The Williamson Museum**, Georgetown, received a grant for two chuck wagons and hands-on activities and crafts during the town’s Chisholm Trail Days.

- **Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum**, Houston, will use its gift to hire an archeology intern and provide storage material for the museum’s artifact collection. Results of the archeological investigation will help provide understanding of Freedmen’s Town and its citizens.

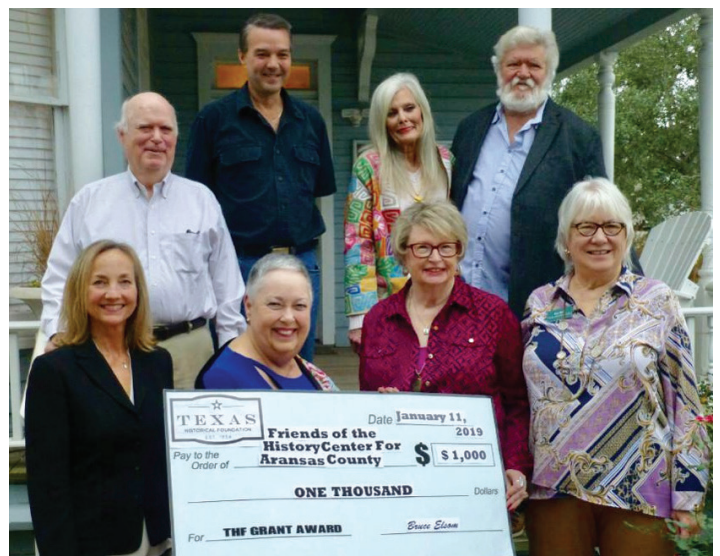
For additional grant information visit THF’s website at www.texashistoricalfoundation.org.

Endowment for the Arts Created

THF Director Bill Sibley, a writer and playwright, knew that he wanted to do something to help arts organizations in Texas.



In January 2019, the San Antonio resident and fifth-generation Texan established the William Jack Sibley Arts Endowment through a generous donation to THF. Funds will be used to identify, support, preserve, promote, protect, nurture, and celebrate a wide range of projects. Those include, but are not limited to, theater, dance, music, film, literature, and research projects, as well as petroglyphs, art, and mural conservation.



Top: A check was presented to the Whitehead Memorial Museum, Del Rio, to enhance the venue’s display space. Photograph courtesy of WMM. Middle: Several THF directors were in Goliad to award grant funds to the Amigos of the Goliad State Park and Historic Site for that group’s 2019 Tejano History Conference. Photograph courtesy of AGSPHS. Bottom: The Friends of the History Center for Aransas County will use its Foundation grant to publish the book *Bays, Boats, and Birds: The Story of the Art Colony*. Photograph courtesy of FHCAC.



Top, left: THF's fifth grant to the Dickey Museum & Multipurpose Center, Taylor, will help the group hire a preservation consultant. Photograph courtesy of DMMC. Top, right: The Texas Wendish Heritage Society, Giddings, will use THF funds for flooring support beneath an 1850 log home. Photograph provided by Bruce Elsom. Bottom, left: Foundation board members gathered in October 2018 to present a grant to El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Landmark Association for archeological excavations at the Lt. Col. Ignacio Perez Rancho. Photograph courtesy of Lee Braverman. Texas Historical Foundation grants are given quarterly from privately raised donations.

THF Mourns the Deaths of Two Board Members

The start of the new year brought news that the Texas Historical Foundation had lost two beloved board members.

Foundation Director Beverly Hansen, of Huntsville, died on January 12. She was a member of Daughters of the Republic of Texas, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Daughters of the American Colonists.

In addition to her service with these heritage organizations and THF, the Houston native also was a long-time member of the Walker County Historical Commission.


Hansen is survived by her two daughters and their families.


On January 14, Margaret "Missi" Thomas, of Cuero, a benefactor and THF director since 1994, also passed away. She was descended from a long line of ranchers dating back to the beginnings of Texas at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Thomas was the owner of Friar Thomas Ranches in DeWitt County, a real estate firm, and was a founding member of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum in her hometown.


She is survived by two daughters and four grandchildren.

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Excavations at San Felipe Spring,
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The Friendly Backroads of Texas

By Bruce Elsom

Show of hands. How many of you still wave at approaching vehicles on two-lane roads? The gesture is nothing exaggerated enough to make the passerby hit the brakes—just a couple of fingers casually lifted off the steering wheel.

I don't remember this being taught in driver's education, but do recall "hands at 10 and 2" with the assistant-football-coach-turned-driving-instructor seated next to me. He probably wasn't receptive to such acts of unscripted outbursts. Besides, none of us were looking to draw attention from peers while behind the wheel of a four-door sedan with "Student Driver" prominently plastered on all exterior surfaces.

Nor do I think it was part of the TxDOT "Drive Friendly" message, which, if memory serves correctly, predated and was overshadowed by the more swagger-heavy "Don't Mess with Texas" anti-littering campaign.

Whether this friendly road gesture was instilled or instinctual, I am not sure. Medians, multi-lane highways, and urban streets sadly dispel the mojo, but exit the interstate onto any shoulderless farm-to-market road, and the wave is involuntary. So as February showers bring March flowers (a more realistic calendar for the 28th state, don't you think?), head out to your favorite bluebonnet field and give your wave a workout. It's the small town way!

If I may be so bold, I would like to say a heartfelt happy birthday to...US! The Texas Historical Foundation officially turned 65 at the beginning of this year. In 1954, the private organization was formed to underwrite the work of what was to become the Texas Historical Commission. In 1971, as the state Legislature approved funding for the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, as it was then known, THF began to inde-



pendently seek worthy projects, explore critical preservation efforts, and establish endowments to support programs around the state.

In the ensuing years, the Foundation has given scores of grants to Texans preserving Texas. Many prominent figures have served on the board and staff, and to mention only a few would be a disservice to the others. Every one of them is a hero to me. Those with whom I've had the privilege to serve, and the others who have gone before, have given of their time, financial resources, and energy, receiving nothing in return but the satisfaction of preserving and passing the Lone Star legacy forward. Well done!

In closing, I would like to mention the passing of THF directors Beverly Hansen of Huntsville and Margaret "Missi" Thomas of Cuero. One of the drawbacks of associations built through service is that there often isn't enough time to fully know and appreciate those with whom you serve. The hazard is that you only know the person through the lens of common interests and, in our case, only spend a few days a year together. I knew these two individuals well enough, though, to recognize that they were fascinating people well beyond the shared bond of Texas history, and I would have been richer for knowing other facets of their life experiences. But it's a safe bet that all those who walked along any portion of their lives were fortunate for having traveled with them. They will be missed.

Bruce Elsom is a sixth-generation Texan who traces his roots back to the Texas Revolution. He has enjoyed living in several areas of the state and currently resides in Houston. Send comments regarding this column to: THF, P. O. Box 50314, Austin, Texas 78763 or via email to admin@texashistoricalfoundation.org.

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The History-Chemistry Connection



Preservation as a Catalyst for Economic Development in Small Town Texas

By Donna B. Jones

Chemistry may seem like an improbable model for historic preservation, but in the same way that a scientist adds a catalyst to give a helping hand to chemical reactions, the Texas Historical Commission's Town Square Initiative (TSI) uses preservation to facilitate economic development in historic downtowns.

Top: Last year, Town Square Initiative experts worked with Canton and its partners to create a five-year action plan that will guide development and reinvestment in the historic downtown. Bottom, left: From April to October, local farmers and producers sell their goods in the town square. Bottom, right: Social events like Dinner on Main Street make a trip downtown enjoyable, an essential part of the revitalization process. Photographs courtesy of Canton Main Street.

