

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# COURTHOUSE CORNERSTONES

2015 Update on the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program

## ENDANGERED: Historic Texas Courthouses

In Texas, many historic county courthouses have seen at least a century of community history, civic activity, and culture. The site of arguments and accords, drama and tragedy, weddings and divorces, festivals and memorials, a county courthouse is the place where the stories that make us Texans play out. A county courthouse is an invaluable part of the identity of Texas and its people.

But across the Lone Star State in cities, towns, and rural counties, these historic courthouses are

threatened, and the stories they tell may soon be forgotten unless counties intervene—in some cases immediately. This is often a monumental task for a county to assume on its own.

The threats are many—water damage, the wear of time, lack of maintenance, insufficient fire and safety code compliance, structural deficiencies, presence of construction materials now known to be hazardous, and mold (which caused Willacy County staff to recently vacate their 92-year-old courthouse).

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# Laura Bush On Historic Texas Courthouses



This excerpt of an exclusive interview with Mrs. Laura Bush in 2013 was granted to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for publication in *Preservation* magazine and online at [PreservationNation.org](http://PreservationNation.org).

## **Thinking back on your childhood in Midland, Texas, what is your earliest, or most vivid, memory of being in a place that you knew was special?**

The building that was special in Midland was the county courthouse. It was in the very center of the city on a big, wide, green lawn, and there weren't that many green lawns out there in West Texas. I went there as a young child with my mother, because the Midland County Public Library was in the basement of the county courthouse. That was very exotic because very few houses had basements in Midland, so it really was the only basement that I had ever been in. And you could imagine what it was like walking down those stairs as a little girl: kind of dark, shelves full of books. It was always a lot of fun for me. And of course going to the library with my mother meant we would come home with lots of stories to read, and that made it even more fun.

That courthouse is still there in the middle of Midland, although the library is no longer there. They built a separate library building in the 1950s. Then I was just back a few weeks ago in Midland, for the opening of their newest library, which is in a shopping center, sort of a big shopping strip. It was one of the big box stores and now it's this great big, very attractive public library. But the county courthouse stayed important to us, really, for the rest of our lives. That's where George, when he moved back to Midland in the early 1970s, went to read records, and it's where George and I went to get our marriage license.

It's interesting in Midland because they are considering selling the county courthouse property. And they did redo the courthouse, I think in the 1970s or maybe slightly earlier, so the facade is nothing like it was. It's not historic. But right now Midland County

is talking about selling the old building. I actually rode with the county judge through Midland when I went back for the new library opening and said that I didn't think that was a great idea, but I don't know if I was very persuasive.

## **Tell us about the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation program.**

George really founded that. One of our historic courthouses had burned, and [the state legislators] realized how important all the courthouses are. Every county has one, and everyone who's my age really remembers the courthouse in their town. In fact, [when I was younger] people used to drive around the county courthouse square on Friday nights. That's just what kids did, especially in smaller towns that didn't have a drive-in restaurant like we did in Midland.

So because we had lost that one historic courthouse, it spurred the Texas Legislature and our strong Texas Historical Commission to spread the legislation, and with George as governor and Bob Bullock as lieutenant governor, who was also very interested in Texas history, the courthouse preservation program was started. And a lot of our courthouses have since been restored.

What people may not realize about courthouses is that they have archives of your county. That is where the births are recorded, and where the marriages are recorded, and where the deaths are recorded. With those old archives, those old papers and books, which are easy to be destroyed by both light and temperature, much less by fire, it's really important to restore those archives and make sure they're protected.



Midland County Courthouse, Midland, circa 1933

# COURTHOUSE COMPANIONS

Between December 2010 and December 2012, Aaron Mason and Anne Cornell Mason of Austin visited every current county courthouse in Texas and more. Including the ghost towns, a precinct courthouse in Fayetteville, and one or two cities that have multiple temples of justice, they estimate they've visited a total of 269 Texas courthouses. When the couple began their journey, they had just begun dating. When it ended, they got married—in a courthouse, of course—and racked up Senate and House resolutions in their honor. The Masons are now planning to write a heritage tourism guidebook featuring destinations within each county seat in hopes of generating more interest in the Lone Star State's unparalleled collection of courthouses.

