

THE MEDALLION

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



SUMMER 2023

Bush Family Home
state historic site

TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

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*MIDLAND
MILESTONES*

EXPLORE NEW THC HISTORIC SITE,
PERMIAN BASIN HERITAGE



ISSN 0890-7595 Vol. 61, no. III
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To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

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The Medallion is financed in part by a grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. All of the agency's public programs and activities are operated free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should write to Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN STATE HISTORIC SITE

ABOVE, TOP: The National Register-listed Midland Tower (foreground) is a historic highlight of the Tall City. ON THE COVER: The Bush Family Home State Historic Site.





TEXAS HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DAVID PREZIOSI
LEADERSHIP LETTER

Fellow Texans,

Texas is celebrating important anniversaries this year when it comes to historic preservation. Seventy years ago in 1953, the Texas Legislature established the Texas State Historical Survey Committee and gave it the task to survey and record Texas history and sites. Members were also charged with the review of historic sites for their worthiness before the state purchased them.

In 1962, the historical marker program for Texas was established under the Survey Committee's authority, with a goal to record historic sites in all 254 Texas counties. The scope of the Survey Committee's work was later broadened with the addition of the state archeological program, museum services program, and responsibility for the National Register of Historic Places program in Texas.

Fifty years ago, the Texas Legislature renamed the Survey Committee to the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Its role was expanded again with additional powers to protect historic places in Texas and a goal to educate Texans about the important role historic sites played in the state's development.

The Texas Historical Foundation (THF) was formed as a nonprofit one year after the Survey Committee to provide most of the funding for the Survey Committee's work. The two organizations worked closely together for many years, and in 1971 the state assumed the funding role for the Survey Committee. After that, the THF began independently seeking worthy preservation projects, exploring critical preservation efforts, and establishing endowments to support projects around the state.

With its growing endowments, the THF established itself as a champion for Texas history by providing grants to conserve artifacts, archive documents, restore historic buildings and sites, pursue archeological investigations, and gather and share stories relating to Texas history and the Lone Star culture. Since 1990, the THF has given out over \$2 million in grants and has supported over 400 projects. One of the THF's largest projects has been supporting the restoration of the Goodnight House, which is now part of the THC's Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch State Historic Site.

The THF applauds the incredible work that has been done by the THC for 70 years to preserve the history of Texas. We are pleased to have been a part of the efforts of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee and are committed to continuing our work to preserve the diverse history of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Preziosi".

Executive Director David Preziosi, FAICP
Texas Historical Foundation

IN THE REGISTER

PROGRAM ADDS HISTORIC DISTRICTS, PROPERTIES ACROSS TEXAS

By Gregory Smith
THC National Register Coordinator

Recently listed properties in the National Register of Historic Places reflect the diversity of Texas, including commercial historic districts in Tyler, Martindale, Wichita Falls, Palestine, El Paso, and Marfa. These and other nominations are featured at thc.texas.gov/nrhp.

WELHAUSEN SCHOOL AND FLORITA PLAZA

Cotulla, La Salle County

The 1925 Welhausen School and the adjacent 1916 Florita Plaza are excellent examples of early 20th century public amenities in Texas' Mexican American communities. Often called the "Cotulla Mexican School," Welhausen School was a product of policies that allowed school districts to segregate Hispanic students in separate buildings. Architect Charles H. Page designed the school. Florita Plaza exhibits the works of local craftsmen and strongly conveys its New Deal origins. Recent college graduate Lyndon B. Johnson spent a year as principal and teacher at the school, an experience that helped form the future president's political and socio-economic beliefs that the federal government should strive to remove barriers to equity through legislation. The school was listed at the national level of significance for its role in shaping Johnson's lifelong political goal to end poverty and discrimination in the United States.



SEGUNDO BARRIO HISTORIC DISTRICT

El Paso, El Paso County

The Segundo Barrio Historic District lies south of downtown El Paso along the international boundary. This dense mixed-use district includes nearly 900 buildings that have provided housing, commerce, and community service amenities for a predominantly working-class Mexican American population. Many buildings' construction methods, forms, and finishes reflect Mexican vernacular architectural traditions. These forms merge with popular American styles in the district, combining to vividly illustrate the Mexican immigrant experience. The district's ethnic history also includes the stories of African, Chinese, and Jewish Americans. These communities worked together and forged alliances to establish religious outreach institutions, fight for public investments in infrastructure and



housing, and strengthen their political voice. The district's architectural landmarks include active churches, schools, and community centers. Throughout Segundo Barrio, murals transform building façades into publicly accessible canvases to communicate pride in the district's heritage.