Launched in 2014, the TSI is an affiliate of the Texas Main Street Program, a revitalization effort with a 38-year history of success. Ninety communities, 74 of them with a population of fewer than 25,000, participate in the program. TSI provides selected Main Street communities with assistance from a team with expertise in architecture, planning, and economic development. These professionals offer two products: (1) an action plan recommending programs and policies that address barriers to development and reinvestment in downtown and (2) a feasibility study evaluating the redevelopment potential of a historic property.

In the words of TSI Planner Emily Koller, AICP, the initiative's goals are "to create momentum and catalyze."

Canton and Kingsville, two of the state's noteworthy small towns, are using TSI's innovative products to help save their pasts and build their futures.

CANTON—PLANNING FOR A MORE DIVERSE ECONOMY

Canton, the Van Zandt County seat, is an hour's drive east of Dallas. The town was established in 1850, and by the late 19th century, it was served by the Texas and Pacific Railway and was home to flour mills, sawmills, cotton gins, a bank, churches, a steam gristmill, weekly newspapers, general stores, and two hotels. Iron ore and anthracite coal were discovered in the area during this period as well.

After Canton was incorporated in 1919, an oil field brought more growth. By the 1950s, local businesses included a sweet potato curing plant, an ice factory, a concrete-tile factory, and lumberyards. Expansion

of the Canton city limits doubled its territory in the 1960s, and in 1970, the community had 86 businesses. The town's history includes brushes with Texans both notable and notorious. James S. Hogg, who served as Canton district attorney, was elected governor in 1880. Infamous bank robbers Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow once lived briefly at a local hotel.

Today Canton is widely known for its First Monday Trade Days held on the weekend prior to the first Monday of each month. The tradition dates back to the town's founding, when residents sold or traded their goods in the courthouse square on the same day as the circuit judge's visit. The event has evolved into a massive flea market on a 450-acre site north of town that attracts up to 7,500 vendors. "On Trade Days, the population swells from 3,800 to as many as 400,000, making Canton the state's seventh largest city," said Stacy Crossley, Canton Economic Development Corporation assistant director and Main Street Program manager.

Despite the flood of visitors, downtown businesses have not always benefited, as shoppers tend to stay on the flea market grounds, according to Crossley. She learned about THC's Town Square Initiative on her first day on the job and set her sights on tapping into its resources. The town had set aside funding for a strategic planning effort, but with state-provided assistance from TSI, Canton could allocate that money to other projects. In January 2018, TSI experts began working with the town and its partners to create Canton's Downtown Action Plan for long-term economic sustainability of the historic downtown.

The first step was a community survey, which showed that preservation was almost equally as important as recruiting new businesses, an outcome that surprised Crossley. "We knew the communi-



Businesses are thriving in restored historic buildings in downtown Canton. The ones in this image sit across from the town's 1937 county courthouse, built with Public Works Administration funds. Photograph courtesy of Canton Main Street. Original in color.

ty wanted entertainment and restaurants, but we didn't know how much they wanted historical preservation," she said.

The survey also identified three other priorities:

- reestablish downtown as Canton's social center by developing additional events and programming;
- make downtown an enjoyable and comfortable experience by creating new public gathering places and reimagining the streets and sidewalks as places for people; and
- elevate the image of downtown for residents and visitors by creating an identity that represents what is unique about Canton beyond First Monday Trade Days.

In October 2018, the Canton City Council adopted the completed five-year action plan, which serves as the policy guide for all downtown decisions. Projects for 2019 include building redevelopment, a *parklet* (a small seating area or green space adjacent to a sidewalk) ordinance, a parking management program, and a development guide for property owners.

Crossley said that one recent project helping to preserve Canton's identity is the restoration of the downtown office of Van Zandt County Abstract and Title Company, founded in 1890. Since 1914, the family-owned company has occupied a build-

ing constructed in 1904 as a bank. Owner Thomas Beckham wanted to modernize the building's exterior, but the Main Street Advisory Board rejected his proposal. Beckham recalled that as he learned more about the Downtown Action Plan, he "got on board," and a TSI architect helped him create a restoration plan.

An important part of the project required removing paint from the brick façade, thus revealing a "ghost" image of the original signage that had faded with time. "You don't know what you'll find when you start a project like this," Beckham observed.

Identifying vendors and skilled workers who were knowledgeable about the correct procedures and materials required for preserving historic structures was the most formidable challenge, according to Beckham. A valuable byproduct of the process was a list of those resources, which is available for future endeavors. Beckham is optimistic about the Downtown Action Plan's prospects for improving Canton's economic growth, and he hopes that more businesses will restore their buildings to their original appearance. "Thomas Beckham is a champion for the cause," Crossley said. "I think he will be a great person to lead this effort forward."



This page: The Texas Theater in Kingsville, built in 1950, is currently for sale. Image provided by the Texas Historical Commission. Opposite page, bottom: A TSI feasibility study will provide potential buyers with a comprehensive plan for restoration of the historic movie house. Rendering courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission. Original in color.

KINGSVILLE—FINDING THE RIGHT BUYER FOR A UNIQUE PROPERTY

Kingsville, population 25,000, is the county seat of Kleberg County. Located 35 miles from the Gulf of Mexico on the South Texas coastal plain between Corpus Christi and Harlingen, the area is flat and rugged with sparse vegetation. Kingsville is historically and economically attached to one of the world's largest ranches, the legendary 825,000-acre King Ranch. The town was founded in 1904 on acreage donated by ranch matriarch and philanthropist Henrietta King. During that same year, on the Fourth of July, the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway arrived in Kingsville, bringing farmers and other settlers as well as providing the means for shipping cattle and produce to market.

By 1908, Kingsville's population had reached 2,000, mostly railroad workers, and the town had become a trade center for ranchers and farmers. "Homeseeker trains" brought new settlers from the North and Midwest, including farmers who preferred the warm climate and irrigated farmland of South Texas. As the town continued to grow, it became home to what today is Texas A&M University-Kingsville, chartered in 1917 and opened in 1925. In

1941, prompted by local civic leaders and the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Navy purchased a 3,000-acre site, and on July 4, 1942, the Naval Air Station Kingsville opened.

In 1962, the town created historic preservation regulations, and 20 years later, Kingsville established a Historical Development Board to protect historic resources and monitor construction, renovation, and demolition within the newly designated historic district. Kingsville was among the earliest participants in the Texas Main Street Program. Attractions in and near the historic downtown include the King Ranch Museum, the 1904 Train Depot Museum, and the John E. Connor Museum at Texas A&M-Kingsville, which features a wide variety of artifacts native to South Texas.

Several downtown buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. However, the Texas Theater, built in 1950 and a cornerstone in that area, has struggled to fulfill its potential. Prominent Dallas architect Jack Corgan designed the Texas Theater in the Streamline Moderne style, popular from the 1930s through the 1950s. The design features an asymmetrical L shape, a corner entrance highlighted by a marquee and a large vertical neon sign with stylized lettering, and large windows recessed into

the brick façade. A rendering of the Texas Theater was published in the July 2, 1949, issue of *Boxoffice Magazine*. Corgan was the architect behind 68 theaters in Texas, 23 of which have been demolished. He also designed numerous structures, including the terminal and the Braniff Operations and Maintenance building at Dallas Love Field, which featured the first commercial use of the moving walkway in an airport.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Texas Theater was “the place to be in Kingsville,” and the movie house remained in operation until 1970. Since then the 9,972-square-foot structure has been sporadically occupied and partially renovated. It currently is for sale.