**What inspired you to travel to all 254 of Texas' county courthouses?** For fun, on a whim, we realized in front of the Fayette County Courthouse in La Grange that we were both intrigued by them. Anne's parents had started visiting courthouses, but moved to Colorado before they were done. It also seemed like a fun and daring way to get to know each other, trapped in a car for hours on end!

**What was your favorite courthouse, and your favorite courthouse story you heard along the way?** In our opinion, the Harrison County Courthouse in Marshall is the prettiest, but the Ellis County Courthouse in Waxahachie is our favorite because that's where we got married. The story that really stuck with us is that of the Kendall County Courthouse in Boerne's restoration—the administrative assistant gave us a tour and told us all about it before we knew much about historic restorations. In Dumas, the juvenile probation officer gave us a tour of the Moore County Courthouse, which is stunning inside—he was so proud of it.

**What was your favorite discovery during the tour?** There were two: the antique elevator in the Winkler County Courthouse in Kermit and the cupola in the Presidio County Courthouse in Marfa. The elevator is one of the old gated ones that the administrative assistant had to use a broomstick to stop! The cupola is the only one we were able to go up into, although that is no longer possible [due to safety concerns associated with the windows].

**What did you learn about yourselves from the experience?** We learned that we travel well together, we learned to overcome Anne's challenges with left and right navigation, and how to plan road trips off the beaten path—we still love that! We both enjoy looking for small-town restaurants and local oddities like a giant jackrabbit or mule sculptures. We find ourselves often saying, "Let's come back to this town someday."

**How did the courthouse tour affect your lives?** We got to know each other on the road and eventually got married! It also set the stage for how we spend our free time—traveling off the beaten path and trying to discover the heritage of a place.

**You received official resolutions from the Texas House and Senate. What was that experience like?** It was a great honor, and very rewarding. We felt good that our project we did just for fun caught attention at the state level and shined a light on courthouse tourism. That was a wonderful surprise!



Aaron Mason and Anne Cornell Mason in front of the 1894 Caldwell County Courthouse, Lockhart

**Since your courthouse tour, you've participated in some courthouse rededications after their restoration through the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, and you've spoken at a Texas Courthouse Stewardship workshop. Do you plan to stay involved in courthouse preservation efforts?** Yes, we would love to! We still visit courthouses whenever possible, like old friends.

**Have you encountered other people doing courthouse heritage tourism?** Not while on the road, but definitely online, through the media, and through our blog, [www.texascourthousestewardship.com](http://www.texascourthousestewardship.com).

**What's next in your journey together?** Our next goal is to visit all the Texas state parks! We have a Scamp trailer that we got for our wedding present, which makes year-round camping in Texas really comfortable. You'll know us when you see our Texas courthouse bumper sticker!

**ENDANGERED:  
Historic Texas Courthouses**  
*(Continued from page 1)*

A significant source of relief to counties with threatened historic county courthouses are grants from the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) [www.thc.state.tx.us/thcpp]. The THCPP works with the Texas Legislature to provide needed funds to counties to preserve and upgrade threatened historic courthouses. Sadly, the threats outnumber the resources to restore these courthouses.

More than 90 of Texas' historic courthouses have been assisted with grants from the THCPP, but in 2012 the National Trust for Historic Preservation placed Texas' historic courthouses on its list of 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for the second time in just over a decade. With more than 100 eligible counties not yet participating in the program and 76 applicants with unfulfilled requests, there is still a significant amount of work to be done before Texas courthouses overcome their dubious national distinction.

Meanwhile, the threats aren't going away.

**“When old records are lost or destroyed, so is our history,” warns Mark Wolfe, executive director of the THC.**

Water intrusion is one of the most common and pervasive threats to county courthouses. As time passes, even the solid construction of buildings meant to last centuries eventually falters without dedicated, consistent maintenance. Foundations leak, soils settle, and masonry deteriorates, as do roofs, windows, and doors.

In a modern office environment, water leaks may threaten computers and communications equipment, but in a historic courthouse, files and records, structural steel, and historic finishes are also at risk. In Round VIII of THCPP grants (2013), Dimmit, Upshur, and Van Zandt counties applied for funding to address water problems that threatened their daily business and vital records. While emergency grants were available to Dimmit and Upshur, Van Zandt County suffered due to limited THCPP funding, instead having to use its own limited resources to pay for waterproofing its courthouse's foundation.

