

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

COURTHOUSE CORNERSTONES

2017 TEXAS HISTORIC COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION PROGRAM UPDATE

**A SOLID
FOUNDATION**
FOR STATE SERVICES

HEART AND SOUL
OF OUR COMMUNITIES

**IT'S HIP TO
BE SQUARE**
IN MOUNT VERNON

COURTHOUSE REDEDICATIONS
IN NAVARRO AND
THROCKMORTON COUNTIES

CELEBRATING PARTNERS
IN PRESERVATION

ENSURING THE SAFETY
OF VITAL HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS



THC CHAIRMAN JOHN L. NAU, III ON HISTORIC TEXAS COURTHOUSES

Our state's historic county courthouses play a central role in their communities. These magnificent buildings have a significant impact on tourism and travel, and they provide distinctive settings for the entire history of a county.

What is sometimes overlooked is the importance of courthouses to state government. They provide an entire menu of services for Texans—from state, district, and courts of appeals to voter registration and Child Protective Services. County courthouses provide these services to more than 27 million Texans.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) works to preserve these courthouses through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP). The program doesn't just beautifully restore these buildings to their past glory, it prepares them for a future of serving residents and county employees.

The THCPP combines state dollars, local matching funds, and a lot of hard work and dedication at the local level. Since it began, the program has contributed more than 10,600 jobs and \$288 million in income to the Texas economy. Construction activity related to the program has generated over \$40.3 million in state and local taxes and more than \$550 million in wages in Texas.

One of our strongest partners in this work has been the Texas Land Title Association, which has provided over \$228,000 in sponsorship for the THC's Texas Courthouse Stewardship Program since 2006. The program emphasizes cyclical maintenance as crucial to the continued welfare of the state's historic courthouses.

With continued support of the program, we will have the opportunity to provide additional funding to counties that still need it. Every dollar from federal and state incentive programs for the rehabilitation of historic properties generates at least four dollars of private sector investment and creates thousands of jobs for Texans.

We look forward to bringing the THCPP's success to more Texas counties as we keep the THC's preservation goals firmly planted in the proud heritage that has made Texas the great state it is today.

PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION

A UNIQUE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ENSURES THE STEWARDSHIP OF RESTORED COURTHOUSES

By Whitney Bayers, Courthouse Program Specialist, THC

Travel to any courthouse square in Texas, and you'll likely find a title agency, often nestled in between the mom-and-pop shops and cafes. That's because courthouses, as protectors of land deeds and other vital records, are valuable resources for title agents. The Texas Land Title Association (TLTA), a statewide member-based organization for Texas title agents, has long recognized the importance of these landmarks.

"Our members are located in 251 of 254 counties across the state of Texas and are frequent and appreciative users of courthouse resources since we rely on public records to do our job of protecting property rights," explains TLTA Executive Vice President and CEO Leslie Midgley.

With more than 60 courthouses fully restored, the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) has played a significant role in ensuring these buildings and the records they protect are here for generations to come. But there is still work to be done. "These buildings need to be cared for after the restoration to prevent them from falling back into disrepair," says Sharon Fleming, AIA, THCPP director. "It's important to remember—for any building—stewardship is an ongoing effort."

For the last 10 years, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and TLTA have partnered to ensure the continued preservation of these landmarks through the Texas Courthouse Stewardship Program. This initiative provides technical assistance and training workshops to county officials and facilities managers, with an emphasis on preventative and routine maintenance. The workshops also offer an opportunity for dialogue between counties that often results in solutions for technical issues.

Since the first Texas Courthouse Stewardship Workshop in 2007, the THC and TLTA have presented more than a dozen workshops representing over 140 training hours to more than 500 attendees.

"The Texas Land Title Association is proud to continue its partnership with the Texas Historical Commission's Courthouse Stewardship Program," says Midgley. "Our grant helps facilitate the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of these beautifully restored landmarks. Our continued commitment to this important project is an additional way for our industry to assist the counties we serve throughout the state of Texas."

In recognition of its important contributions to courthouse preservation, TLTA received the prestigious 2015 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. "The Texas Land Title Association's tireless support for the preservation and conservation of Texas' historic courthouses benefits all Texans, both culturally and economically," said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe at the October 2016 award ceremony.

"When we preserve our courthouses and other precious state historic resources, we generate significant economic benefit to our state and residents. I speak for the entire Commission and staff when I extend to TLTA our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for their invaluable support of historic preservation in Texas."

Gov. Greg Abbott presents the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation to Texas Land Title Association representatives.