A feasibility study from the TSI team, a key marketing tool for the property, provides a proposal for maintaining the historic integrity of the theater, bringing the space back to prominence as a profitable entertainment venue, and converting an adjacent space to a brewpub for additional revenue. The study offers detailed floor plans, along with cost projections and financing options, information on historic tax incentive programs, timelines for rehabilitation, recommendations for programming and revenue sources, and descriptions of comparable projects. It also envisions future development around the theater that could enhance the area’s appeal to the 8,600 students at A&M, bringing youthful energy and more spending downtown, especially in the evenings. The study foresees additional bars, eclectic retail and dining options, a downtown grocery store, and urban-style mixed use development.

Kingsville Downtown Manager/Historic Preservation Officer Cynthia Martin stresses that the re-

port vastly improves the “sell-ability” of the theater, and with TSI’s help, interest among potential buyers has increased. “It really does make a difference,” she said. “You can take the study to the bank, and you need that level of documentation to even start a conversation.”

City Manager Jesús Garza added that the proposal also helps advance Kingsville’s Downtown Vision Plan. “The study helps us implement the vision and, more specifically, it helps a prospective developer understand that the Texas Theater is much more than the building itself—it’s a key part of the revitalization of the entire downtown,” he said.

The authors of the report concur: “Whoever becomes the custodian of the Texas Theater has a unique opportunity coupled with an important responsibility to the greater good of Kingsville.”

MOVING FORWARD

As an affiliate of the Texas Main Street Program, TSI is aligned with one of the most successful downtown revitalization programs in the nation. Since it began in 1981, the program has assisted more than 170 Texas cities and served as a catalyst for impressive results:

- Private reinvestment of \$1.9 billion in Texas downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts;
- more than \$2.9 billion in overall reinvestment;
- more than 31,000 new jobs in Texas; and
- more than 8,100 business starts, expansions, or relocations.

Those numbers can be expected to grow as the Texas Historical Commission’s proposed budget for the coming biennium again includes the Main Street Program, and by extension TSI, as key strategies for preserving and revitalizing the state’s historic downtowns. For their part, TSI experts will continue to support the work underway in Canton and Kingsville, look for ways to identify and foster local developers who favor historic preservation, and provide them with expanded training and networking opportunities. ★

Donna B. Jones, of Austin, is a freelance writer and editor.

Links to Canton’s Downtown Action Plan and Kingsville’s Texas Theater Feasibility Study are available at <http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/town-square-initiative/featured-projects>.





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SMALL TOWN DOWNTOWN REVIVALS

What They're Doing Right

For many small towns, facilitating economic growth goes hand-in-hand with promoting heritage tourism. Downtown revitalization has become a process of blending modern convenience within a uniquely local footprint. Here are some communities that have created their own recipe for success.

THE MOUNT PLEASANT EXPERIENCE

Amy Hinton, public information officer for the City of Mount Pleasant, says the community's downtown never has been deserted. She stressed that the revitalization happening there now is rather a recommitment.

The aim of the Northeast Texas town was to be self-sustaining. Hinton explained, "We didn't want to have to travel in order to have a nice dinner." When two of the largest local employers, chicken purveyor Pilgrim's Pride sold to a large conglomerate that implemented operational changes, and two coal-fired power plants closed in 2017, Mount Pleasant was forced to adapt.

One such effort was the development of a run-down section of downtown buildings located on an alley behind the town square. Improvements there resulted in a multi-generational gathering place, retail establishments, and a music venue.

Another building rehabilitation created nearly 5,000 square feet of marketable retail space.

Elsewhere, the small town has two sushi restaurants, a local coffee shop, and a pizza tavern—all providing new choices for the town's 7,000 residents.

Celebrating its heritage is also important in this nationally recognized Texas Main Street City. Plaques explain how some of the old buildings originally were used, and a mural depicting the history of Mount Pleasant was restored by local Rotarians.—*Gene Krane*

MOUNT VERNON ON THE MOVE

According to Carolyn Teague, Main Street Alliance manager in Mount Vernon, located 100 miles from Dallas, the town has experienced sizeable redevelopment.



Photo courtesy of City of Mount Pleasant.

While agriculture and oil have been the mainstays of Mount Vernon's economy, a recent infusion of private and public funds has helped rehabilitate historic buildings for businesses that offer expanded services.

For instance, the Watermelon Mills Coffeehouse now is located inside of the restored M. L. Edwards Building. The project was undertaken by private investors who were committed to keeping the historic elements of the structure, which served as the place where town barber "Watermelon" Mills cut hair for decades.

Some customers are weekenders who travel from the nearby Metroplex to Lake Cypress Springs, 12 miles from Mount Vernon. Many have purchased lakefront homes and regularly patronize local businesses, including nearly a half dozen restaurants.

Even while these changes are happening, local leaders are careful to manage the revitalization without losing the town's past. The community embraces its location along the Bankhead Highway, one of the country's earliest transcontinental hard-surface roadways, and the 1912 Franklin County Courthouse has been fully restored.—*Gene Krane*

CUERO'S REBIRTH

In the late 1990s, a group of residents believed that Cuero had a bigger story to tell. They founded the award-winning Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum (CTHM), with a collection dedicated to the "ranching and agricultural heritage of DeWitt County and surrounding areas in South Texas." The venue, opened in 2013 in the restored 1903 Knights of Pythias Hall, brings visitors (continued on page 31)



Photo from the Cuero Chamber of Commerce.

Never the Same

How World War II Transformed Bastrop

By Robbie Sanders



The USO in Bastrop was popular with Camp Swift soldiers. All photographs are by Charles Steinheimer, 1942. From the *LIFE* Magazine Collection, www.facebook.com/Radio.WW2/photos/a.21199444461584872/2119945734918078/?type=3&theater.

In December 1941, Bastrop was a sleepy rural town of 2,000. The community changed, though, on the seventh day of the month, when the Japanese mounted a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. With war declared on Japan, Germany, and Italy, plans for a 12 square-mile army training facility quickly came together, and Camp Swift, located six miles north of Bastrop, was born.

Within the first 108 days of construction, contractors and local

workers built 40 miles of paved roads and several hundred miles of sewer and water mains across 55,000 acres. “When they built that thing, you’d go out there one day, then the next day you’d go out and get lost [because] it went up so fast,” remembered Honey Schaefer, who delivered gasoline to the camp. Construction projects within the facility included 2,750 buildings, five swimming pools, a laundry, a regional hospital, chapels, 21 post exchanges, a telephone exchange, a

fire department, a post office, beer garden, mess halls, and a bakery. At its peak, camp construction and operation provided about 18,000 jobs and brought rapid growth to Bastrop and surrounding communities.

Many contractors and support personnel moved in and brought their families, resulting in an acute housing shortage. That worsened with the arrival of the first troops in May 1942.

Local residents wanted to help and openly shared their homes.

One man built a tent city on his farm complete with 10 commodes and showers. At Cecil Long's dairy farm, three people fixed up the barn and moved in.

The town was overwhelmed by the sheer number of soldiers who packed the streets, day and night. The Elkins 5, 10 and 25 Cent Store originally had a staff of five but that number soon grew to 25. Soldiers waiting to cash paychecks at the banks lined up for blocks. Packed coaches pulled into the newly constructed Bowen Bus Station on Chestnut Street every few minutes each afternoon. The small downtown grew, adding five movie theaters (originally there was one), a skating rink, bowling alley, and numerous bars. Before the war, women stayed home and raised their families. With the advent of World War II, they ran garages, restaurants, farms, insurance agencies, and drove trucks.