“When old records are lost or destroyed, so is our history,” warns Mark Wolfe, executive director of the THC. “County records are an important repository of the daily workings of our counties



Previously, localized fires have occurred due to aging electrical and mechanical systems in the 1891 Tyler County Courthouse, Woodville



The 1903 Newton County Courthouse was restored after a devastating fire, Newton

and the state. These records hold not only vital information, but are some of the earliest known histories of Texas.”

While water damage occasionally takes years before the true extent of damage is known, the threat of fire comes in an instant, as Newton County Judge Truman Dougharty knows too well. Only a month after submitting a Courthouse Preservation Master Plan to the THCPP in 2000, a devastating fire caused by faulty wiring all but destroyed his county's courthouse, leaving only the brick walls standing. It was eventually restored with the assistance of THCPP grants.

Immediately after receiving a THCPP construction grant in Round VII, Navarro County endured a small fire that was quickly extinguished by County Judge H.M. Davenport. Disaster would most certainly have occurred had the fire started outside of business hours. In San Saba and Tyler counties, outdated electrical systems caused small fires at the historic courthouses, and both buildings were rewired via THCPP emergency grants.

Many factors contribute to the threat of fire at historic Texas courthouses, but significant ones include outdated electrical systems, lack of lightning protection, and inadequate fire suppression and



Right: 1911 San Saba County Courthouse, San Saba



Stalactites formed by water damage, 1923 Polk County Courthouse, Livingston

smoke detection systems. Many lack modern alert systems that warn occupants and summon firefighters simultaneously.

Jefferson County offers a compelling example of the need for robust fire protection. At 14 stories, the Jefferson County Courthouse is the tallest historic county courthouse in Texas. A fire warning system is critical for the welfare of the building's occupants. In its last grant cycle, the THCPP agreed and awarded the county \$450,000 to provide a system that offers important fire safety improvements for the building.

Perhaps the worst threats to historic Texas courthouses come from disinterest and misinformation—the false belief that it is easier and cheaper to “build new.”

A less-common but still debilitating threat comes from structural deficiency. As with many historic buildings, the standard causes of structural problems are fatigue and deflection of structural members; limited reinforcing or inadequate attachment between system components; expansive, fluid, or weak soil types; poor site drainage contributing to foundation movement; and use of vulnerable building materials more than a century ago.

Regardless of their origin, structural issues can be serious. In the case of recent Round VIII grant recipient Wilson County, officials ordered the evacuation of the building based on the recommendations of a structural engineer who found that the original masonry footings and load-bearing walls were constructed of an unusually soft brick after evaluating large visible cracks and movement. The original masonry foundation was replaced with reinforced concrete underpinning, and a brick wall was dismantled and reconstructed.

Hunt County also received a Round VIII emergency grant of \$450,000 due to its concrete stairs pulling away from the build-

ing at its north and south entrances. A settling foundation led to cracks in the concrete stairs, allowing water to enter and corrode the structural steel. Hunt County was forced to shut down one of the entrances and provide shoring at the other to protect county employees and the public. Underpinning of the concrete stairs and adjacent walls will prevent additional movement of the building and resultant water infiltration.

“We are certainly appreciative of the THC’s consideration of this project. It would have been a real challenge for us,” said Hunt County Judge John Horn. “We’re trying to recover from an economic downturn and would have had to divert significant funding from other necessary operations to affect these changes.”\*

Perhaps the worst threats to historic Texas courthouses come from disinterest and misinformation—the false belief that it is easier and cheaper to “build new” and sacrifice a century or more of history and community to a construction landfill. According to Wolfe, it is neither cheaper nor sustainable to raze a historic courthouse and build a new facility with at best a 50-year lifespan, when a historic courthouse can be restored and updated for the 21st century at a fraction of the cost and offer another century of service to the community.

After a full restoration, county officials must continue to be diligent in maintaining their restored courthouses or face these threats all over again. That’s why the THC established the Texas Courthouse Stewardship Program in 2005. The program offers technical assistance and education through regular workshops and site visits.



One of two entry stairs at the 1929 Hunt County Courthouse, Greenville, closed due to structural deficiencies

“Buildings, new or old, are not static objects that remain as they were built,” explains Sharon Fleming, director of the THCPP. “The forces of time and nature will always create a challenge for those maintaining a building, but the worthwhile cause of preserving a durable, well-constructed historic structure not only protects history, but provides a usable building that endures for many lifetimes.”