TEXAS COURTHOUSE STEWARDSHIP AWARD

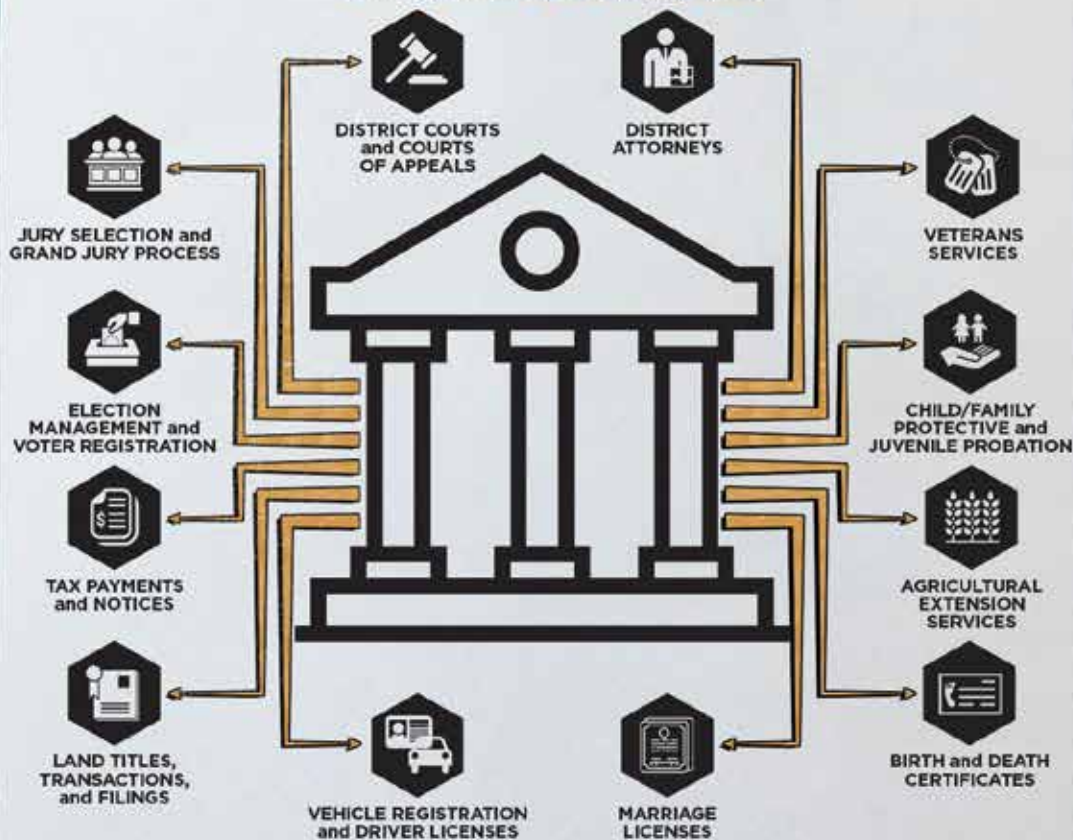
The Texas Courthouse Stewardship Award was created in 2008 to recognize counties that have established exemplary stewardship practices to maintain their courthouses in restored condition. The Texas Land Title Association has sponsored this award since it was established.

PAST AWARD WINNERS

2016	Potter County	2010	DeWitt County,
2015	Harrison County,		Johnson County
	San Augustine County	2009	Fayette County,
2013	Donley County		Hopkins County
2012	Erath County	2008	Denton County,
2011	Bosque County		Goliad County,
			Presidio County

THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

A FOUNDATION OF STATE SERVICES



By Liz Carmack, Senior Communications Specialist, Texas Association of Counties

More than just pretty buildings with storied pasts, Texas' historic county courthouses deliver myriad state government services to more than 27 million Texans.

Walk into most county courthouses across the state and you can register your truck, obtain a marriage license, or watch district court trial proceedings. You may also find a Texan visiting a probation officer, getting connected with veterans' services, or renewing a driver license.

County government operates as the functional arm of state government, and county courthouses are the primary venues where Texans have received many of these essential services for generations.

Here's a look at many of the state services counties deliver to local residents, often in the courthouse.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Counties enforce state laws, operate the statewide court system, and run the county jail, which often holds mostly state prisoners.

“Counties also represent the state in the prosecution of both misdemeanors (such as speeding tickets) and felonies—crimes such as possession of drugs, aggravated assault, and robberies,” said Susan Redford, Judicial Program Manager at the Texas Association of Counties and former Ector County Judge.

Counties are involved at every level of public safety and justice. For example, a county sheriff enforces state traffic laws by issuing a speeding ticket. The driver disputes the ticket, then appears in the justice of the peace court, held in the county courthouse. The county prosecutes the misdemeanor on behalf of the state.

Depending on the county’s population and the nature of the charge, the county prosecutor could be a county attorney, a district attorney, a criminal district attorney, or a county and district attorney.

Counties provide virtually all the facilities to house the 1,800 courts in the state system, including 13 of 14 regional courts of appeals and the 465 district courts. These courts and their staff can often be found in county courthouses, particularly in rural counties.

Counties provide most of the funding to run state district courts, constitutional county courts, county courts at law, and justice of the peace courts. According to the Texas Office of Court Administration, counties also provide supplemental pay for the salaries of judges in the courts of appeals and district courts serving their areas. The cost to a county in setting up and maintaining a district court can quickly cascade.

“As an example, just to create one district court in Ector County cost the county \$500,000 for the first year. After that, it cost \$215,000 a year to run it—and counties can run multiple district courts,” Redford said. “We supplement the salary of the district judge, pay for the court administrator, the court clerk, court reporter, and bailiff, and provide the courtroom, offices, computers, office supplies, telephones, and more.”

VITAL RECORDS KEEPING, REGISTRATIONS, AND ELECTIONS

Hundreds of historic courthouses across the state serve as archives, safely storing vital records about citizens, property ownership, and court proceedings. In some counties, these records date back generations, representing a cache of history and heritage for both the county and state.

Officials and staff working in these buildings not only preserve these treasured and essential documents, but also manage elections and provide residents with state vehicle licensing and registration services.

The clerk’s office records and archives everything from birth certificates, marriage licenses, adoption, and name-change records to bonds, divorce records, wills, and death certificates. Clerks are also responsible for safekeeping records of property ownership, from land deeds and mineral rights to livestock brands. State agencies and the courts rely on this service and the data collected through it. Texans depend on these records to conduct business throughout their lives.