People who were not locally employed worked for the Red Cross and chaperoned events at the USO (United Service Organization, a military support organization), where volunteers served coffee and doughnuts. A request was made for 500 of the sweet pastries each Sunday, and locals donated their sugar rations to help. The USO, like the Armed Forces at the time, was segregated, so a social center for African Americans was transformed into a USO facility for those soldiers.

With war's end in 1945, Camp Swift was deactivated, but Bastrop had changed. The extraordinary population growth led to the town's first sewage system in 1942, and that same year, to accommodate the need for housing, a new subdivision, still known today as the New Addition, was built. Street signs went up for the first time.

Today, State Highways 95 and 71 honor troops that trained at Camp Swift and are respectively designated the "10th Mountain Division

Memorial Highway and the 95th Division Memorial Highway."

Lifelong friendships also were forged. Families that moved back to faraway homes corresponded with their Bastrop landlords, and many traded visits back and forth. Camp Swift soldiers who married Bastrop women returned after the war and became model citizens.

However, some people wished the training facility had never been built. The U. S. government condemned the acreage needed for the military base, and at the time, owners were told seized property would be returned or available for purchase at a fair price after the war. In the 1950s, some were given the option to buy or lease their former properties, but many thought they were not fairly treated. Thirty years later, disenfranchised owners and their heirs still were trying to reclaim acreage that was in their possession before the war.

All that remains of the original Camp Swift today is the northernmost 20,000 acres, present-day home of the Texas National Guard. It was designated as a historically significant site by the Texas Historical Commission in 1996.

Robbie Sanders volunteers at the Bastrop County Historical Society.



Top: Businesses were crowded with Camp Swift soldiers. Middle: Buses arrived and departed regularly. Bottom: Contractors and military troops sought entertainment in Bastrop.

A NAME ON A BARN WALL:

A Puzzle in Cultural Resource Management

What is the historical value of a name found written on a wall? The answer might depend on several factors, including context, cultural landscape, and relevant research. Cultural resource managers, historians, and archeologists who document historic sites frequently have to assess such seemingly incidental information. One recent example came to light during investigations at the historic Shield Ranch, an agricultural complex located in western Travis County near Bee Cave. In the tack room of a horse barn there is the handwritten signature and birth date of Dorothy Herrera, along with other names and inscriptions. That discovery began the investigation to identify the young woman and her family's relationship to the ranch.

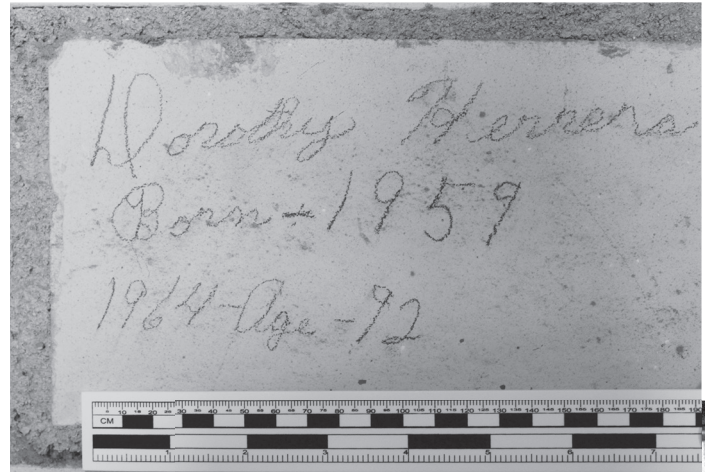
Conversations with Dr. Blake Murden, the ranch's chief operating officer, and the names of Herrera family members he provided led to Dorothy (Herrera) Dante, now a certified public accountant living in Buda, near Austin. An oral history interview with her added new dimension to the discovery of the barn-wall signature.

Dante's family lived at Shield Ranch when her father was employed there from the 1940s to 1965. He managed other ranch hands, worked with cattle, and trained horses, in addition to assisting with other odd jobs—some of which he shared with his chil-

dren. “Our chore was to sit on the fence, and they would bring [in] the goats,” Dante remembered, “and my dad had this medicine he would put in their mouths. When he had done that...I had to run a giant piece of chalk down the goat's back [so they would know] the animal had been treated.”

Dante recalled playing in the barn's tack room in her childhood along with older brothers Paul Anthony and Charles and younger sister Sharon. Although she had no memory of signing the wall, she did remember one of her brothers falling from the ladder leading to the hayloft above and breaking his arm. Her older siblings often helped their father with his work, while she spent time saddling, riding, and feeding the horses.

Dante looked back on her ranch time with great nostalgia and was sad to leave as a child. She hopes, however, to return to Shield Ranch—and maybe see her barn-wall signature—at a family reunion scheduled there in spring 2019.—*Michelle Ramstack*



Michelle Ramstack is a Texas State University public history graduate student with an interest in cultural resource management.

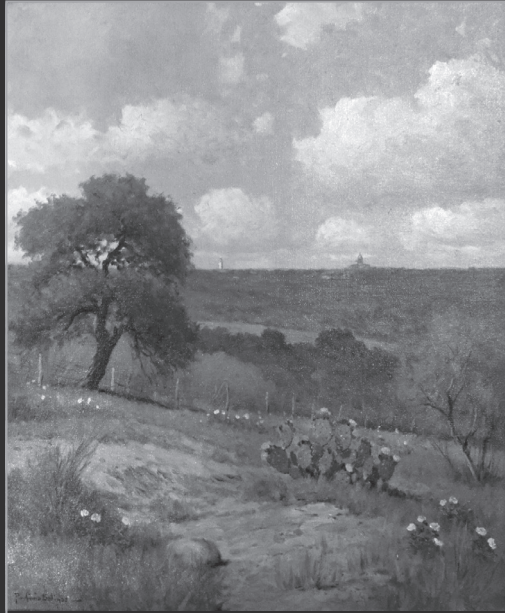
Above: Almost 60 years later, Dorothy Herrera had no recollection of signing her name to this barn wall. Original in color. Below: Dorothy (Herrera) Dante is in the front, shown here with her cousins. Photos provided by the author.