**For more information about the preservation of historic county courthouses in Texas, visit [www.thc.state.tx.us/thcpp](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/thcpp).**

\*County magazine’s “Courthouses in Danger” series, Nov./Dec. 2014

# Harrison County Courthouse Restoration Revitalizes Historic Downtown

As centerpieces of business districts across Texas, historic county courthouses have tremendous potential to promote prosperity within a community. A restored and well-maintained historic county courthouse serves as the anchor of a vibrant town center. Conversely, a dilapidated courthouse discourages investment and fuels abandonment of the historic downtown.

In evaluating the impact of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) on communities, the overwhelming consensus is that courthouse restorations often act as the main force for economic renewal of the courthouse square in both urban and rural communities.

Marshall struggled with downtown occupancy from the oil bust in the 1980s and the closing of a local ammunition plant in the 1990s. The long-deserted Harrison County Courthouse contributed to the central business district's negative image and blight.

In 2001, Harrison County received its first THCPP grant; since then, Marshall has become one of the state's most vibrant historic downtowns. It continues to support new restaurants, shops, and loft apartments on

and around the courthouse square. The courthouse, rededicated in 2009, is the center of the popular and established Wonderland of Lights and the Fire Ant Festival, along with the more recent Marshall Music Festival and Second Saturday, all hosted by the City of Marshall and Marshall Main Street.

"The courthouse restoration pulled the community together and hundreds of Marshall's residents stepped up to volunteer and make financial contributions to the project, restoring not only the courthouse but community pride for local residents," said Sharon



1901 Harrison County Courthouse, Marshall



Randy Mallory



Left: Second Saturday Car Show; Above: Second Saturday in downtown Marshall

Fleming, director of the THCPP.

According to Marshall Assistant

City Manager Janet Cook, the courthouse restoration also instilled confidence in developers, who invested in downtown properties after construction on the courthouse began. General community interest in the historic city center grew. As one of the first investors in Marshall's downtown recovery, current Main Street Manager Bo Ellis purchased and restored the nearby Joe Weisman & Company building to host a successful antique market and thriving restaurant, Central Perks.

In 2003, former State Senator and Harrison County Judge Richard Anderson joined the momentum and partnered with



Mike Engelman  
Texas Forest Trail Region

“... the restoration of the courthouse was the catalyst that drove the redevelopment of Marshall’s historic central business district,” Judge Anderson said.

former resident Jerry Cargill, the City of Marshall, Marshall Economic Development Corporation, the Marshall Chamber of Commerce, and the nonprofit Marshall Downtown Development Corporation in purchasing and rehabilitating the decaying and abandoned Hotel Marshall, another key bulwark of Marshall’s historic downtown fabric. That same year, local preservationists worked to get Marshall recertified as a Texas Main Street city and later as a Certified Local Government, both THC-administered programs. It has been a successful member of these programs ever since.

“As the centerpiece and most visible building in town, the restoration of the courthouse was the catalyst that drove the redevelopment of Marshall’s historic central business district,” Judge Anderson said. “Property values have increased substantially since the restoration. There’s now competition among developers to establish businesses on the square.”

The benefits from the THC programs have intertwined and it is now difficult to separate their impact.

“There’s definitely a new positive energy in this community that can be attributed to all three THC programs, but without the restoration of the courthouse, Marshall’s downtown development could never be considered successful,” Cook said. “Instead of a

deteriorating building contributing to blight, the Harrison County Courthouse is once again a beautiful centerpiece for our downtown area.”

For many cities, simultaneous participation in the THC’s various preservation initiatives, in addition to independent programs like the Texas Downtown Association (TDA), provides a particularly successful outcome when combined with the restoration of the community centerpiece—its county courthouse. In fact, TDA’s 2013 award recipients were Amarillo and Granbury, following the full restorations of both county courthouses through the THCPP.

Catherine Sak, director of TDA, sees the value of a courthouse restoration firsthand and believes that a county’s investment in its courthouse makes a statement that the courthouse square plays an important role in the community; it creates excitement and instills confidence in developers,

who subsequently invest in properties during or following a courthouse restoration. She sees chambers of commerce and cities regularly featuring the iconic county courthouse in their marketing materials.

“A restored county courthouse and square creates an opportunity for the establishment of new businesses and events in the downtown,” she said.

In addition to acting as a catalyst for a statewide resurgence in historic downtowns by stimulating local and state economies and providing a focal point, the THCPP creates economic growth through the investment made by the THC and participating counties.

