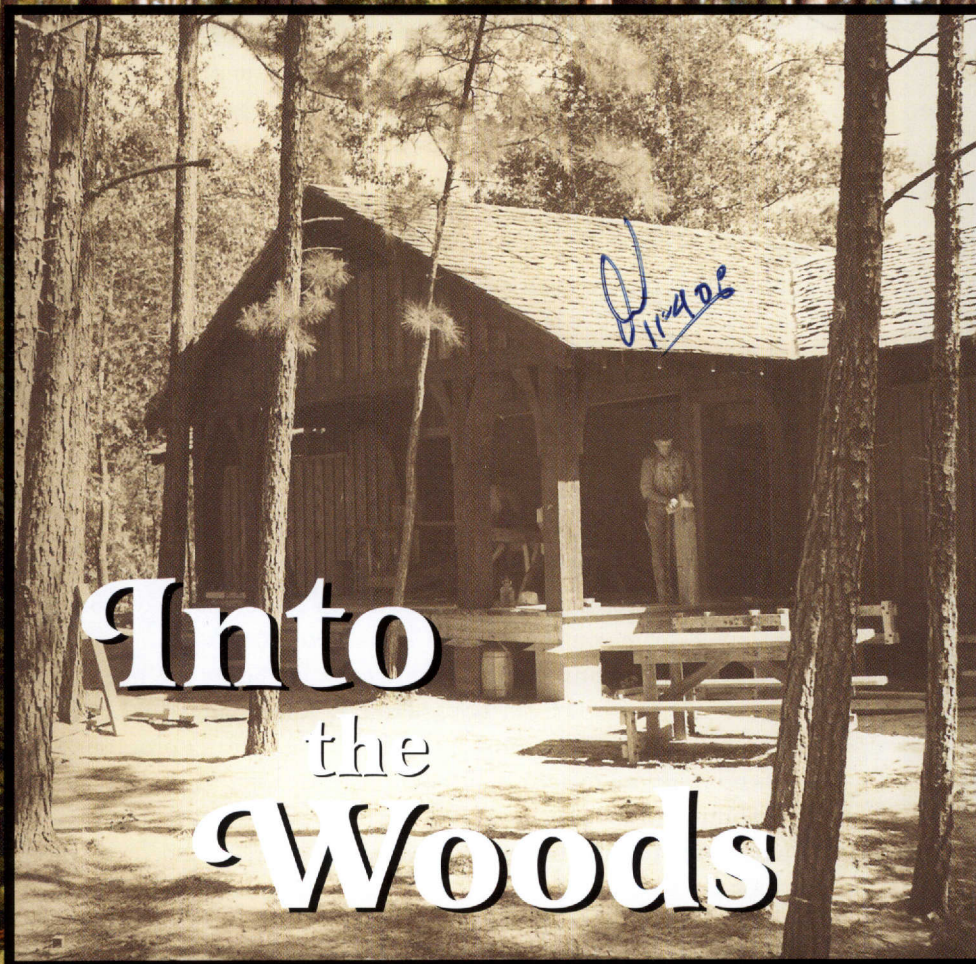


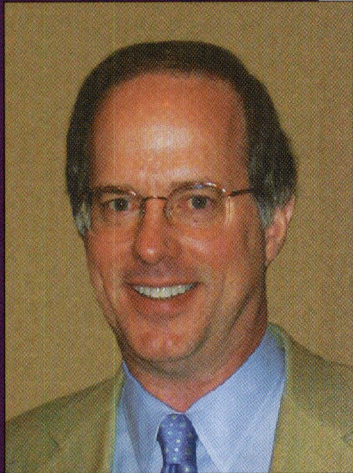
THE MEDALLION



Into the Woods

Explore the Depth of Texas' Mystique
in the National Forests

Leadership Letter



Dear Friends,

As the annual season of giving and the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, I am delighted to report that the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission has enjoyed another successful year. As the 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports the Texas Historical Commission (THC), our mission is to engage donors in building a strong financial foundation for historic preservation in Texas. We received almost \$400,000 in gifts and grants during fiscal year 2008, and we are deeply grateful to the generous foundations, corporations and individuals across Texas who helped us achieve our goals.

During the past year we have been blessed with donations for many exciting projects, such as the Texas Civil War Monuments Fund, Empowering County Historical Commissions, the Historic Cemetery Preservation Initiative and the Historic Courthouse Stewardship Program. And with the addition of 18 historic sites on Jan. 1, the THC now has opportunities to develop and fund new historic preservation programs and to collaborate with the sites' own Friends groups.

Speaking of good friends, I would like to offer a special "thank you" to the Texas Heroes, our special council of philanthropists. Support from the Texas Heroes provides funding for a variety of projects for which state funds cannot be used. Since the program's inception, the Heroes have donated more than \$180,000 to help preserve and promote our state's rich cultural legacy.