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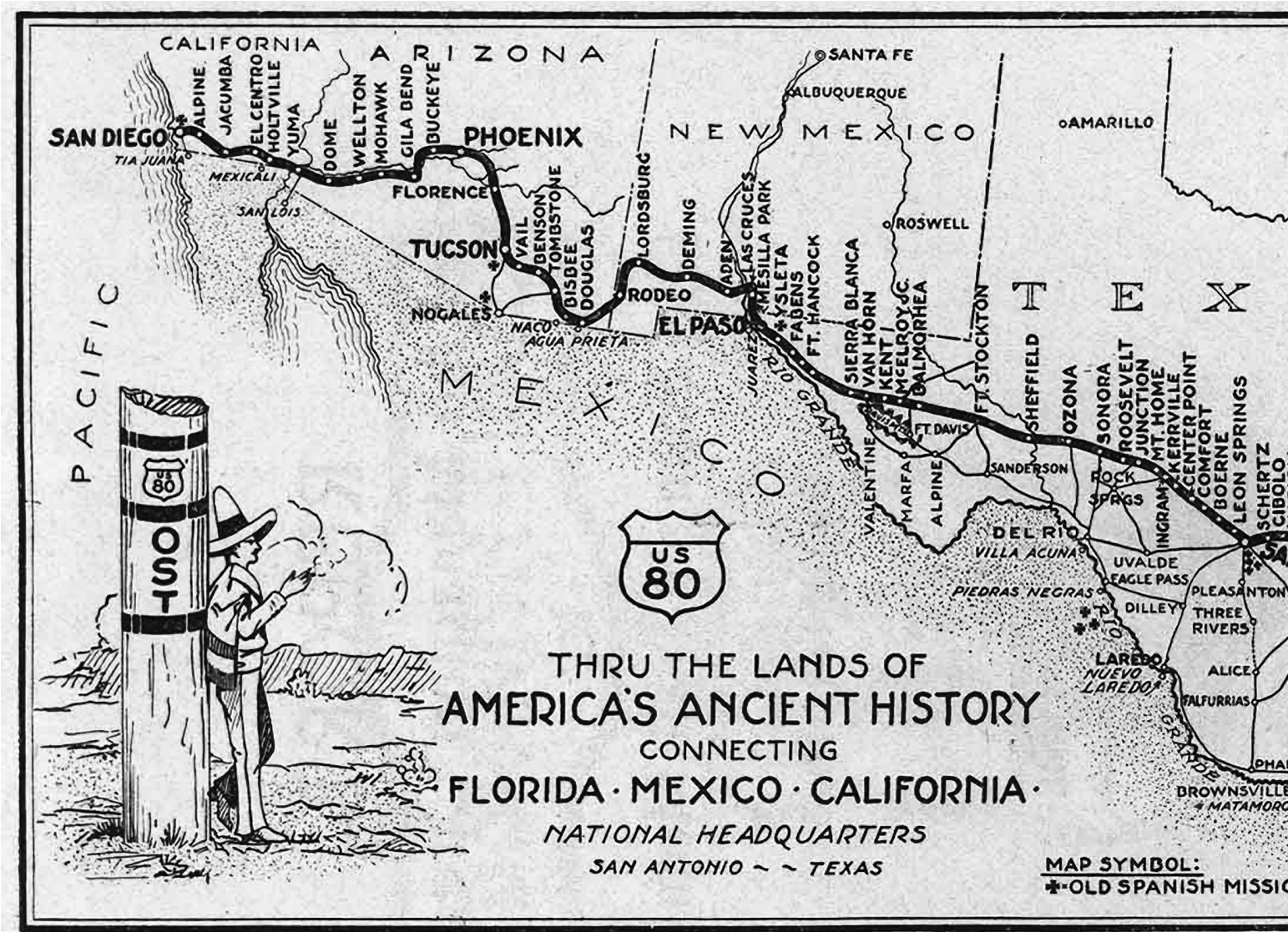
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History on the Wide Open Road

By Linda Henderson

Above: The stretch of U. S. 90 between San Antonio and Van Horn once was part of the Old Spanish Trail, an early 20th-century motorway that stretched from coast to coast. Map courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission. Original in color.



Texas has a history as varied and rich as the state is big, and a journey down U. S. 90 west of San Antonio offers travelers a glimpse into that past. The highway has been called many things throughout the years. Once part of the Old Spanish Trail, the road was used for travel from Florida to California across the southern United States in the 1910s. The OST, as it was known, provided more than one route across Texas. One became part of I-10, but the U. S. 90 stretch between San Antonio and Van Horn remains a step back in time, with original pavement widths and other features then considered advancements in

road technology. Sections of the route still have the narrow lanes and winding curves of the old highways, designed for lower speeds and slower vehicles.

Ultimately, the story of U. S. 90 in southwestern Texas is one of transportation, the connections made over land through rough terrain and scenic vistas, and more importantly, the people who stopped to establish homes and businesses and enjoy the area's beauty. Today, the communities that developed along that route showcase generations of occupation, from ancient rock art to Alsatian farmhouses, all set within the vastness of a timeless landscape.

Castroville

In 1844, a group of mostly Catholics, originally from the Alsace region on the border of modern France and Germany, followed empresario Henri Castro to settle land 27 miles west of San Antonio. They joined him in creating the community of Castroville, patterned after European villages, where residential lots were spread out and surrounded by farmland. Early settlers built sloped-roof structures consisting of a stone first floor, a second story constructed with lumber, and a lime plaster-covered exterior, all typical of European building design.

Today, Castroville has nearly 100 surviving historic properties, including the Landmark Inn, a state-owned site that lets visitors experience life like an early traveler. The hotel, originally built as a single-story residence and dry goods store in the mid 19th century, sits on the Medina River, where early settlers also established mills for the young town. In the late 1800s, new owners John and Rowena Vance added a second level above the retail space and opened the Vance Hotel. Changing hands again in 1899, the inn remained in operation, though inconsistently and without proper upkeep, during the following two decades. The property was purchased in the 1920s and restored in 1942, when the Landmark Inn was established. In 1974, the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and National Register-listed site was donated to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Uvalde

Considered to be the southern gateway to the Texas Hill Country, Uvalde was founded by Reading W. Black, who took full advantage of the area's natural beauty and resources. In the 1850s, he purchased and settled on land 58 miles southwest of Castroville, building a home, establishing a ranch, and opening two rock quarries, a store, a mill, and a lime kiln. Black employed a surveyor to lay out the town, anchored by four central square plazas, originally called Encina. It was later renamed Uvalde, in honor of Spanish Governor Juan de Ugalde.

The rich soil and climate allowed for livestock ranching and a vibrant agricultural community that produced fruits, vegetables, and notably honey (the town has been called the "honey capital of the world"). By 1881, Uvalde was an essential supply stop on the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway. Interestingly, residents elected to have the rail line run north on the outskirts and not through the downtown area, as was typical at that time.



In contrast, U. S. 90 passes through the center of Uvalde, where the town's history is on full display. Local landmarks include the 1891 Grand Opera House, restored by Governor and Mrs. Dolph Briscoe in 1982, and the Uvalde County Courthouse, completed in 1928.

Brackettville

In addition to the set of the John Wayne Alamo movie, Brackettville, 40 miles west of Uvalde, is home to Fort Clark, an army post from 1852 through World War II. Black Seminole Indians served as military scouts, living at the installation with their families from 1872 to well into the 20th century. Because they spoke English, Spanish, as well as some indigenous languages,

Above: The Laurent Quintle House and Store is typical of the 19th-century stone structures that are common in historic Castroville (MS 362: 107-0035). Courtesy of the University of Texas at San Antonio Special Collections. Opposite page: Seminole Indian Scout Sergeant Ben July, shown in the late 1890s, stands in front of a *jacal* (a thatched-roof hut with mud or clay walls) near Fort Clark. Photograph courtesy of Fort Clark Historical Society.

the Black Seminoles proved their worth in many expeditions—four of them earned the Medal of Honor: John Ward, Isaac Payne, Pompey Factor, and Adam Payne.

Fort Clark now is a private resort and retirement community that features lodging, recreational amenities, and permanent housing. The former cavalry barracks serve as a hotel, the guardhouse is a museum, and many other historic buildings remain, all vestiges of an earlier time on what was once the Texas frontier. Also located on the property, Las Moras Springs, an important water source for thousands of years, feeds the third largest spring-fed swimming pool in the state. During 16th-century expeditions, Spanish explorers camped at the springs, naming them *las moras*, meaning “the mulberries.”