“A city’s involvement in urban revitalization through preservation of its historic town center—particularly when partnered with a county’s restoration of its historic county courthouse—provides the vital link for a prosperous downtown,” said THC Chairman Pete Peterson.



## Economic Benefits of Restored Historic Courthouses

- Since 1999, **10,381 jobs** for Texans have been supported through courthouse preservation projects
  - **\$288,424,344 in income generated**
  - **\$23,601,540 in state taxes generated**
  - **\$23,044,122 in local taxes generated**
  - **\$393,778,898 in gross state product**
- Travel in Texas is a **\$67.5 billion industry**. Texas towns with restored courthouses are frequently a heritage tourism destination as demonstrated by visitors from 29 states and seven countries to the DeWitt County Courthouse in Cuero over a three-year period.
- **Nearly half** of Texas’ restored historic courthouses are in a Main Street community.
- At least **17 major motion pictures** feature scenes shot in a historic Texas courthouse, including “Bernie,” “True Grit,” “Lone Star,” and “The Tree of Life.”
- An example of how a Texas community can benefit from its courthouse restoration is Lampasas, which now has **more than nine courthouse square events that draw approximately 9,000 people annually**.
- A common story among communities with restored courthouses: the commercial properties on the Wharton County Courthouse square in Wharton experienced a **279 percent increase in property values** in the four years after the courthouse project was completed. **Occupancy rates increased from 30 to 70 percent** during the same period.

# UNLEASHING THE BEXAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

## Magnificence of Original 1896 Building Shines with Removal of Unsightly Additions

When work was completed on the Romanesque Revival-style Bexar County Courthouse in 1896, it was deemed an architectural triumph. During subsequent decades, San Antonio's population boomed, resulting in a series of courthouse renovations to accommodate growing staff and services. However, with each architectural addition, the celebrated original courthouse became further obscured.

In 2000, Bexar County Facilities and Parks staff developed a courthouse master plan to carefully nurture a long-term vision. The goal was to slowly and deliberately peel back the unneeded layers of construction to reveal the original courthouse envisioned by James Riely Gordon more than a century ago. In 2015, this objective will be achieved.

**“The leadership of county officials in implementing aspects of the county’s plan ... allows this goal to be met,” says THCPP Director Sharon Fleming.**

“The leadership of county officials in implementing aspects of the county’s plan, including the construction of a new administrative building and strong support of their community’s unique history, allows this goal to be met,” says Sharon Fleming, director of the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP).



The courtroom designed by J. Riely Gordon in 1896 was restored and reopened in January 2015.

and doors (excepting details concealed by building additions dating to 1963 and 1972).

The \$22 million exterior restoration began where the other project ended—removing the modern building additions on the



The 1896 Bexar County Courthouse is a treasured historic landmark in a city with a rich heritage.

south end, which were aesthetically incompatible and rapidly deteriorating. The scope of the exterior project entails restoring the newly exposed rusticated “Pecos Red” sandstone façade, windows, terra cotta, railings, window guards, and fire escapes. In addition, the portico protecting the west entry will be reconstructed and the tiled west terrace will be restored.

Accessibility will be greatly improved through the construction of two additional accessible entrances. To improve the building’s longevity, additional preservation work includes waterproofing the basement walls and foundations, cleaning pigeon guano, and installing screening systems to prevent further damage.

The restored outdoor terrace, previously hidden by the 1963 building addition, now serves as a new entrance and gathering spot between the historic courthouse and the new Civil Courts Building. The terrace will also provide access to a remodeled Spanish Archives and Bexar County History Center/Visitor Center/School Tour Center.

Concurrent interior restoration efforts are also taking place, focusing primarily on the original courtroom to host public activities and serve as the designated location for commissioners court to conduct county business, as it did in 1896. The courtroom, one of the most elaborate designed by Gordon, was originally two stories tall. It was subsequently renovated several



times, including a balcony removal, judge's bench repositioning, and addition of an intermediate floor that divided the room into two, one-story spaces.

When architects began planning the courtroom's restoration, little information was available about the original design. Researchers discovered only a single grainy 1914 photograph of a courtroom trial and an article by Gordon describing the courtroom in the *San Antonio Express-News* archives. All attempts to locate the original plans of the courthouse proved unsuccessful; however, the architect's specifications from 1892–96 transcribed in the commissioners court minutes were found, providing details on a few aspects of his design.