During the past year, funding from the Heroes allowed the THC to host a ceremony honoring Texas' new Preserve America communities, featuring First Lady Anita Perry as the guest speaker. The Heroes sponsored the 2008 T. R. Fehrenbach Book Award and a celebration where Gov. Rick Perry presented Dr. Kathleen Gilmore with the THC's highest honor: the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. In the coming year, the Heroes will also help underwrite the THC awards program. The generosity of the Texas Heroes allows the THC to celebrate excellence in historic preservation and to honor those who represent "the best of the best" in conserving and promoting the history of our state. I invite you to become a Texas Hero, too!

It's been an exciting year for the agency, including a White House ceremony in May honoring the Historic Courthouse Preservation Program with Preserve America's coveted Presidential Award. The coming year holds even greater promise, but we need the help of friends like you to accomplish our goals. As Dec. 31 draws near, please consider a contribution to the Friends as part of your year-end taxwise giving. Charitable donations offer an opportunity to make an investment in preserving Texas history while receiving income tax benefits.

Won't you join us? We are doing great work for the people of Texas, and we would welcome your partnership!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Shivers".

Brian Shivers
Chairman
Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

Deck the Halls *Carefully*

With temperatures cooling down into the 80s, 'tis the season to wrangle the holiday decorations from storage to kindle the festive atmosphere in your historic business district or neighborhood. Before you deck the halls, however, be sure to consult the following guidelines to ensure the decorating isn't damaging and the igniting is limited to holiday spirits.

Historic buildings in Texas have long been hosts for holiday cheer, with porches, gables and rooflines serving as anchors for strands of colorful lights and displays. However, it's important to reassess your approach to decorating to ensure safety and building maintenance.

"The visual impact of a string of bright lights may be impressive, but if it results in cracked walls or an electrical fire, the effect isn't worth the effort," says Stan Graves, director of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Architecture Division.

Graves adds that hasty and improper attachments may damage historic buildings and cause long-term problems. To avoid potential damage, he suggests planning in advance, using safe materials and considering the following guidelines:

- Decorate to minimize physical impact to buildings, preferably with simple techniques keeping with traditions characteristic to the building type. Historic photographs often provide a valuable guide for traditional holiday decoration. Consult your county historical commission for recommendations on where to find these images.
- Never drill into brick, stone or metal — it permanently damages the building and causes problems that will compound with time. Avoid the use of permanent anchors; however, when needed, make attachments into the mortar joints using plastic,

stainless steel or aluminum hooks or bolts that will not corrode or rust.

- If possible, string lights between hooks in the ground and gutters to prevent impact to historic materials. Decorating a temporary frame that is appropriately hung on the building may be a viable approach.
- Consider wrapping columns, railings or chimneys with ribbons, garlands or lights. This provides extensive coverage and requires few points of attachment.
- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials.
- Remove wiring and lights at the end of each season.

According to THC staff, many communities across Texas are increasingly taking a more subtle approach to decorating. Attention to detail and minimal ornamentation can often be more effective than elaborate lighting schemes that detract from the building's interesting features. For example, consider subdued lighting, wreaths and bows to convey holiday spirit.

When lights are used, keep in

mind the following safety tips to minimize potential fire damage:

- Do not overload outlets, extension cords or power strips. Excessive use of electrical cords can overwork wiring systems, particularly in historic buildings.
- Choose holiday decorations made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings and replace damaged bulbs before plugging in. Always unplug lights before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Use clips or other safe attachments to mount lights to avoid damaging the cord's wire insulation.
- Turn off lights and decorations before leaving the office or going to bed.

For questions about appropriate use of holiday decorations or for additional guidelines specific to your building, contact your regional reviewer in the THC's Architecture Division at 512/463-6094 or doa@thc.state.tx.us. ★

This article was written by Andy Rhodes, managing editor of The Medallion.

Below: The Homestead Cabin at the Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer farm in Austin decorates in the 1880s tradition. Right: Shops on the historic courthouse square in Georgetown sparkle during the holidays. Photos courtesy TxDOT.



Restoring

Restoring the Governor's Mansion is Essential



Earlier this summer, our historic Governor's Mansion, which has served as home to every Texas governor since 1856, was targeted by a terrible act of arson. Thankfully, the building was not completely destroyed, but that night Texans lost a large part of their state's rich and storied history.

History is more than just a narrative stuck between the dusty pages of a book. It is a roadmap to our very future. In the same way, the Governor's Mansion, one of Texas' proudest pieces of history, tells incredible stories. Its history draws a picture of where we come from and inspires us to continue pursuing the values that made Texas great so that the same standards can be achieved for its future.

It is for this reason that the mansion, a precious piece of our cherished heritage, must be restored.