ELDORADO BALLROOM

Houston, Harris County

In 1939 African American entrepreneurs Anna and C.A. Dupree built the Eldorado Ballroom to offer Black Houstonians a respectable social and entertainment venue in the city's Third Ward. For more than 30 years, prominent professionals and businesspeople supported the ballroom, providing a training ground for local musicians who often gained national recognition, such as Illinois Jacquet and Arnett Cobb. In addition to the ballroom, the building provided retail units that were leased to a variety of Black-owned businesses. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Eldorado hosted musical acts such as Chuck Berry, Ray Charles, and James Brown. By the late 1960s, the Eldorado declined due to a combination of factors, closing in the early 1970s. The Eldorado is the only facility of its kind to survive in Houston.

CENTRAL MARFA HISTORIC DISTRICT

Marfa, Presidio County

The Central Marfa Historic District includes a remarkably intact collection of commercial and civic buildings, including the 1886 Presidio County Courthouse, as well as historic residences, churches, schools, and industrial buildings. The south section of the district reflects building patterns and techniques associated with Mexican settlement, including many examples of adobe construction. The district is nationally significant for association with internationally renowned artist Donald Judd, whose work in Marfa led to the city's identification as a destination for art tourism, especially the study and enjoyment of modern art. Judd preserved and adapted 11 district buildings for residential and working spaces, studios, galleries, and permanent installations of his and other artists' work. The nomination highlights the period from Marfa's designation as a post office station in 1881 through its postwar-era association as a gateway to the Big Bend region.

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Welhausen School in Cotulla, Segundo Barrio Historic District in El Paso, Central Marfa Historic District in Marfa, and Eldorado Ballroom in Houston.

HUSTON-TILLOTSON COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Austin, Travis County

Huston-Tillotson University is Austin's oldest institution of higher learning and a centerpiece of the city's African American community. Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute (1881) and nearby Samuel Huston College (1877) were established to educate formerly enslaved people and their descendants. For many Texans, the two colleges were their only opportunity for college education and career training until the mid-20th century. The colleges merged in 1952, and under a new administration and board of trustees, implemented an ambitious building campaign by the prestigious Austin firm

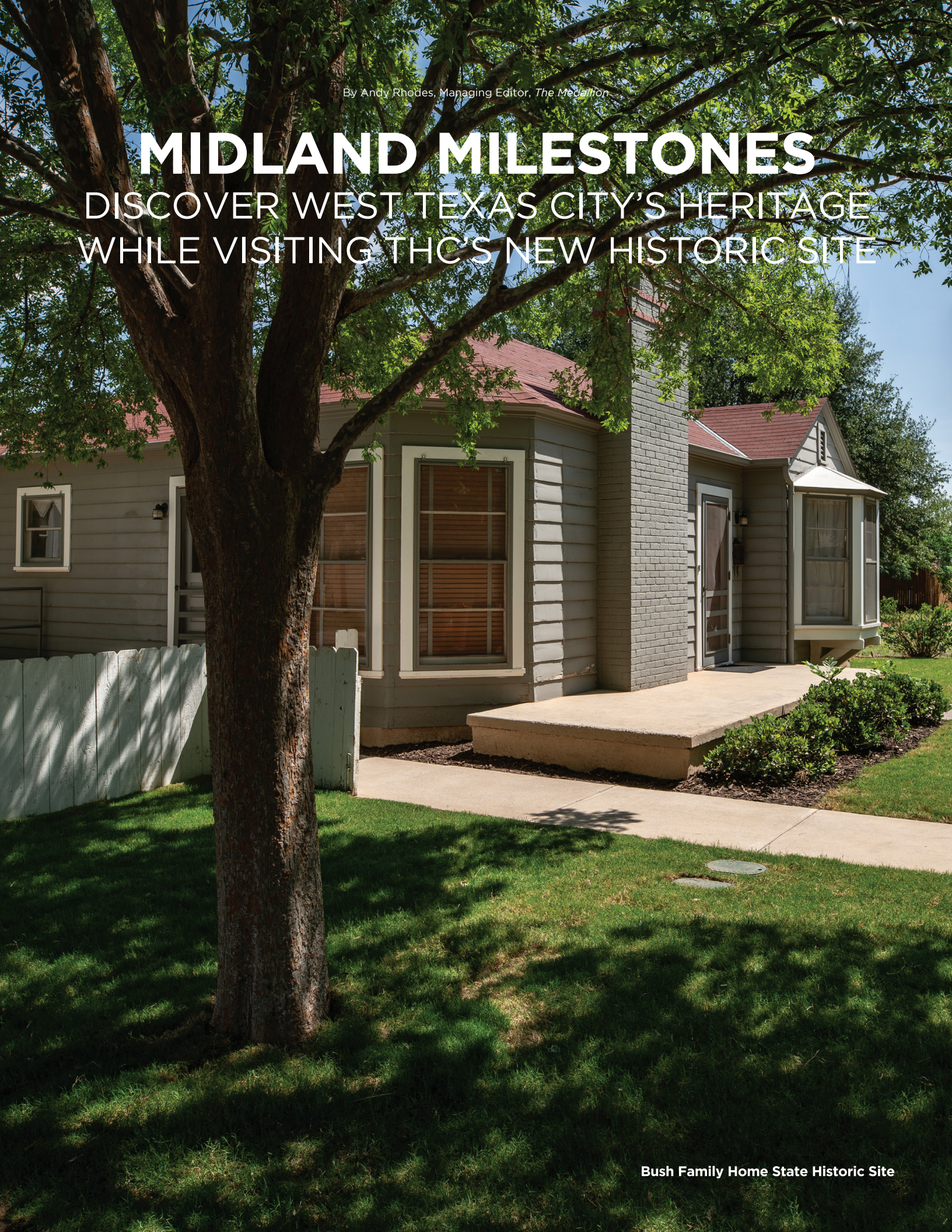
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By Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