Researchers also conducted a physical forensic investigation, needed to document the original location of the balcony and the judge's bench. Discovered through careful removal of the building's layers were the original locations for quatrefoil windows and the original paint colors.

"The appearance of the decorative pilaster capitals, removed during a 1926 renovation, is based on others that remain in a fourth-floor courtroom," Fleming explains, adding that the historic capitals were used to create a new plaster mold.

The completely restored courtroom is now an airy, light-filled space ideal for formal government functions, including a January swearing-in ceremony for newly elected and re-elected officials. Adding to the dramatic appearance of the room are the impressive coffered ceilings, gilding on the plaster moldings and capitals, and 12 decorative windows based on the design of the rose window of San Antonio's iconic Mission San Jose.

Spaces adjacent to the second-floor courtroom, such as the main corridor and the north balcony facing Main Plaza, will also be returned to their historic appearance. To meet today's safety and security needs and building codes, the project also includes new interior exit stairs and upgrades to alarm, fire sprinkler, emergency

generator, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems. A mechanical floor lift is cleverly incorporated into the judge's bench to allow the adjacent seating to be at one level while remaining



Restored decorative pilaster capital and quatrefoil window

handicapped accessible, and a new cable television broadcast system will be installed.

The Bexar County Courthouse is visited by more than 10,000 people daily. As one can imagine, integrating the construction activities with trials and other county business presented unique challenges. Several months prior to the August 2013 groundbreaking, county staff members relocated courts, offices, and entire departments, and organized temporary and permanent rerouting of mechanical and electrical systems.



Recent work at the Bexar County Courthouse used demolition robots for efficiency.

Among the strategies employed by county and general contractor staff are working 24-hour shifts and isolating the noisy, distracting work to nights when judges are not in court. Also, remotely controlled Brokk demolition robots were developed especially for the exterior restoration project. These machines improved personnel safety and removed sections of the concrete frame with minimal impact to avoid damaging the historic exterior wall.

At 269,000 square feet, the Bexar County Courthouse is one of the largest historic Texas courthouses in continuous use. Efforts to preserve and maintain it do not end with completion of these projects.

"Bexar County residents and Bexar County Facilities and Parks staff will continue to follow their master plan goals and address other challenges in the near future," says Mark Wolfe, executive director of the THC. "In the meantime, this newly restored commissioners courtroom and the exterior facade restorations will delight the landmark's present and future visitors."

**FULLY RESTORED COURTHOUSES**

County	City	Rededicated	Originally Completed
Archer	Archer City	5/12/05	1891
Atascosa	Jourdanton	6/14/03	1912
Bee	Beeville	5/20/06	1913
Bosque	Meridian	9/22/07	1886
Brooks	Falfurrias	2/26/10	1914
Cameron	Brownsville	10/17/06	1912
Cass	Linden	2/18/12	1861
Colorado	Columbus	5/17/14	1891
Comal	New Braunfels	1/22/13	1898
Cooke	Gainesville	11/12/11	1911
Dallas	Dallas	5/15/07	1892
Denton	Denton	11/6/04	1896
DeWitt	Cuero	10/27/07	1896
Dimmit	Carrizo Springs	11/18/04	1884
Donley	Clarendon	7/4/03	1894
Edwards	Rocksprings	7/5/14	1891
Ellis	Waxahachie	10/4/03	1897
Erath	Stephenville	8/20/02	1892
Fayette	La Grange	6/25/05	1891
Franklin	Mount Vernon	9/20/14	1912
Goliad	Goliad	12/4/03	1894
Gray	Pampa	4/12/03	1928
Grimes	Anderson	3/2/02	1894
Hamilton	Hamilton	4/28/12	1887
Hardeman	Quanah	5/9/14	1908
Harris	Houston	8/23/11	1910
Harrison	Marshall	6/20/09	1901
Hood	Granbury	10/27/12	1891
Hopkins	Sulpher Springs	12/7/02	1894
Hudspeth	Sierra Blanca	7/3/04	1920
Jeff Davis	Fort Davis	11/8/03	1910
Johnson	Cleburne	12/1/07	1913
Kendall	Boerne	4/10/10	1870
La Salle	Cotulla	1/26/13	1931
Lamar	Paris	9/3/05	1917
Lampasas	Lampasas	3/2/04	1883
Lavaca	Hallettsville	9/11/10	1897
Lee	Giddings	10/8/04	1899
Leon	Centerville	7/1/07	1887
Llano	Llano	6/15/02	1892
Maverick	Eagle Pass	10/13/05	1885
McCulloch	Brady	9/5/09	1899
Menard	Menard	11/11/06	1932
Milam	Cameron	7/4/02	1892
Mills	Goldthwaite	8/27/11	1913
Newton	Newton	12/8/12	1903
Parker	Weatherford	6/4/05	1886
Potter	Amarillo	8/18/12	1932
Presidio	Marfa	1/5/02	1886
Rains	Emory	10/17/10	1909
Red River	Clarksville	10/26/02	1884
Roberts	Miami	6/2/12	1913
San Augustine	San Augustine	11/20/10	1928
Shackelford	Albany	6/30/01	1883
Sutton	Sonora	6/11/02	1891
Trinity	Groveton	7/22/11	1914
Val Verde	Del Rio	7/23/04	1887
Wharton	Wharton	8/4/07	1889
Wheeler	Wheeler	10/16/04	1925
Williamson	Georgetown	12/8/07	1911