District clerks serve as the records custodians for district courts. They collect court filing fees, and handle funds held in litigation and money awarded by the courts to minors. They also handle the jury panel selection process.

County tax-assessor collectors license and register Texans’ cars, trucks, boats, and horse and utility trailers for the state. Counties must confirm vehicles have passed state safety inspections and that owners do not owe child support.

Counties play a central role in our democracy. They register voters, run elections, maintain more than 8,400 voting precincts, and report election results data to the secretary of state for each and every race, from local school board and city council races to state and national contests for governor and president.

These are just a few of the many state services counties provide. Others include:

- Represent the state in the prosecution of child protective services and welfare fraud cases;
- Remit monies to the state collected from vehicle registration fees, speeding tickets, and court costs;
- House and care for state prisoners prior to transfer to state facilities;
- Pay for the defense of indigent defendants;
- Deliver probation services to juveniles in the court system and adults convicted of a crime;
- Provide the Texas Department of Public Safety with facilities to issue driver licenses;
- Deliver services to veterans and their families.

For generations, Texas citizens and businesses have gone to county courthouses to receive the essential state services they need to prosper. A restored county courthouse connects them to the legacy of hard work and sacrifice that have made Texas a model for the world.

JUSTICE RESTORED



NAVARRO COUNTY COURTHOUSE RETURNED TO ITS FORMER GLORY

by Susan Gammage, Assistant Director, Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, THC

Built in 1905, the Navarro County Courthouse in Corsicana was in dire need of repairs a century later. In 2011, wastewater lines broke, flooding the second floor, and there was a small electrical fire in the judge's office. The county had received a planning grant from the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program that enabled the hiring of Georgetown's 1113 Architects firm to produce construction documents and specifications for the restoration project. The Texas Historical Commission then awarded a construction grant exceeding \$5 million to complete a full restoration executed by its general contractor, Phoenix I of Dallas. The county contributed over \$5.5 million as a match, which was approved through a bond election.


Major improvements included a complete replacement of electrical wiring, plumbing, and mechanical systems,

and the installation of fire protection and a security system. In addition to a beautiful interior restoration of the courtroom, atrium, and lobby, a copper replica of the missing Lady Justice was reinstated atop the main entry.

On July 9, 2016, Navarro County rededicated its impressive Beaux Arts-style courthouse, which anchors the Main Street district. The ceremony was emceed by County Judge H.M. Davenport, who championed the restoration project. U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, State Sen. Brian Birdwell, and State Rep. Byron Cook participated in the ceremony and commended the courthouse program for its success in preserving some of the state's most significant landmarks. The rededication program was followed by cookies provided by the local Texas Treasure Business Award-winning Collin Street Bakery and a tour of the courthouse.

TESTIMONIALS

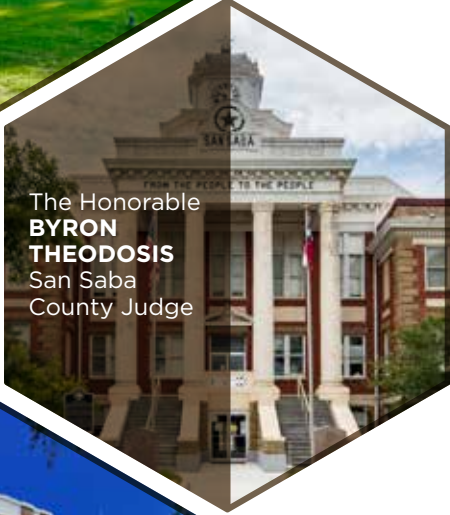
FROM THE COUNTIES



The Honorable
**KEVIN
BRENDLE**
Dickens
County Judge

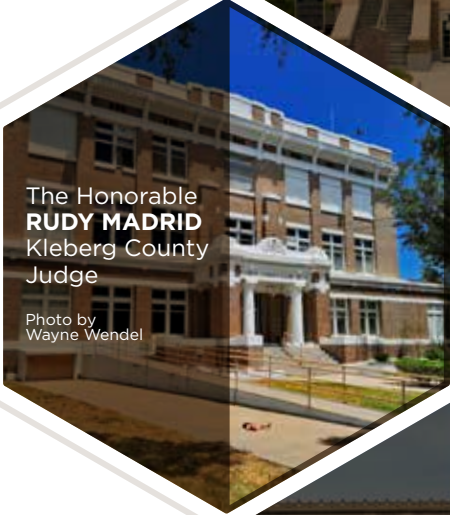
Photo by
Wayne Wendel

“We recognize the significance of these old courthouses as the workplaces of our government, which have laid the foundation for what we have today.”



The Honorable
**BYRON
THEODOSIS**
San Saba
County Judge

“The Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program is essential for smaller counties like ours. If it wasn’t for this program, restoring our courthouse would be almost out of reach.”



The Honorable
RUDY MADRID
Kleberg County
Judge

Photo by
Wayne Wendel

“Before being elected, I went door-to-door and put together a needs-assessment list. I can tell you, overwhelmingly, everyone talked about this beautiful building in downtown Kingsville, the Kleberg County Courthouse.”



**GOLDA
FOSTER**
Tom Green
County
Historical
Commission

Photo by
Wayne Wendel

“Our 1928 courthouse is the jewel in the crown of downtown because of the commitment of our judges and commissioners to historic preservation.”