MIDLAND MILESTONES

DISCOVER WEST TEXAS CITY'S HERITAGE
WHILE VISITING THC'S NEW HISTORIC SITE



Bush Family Home State Historic Site

Two presidents, a first lady, and two governors lived here. While George H.W. and Barbara Bush resided in this home with their young family, two of their children were born, and one of them died. Also, while here, George H.W. became a millionaire.

It was a remarkable time in the lives of a consequential American family. And the dwelling where all these momentous events took place is one of the newest Texas Historical Commission (THC) historic sites.

The Bush Family Home State Historic Site is unlike any other in the THC's collection of 38 properties. It's a different kind of historic—only a generation removed from many visitors' lives. Instead of featuring Victorian-era candlesticks, obsolete kitchen utensils, and antiquated grooming items, the home is filled with familiar touches, like Pyrex kitchen bowls, a yellow Cub Scout neckerchief, and even a television in the living room.

"A lot of people say the home reminds them of their mom or grandma's house—I love to hear things like that," says Site Manager Troy Gray, noting that the Bush family lived in the house from 1951-55. "Visitors always talk about using these items in the past or seeing them when visiting older relatives. People have a real tangible connection to this home."

One of the site's highlights is George W's room. Metal roller skates, a Little League glove, and adventure books humanize the former president by showcasing his childhood years as a typical American kid with recognizable toys and interests.

A closed-in porch contains memorabilia dedicated to Robin Bush, who tragically



died of leukemia in 1953. Another room is dedicated to baseball, which played a significant role in George W's life—from Little League to owning the Texas Rangers ballclub to throwing out the first pitch in New York City after 9/11.

"I think our house has a lot of interesting stories that set it apart from most other historical destinations," Gray says. "People want to learn about how one of the most influential families of our time got their start, and how their time living in this modest home shaped and influenced them."

FUTURE FAMILY HOME

Now that the THC has officially acquired the Bush Family Home, Gray is optimistic about future goals and plans for the site. He notes that thanks to assistance from the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission and THC Chairman John L. Nau, III, two adjacent properties were purchased to develop additional exhibit space dedicated to the family. The recent legislative session also benefited the site, resulting in four additional staff positions.

With new exhibit space years down the road, Gray is currently focusing on updating and expanding the scope of stories told at the home. One of the most significant changes is reflected in the site's new name, which acknowledges the entire Bush family. Future interpretation will include information about the importance of volunteer work in Barbara Bush's life along with additional displays about the family's other children.

Gray says he also hopes to dedicate exhibit space to people who played important roles in the family's lives, including household staff. He envisions displays focusing on Civil Rights and the inequitable treatment of the people of color who worked in the home.

"That didn't sit well with Barbara—she refused to go to businesses that wouldn't let their family's staff enter," Gray says. "We're working on extensive research to learn more about these workers because they were significant in the Bush family's lives."

He adds, "We really want to expand our focus to include more about the 1950s era the family was living in. We hope to give people a sense of what life was like inside and outside the house while they were here."