**PLANNING PROJECTS**

County	City	Status	Originally Completed
Cameron	Brownsville	In Progress	1912
Crosby	Crosbyton	Complete	1914
Falls	Marlin	Complete	1940
Fannin	Bonham	Complete	1889
Fort Bend	Richmond	Complete	1909
Houston	Crockett	Complete	1940
Karnes	Karnes City	Complete	1894
Lynn	Tahoka	Complete	1916
Marion	Jefferson	Complete	1912
Mason	Mason	Complete	1910
San Saba	San Saba	Complete	1911
Stephens	Breckenridge	Complete	1926
Upshur	Gilmer	Complete	1933



**EMERGENCY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

County	City	Status	Originally Completed
Bandera	Bandera	Complete	1891
Glasscock	Garden City	Complete	1894
Marion	Jefferson	Complete	1912
Mason	Mason	Complete	1910
McLennan	Waco	Complete	1901
Montague	Montague	Complete	1913
Nueces	Corpus Christi	Complete	1914
Randall	Canyon	Complete	1908
Tyler	Woodville	Complete	1891

Left: 1912 Franklin County Courthouse, Mount Vernon, rededicated 2014

**ROUND VIII EMERGENCY PROJECTS**

County	City	Status	Originally Completed
Callahan	Baird	In Progress	1929
Dickens	Dickens	In Progress	1893
Dimmit	Carrizo Springs	In Progress	1884
Hidalgo	Hidalgo	In Progress	1886
Houston	Crockett	In Progress	1940
Hunt	Greenville	In Progress	1929
Jefferson	Beaumont	In Progress	1932
Karnes	Karnes City	In Progress	1894
Lamar	Paris	In Progress	1917
Lee	Giddings	In Progress	1897
Limestone	Groesbeck	In Progress	1924
Lipscomb	Lipscomb	In Progress	1916
Lynn	Tahoka	In Progress	1916
Polk	Livingston	In Progress	1923
Rains	Emory	In Progress	1909
San Saba	San Saba	In Progress	1911
Upshur	Gilmer	In Progress	1933
Wilson	Floresville	In Progress	1884

Nearly every dollar invested in the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program has been spent on courthouse restoration, not administrative overhead costs or other expenditures.

**IN PROGRESS: CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

County	City	Status	Originally Completed
Bexar	San Antonio	In Progress	1896
Navarro	Corsicana	In Progress	1905
Throckmorton	Throckmorton	In Progress	1891