Movies on the Square, Denton



Food and Wine Festival, Mount Vernon

THE ART



HISTORIC COURTHOUSE SQUARES ARE HOME TO BELOVED COMMUNITY EVENTS

By Debra Drescher, Texas Main Street Program Coordinator, THC

When the Texas Historical Commission (THC) launched its Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) in 1981, many historic downtowns across the state were desolate. Vacant and neglected, they lacked the vitality of bygone years when downtowns pulsed and Main Streets bustled. Similarly, Texas' historic courthouses—some of the most iconic structures in the state—had significantly deteriorated due to years of inadequate maintenance, insensitive modifications, and weather-related damage. But thanks to the success of two THC programs—TMSP and the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program—many historic city centers in the Lone Star State have been revitalized and are once again lively destinations that provide remarkable settings for community festivals and events.

The tiny East Texas town of San Augustine (pop. circa 2,000) saw the 2010 restoration of its 1927 county courthouse spark interest in downtown revitalization. In 2013, it was designated a Main Street community. Many local organizations and business leaders raised substantial funds toward the county's match for its courthouse restoration, and they now serve as Main Street board

members and volunteers. Through this public-private partnership, the courthouse provides office space for the San Augustine Main Street Program. The courthouse is also an integral part of festivities put on by the Main Street program and its many partners, including the American Main Street event held annually on September 11 to honor first responders, law enforcement, and military service organizations.

The 1911 Williamson County Courthouse is central to the Georgetown Swirl, a retail-based food and wine festival produced by the local Main Street program. When it debuted in 2010, the Swirl started a statewide trend for similar events. Proceeds benefit existing improvement grants for the rehabilitation of properties in the National Register-listed Williamson County Courthouse Historic District. In the past two years alone, the event has raised \$50,000 for this purpose. It was named Best Promotional Event in 2012 by the Texas Downtown Association (TDA) and received a 2016 Award of Excellence for Best Recurring Special Event from the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers.

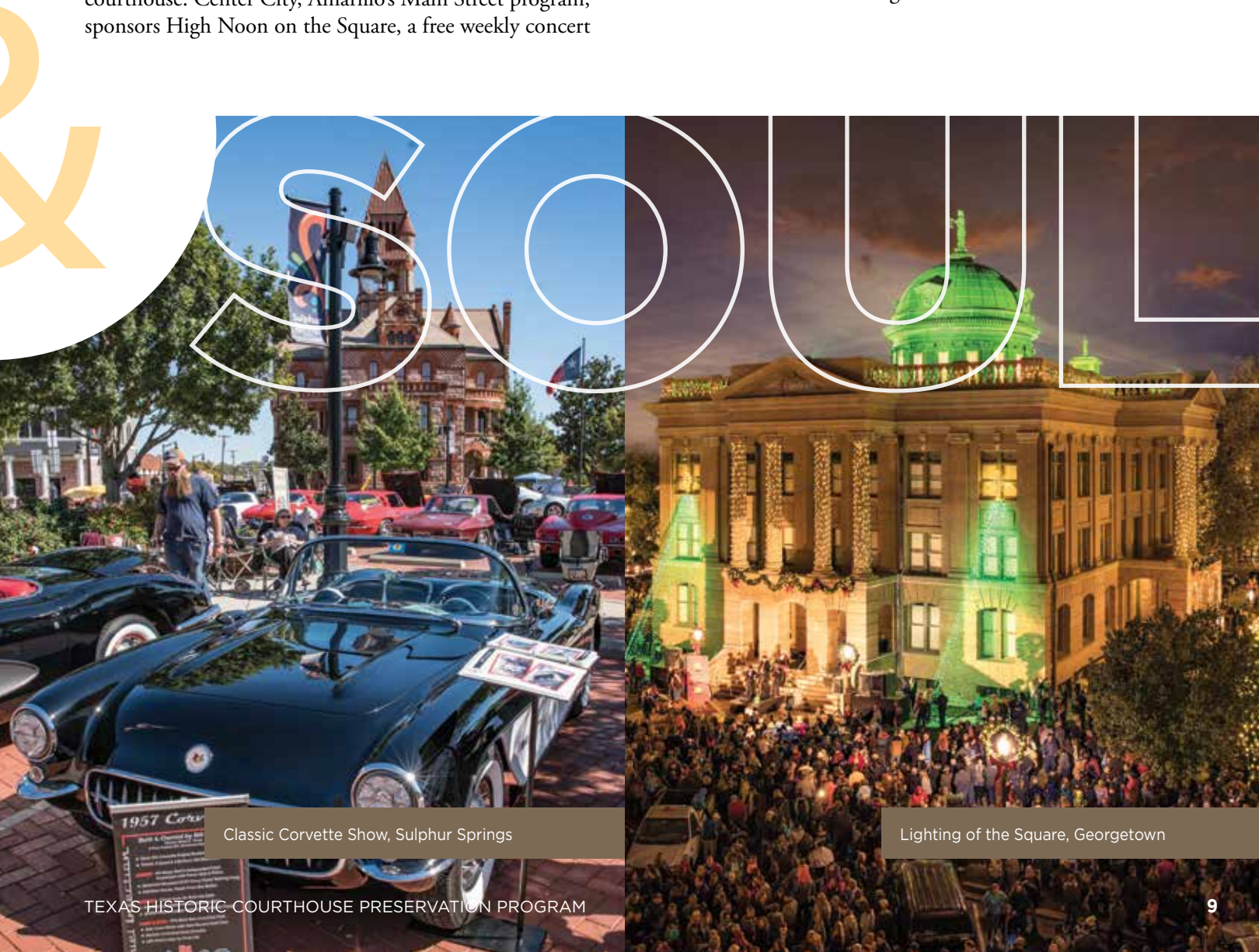
La Grange showcases food and heritage on the courthouse square during several events throughout the year, including the La Grange Uncorked food and wine festival, Oktoberfest on the Square, and Schmeckenfest—all of which are set against the lovely backdrop of the restored 1891 Fayette County Courthouse, designed by renowned architect J. Riely Gordon. During Schmeckenfest (which is named for the German word for taste, *schmecken*), Christmas is celebrated with old and new traditions, including wassail tastings, a parade, cookie decorating, a visit from Santa, a tree lighting, and the curious and popular Schmeckenball pit, a game similar to dodgeball that takes place in a hexagonal pit on the courthouse lawn. During Halloween, about 1,000 kids and their parents descend on La Grange—which has a population of less than 5,000—for trick-or-treating at the shops around the square and live music and games on the courthouse lawn.