TALL CITY TOURISM

Midland's origins and namesake are traced to an 1881 train station midway between Dallas and El Paso. The city developed like many other Texas communities—the railroad served as an important economic engine for agricultural trade, and its establishment as a county seat brought

OPPOSITE: The Bush Family Home State Historic Site in Midland. ABOVE: George W. Bush's childhood room.



businesses, churches, and schools. However, unlike many other cities, Midland became a boomtown in the 1920s after oil was discovered in the surrounding Permian Basin.

A fascinating vestige of that era is the 1929 **Petroleum Building**, a THC Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Considered downtown's first skyscraper, the Gothic-styled, 12-story beacon was designed as a hub for burgeoning oil companies; unfortunately, the stock market crashed a few months after the building's opening. Years later, production ramped up in the Midland area, allowing the Petroleum Building to overflow with companies serving its original purpose.

The Bush family's era marked Midland's transformation from small town to modest city. According to the National Park Service, more than 200 oil companies had offices in Midland by 1950, and it was referred to as the

"headquarters of the independent oil man in Texas."

"Midland is especially unique because it's been so strongly tied to the fortunes of the oil industry for a century," says Melissa Hagins, executive director of the THC's Texas Pecos Trail Region. "That's made it somewhat of a transient community, but it has a rich history and people who live here have a lot of pride in Midland."

The downtown reflects this heritage, with several skyscrapers punctuating the vast West Texas sky, earning its nickname as The Tall City. Most of them were built during the 1950s–70s, when major oil companies like Texaco, Shell, and Mobil established offices in the central business district.

The area remains active, with welcoming restaurants and boutiques drawing a diverse crowd along Wall Street, Midland's appropriately named business corridor. One of the most vibrant areas is **Centennial Park**, a vast expanse of open lawn and performance space that draws a large number of office workers and happy families throughout the day and evening. The entire city block was once home to the Midland County Courthouse, a prominent Midcentury Modern building that was demolished in 2015.

"Centennial Park is one of the main attractions drawing people downtown—once they're there, they tend to stick around and enjoy the restaurants and other amenities," Hagins says. "Midland is enjoying a nice little stretch of tourism activity right now, and I think it'll only get stronger as people continue to visit for business and travel destinations like the Bush Family Home. It's exciting to have a state historic site in our region and some extra visitation."

WEST TEXAS WONDERS

While in the Midland area, visitors can experience other cultural attractions in the Texas Pecos Trail Region.

A good starting point is the **Petroleum Museum**, where travelers can learn about the industry that forever changed the lives of millions of Texans. After viewing a pro-petroleum movie, visitors enter an underwater-themed area offering a glimpse of the ancient sea life that would eventually fuel the modern oil age. This well-organized and engaging museum offers fascinating insight into all aspects of the industry, from its humble beginnings in the oil fields to diamond-infused drill-bit advancements to modern-day technologically advanced equipment. Don't miss the impressive gemstone exhibit and outdoor oil patch featuring colorful pump jacks and antique machinery.

The downtown **Midland County Historical Museum**, located in the first-floor corner of a former Woolworth's, offers a modest collection of local photos and artifacts. Operated by the





Ector Theater, featuring a pistachio-green exterior and notable marquee sign. Elvis Presley played at the theater, which still hosts national touring acts. One of Odessa's popular tourist

Midland County Historical Society, which also offers scheduled tours of the nearby **Brown-Dorsey House Museum**, the site will soon feature an immersive exhibit about the area's early-1900s agricultural heritage.

A block away is the 1929 **Yucca Theater**, a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark on the north side of the iconic Petroleum Building. Its exterior architecturally extends the building's Gothic design, but the interior contains a stunning change of scenery—an Egyptian Revival-style plaster-and-wood wonderland that now stages community theater events, including the must-see vaudeville style Summer Mummies show, a 74-year-old Midland tradition.

The Haley Library and History Center contains a small yet impressive collection of Western artifacts and a tremendous archive of books and documents dedicated primarily to ranching culture. Highlights include the historic bell that reportedly once hung at the Alamo and impressive saddles and spurs from regional pioneer families.

While in downtown Midland, enjoy a meal on historic Wall Street at one of the city's popular restaurants. Wall Street

Bar & Grill prepares a perfect steak, and the handsome 1948 Midland Tower houses two popular establishments—Opal's Table, which offers delectable high-end cuisine, and Cancun Grill, a classic Tex-Mex spot.

Not to be forgotten is Midland's "sister city" **Odessa**, a 20-mile drive southwest.