Del Rio

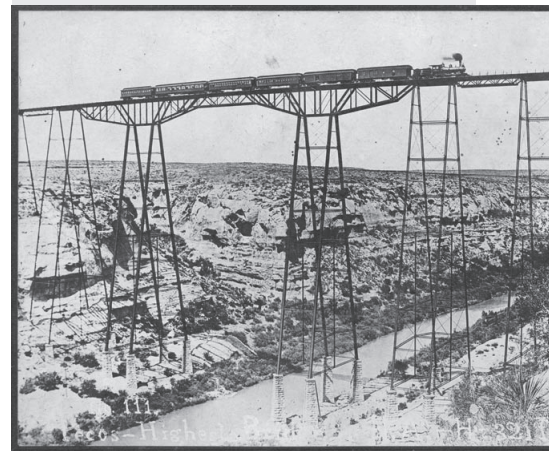
Home to Laughlin Air Force Base, known for supplying U-2 Dragon Lady planes during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Del Rio sits on a bend in the Rio Grande, across the border from Ciudad Acuña, Mexi-

co. The town’s important historical figures include John Taini, an Italian-immigrant stone and brick mason, whose work can be seen in a handful of residences, downtown commercial and religious buildings, the historic Val Verde County Jail, and in various components of the city’s irrigation network.

Dr. John Brinkley left a different kind of legacy in the town. His mansion, one of Del Rio’s well-known landmarks, showcases his success as a bit of a charlatan and “snake oil” salesman. In actuality, though, he most famously sold a “goat gland” procedure to give men a bit more “pep.”

Langtry

Langtry is best known for its ties to Judge Roy Bean, who named the town for English actress Lillie Langtry. The Texas Department of Transportation’s Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, gives travelers a place to learn about the notable Texan’s influence in the area. Visitors can also explore a cactus garden that highlights native species and explains how in-



PECOS RIVER OVERLOOK

On U. S. 90, between the towns of Del Rio and Langtry, travelers crossing the Pecos River Bridge, the tallest highway bridge in the state, often stop at a TxDOT scenic overlook. From this vantage point, one can take in the impressive beauty of the canyon below.

Positioned upstream is the Pecos River High Bridge, which stands in a place with historical significance. In 1882, the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway had built an east-to-west rail line up to this point. A decade later, Southern Pacific completed its California-to-Texas portion of the cross-country route. With a Silver Spike ceremony held in January 1892, the two rail companies joined tracks on the Pecos River Viaduct. That original rail bridge later was replaced with the High Bridge.

Above: The Pecos River Viaduct was built by the Phoenix Bridge Company in 1892. Image in the public domain.

HENRY TROST'S LANDMARK HOTELS

Historic lodging along the portion of U. S. 90 that spans from Marathon to Van Horn has proved beneficial for small town tourism. These venues lure visitors who enjoy the architecture, the quieter pace, and the walkability of a small community.

This stretch of highway boasts a string of restored hotels designed in the 1920s and 1930s by El Paso architect Henry Trost, beginning with the **Gage Hotel** (1927) in Marathon. While that town is on the quieter side with only 500 residents, 30 miles down the highway is Alpine, the Brewster County seat, with nearly 6,000 inhabitants and a bustling downtown. There, the **Holland Hotel** (1928) sits near the local Amtrak station and Alpine Visitor Center. Twenty-seven miles farther is Marfa, home of **El Paisano** (1930), which hosted the stars of the movie *Giant* while they were in town filming. Finally, **El Capitan** (1930) in Van Horn, at the junction of U. S. 90 and Interstate 10, rounds out the trip.

Below: The Gage Hotel is in Marathon. Image courtesy of the author. Original in color.



Above: Judge Roy Bean, whose "Hall of Justice" is pictured here, is said to have named the town of Langtry after an English actress. Bottom: Dr. John Brinkley originally set up practice in Kansas, promoting his "goat gland" transplant surgery that allegedly restored masculine virility. When his lack of legitimate medical credentials came to light in that state, he moved to Del Rio and resumed his practice. Photographs are courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.



Above, left: Castroville's historic Landmark Inn originally was built as a private residence and a dry goods store. Photograph by Michael Barrera. Above, right: The 1891 Grand Opera House in Uvalde is one of the oldest theaters in the state. The venue began showing moving pictures in 1909. Photograph by Billy Hathorn.

digenous people of the area used plants for food and medicine.

Historical markers in the community tell other local stories, including the one about the Fitzsimmons-Maher Prizefight. Because boxing was against Texas law, the 1896 match, set up by Judge Bean, took place on a sandbar on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. Although the sport was also illegal in Mexico, a lack of law enforcement in the area assured there would be no interference. A temporary bridge led spectators to the canvas boxing ring, though some of the audience watched the fight from the bluffs overlooking the river. To the disappointment of the crowd, the event lasted a mere 96 seconds—the time

it took for Bob Fitzsimmons to knock out his opponent.

Destinations In Between

In addition to offering recreational opportunities, the region's archeology, particularly prehistoric rock art, is on display in places along the U. S. 90 corridor, like the Amistad National Park, Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site, and the White Shaman Galloway Preserve, which is part of the Witte Museum. Additionally, Comstock is home to Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center, a nonprofit with a mission to preserve the 4,000-year-old painted records found in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands and educate the pub-

lic on the importance of these ancient “books.”

A trip down U. S. 90 has interesting Texas towns that offer a bit of everything—architecture, archeology, history, and recreation—for travelers willing to give into the call of the wide open road.★

Linda Henderson is a historic preservation specialist for the Texas Department of Transportation-Environmental Affairs in Austin.

Editor's note: Although “archaeology” is an acceptable spelling, particularly among professional organizations, “archeology” is the preferred style of Texas HERITAGE magazine.

The Heart of Small Communities County Courthouses in Texas

The Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation program is responsible for more than 70 restorations across the state. In communities large and small, the rehabilitation of these historic landmarks has become a catalyst for downtown revitalization—bringing in new businesses and boosting heritage tourism.



**↑→Hopkins County, Sulphur Springs—
Northeast Texas (population 16,000)**

Considered one of the most beautiful in the state, the 1895 Hopkins County Courthouse boasts a striking Romanesque design. The red granite exterior features intricately carved sandstone trim (see image above), and the interior decor includes marble wainscoting, oak woodwork, stone and tile flooring, and an iron spiral staircase.

The building sits in the far corner of the town square (not in the center as was typical), a unique placement that was done to accommodate the thriving late 19th-century commercial district in Sulphur Springs. The restoration project was completed in 2002.



All images are courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission, unless otherwise noted. Originals in color.



← **Throckmorton County, Throckmorton—
West Texas (population fewer than 800)**

The restoration work done on the Throckmorton County Courthouse, a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, focused on returning the structure to its 1890 appearance.



The five-year effort, completed in 2015, reincorporated a key missing element: a 28-foot cupola replicating the one that originally dominated the roofline but was removed in the 1930s.

More than half of funding for the project came from local resources.

→ **Edwards County, Rocksprings—
Southwest Texas (population 2,002)**

The Edwards County Courthouse was constructed in 1891 using limestone blocks from a local quarry. A fire six years later left only the exterior walls intact, and subsequent rebuilding simplified the original design of the structure.

A grant from the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation program allowed for rehabilitation in 2014, transforming the modernized interior back to its late 19th-century appearance.



← **La Salle County, Cotulla—
South Texas (population 4,178)**

The 2013 restoration of the 1931 La Salle County Courthouse breathed new life into the building's original steel frame windows and the exterior brick and terra cotta masonry.

Inside, the terrazzo floors and vault doors were reconditioned, and the Art Deco design of the entrance doors was recreated from an old photograph. The courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.



Buck Schiwetz Paints Small Town Texas

By Lias J. “Jeff” Steen

In late summer of 1916, Edward Muegge “Buck” Schiwetz (1898-1984) boarded a Texas Central Railway train in his birthplace of Cuero and headed for College Station. His banker father was determined that his son would study engineering at Texas A&M and leave a lasting legacy by designing and building structures of artistic significance.