The mansion's history began with a \$14,500 appropriation from the legislature roughly a decade after Texas became a state in 1845. The construction contract was awarded to Austin master builder Abner Cook who adopted the popular Greek Revival style of architecture for the home. Cook was a man of great vision, and even better resourcefulness. He owned a clay pit on the Colorado River not too far from the construction site, which he used to mold the very bricks that sustain the mansion's walls today.

The design for the house included a deep veranda, floor-length windows and wide hallways to allow breezes to pass through and cool the house — a

summertime necessity here in Texas.

The "X-and-Stick" railings on the porch were a trademark of Cook's. Four main rooms were crafted on each floor, two on each side of a broad central hall. Finally, six 29-foot Ionic columns were erected to span the front porch, adding the finishing touches to the stately residence.

In the years that followed, a wealth of colorful stories came to life within this home — stories like that of the mansion's first resident, Elisha Marshall Pease, who held an open house for his Austin neighbors to come and take a look around. And, like any proud resident, he personally gave his guests, all 500 of them, a guided tour. Afterward, he invited them all to stay for supper.

Historians have noted that Sam Houston, elected governor in 1859, paced the mansion's hallways in deep contemplation over whether Texas should secede from the Union during the Civil War.

The mansion is replete with lighthearted stories, too — like the time Houston's son, Andrew Jackson Houston, locked legislators in the old Capitol Building and hid the key. Threats of a whipping had no effect and the key was only reluctantly returned after Governor Houston threatened to have his son arrested. The governor later joked that his son had done a better job of controlling the legislature than he could.

Governor Wilbert Lee "Pappy" O'Daniel added his own piece of history to the mansion by hosting a barbecue to celebrate his re-election

“The memories these walls are are what fuel see this home

in 1941 — with 20,000 of his closest friends. The celebration required that pits be dug on the mansion grounds to roast more than 19,000 pounds of meat, including a buffalo shot by Pappy himself. The buffet was made complete with 1,000 pounds of potato salad, 3,500 loaves of bread and 32,000 cups of coffee.

The Governor's Mansion is also where Governor Connally recuperated from the gunshot he suffered while riding in President Kennedy's motorcade, where Ann Richards hosted Queen Elizabeth of England and where George W. Bush awaited news of his 2000 presidential election win.

The memories created within these walls are endless. They are what fuel my resolve to see this home restored so that future first families can continue to create stories that will

to Preserving Our State's Proud Heritage

Preserving

created within endless. They my resolve to restored...”



I'm excited to report that our efforts of restoration are quickly moving forward. The State Preservation Board recently chose Dealey Herndon to manage the enormous task of restoring this home. Her extensive restoration experience leaves me confident that our efforts are in good hands.

My inspiration to take on this project comes not just from seeing the mansion nearly destroyed, but by remembering these mansion stories which are indispensable fibers woven into the fabric of our state's rich historic heritage.

The Governor's Mansion belongs to all Texans and as always, I know they will do what they can to ensure this home is restored. Whether through contributing to the Restoration Fund or spreading the word about this great need, I know Texans will see to it that our treasured Governor's Mansion will have more stories to tell well into the future. ★

This article was written by Anita Perry, Texas First Lady.



contribute to the unique character of our great state and teach visitors from across Texas about our rich and storied history.

Many of you probably remember the images of flames rising from the roof of the historic home as firefighters bravely fought the fury, and the sight of Abner Cook's beautiful Greek columns left with charcoaled scars.

Fortunately no one was hurt in the fire. And since the mansion was undergoing extensive maintenance, all of the valuables like Sam Houston's mahogany four-poster bed, Stephen F. Austin's writing desk, and numerous pieces of valuable art and antique furniture had been placed in storage and out of harm's way.

As Texas' First Lady, I have been touched by the outpouring of support from my fellow Texans to rebuild

this Texas treasure. In response to this tragedy, I established the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund, a nonprofit organization that will raise the funds necessary to restore and reopen this historic home to Texans and travelers alike. The funding for restoration efforts will come from both the Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund and state funds the Texas Legislature will be asked to appropriate in the 2009 legislative session.

Tax deductible donations may be made securely online at www.TexasOnline.com or by sending a check or money order to: Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 12878, Austin, TX 78711-2878

Grapevine's Newly Installed Sprinkler System Saves Historic Downtown

It was the devastating fire that never was, and that's just fine with the city of Grapevine.

An innovative initiative to install sprinkler systems in all buildings in historic downtown Grapevine proved effective a few days after implementation when a burning candle started a small fire in a downtown party supply store. The blaze triggered the sprinklers into action at Simply Celebrations, housed in an 1880s building in this longtime Texas Main Street city.

The end result was nearly \$5,000 in interior water damage. Without the sprinkler system in place, this building and the historic structures

surrounding it could have been completely destroyed, costing millions of dollars in lost property values and business. Just as importantly, the city could have lost "irreplaceable historic icons," says Grapevine Fire Chief Steve Bass.