Like La Grange, many other events on historic courthouse squares across the state feature music. The Main Street cities of Denton, Brenham, Gainesville, and Mount Pleasant each have a popular music series that takes place around the courthouse. Center City, Amarillo's Main Street program, sponsors High Noon on the Square, a free weekly concert

held at noon during the summer on the lawn of the Potter County Courthouse, which was restored as part of the THCPP and won a Best Restoration award from TDA in 2013. In its 22nd season in 2016, the event averaged 500 attendees each week, with a record-breaking crowd of 800 for the season finale. Musicians donate their time, caterers provide lunch for a nominal fee, and there is a live radio remote broadcast each week.

Another longstanding tradition on a courthouse square is Marshall's popular Wonderland of Lights, which turned 30 in 2016. From the day before Thanksgiving to December 31, thousands of lights adorn the restored 1901 Harrison County Courthouse and trees along the surrounding red brick streets. The event features a large outdoor ice skating rink, a carousel, Santa's workshop, train and horse-drawn carriage rides around the square, and many other activities. The city anticipated about 35,000 visitors from out of town for its 2016 Wonderland of Lights.

There are countless more festivals and events held on courthouse squares in Texas Main Street cities across the state. Find more at thc.texas.gov/courthouses.



Classic Corvette Show, Sulphur Springs

Lighting of the Square, Georgetown



The M.L. Edwards Store



Steve-O's Pizza and Pub



Watermelon Mills Coffee Shop

HIP TO BE

TOWN SQUARE INITIATIVE MELTS COURTHOUSE AND MAIN STREET PROGRAMS

By Emily Koller, Town Square Initiative Planner, THC

Carolyn Teague, a longtime Mount Vernon resident, business owner, and the current Main Street manager, recalled a late-summer evening in this tiny county seat in northeast Texas. On this particular night, the courthouse square buzzed with life and activity—storefronts were lit; diners enjoyed pizza, beer, and music at a new pub; friends chatted outside a quaint coffee shop; and kids ran and played in the plaza, all with a backdrop of the recently restored 1912 Franklin County Courthouse. Noting it was “quite magical,” Teague added, “If you’d told me it would look like this a year and a half ago, I wouldn’t have believed you.”

The city and county are committed to preserving the rich history of Mount Vernon, which has become one of the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) best examples of a local partner. It’s been a Texas Main Street city since 1992, has an active County Historical Commission, and was a successful participant in the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP). Despite these accomplishments, Mount Vernon struggled to attract a sustainable mix of businesses on its courthouse square and offer an experience to residents and visitors that set it apart from other small, charming East Texas towns.

At the conclusion of the courthouse restoration project in fall 2014, Mount Vernon Main Street agreed to participate as a pilot city in one of the THC’s new efforts, the Town Square Initiative (TSI). Established in 2014, the original concept for the TSI was to meld the best elements of two of

the agency’s marquee programs—Texas Main Street and the THCPP—as a way to leverage the substantial investments already made by local governments and the state. Using the historic preservation-based economic development approach of the Main Street program, the TSI intended to provide more advanced and specialized services to cities with recently restored courthouses as a way to spur additional redevelopment projects and further invigorate downtowns.

Now, nearly two and half years later, the TSI offers an array of advanced revitalization services that address the challenges of turning vacant and underutilized properties into vibrant, economically viable projects that enhance downtowns. An interdisciplinary team comprised of an architect, planner, and economic development specialist work closely with communities to provide specialized project assistance with a focus on:

- Design and financial feasibility studies for vacant buildings that are place-driven and market-informed.
- Downtown planning strategies to address development barriers to make it easier for local property owners and entrepreneurs to invest downtown.
- Market exposure of available properties in downtowns across Texas, including attracting investors who value historic architecture and communities’ unique qualities.

The TSI team worked with Mount Vernon to complete a Downtown Strategy Report with a goal of filling vacancies and creating a diverse, sustainable business mix. After



Franklin County Courthouse, Mount Vernon

a series of open houses, well-attended presentations, conversations with property owners, and a consumer survey, the TSI drafted a highly visual set of recommendations focused on public improvements, a coordinated approach to business recruitment, several key policy changes, and a catalyst redevelopment proposal for one of the premier, but as yet vacant, downtown buildings.

The courthouse restoration, Main Street program, and TSI's efforts were not the only things creating a special synergy downtown. They were coupled with participation in the THC's Bankhead Highway Tourism workshops in 2015, and the active engagement of several new families who were committed to investing in downtown when they arrived. The vision established in the Downtown Strategy Report and the momentum created by that process instilled confidence for these new investors and entrepreneurs.