Known more for its blue-collar sensibilities compared to Midland's white-collar vibe, Odessa's downtown features an impressive collection of Midcentury Modern architecture. Highlights include the 1964 **Ector County Courthouse**, with its eye-catching uniformly flat facade of concrete breezeway block, and the 1951

attractions is an eight-foot-tall jackrabbit statue, flanked by a THC marker honoring "**The Jackrabbit.**" The brainchild of local luminary John Ben Sheppard, a former chairman of the THC/Texas State Historical Survey Committee, the 1962 statue initially celebrated a jackrabbit-roping competition. It was considered "the world's largest jackrabbit" until being overtaken by a North Texas statue.

A few miles to the east is Odessa's **Presidential Museum and Leadership Library**. Located on the edge of The University of Texas-Permian Basin campus, the museum features a welcoming rotunda lobby and a modest collection of presidential artifacts, including historic photos, campaign materials, and artwork.

To learn more about heritage tourism destinations in the area, visit texaspecostrailregion.com.



FAR OPPOSITE: 1929 Petroleum Building and Centennial Park. OPPOSITE: Petroleum Museum. ABOVE: Ector Theater. Ector County Courthouse. LEFT: The Jackrabbit.



TRUST THE FUND

THC GRANTS HELP ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCES THRIVE

By Ashley Salie
TPTF Program Coordinator

It's a common question in Texas' preservation community: How can I get grant funding to help with my preservation project?

One option is the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF), which helps organizations and individuals receive financial assistance for viable rehabilitation and educational projects. Although funding is limited, the program provides a rare option of financial support for eligible archeology, architecture, heritage education, and historical survey projects. TPTF grants offer endangered structures an opportunity to become stabilized, archeological resources to be properly stored and protected, and untold educational topics to be preserved and promoted.

The program provides matching, reimbursable grants—typically ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000—to government entities, nonprofit organizations, and private property owners. Due to the small amount of funds available each year, the program is competitive and focuses on the most endangered and viable projects. For those interested in applying to the program, the next opening will be December 2023.

“With rising construction costs due to product shortages and inflation, funding assistance is more valuable than ever to ensure Texas' historic resources are preserved,” says Elizabeth Brummett, director of the THC's Architecture Division, which oversees the program. “We're also reminding people that we're encouraging TPTF applications for proposals associated with ethnic diversity and other historically underserved subjects, groups, and property types.”

Brummett adds that there are two steps in the grant application process. First, applicants are required to submit an initial form to the THC for review, due in February 2024. The THC selects the highest-priority projects from the initial applications and invites those applicants to move forward to the second step, the project proposal stage.

At both steps, applications are scored in four areas: endangerment, significance, project viability, and special considerations. Project proposal applications, to be submitted in July 2024, provide more detailed information for staff and the TPTF Advisory Board to better understand the project's viability and intent. Applicants eligible to receive grant assistance must provide a minimum of one dollar in cash matching to each state dollar for approved project costs.

PRESERVATION UNDERWAY THE REEDY CHAPEL AME CHURCH

Galveston

The Galveston congregation received a development grant award for rehabilitation activities to its termite-damaged, structurally compromised interior balcony.

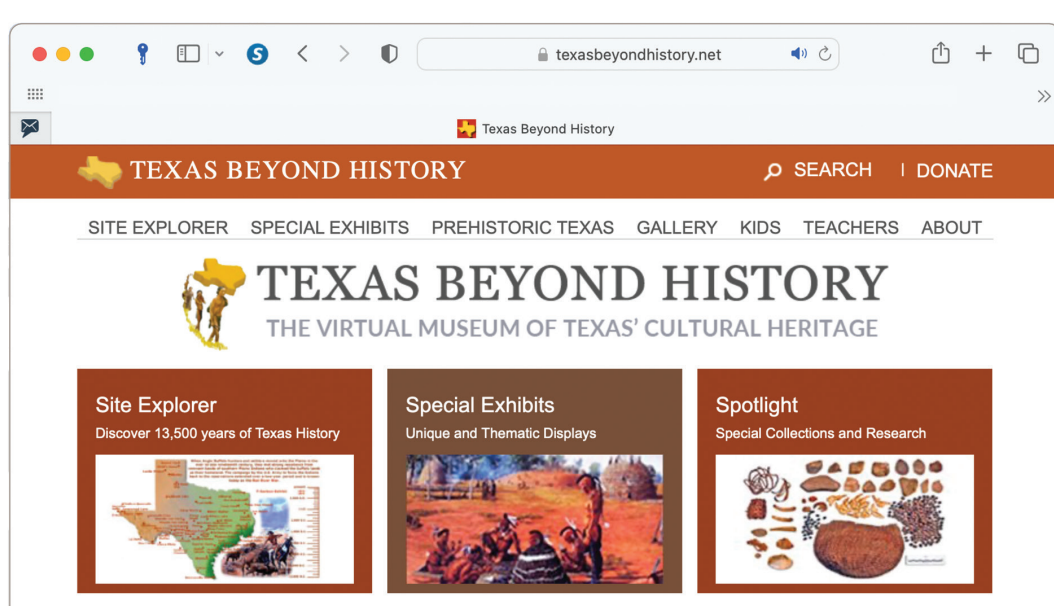
CLAY HISTORY AND EDUCATION SERVICES, INC.