"I never dreamed something like this could happen," said Burl Gilliam, who has owned the building that houses Simply Celebrations since 1979. "I am so thankful we did this sprinkler project. The buildings had clothing and lots of paper products in them and the results could have been disastrous." Gilliam and his family own eight historic buildings in downtown Grapevine.

The project was the brainchild of Sharron Spencer, who has been on the Grapevine City Council since 1985. She and her husband were traveling in Central Texas and noticed a sprinkler system that had been installed in the historic Stagecoach Inn in Salado. She asked her husband, a structural engineer, if he could think of any reason why the buildings in historic downtown Grapevine could not be similarly equipped. He could not.

Spencer brought the idea back to Grapevine Mayor William Tate and they presented it to city council. City staff conducted research to see if a comprehensive "sprinkling" of all historic buildings in a downtown had been done elsewhere. No examples of such a large-scale project were found anywhere in the country, although nearby Plano had tested a smaller-scale project. Building owner Gilliam says that a project of this magnitude probably would not have happened without the city's leadership role (see sidebar).

The city coordinated the project, dealt with cost and payout issues, took on the burden of a workable finance program for all building owners and oversaw the work completed by contract and city staff. Also, through an ordinance, the city required all building owners to participate, even though 90 percent of them had already agreed to contribute prior to the passage of the ordinance, says David Klempin, Grapevine's historic preservation officer and Main Street manager.

Building owners had numerous options for paying the costs of bringing the sprinkler systems into their buildings. They could pay up

Keys to Success for the Grapevine Sprinkler Project

- The initiative had the full support of city officials, including the mayor, city council, city manager, historic preservation office, public works/engineering office, and fire and police departments.
- The Merchants' Association was utilized as the primary communications tool. With a few exceptions, the community had already bought into the idea of implementing a district-wide sprinkler system by the time the ordinance requiring participation was passed.
- Grapevine Main Street Manager David Klempin and Project Coordinator Curtis Bergthold facilitated one-on-one communications with merchants.
- The story was presented from the merchants' point of view (protecting their investment in inventory) and from the historical perspective of protecting buildings.
- A workable finance program was developed and successfully presented with the city manager at the forefront.
- Work was done at night and on Sundays to minimize disruption to merchants' hours of operation.
- The engineering was well explained, with the city engineer talking directly to building and business owners.

Information provided by Sallie Andrews and David Klempin, city of Grapevine.

front or they could take advantage of a low-interest loan from the city (the city took on \$1.5 million in debt for these and related costs) payable over several years. The average cost was \$6–7 per square foot. Spencer said the highest payment is just over \$100 per month. Due to a highly effective communication program to keep merchants informed, Spencer said she did not receive one complaint about the project during the installation phase.

The installation work was completed on July 14, 2008. A public ceremony to celebrate the completion of the project included a visit from Texas Historical Commission (THC) Secretary Diane Bumpas, who noted that “Grapevine, a THC Main Street city, shares a potential hazard with urban and rural areas alike: the threat of fire to its historic homes and buildings. But the Grapevine community has done a wondrous thing — its citizens have united and rallied and approved provisions for a fire sprinkler system throughout its historic downtown area. Preservation focus and unity in Grapevine make it a star in the THC crown!” Amazingly, the fire erupted just 14 days later.

“There is no doubt that much of the branding that markets Grapevine gets its start from our historic nature,” says Fire Chief Bass. “To lose even a portion of that would be devastating — financially and emotionally — so protecting that is critical.”

Bass commended city leaders, business and building owners for coming together to “do the right thing, which ended up being proven more quickly than anyone could have imagined. Without the whole team working together to make this project happen, we could have easily lost a significant portion of that block.” ★

This article was written by Debra Farst, state coordinator of the Texas Main Street Program.

A Primer on Sprinkler Systems

What are fire sprinklers and how do they work? Fire sprinklers are designed to control fires by wetting a specific area of a building, thereby preventing the spread of flames. A sprinkler system needs a supply of water, a network of supply pipes and the sprinkler heads. If water supply to the building is not adequate, a storage tank will be required and if pressure is insufficient, a pump is required.



Are fire systems worth installing in historic buildings? Large numbers of buildings are damaged or destroyed by fire each year. Because historic buildings are irreplaceable except by reconstruction, every effort should be made to ensure that damage by fire will either be averted or at least kept to a minimum. Fire sprinklers are certainly one option that should be considered as a means to achieving this goal. Many historic buildings, public and private, throughout the United States and Europe have successfully integrated fire sprinkler systems in a careful, non-intrusive manner.

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) offers the following general guidelines regarding sprinklers. For the GSA’s complete document, search for “sprinkler systems” at www.gsa.gov.