Today, the five spaces on the square documented as vacant during the planning process are now either occupied with impressive new businesses, or undergoing substantial rehabilitations with grand openings in the works. Some of the projects include:

- Watermelon Mills Coffee Shop—a beautifully restored small corner building that reactivates the southeast side of the square, a distinctive area that lost many of its buildings to fire years ago. The shop celebrated its grand opening in September 2016, and the project was completed by new Mount Vernon residents Shannon and Greg Ostertag.

- Steve O's Pizza and Pub—a brick oven pizza restaurant with beer, live music, and a new outdoor deck opened in the historic Fleming building in May 2016. It was undergoing rehabilitation by Brad and Stephanie Hyman during the TSI planning process. This business provided a much-needed evening gathering spot for drinks, conversation, and entertainment.
- The M.L. Edwards Store—this grand, historic two-story building on the west side of the square is also undergoing a complete rehabilitation by the Ostertags and will re-open with a café, home goods store, and first-floor commercial kitchen and second-floor event space.
- Bliss Wine Bar and Bistro—an upscale restaurant is slated to open in early 2017 on the northeast corner of the square after an extensive rehabilitation by Russell Powell and his wife, who recently moved back to the area. It will include a complete restoration of the façade.
- The Mount Vernon Main Street Program is actively working on two other projects identified in the Downtown Strategy Report, including the pursuit of a National Register Historic District designation to facilitate additional tax credit projects and a public space design for the historic Smokey Row commercial area.

The TSI is proud to have played a part in bringing people together to craft a vision for Mount Vernon's downtown. For additional information about the TSI and its work helping communities spur preservation-based projects and small-scale, high-quality development, see thc.texas.gov/town-square-initiative.



STANDING TALL

THROCKMORTON RESTORATION INCLUDES RECONSTRUCTION OF ORIGINAL CUPOLA

by Eva Osborne, Courthouse Program Architect, THC

In the tiny West Texas town of Throckmorton, county officials began to envision a restoration goal in 2010 thanks to a modest matching grant from the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP). Their beautiful Italianate-style courthouse, built in 1890, had seen better days and needed an overhaul. A second grant of nearly \$2.4 million two years later, matched with about \$400,000 from Throckmorton County, allowed them to rehabilitate the structure.

Completed over a three-year period, the transformation included the removal of an exterior addition and reconstruction of the roof and a long-missing cupola. Doors, windows, and interior finishes such as replica light fixtures were restored to their original appearances and paint colors. Functional improvements were made to

comply with accessibility standards, safety, and fire codes. Throckmorton County worked with Komatsu Architecture of Fort Worth and hired KBL Restoration as general contractor overseeing 40 different subcontractors. These included specialists in plaster restoration and a fabricator of metal cupolas known as “The Steeple People.”

The fully restored Throckmorton County Courthouse was rededicated on March 12, 2015. More than 150 people attended the rededication, which included a cookout, ceremony, and evening street dance. Trent McKnight, a local business owner and project fundraiser, emceed the event and shared the community’s history. The courthouse joins more than 60 others across the state that are ready to stand strong for another century thanks to the THCPP.

BLUEPRINT FOR A LASTING LEGACY

COURTHOUSE RESTORATIONS ENSURE THE SAFETY OF HISTORICAL RECORDS

By Craig Kelso, Director, State and Local Records Management Division,
Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Every weekday, in counties across the state, citizens visit the local courthouse in search of something. We all rely on documents deposited in courthouses to prove who we are (birth certificates, marriage licenses, and adoption records); what we own (deeds, plot maps, and easements); and what is rightfully ours (probate records, wills, and powers of attorney). These are the records we think of as the closest and most meaningful to us, as they document our histories and protect our rights. Because of the critical information they contain, they are invaluable assets for individuals and organizations.

Along with records documenting citizen interactions with commissioners' courts, justice and municipal courts, public school districts, elected county officials, utility districts, and other local government entities, these documents provide an important part of a narrative that begins to describe and explain the culture and character of the local population. These records span generations and remain valuable long after the names, places, and events documented within the pages of ledgers, meeting minutes, and court dockets are recorded.

So what do counties do to ensure constituents' rights are recorded and their communities' written histories are protected? It all comes down to two simple, yet crucial, steps: storing records in a safe place and tracking their location. Methods of tracking can vary from simple paper ledger systems and basic spreadsheets to complex databases designed specifically for this purpose. But no matter how easy it is to locate stored records, it is where and how they are stored that most impacts a county's legacy.

To ensure long-term access to permanent records, it is essential they are stored in a location that is environmentally sound, which is required as part of a Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) restoration. A records plan is also a requirement of the THCPP grant application and scoring criteria. Instead of storing boxes, maps, and rolls of microfilm in attics, closets, trunks of cars, or old boxcars, a designated space for storing records is carefully designed and then routinely monitored by the county. The space offers protection from fire, water, steam, structural collapse, unauthorized access, theft, and similar hazards that can be detrimental to records. Additionally, records are protected from direct sunlight because UV light can cause printing to fade, and are stored away from contact with the floor because they could be damaged by flooding. Also, fire suppression systems and new mechanical systems provide temperature and humidity control.