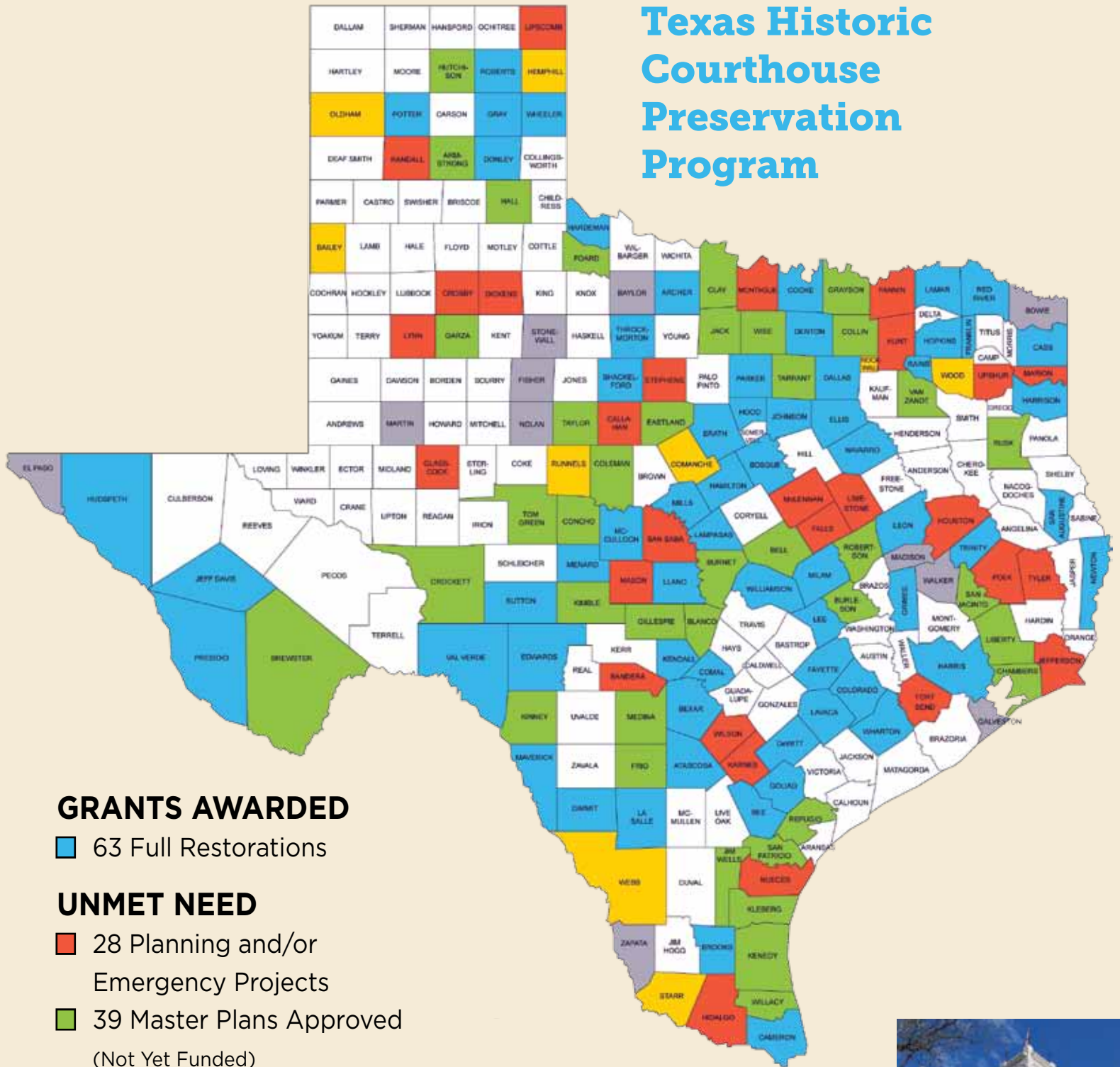
**PROGRAM STAFF**

- Sharon Fleming, AIA, DSHPO, Director
- Susan Gammage, Assistant Director
- James Malanaphy, RA, Architect
- Eva Osborne, RA, Architect
- Lisa Harvell, Historic Interiors Specialist
- Whitney Bayers, Program Specialist
- Rob Hodges and Andy Rhodes, *Courthouse Cornerstones* Editors
- Judy Jensen, Senior Graphic Design Coordinator

Left and below: 1891 Edwards County Courthouse, Rocksprings and 1891 Colorado County Courthouse, Columbus, both rededicated 2014



# Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program



## GRANTS AWARDED

- 63 Full Restorations
- 28 Planning and/or Emergency Projects
- 39 Master Plans Approved (Not Yet Funded)
- 9 Master Plans (Pending Approval)

## NON-PARTICIPANTS

- 104 Historic Courthouses Eligible to Participate
- 11 Courthouses not Eligible (Not 50 Years Old or County/City Owned)

January 2015

www.thc.state.tx.us



Comal County Courthouse, New Braunfels, rededicated 2013



Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711-2276

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Photos courtesy of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Citizens across the state showed their affection for their historic courthouses during the I Love Texas Courthouses campaign in January–February 2013.