- Installation of sprinkler systems in historic buildings should be done carefully to avoid damage to architectural and historic features and spaces.
- Conceal piping in significant spaces such as lobbies and corridors.
- Specify sprinkler heads with the least physical and visual impact on historic materials and design.
- Preserve ornamental walls and ceilings, and avoid penetrating ornamental finishes.
- Match sprinkler heads to the dominant original metal or background surfaces of the walls and ceilings where sprinklers are to be installed.

Information provided by Howard Langner, Texas Main Street Program architect.

Above: A sprinkler system saved this historic building and its inventory from major fire damage in downtown Grapevine. Photo courtesy Grapevine Fire Department.

Pining for the Woods

East Texas' Four National Forests Are Dense with History and Culture

Take a stroll through the Piney Woods near the Aldridge sawmill ruins and you'll experience silence and solitude, a completely contrary scene from a century ago, when the active mill town was buzzing with giant saws and ample activity.

This quiet corner of Angelina National Forest — one of four national forests in East Texas dense with history and culture — was once home to nearly 1,500 residents. Abandoned in 1920, Aldridge's only remnants are the enormous and stark concrete walls of former mill facilities, now offering an eerie juxtaposition to the surrounding natural beauty of this enchanting forest.

In the early 1900s, sawmills were common features among the thick East Texas woods that would eventually become the state's four national forests: Angelina, Davy Crockett, Sabine and Sam Houston. Aldridge, now listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was one of the largest operations, making its ruins an especially poignant connection to this compelling and real story of Texas.

Like other lumber towns, Aldridge was a bustling place with hundreds of homes, several churches and schools, a commissary, train depot, saloons and a hotel. Workers were typically paid with tokens that could be exchanged for food and furnishings. During its brief heyday (roughly 1905–1920), Aldridge produced upwards of 100,000 board feet of yellow pine lumber daily. After logging some of East Texas' largest longleaf pines — some more than 30 inches in diameter — the tree supply was depleted, the work was done and the workers (the entire town, in fact)

moved on to the next swath of dense forest.

"Most sawmill towns had no permanent structures — they were comprised mainly of portable buildings and boxcar houses that moved on the railroads," explains Bob Bowman, a Lufkin-based commissioner with the Texas Historical Commission. "In fact, you could say these were the first mobile homes."

John Ippolito, a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Forest Service, adds that the sawmills played an important economic role by providing the lumber needed to build homes and develop cities across Texas and the rest of the country. However, due to their temporary status, they left little structural impact on the Piney Woods region.

"Within a generation, Aldridge went from a place filled with buildings and activity to a completely abandoned area," Ippolito says. "It's a prime example of how the logging industry operated — it was very transient in nature."

Nearly a decade after the sawmills closed, the remnants of East Texas' forests attracted the attention of the U.S. Forest Service, which eventually purchased the cut-over timberland. Around the same time, the Texas Forest Service helped establish several Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps in the area, where workers built roads, installed phone lines and assisted with firefighting and land conservation efforts.

By 1936, the U.S. Forest Service had appraised the land, set boundaries, surveyed the property and completed the purchasing process. The federal government ultimately



Above: This pond was used to float lumber at the Aldridge sawmill. Right: Ruins of the Aldridge mill facilities (TxDOT photo). Below: A logging road in Sabine National Forest.



acquired more than 90 percent of the acreage that would become the national forests from 11 lumber companies that were very willing to sell following the Great Depression.

With the addition of several small tracts of land purchased from private owners, the national forests eventually totaled nearly 675,000 acres within a 1.7 million-acre area of East Texas. President Franklin D. Roosevelt



officially proclaimed the Texas national forests in October 1936, providing their distinctive names to reflect the history and geography of Texas.

One of the most important and high-profile projects in the newly established national forests was planting pine seedlings. “Roosevelt’s Tree Army” rose to the challenge, planting 72 million trees in East Texas and across the state.

“This had an enormous impact on the region because there’d been such a robber baron attitude around here with the timber companies — their approach was to cut out and get out,” Ippolito says. “They were just interested in maximizing profits and did virtually no replanting.”

Bowman praises the dedicated work of the CCC, crediting the servicemen with much of the early success of East Texas’ national forests. In 11 years of work in the area, CCC crews in 18 camps constructed more than 3,000 miles of roads, installed 2,000 miles of phone lines, built 81 fire towers and fought countless fires. In addition, they constructed recreation areas with pavilions and bathhouses as well as picnic grounds, dams, bridges and culverts throughout the forests.

“If it hadn’t been for the CCC, Texas’ national forests wouldn’t be anywhere near what they are today,” Bowman says. “East Texas might be eroding away without all the amazing work those men did.”