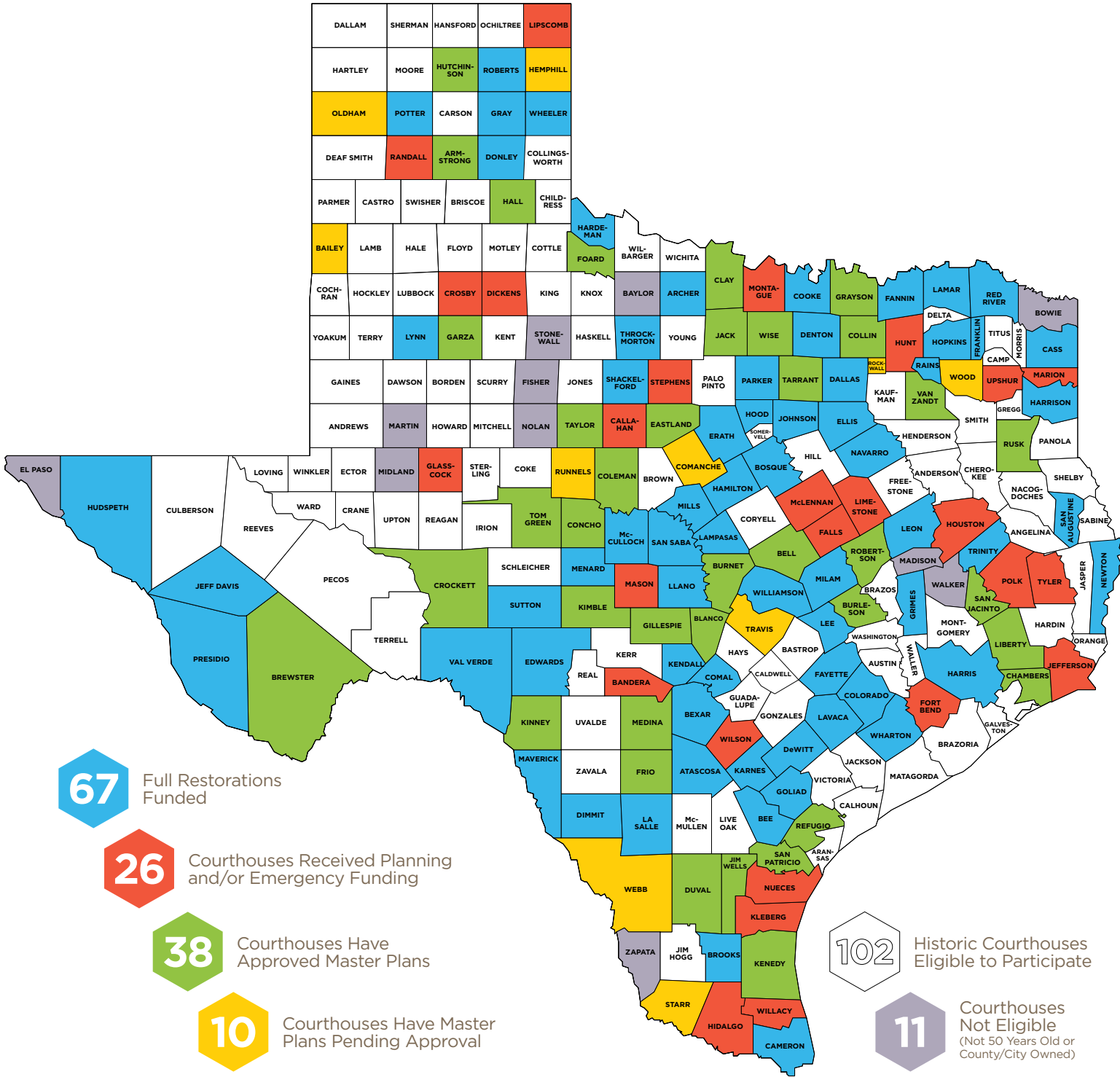
There are many factors to consider when designing a proper records storage area. The longer records need to be kept, the more imperative it is to make certain the space is prepared and equipped to protect them. For more information on storage standards and best practices for local government records in Texas, download *Bulletin F: Records Storage Standards* from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission at tsl.texas.gov/slrmpublications.



Records storage in the Cass County Courthouse was completely redesigned to provide a safer storage environment that is easily accessed by the public for research.



TEXAS HISTORIC COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION PROGRAM