This nonprofit organization produced the Aya Education Programs about Texas Freedom Colonies, which were held both virtually and in person.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The group completed a curatorial project to inventory and create reports pertaining to the Harrison-Greenbelt Site in Donley County.

Twelve projects awarded in Fiscal Year 2023 are currently underway, encompassing a variety of preservation initiatives



such as creating planning documents for the circa 1863 Henry G. Madison Cabin in Austin; window rehabilitation activities for the National Hotel Artist Lofts/E.S. Levy Building in Galveston; and the continued development of K-12 curricula for the Texas Beyond History educational program's webpage.

“Recent TPTF funds have also helped people tackle a phase of a larger project, such as roofing repair, construction document preparation, or educational curriculum planning with a historic emphasis,” Brummett notes.

TPTF: FYI

TPTF program staff receive numerous questions throughout the year about funding logistics and the application process. Please note the following items before applying to the program.

- TPTF grant funds are not available to retroactively reimburse work already completed prior to the issuance of the grant award, but are paid as reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred during the project after the award is made.
- TPTF grants specifically provide funds for curatorial and development projects in archeology, planning and development in architecture, building and site acquisition, historic resources survey development, and heritage education projects. Properties must have, or be determined eligible for, a historic designation. To determine if your resource is eligible for, or has already earned, one of these designations, contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512-463-5853.
- Applicants located within a Certified Local Government (CLG) community seeking grant funding for historic

resources survey projects are ineligible for TPTF survey grants and must apply to fund survey work through the CLG Program. Eligible CLG grant applicants are CLG communities in good standing, non-CLG cities within a CLG county, as well as nonprofit organizations and educational institutes located within a CLG. For more information about the CLG Program, see the article on page 12.

- The Fiscal Year 2025 grant round will continue to offer earmarked funding opportunities for select projects located within the City of Dallas and Panhandle areas. Each earmarked fund has its own priorities: City of Dallas earmarked funds prioritize historic properties with military ties (specifically U.S. Navy); the Panhandle area earmarked funds to prioritize industrial sites related to Amarillo/Potter County and Randall County science and/or military history.

“Now is the time to plan your project for the upcoming grant round and let us know about your endangered Texas resource!” Brummett says.

For more information about the Texas Preservation Trust Fund Grant Program, please contact Ashley Salie, Program Coordinator, at ashley.salie@thc.texas.gov or 512-463-6047. For detailed information about the program and its project categories, visit thc.texas.gov/tptf.

ABOVE, FROM LEFT: The Reedy Chapel in Galveston, the Madison Cabin in Austin, the E.S. Levy Building in Galveston, and the Texas Beyond History homepage.

EMPOWERING PRESERVATION

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM HELPS COMMUNITIES SAVE HISTORY

By Kelly Little
CLG Program Coordinator

Preservation programs are often categorized into distinct tiers with different objectives—local, state, and federal. But some preservationists at all three levels work in cooperation with each other to empower the local programs, which play a crucial role in sustaining the cultural fabric of Texas’ communities.

The Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Certified Local Government (CLG) Program helps local entities take an active role preserving historic resources within their jurisdictions. Through professional resources and annual CLG grants, preservation groups have access to expertise and funding for projects focused on generating greater understanding of a community’s past.

Congress created the CLG Program in 1980 through an amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; El Paso was certified as Texas’ first CLG in 1986. The program has grown to include a network of 78 diverse communities throughout the state.

Through public meetings, educational programs, and outreach activities, local governments can raise awareness about the value of historic resources and garner public support for preservation efforts. CLG staff also offer training for Historic Preservation Officers, commissions, city or county staff, and elected officials to align with best practices in the field of historic preservation.