Ippolito points to a recent restoration project in Angelina National Forest that reminded residents of the dedicated work of the CCC crews. In September 2005, Hurricane Rita, still a dangerous

Category 2 storm when it reached the Lufkin area, wreaked havoc on the forest’s Boykin Springs recreational area with devastating winds and a deluge of rain. Two historic CCC projects — a timber pavilion and a stone spillway — were damaged in the storm, resulting in the extensive restoration work that’s expected to be completed in early 2009.

“Most of the rock from the original spillway had washed far downstream, so we made the effort to gather and reconstruct the entire thing,” Ippolito says. “It was a major undertaking for our engineers and workers. They really appreciated all the amazing work the CCC guys did on the original project.”

By the 1960s, two national forests experienced significant transformations with the construction of dams and reservoirs to maintain flood control and provide recreational destinations. The Sam Rayburn Reservoir bisects Angelina National Forest, while the Toledo Bend Reservoir dominates the Sabine National Forest along the Louisiana border.

Planning for both projects commenced in the early 1950s, and after nearly a decade of surveying and archeological studies, the reservoirs opened and had an immediate impact on the forests. Tourism increased significantly, prompting commercial and residential development and U.S. Forest Service recreational projects, including new campgrounds and scenic picnic sites.

“The reservoirs added a whole new dimension to our work out here,” Ippolito notes. “Ultimately, it’s had a positive outcome — the water helps draw folks out to experience the incredible natural resources East Texas has to offer.”



Above: A historic photo of the Ratcliff Pavilion built in the 1930s by the CCC (U.S. Forest Service photo). Left: The CCC-constructed spillway at Boykin Springs was recently reconstructed.

Pine Time

The efforts of the state and federal government resulted in the preservation of nearly 675,000 acres of East Texas pine forests. The state's four national forests are ideal destinations for heritage tourists looking for a natural getaway flavored with a scent of pine and a dose of Texas history.

Angelina National Forest

Located just east of Lufkin, the 153,179-acre Angelina National Forest is one of East Texas' most popular destinations for fishing and boating excursions, thanks to the enormous Sam Rayburn Reservoir within its boundaries. Angelina's

landscape is similar to its national forest siblings, featuring gently rolling hills covered mostly with shortleaf and loblolly pine, hardwoods and a swath of longleaf pine.

Though the reservoir dominates Angelina's natural environment, the forest also includes several hiking trails and recreation areas with strong ties to Texas history.

Heritage tourists should consider visiting the Aldridge sawmill ruins, where the walls of enormous concrete structures stand as a testament to Texas' once-proud lumber industry past. Though they're now covered in graffiti, the 40-foot walls offer a fascinating glimpse of the grand ambitions of lumberman W. H. Aldridge.

Just down the road is the Boykin Springs recreation area, where CCC crews constructed a sturdy pavilion and massive stone spillway in the early 1930s. Both structures were recently repaired following hurricane damage, and the area is expected to reopen for swimming, camping and picnicking in early 2009.

Visitors also flock to Angelina to view the hundreds of wildlife species, including turkey, deer, quail and woodcock. During winter months, bald eagles occasionally soar over the reservoir.

For more information about trail maps, boating options, lake access points and campsite availability, contact the Angelina National Forest park office (located on State Route 147 just west of the reservoir bridge, 936/897-1068, www.fs.fed.us).

Davy Crockett National Forest

With more than 160,000 acres of dense woodlands just west of Lufkin, the Davy Crockett National Forest is considered one of East Texas' premier destinations for scenic hikes and drives. It's also a hotbed for history, with several structures dating back to the early 1900s.

Perhaps most compelling is the Ratcliff Lake recreation area, constructed by the CCC more than 70 years ago. A bathhouse, picnic area and timber pavilion surround a 45-acre lake that once served as a log pond and source of water for the Central Coal and Coke Company (Four C) Sawmill.

Operated by Missouri businessman Charles Keith, the lumber company became one of largest in the South, resulting in an adjacent town of 10,000 residents (Ratcliff) and an active railroad line to Lufkin. By the early 1920s, however, the timber supply was depleted and the mill and town virtually disappeared. Visitors can still see the brick and concrete ruins of the large millhouse and dry kilns along an interpretive trail.

Ratcliff Lake also serves as the trailhead for the Four C National Recreation Trail, traversing nearly 20 miles amid lofty pines, swampy bogs and hardwood forests. While hiking, keep an eye out for quail, deer, turkey and various waterfowl.

To obtain a map or to learn more about camping and boat accessibility, contact the Davy Crockett National Forest ranger office (located on State Route 7 just west of FM 227, 936/655-2299, www.fs.fed.us).

Sabine National Forest

The 160,656-acre Sabine National Forest is the easternmost of Texas' national forests and is dominated by the massive Toledo Bend Reservoir along the Louisiana border.