However, empowered by an intense dislike of mathematics, being somewhat of a free spirit, and armed with a sketchbook of his childhood drawings, Schiwetz convinced the dean of architecture to allow him to switch majors. While perhaps unsettling to his father, it was a fortuitous change of direction that would provide art lovers with a lasting legacy of drawings and paintings of small town Texas that spanned eight decades.

...DERELICT FARMS, COTTON GINS, OLD MERCANTILE STORES, AND HISTORIC HOMES WERE... [SCHIWETZ'S] COMFORT ZONE.

While the artist painted a few urban scenes and dabbled with the occasional international excursion to sketch, the vibrant palette of rural Texas was his wheelhouse. County courthouses, derelict farms, cotton gins, old mercantile stores, and historic homes were clearly his comfort zone. His body of work is replete with memories of structures long since gone from the pastoral landscape. Often called a master wa-

tercolorist, his ability to use multiple mediums was what set Schiwetz apart from the pack. His detailed pencil work looked nothing like his broad-stroked oil paintings, entertaining the viewer with a diversity of style rarely seen in the artistic world.

Schiwetz's architectural training enabled his ability to sketch and draw with remarkable precision and detail, while his artistic flair gave rise to his dramatic abstract works. If the casual observer was to look at 10 Schiwetz paintings from different eras and in varying mediums, they likely would be hard pressed to recognize that the artist was one and the same.

In addition to his tremendous talent, Schiwetz had a comical sense of humor that was contagious, and he was the definition of a true Texas "character." Like most artists, he desired to paint what he wanted



and was not a fan of being commissioned to render what others wanted to see. However, to feed the family, he occasionally would undertake a painting of the farm or ranch of a well-heeled city dweller. As usual, these pieces were exceptional, and owners were pleased. What they did not notice was that Schiwetz often added a little artistic humor to the painting as a mark of his own displeasure towards commission work. As a result, there are many examples of cows wearing cowboy boots and sand hill cranes sporting straw hats and ascots.

The painter was honored by the Texas Legislature as the State Artist in 1977, was named a Texas A&M University Distinguished Alumni, and received numerous art critic awards.

Irrespective of this notoriety, Schiwetz generally shunned the spotlight, and for decades, his happiest days were spent perched on the banks of the Guadalupe River at his home in Hunt turning out pieces that reflected his love of rural Texas. Living out his later years in DeWitt County, he painted while overlooking the verdant rolling hills near Westhoff. His affinity for capturing the vibrant hues of springtime wildflowers perhaps was at its best in that final chapter of his career.

As a native son of a South Texas small town, Buck Schiwetz left a rich history for future generations with works that are timeless, reflective, and nostalgic of bygone eras. The lasting legacy his father had hoped for his son to achieve may not have been architectural, but it was a good fortune for art lovers in the Lone Star State.

Lias J. "Jeff" Steen, a Houston lawyer and businessman, knew Schiwetz during his final years when the artist resided at the Steen family ranch.

All images are courtesy of the private collection of the author. All paintings are by E. M. "Buck" Schiwetz.

Opposite page: *Monday Morning*, watercolor on paper, 13" x 18," 1931.

This page, top right: *April in DeWitt County*, mixed media on board, 20" x 35," 1969.

This page, bottom left: *Nets Near Brazosport*, mixed media on board, 24" x 15," 1963.

This feature, sponsored by the Center for the Study and Advancement of Early Texas Art (CASETA), explores the state's art legacy and spotlights the works of Texas masters.



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112 Lamar Dr., Hillsboro 76645;
254-659-7500; Mon-Thurs 8-4:30,
Friday 8-4; Research Center hours,
Mon-Fri 9-1; www.hillcollege.edu/museum

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE MUSEUM

1011 County Road 212, Giddings 78942;
979-366-2441; Tues-Sun 1-5;
www.texaswendish.org

VILLA FINALE AND VILLA FINALE VISITOR CENTER

401 King William, San Antonio 78204;
210-223-9800; Tues 12-4, Wed-Sat
9:30-4; www.VillaFinale.org

THE WITTLIFF COLLECTIONS,

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
601 University Dr., San Marcos 78666;
512-245-2313; Hours vary, call ahead;
www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu

EAST

CADDO MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE

1649 State Hwy. 21 West, Alto 75925;
936-858-3218; Tues-Sun 8:30-4:30;
[http://www.thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/
caddo-mounds-state-historic-site](http://www.thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/caddo-mounds-state-historic-site)

CHANDLER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

721 Hwy. 31 East, Chandler 75758;
903-849-2243; Wed-Sat 1-4;
www.chandlertx.com/index.aspx?NID=542

EAST TEXAS ART LEAGUE, INC.

364 N. Austin St., Jasper 75951;
409-384-2404; Wed-Fri 10-4, Sat 10-2;
www.easttexasartleague.org/

HERITAGE MUSEUM OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

1506 I-45 North, Conroe 77305;
936-539-6873; Wed-Sat 9-4;
www.heritagemuseum.us

THE HISTORY CENTER

102 N. Temple, Diboll 75941;
936-829-3453; Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 9-1;
www.thehistorycenteronline.com

MCFADDIN-WARD HOUSE

1906 Calder St., Beaumont 77701;
409-832-2134; Tues-Sat 10-11:30,
Sun 1-3; www.mcfaddin-ward.org

MUSEUM OF HARDIN COUNTY

830 S. Maple St., Kountze 77625;
409-246-8434 or 409-755-7313;
Wed 10-1 or by appointment

RUTHERFORD B. H. YATES MUSEUM

Andrews St. and Wilson St., Houston
77019; 713-739-0163; Mon-Fri 9-4;
www.rbhy.org

TEXAS FORESTRY MUSEUM

1905 Atkinson Dr., Lufkin 75901;
936-632-9535; Mon-Sat 10-5;
www.treetexas.com

NORTH

AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

3501 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth
76107; 817-738-9133; Tues-Sat 10-5,
Thurs 10-8, Sun 12-5;
www.cartermuseum.org

COMMERCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1210 Park St., Commerce 75428;
903-886-6858; Mon, Wed, Fri 10-5,
Tues 10-6, Thurs 10-8, Sat 9-12;
www.commercepubliclibrary.org

DALLAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7900 Northaven Rd., Dallas 75230;
214-239-7120; Mon-Fri 9-5; www.djhs.org

FARMERS BRANCH HISTORICAL PARK

2540 Farmers Branch Ln., Farmers
Branch 75234; 972-406-0184;
Mon-Fri 8-6, Sat-Sun 12-6;
www.fbhistoricalpark.com

GRAPEVINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

206 W. Hudgins St., Grapevine 76051;
817-410-3526; Tue-Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4;
www.grapevinehistory.weebly.com

HISTORIC FORT WORTH, INC.

1110 Penn St., Fort Worth 76102;
817-336-2344; Two historic properties:
McFarland House and Thistle Hill;
Individual/group tours Wed-Fri 11-2,
Sun 1-3; www.historicfortworth.org

HISTORIC MESQUITE, INC.