Texas receives an annual appropriation from the federal Historic Preservation Fund to finance the state’s preservation activities—at least 10 percent is required to be distributed to CLGs as subgrants. In 2023, this resulted in the THC awarding nearly \$200,000 to participating city and county governments to develop and sustain preservation programs critical to preserving local historic resources. Individual CLG grant amounts generally range from \$2,000 to \$30,000.

The grants can fund a variety of preservation projects, including historic resources surveys, preservation plans, design guidelines, ordinance revisions, regional trainings, educational publications, and brick-and-mortar rehabilitations. CLG grants require a dollar-for-dollar match equal to a 50-50 ratio for the total cost of the project.

CLG SUCCESS STORIES

PLANO

The City of Plano used a CLG grant to develop Preservation Plano 150, the guiding document for its heritage preservation program. Plano representatives relied on extensive community engagement, including a stakeholder committee, community survey, social media, neighborhood/downtown association meetings, mass mailings, and a project website. This input helped create a plan that integrated preservation into the city’s broad range of objectives and activities.

Bhavesh Mittal, Plano’s HPO, said the city’s heritage preservation plan update would not have been possible without a CLG grant.

“The grant funds were a significant source in completing an award-winning, graphically interactive plan that provides a quick perspective on the basic concepts of preservation activities in Plano,” he said.

He adds that “The Plano Story,” a graphic timeline of Plano’s history within the plan, continues to be used at city facilities and online to promote Plano’s history and preservation goals, attracting a younger and more culturally diverse group of residents to participate in preservation.

“The plan continues to be used as a model preservation plan in other communities across the country,” Mittal said.





BRYAN

The City of Bryan received a CLG grant this year to prepare a National Register historic district nomination for its downtown.

In the 1960s, the central business district suffered from significant disinvestment, vacancies, and neglect. Twenty years later, the city kickstarted preservation efforts through a citywide historic resources survey and attempted to list downtown in the National Register, but the downtown area was determined ineligible for that designation due to major building alterations and dilapidated conditions.

The city and its citizens have since invested heavily in downtown Bryan through a Downtown Master Plan, public infrastructure improvements, and nearly \$2 million in the Downtown Improvement Grant Program.

These investments brought downtown Bryan back from decay and resulted in the restoration and rehabilitation of many of its historic buildings. The area is now determined National Register eligible. A downtown National Register district opens the door to local building owners and developers utilizing federal and state tax incentives for qualified rehabilitation projects.

OPPOSITE: Plano residents collaborate on the city’s preservation plan. ABOVE: Historic downtown Bryan. Courtesy City of Bryan. RIGHT: Rio Vista Farm near El Paso. Courtesy Mr. Kip Malone.

SOCORRO

The City of Socorro received CLG and Texas Preservation Trust Fund grants from the THC to support preserving the Rio Vista Farm Complex. The site opened in 1915 as a county poor farm to support orphans and homeless adults, and it is currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Rio Vista Farms served as a reception center during the Mexican Farm Labor Program in the 1950s and ‘60s, when Mexican workers (braceros) secured labor contracts for agricultural work in the U.S. under a bi-national program.

CLG funds were used to develop a Historic Structures Report for the site’s adobe buildings, followed by stabilization and rehabilitation plans, as well as a virtual site tour to make this nationally significant resource available to a broader audience. Buildings 21 and 26 in the complex will be rehabilitated and adaptively used as a museum, medical center, and Socorro’s first public library.

According to the city’s Victor Reta, the CLG grant allowed the community to educate, empower, and empathize with Socorro citizens and share the importance and legacy of their work with the world.

“Without the support from the THC, we don’t think we could have been able to get our vision for this site off the ground,” he said. “The THC does so much for smaller municipalities like Socorro, and we are so proud to be a CLG partner.”

To learn more about the CLG Program, visit thc.texas.gov/clg.





compassion and activism for this vulnerable population led to new treatment strategies—religious education became a core component to foster feelings of positive self-worth, purpose, security, and joy. In 1956, the school hired Rev. Luther Holloway, who worked with interfaith groups to raise \$100,000 to build the chapel. Designed by architect David Graeber and dedicated in 1962, the A-frame chapel exemplifies postwar modernism, with excellent acoustics and colorful stained-glass windows. The human scale of the interior prioritizes accessibility for its young congregation with special needs.