According to the *Texas Almanac*, Toledo Bend is the largest lake in the state (in volume of storage capacity), and its enormous size offers extensive recreational opportunities, from boating and fishing to swimming and lakeshore camping.

Sabine National Forest is best known for its outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking) and one of its most popular destinations is the 12,369-acre Indian Mounds Wilderness Area. The name is misleading, however, since the mounds are actually just normal hills that were misidentified as sacred Native American sites. Regardless, these natural formations provide a scenic backdrop for visitors and host enticing flora including yellow lady's slipper orchids, American beech and southern magnolia.

Hikers also enjoy the 28-mile Trail Between the Lakes, extending from Toledo Bend's Lakeview Recreation Area to Highway 96 near Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Although historic structures and features are scarce in Sabine National Forest, U.S. Forest Service staff can provide maps showing the sites of old railroad trusses and bridges along with the hundreds of miles of scenic roads and trails.

To learn more about campsite availability and lake access points, contact the Sabine National Forest headquarters (located on State Route 21 just west of the reservoir bridge, 409/625-1940, www.fs.fed.us).

Sam Houston National Forest

Located just 40 miles north of its namesake city, Sam Houston National Forest offers nearly 163,000 acres of pine trees, hardwood forests and abundant recreational opportunities. Due to its proximity to Texas' largest city, Sam Houston National Forest provides a different experience than its rural brethren to the north. Though it can be busier and louder, the services are generally more developed.

Sam Houston contains three full-service campgrounds (Cagle, Double Lake and Stubblefield recreation areas) and an abundance of hiking and mountain biking trails. Heritage tourists may want to visit the Double Lake recreation area, constructed in 1937 by the CCC. The site features a historic pavilion and bathhouse built by CCC crews and surrounds a 24-acre lake with a swimming area and beach, a concession stand and camping areas.

One of Sam Houston's main draws is the Lone Star Hiking Trail, offering nearly 140 miles of walkways exclusively for hikers. The trail winds throughout the forest across woodlands, swamps and meadows with various access points and campgrounds. The 22,000-acre Lake Conroe is another major attraction, particularly for its swimming, boating, fishing and sailing.

For more information about recreational opportunities in the forest, including trail maps, contact the Sam Houston National Forest headquarters (located at 394 FM 1375 in New Waverly, 936/344-6205, www.fs.fed.us).

The national forests are located in the THC's Texas Forest Trail Region and the Texas Independence Trail Region. To receive free travel guides featuring additional heritage tourism attractions in these regions call 866/276-6219 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us. ★

This article was written by Andy Rhodes, managing editor of The Medallion.



Above: CCC members planting pine seedlings in the 1930s (U.S. Forest Service photo). Right: A hiking trail in the Davy Crockett National Forest (photo courtesy TxDOT).



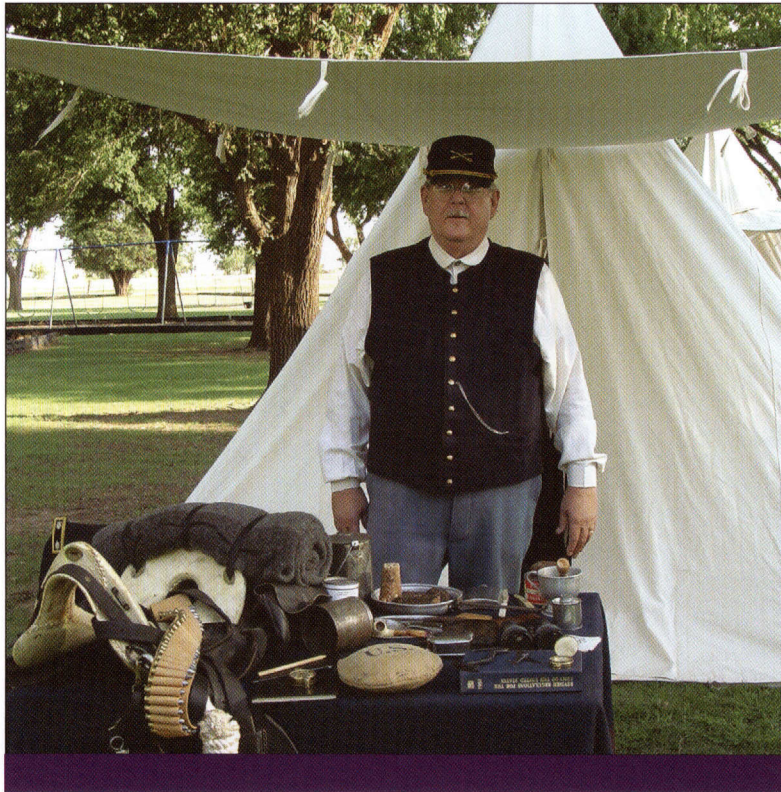
Best Friends

Great Partnerships Benefit Historic Sites

Comprised of volunteers, fundraisers, reenactors, promoters and advisors, affiliated “Friends” organizations are invaluable partners for many of the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) historic sites. Some are longtime collaborators and others are new, but all of them provide support, resources and encouragement to the THC staff members who operate the sites. Three of these partnerships are especially dynamic and represent a rich symbiosis that benefits both parties.