93 Courthouses Awarded Preservation Grants

74 Counties Have Committed Local Funds and Need State Grants to Restore Their Historic Courthouses

PROJECTS FUNDED FROM 1999 TO 2016

FULLY RESTORED COURTHOUSES

County	City	Rededicated	Yr Built	County	City	Rededicated	Yr Built
Archer	Archer City	5/12/05	1891	Johnson	Cleburne	12/1/07	1913
Atascosa	Jourdanton	6/14/03	1912	Kendall	Boerne	4/10/10	1870
Bee	Beeville	5/20/06	1913	La Salle	Cotulla	1/26/13	1931
Bexar	San Antonio	7/14/15	1896	Lamar	Paris	9/3/05	1917
Bosque	Meridian	9/22/07	1886	Lampasas	Lampasas	3/2/04	1883
Brooks	Falfurrias	2/26/10	1914	Lavaca	Hallettsville	9/11/10	1897
Cameron	Brownsville	10/17/06	1912	Lee	Giddings	10/8/04	1899
Cass	Linden	2/18/12	1861	Leon	Centerville	7/1/07	1887
Colorado	Columbus	5/17/14	1891	Llano	Llano	6/15/02	1892
Comal	New Braunfels	1/22/13	1898	Maverick	Eagle Pass	10/13/05	1885
Cooke	Gainesville	11/12/11	1911	McCulloch	Brady	9/5/09	1899
Dallas	Dallas	5/15/07	1892	Menard	Menard	11/11/06	1932
Denton	Denton	11/6/04	1896	Milam	Cameron	7/4/02	1892
DeWitt	Cuero	10/27/07	1896	Mills	Goldthwaite	8/27/11	1913
Dimmit	Carrizo Springs	11/18/04	1884	Navarro	Corsicana	7/9/16	1905
Donley	Clarendon	7/4/03	1894	Newton	Newton	12/8/12	1903
Edwards	Rocksprings	7/5/14	1891	Parker	Weatherford	6/4/05	1886
Ellis	Waxahachie	10/4/03	1897	Potter	Amarillo	8/18/12	1932
Erath	Stephenville	8/20/02	1892	Presidio	Marfa	1/5/02	1886
Fayette	La Grange	6/25/05	1891	Rains	Emory	10/17/10	1909
Franklin	Mount Vernon	9/20/14	1912	Red River	Clarksville	10/26/02	1884
Goliad	Goliad	12/4/03	1894	Roberts	Miami	6/2/12	1913
Gray	Pampa	4/12/03	1928	San Augustine	San Augustine	11/20/10	1928
Grimes	Anderson	3/2/02	1894	Shackelford	Albany	6/30/01	1883
Hamilton	Hamilton	4/28/12	1887	Sutton	Sonora	6/11/02	1891
Hardeman	Quanah	5/9/14	1908	Throckmorton	Throckmorton	3/12/15	1891
Harris	Houston	8/23/11	1910	Trinity	Groveton	7/22/11	1914
Harrison	Marshall	6/20/09	1901	Val Verde	Del Rio	7/23/04	1887
Hood	Granbury	10/27/12	1891	Wharton	Wharton	8/4/07	1889
Hopkins	Sulphur Springs	12/7/02	1894	Wheeler	Wheeler	10/16/04	1925
Hudspeth	Sierra Blanca	7/3/04	1920	Williamson	Georgetown	12/8/07	1911
Jeff Davis	Fort Davis	11/8/03	1910				

CURRENT FULL RESTORATION GRANTS

County	City	Status	Yr Built
Fannin	Bonham	In Progress	1889
Karnes	Karnes City	In Progress	1894
Lynn	Tahoka	In Progress	1916
San Saba	San Saba	In Progress	1911

CURRENT EMERGENCY PROJECTS

County	City	Status	Yr Built
Cameron	Brownsville	In Progress	1912
Kleberg	Kingsville	In Progress	1914
Willacy	Raymondville	In Progress	1922

CURRENT PLANNING PROJECT

County	City	Status	Yr Built
Hunt	Greenville	In Progress	1929

PREVIOUS PLANNING PROJECTS

County	City	Status	Yr Built
Crosby	Crosbyton	Complete	1914
Falls	Marlin	Complete	1940
Fort Bend	Richmond	Complete	1909
Houston	Crockett	Complete	1940
Marion	Jefferson	Complete	1912
Mason	Mason	Complete	1910
Stephens	Breckenridge	Complete	1926
Upshur	Gilmer	Complete	1933

PREVIOUS EMERGENCY PROJECTS

County	City	Status	Yr Built
Bandera	Bandera	Complete	1891
Callahan	Baird	In Progress	1929
Dickens	Dickens	In Progress	1893
Glasscock	Garden City	Complete	1894
Hidalgo	Hidalgo	In Progress	1886
Houston	Crockett	Complete	1940
Hunt	Greenville	Complete	1929
Jefferson	Beaumont	Complete	1932
Limestone	Groesbeck	Complete	1924
Lipscomb	Lipscomb	Complete	1916
Marion	Jefferson	Complete	1912
Mason	Mason	Complete	1910
McLennan	Waco	Complete	1901
Montague	Montague	Complete	1913
Nueces	Corpus Christi	Complete	1914
Polk	Livingston	Complete	1923
Randall	Canyon	Complete	1908
Tyler	Woodville	Complete	1891
Upshur	Gilmer	Complete	1933
Wilson	Floresville	Complete	1884



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ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF RESTORED TEXAS HISTORIC COURTHOUSES



Since 1999,
10,656
JOBS

created through courthouse preservation projects



\$555
MILLION

in income generated



\$40.3
MILLION

in state and local taxes generated



More than
\$681
MILLION

in gross state product

 Direct travel spending in Texas is
\$69 BILLION

Restored Texas courthouses are popular heritage tourism destinations. Centered on the Harrison County Courthouse, Marshall's Wonderland of Lights holiday festival is visited by at least 100,000 people, with more than a third of them from out of town.



After its successful courthouse restoration, San Augustine entered the Texas Main Street Program in 2013 to help return economic vitality to its downtown. The community of just 2,100 people has since reinvested more than \$1.3 million in their downtown, and gained 10 new businesses.



Denton has seen more than 130 revitalization projects completed in and around the square since the conclusion of its courthouse restoration in 2004. The square now buzzes every night and hosts numerous events throughout the year.



At least 21 major feature films have been shot in historic Texas courthouses, including "Bernie," "True Grit," "Lone Star," and "The Tree of Life." The Caldwell County Courthouse in Lockhart is featured in several episodes of HBO's popular series "The Leftovers."



Since 1999, 93 counties have received grants for their courthouse projects. 63 have been fully restored, with four more in progress. The state awarded \$271 million in grants from 1999-2016, with counties matching \$224 million. 74 counties have committed local funds and need state grants.