SUBURBAN ALCOHOLIC FOUNDATION CLUBHOUSE

Austin, Travis County

The 1966 Suburban Alcoholic Foundation Clubhouse is a dedicated meeting place for members of Alcoholics Anonymous, founded by Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith in 1935 in Akron, Ohio to help themselves and others recover from alcoholism. The first Austin group of five members met in 1945, and by 1955, grew to three AA groups with 200 members. Members of Austin’s Suburban Group organized in 1955 to provide a permanent home for AA in Austin. Designed by Austin architect Fred W. Day and completed in 1966, the domestically scaled clubhouse features a broad, low-slung roofline, fieldstone exterior, warm interior finishes, and a large backyard that resembles many of Austin’s suburban homes of the period. It has been in continuous use since construction.

To learn more about the National Register program, visit thc.texas.gov/nrhp.

ABOVE: Huston-Tillotson College in East Austin. BELOW: the Suburban Alcoholic Foundation Clubhouse in northwestern Austin.

Continued from page 5

Kuehne, Brooks, & Barr. Between 1952 and 1974, Huston-Tillotson added nine substantial modern buildings with a central quad, funded through the United Negro College Fund’s mobilization program. The campus remains remarkably intact.

CHAPEL FOR THE CHILDREN

Austin, Travis County

Chapel for the Children (now All Faiths Chapel) is an interfaith house of worship built in 1961 for the spiritual education of young residents at the Austin State School, Texas’ first public institution for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. During the post-World War II period, increasing

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation’s official list of cultural resources deemed worthy of preservation and includes more than 3,300 listings in Texas. Listing affords properties a measure of protection from the impact of federal projects, as well as access to preservation grant funding. Income-producing buildings are eligible for federal and state tax credits for sympathetic rehabilitation projects; listed buildings owned by nonprofit organizations may also qualify for the state credits.



NEWS BRIEFS

THC ANNOUNCES SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT HOST COMMUNITIES

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is pleased to announce seven communities that were selected to host a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit as part of the inaugural Museum on Main Street initiative in Texas.

Though Texas was initially proposed to have only six host communities, the Smithsonian offered an additional stop on the tour due to the state's sheer size and high caliber of applications received. The THC and its Heritage Tourism Program will work with the following host communities and their respective nominating organizations and Texas Heritage Trail Regions:

- Bandera (Bandera County Historical Commission, Bandera Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Frontier Times Museum) in the Texas Hill Country Trail Region
- Brenham (Visit Brenham and Washington County) in the Texas Independence Trail Region
- Buffalo Gap (Buffalo Gap Chamber of Commerce) in the Texas Forts Trail Region
- Clifton (Bosque Museum) in the Texas Brazos and Lakes Trail Regions
- Rockport (Rockport Cultural Arts District) in the Texas Tropical Trail Region
- San Augustine (Main Street Program) in the Texas Forest Trail Region
- San Elizario (El Paso County Economic Development and San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society) in the Texas Mountain Trail Region

These communities will host the traveling exhibit “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” for six weeks each in 2024–25. The exhibit examines the impacts of the population shift from rural to urban areas in the U.S. during the last century, as well as the importance of preserving small towns for their unique culture, history, and economic revitalization opportunities.

Created in 1994, the Museum on Main Street program seeks to create opportunities for underserved rural communities across the country to reflect on their history, culture, and people and to showcase their cultural-heritage assets to regional, statewide, and national audiences. As the new state coordinator of the program in Texas, the THC's Heritage Tourism Program will work closely with these communities as they embark on nearly two years of training and preparation to host the world's largest museum



Brenham



San Augustine

complex in their small towns and welcome several thousand new visitors.

During the months leading up to the exhibit, host communities will receive training and consultation from THC staff to prepare the local heritage tourism landscape for the arrival of the exhibit. Communities from the surrounding region are encouraged to participate in the training as well, making the program a true regional heritage tourism initiative.

Dates and locations for the “Crossroads: Change in Rural America” exhibition tour will be announced soon at thc.texas.gov.

WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

KNOW YOUR TEXAS HISTORY? Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Email your answer and preferred mailing address to medallion@thc.texas.gov or send it to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711. Limit one prize annually per contestant.



NEED A CLUE?

This building in the Texas Lakes Trail Region includes Beaux Arts elements and a brick tower with Prairie-style ornamentation.

ANSWER TO PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE:

The site pictured at left is the Crockett County Jail in Ozona, built in 1892. According to the THC Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker, its tower

“may have been designed for hangings,” but no gallows were ever installed.

Congratulations and prizes go to the first readers who correctly identified the site: Genie Gilley of Canyon, Cathy Novogoratz of Spring, and RP Smith of Bastrop. Thanks to all who participated!