P.O. Box 850137, Mesquite 75185;
972-216-6468; Two historic properties:
Opal Lawrence Historical Park Tues-Fri
10:30-3:30; Florence Ranch Homestead
Thurs-Fri 10:30-3:30; www.historicmesquite.org

HISTORIC WACO FOUNDATION MUSEUMS

810 S. Fourth St., Waco 76706;
254-753-5166; Four historic houses:
Earle Napier Kinnard, East Terrace,
Fort House, and McCulloch;
Tues-Fri 11-3, Sat-Sun 2-5;
www.historicwaco.org

JEFFERSON HISTORICAL MUSEUM
232 W. Austin, Jefferson 75657;
930-665-2775; Mon-Fri 9:30-4:30;
www.jeffersonmuseum.com

MUSEUM OF THE
AMERICAN RAILROAD
6455 Page St., Frisco 75034;
214-428-0101; Wed-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5;
www.museumoftheamericanrailroad.org

STEPHENVILLE HISTORICAL HOUSE
MUSEUM
525 E. Washington St., Stephenville
76401; 254-965-5880; Open daily;
Guided tours Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5;
www.stephenvillmuseum.org

TALES 'N' TRAILS MUSEUM
1522 E. Highway 82, Nocona 76255;
940-825-5330; Mon-Sat 10-5;
www.talesntrails.org

THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM AT
DEALEY PLAZA
411 Elm St., Dallas 75202;
214-767-6660; Mon 12-6,
Tues-Sun 10-6; www.jfk.org

WISE COUNTY HERITAGE MUSEUM
1602 S. Trinity, Decatur 76234;
940-627-5586; Mon-Sat 10-3;
www.wisehistory.com

PANHANDLE

PANHANDLE-PLAINS HISTORICAL
MUSEUM
2503 Fourth Ave., Canyon 79015;
806-651-2244; Mon-Sat 9-6, Sun 1-6;
www.panhandleplains.org

WOLF CREEK HERITAGE MUSEUM
13310 Highway 305, Lipscomb 79056
806-852-2123; Mon-Fri 10-4;
www.wolfcreekheritagemuseum.org

SOUTH/GULF COAST

BRYAN MUSEUM
1315 21st St., Galveston 77550;
409-632-7685; Thurs-Mon 11-4;
www.thebryanmuseum.org

CHISHOLM TRAIL
HERITAGE MUSEUM
302 N. Esplanade, Cuero 77954;
361-277-2866; Tues-Sat 10-4:30;
www.chisholmtrailmuseum.org

GALVESTON AND TEXAS HISTORY
CENTER
2310 Sealy Ave., Galveston 77550;
409-763-8854 ext. 127; Tues-Sat 9-6;
www.gthcenter.org

HISTORY CENTER FOR ARANSAS COUNTY
801 E. Cedar St., Rockport 78382;
361-727-9214; Fri-Sat 10-2;
www.aransashistorycenter.org

MUSEUM OF SOUTH TEXAS HISTORY
200 N. Closner Blvd., Edinburg 78541;
956-383-6911; Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5;
www.mosthistory.org

STANZEL MODEL AIRCRAFT MUSEUM
311 Baumgarten St., Schulenberg 78956;
979-743-6559; Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 10:30-
4:30; www.stanzelmuseum.org

THE HERITAGE SOCIETY AT
SAM HOUSTON PARK
1100 Bagby St., Houston, 77002;
713-655-1912; Park open daily, dawn to
dusk; Museum hours: Tues-Sat 10-4;
Guided tours: Tues-Sat 10, 11:30, 1:00,
2:30; www.heritagesociety.org

TWENTIETH CENTURY TECHNOLOGY
MUSEUM
231 S. Fulton St., Wharton 77488;
979-282-8810; Mon-Fri 10-3, Sat 1-4;
www.20thcenturytech.com

WHITEHEAD MEMORIAL MUSEUM
1308 S. Main St., Del Rio 78840;
830-774-7568; Tues-Sat 10-6, Sun 1-5;
www.whiteheadmuseum.org

YOAKUM HERITAGE MUSEUM
312 Simpson St., Yoakum 77995;
361-293-2309; Sun, Tues, Thurs 1-4,
Fri 10-4; www.yoakumareachamber.com/
pages/yoakumheritagemuseum.html

WEST

EL PASO MUSEUM OF HISTORY
510 N. Santa Fe St., El Paso 79901;
915-212-0320; Tues-Sat 9-5, Sun 12-5;
https://history.elpasotexas.gov/

FORT CHADBOURNE FOUNDATION
651 Fort Chadbourne, Bronte 76933;
325-743-2555; Tues-Sat 8-5;
www.fortchadbourne.org/

FORT CONCHO NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARK MUSEUM
630 S. Oakes St., San Angelo 76903;
325-481-2646; Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 1-5;
www.fortconcho.com

HALEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND
HISTORY CENTER
1805 W. Indiana, Midland 79701;
432-682-5785; Mon-Fri 9-5;
www.haleylibrary.com

MARTIN COUNTY HISTORICAL
MUSEUM
207 Broadway St., Stanton 79782;
432-756-2722; Mon-Fri 12:30-5:30;
www.martincountyhistoricalsociety.com

WEST OF THE PECOS MUSEUM
120 E. Dot Stafford St., Pecos 79772;
432-445-5076; Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 1-4;
www.westofthepecosmuseum.com

OUTSIDE OF TEXAS

EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS
NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
120 S. Federal Place, Santa Fe, NM 87501;
505-988-6098; Hours vary by site.

(continued from page 15)

from across the world to the Texas Main Street City and Preserve America Community (designated by the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation).

The museum's establishment has anchored a resurgence in adaptive reuse of historic buildings in downtown Cuero. Across the street from CTHM, a late 1800's two-story building has been restored, with the first floor now housing a clothing boutique. When a pharmacy/drugstore originally constructed in 1889 closed in 2012, Joe Reuss, a fourth-generation pharmacist and business owner, brought a long-time dream to fruition—repurposing the historic structure to become the Pharmacy and Medical Museum of Texas. The venue opened in 2014 with a collection dating to the mid 19th century.

The Cuero Main Street program introduced new events, like the annual Christmas in Downtown and Market on Main, designed to bring families to the historic business district.

Most certainly, this small Texas town has adopted the motto that "everything old can be new [and fun] again."—*Pamela Murtha*

THF awarded four grants to assist with the restoration of the Knights of Pythias building.

JOIN AS AN INSTITUTION MEMBER FOR \$50 TO GET YOUR NAME ON THIS LIST.



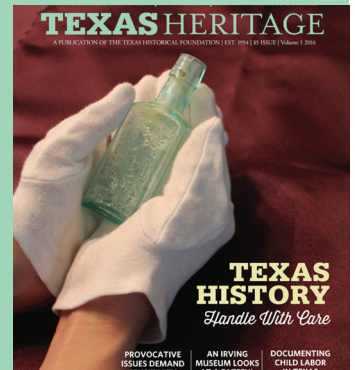
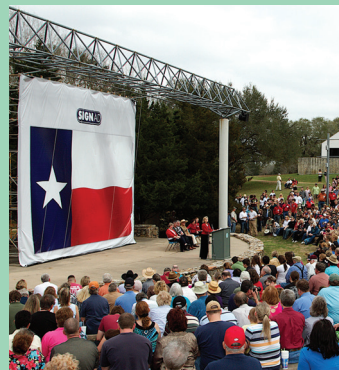
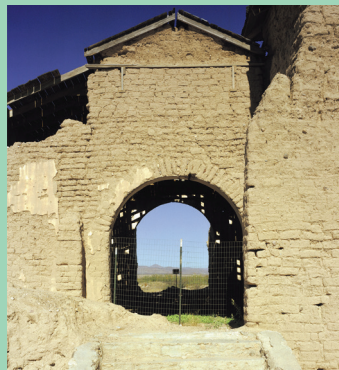
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On January 11, 1954, Articles of Incorporation creating the Texas Historical Foundation were filed and approved by the Secretary of State.



As THF celebrates this important milestone, we remain committed to supporting worthwhile preservation and educational projects across the state—and teaching Texans about their history.