Fulton Mansion Site Manager Diana Kirby has devoted more than two decades to the magnificent mansion in Rockport, but a small corps of dedicated volunteers has been there even longer. The mansion’s docent organization started in 1986 and later evolved into the Friends of the Fulton Mansion, with volunteers still making an enormous contribution.

“They have sponsored numerous events over the years — too many to recount,” Kirby says. “They even paid salaries when we received budget cuts. And if they had not been willing to raise funds for us, there would be no new Education and History Center (to be constructed soon). But the most important thing they give is their time, especially our docents. We simply could not function without them.”



Friends board members Frances Symank and Mary Lynn Rhodes say the partnership is equally exceptional from their perspective.

“The mansion staff is so creative and professional, and this makes it a pleasure to work for and with them in sharing the site’s history. For us, they are an extended family,” Symank says. “The most exciting thing has been raising money for the new Education and History Center. When it is completed, there will be so much we can do for the community.”

At the historic San Antonio home of Tejano patriot José Antonio Navarro, the Friends group is only three years old. Many of the members are descendants of the great statesman. Site Manager José Zapata says the Friends’ enthusiasm and support help

promote Casa Navarro to the community. The Friends raised \$100,000 for an interpretive master plan and partnered with local businesses to sponsor \$1,000 student scholarships to advance Navarro’s legacy and his advocacy for education.

Zapata says the partnership is invaluable. “The Friends are our site’s link to the business community and elected officials, and they offer a wealth of ‘real world’ experience in the areas of health, education, law and business. They are able to network and promote Casa Navarro within a myriad of settings, and among numerous personal contacts.”

The idea of forming a Friends organization was conceived by site staff and John and Sylvia Navarro Tillotson. According to Sylvia Tillotson, the proposal was presented with professionalism, vision and research, and made a meaningful impression. She adds that their initial cooperation remains strong, with the Friends often seeking guidance from the staff.

“Their support and thoughtfulness can be depended upon no matter what the occasion — our partnership requires many hours of commitment and hard work, but it is always a pleasure to interact with the staff,” says Tillotson, the Friends’ president. “We’re looking forward to future achievements together and the completion of our major goal: the renewal of the house museum.”

The Friends of Fort McKavett celebrated its 10th anniversary in October 2008 and is an important ally for the site. The membership includes historians, astronomers, reenactors and volunteers representing most areas of the state who assist with living history educational events both on and off the site. Members are non-paid staff accounting for thousands of work hours throughout the year.

“Our Friends group is wonderful,” says Michael “Buddy” Garza, site manager of Fort McKavett. “The astronomers conduct star parties for the public and host special outreach programs to area schools. We also have Friends who cook meals during our programs, assist with maintenance projects and conduct guided tours of the site.”

John Cobb, president of the Friends of Fort McKavett, is responsible for producing the site’s newsletter and assisting with educational programs for the fort, including living history events, town reunions, Buffalo Soldiers programs and the Post Library and Research Center. The Friends also provided tools and equipment and outfitted a full kitchen, restroom, showers, and a washer and dryer for staff and volunteers.

How would he encourage other sites to build strong partnerships like theirs?

“Understanding the site comes first — you need to have patience, a long-term plan and cooperation from both the manager and the Friends group,” Cobb says, adding that although the organization is blessed with a large membership, very few

are able to tackle projects on a full-time basis. “With soaring gas prices and the stress on people’s available time, keep in mind your membership is giving their time and effort out of their own pockets to support the site.”

This successful public/private partnership is also evident at Fulton Mansion, where, according to Kirby, it lessens the burden carried by each partner and improves the quality of the product.

“I think volunteers are the heart and soul of any organization. Staff can certainly be passionate, but they are rewarded financially for their passion,” she says. “Volunteers are different. In theory, it’s easy for them to walk away, so when they stay and contribute you know you’re onto something good. And the public senses this passion and enthusiasm. It just makes the whole organization healthier and more effective.”

Sylvia Navarro Tillotson advises, “Have a meaningful, well thought-out and well planned goal, and support and encourage volunteers that have interest and passion.

Encourage local participation — people with connections to other organizations can attract meaningful contacts — and seek out history buffs, historians, descendants and volunteers with organizational and communication skills and ideas.”

Kirby is among several site managers who have expressed excitement about being part of the THC.

“I love working for the THC, and I think our volunteers and Friends groups are going to feel the same,” she says. “I’m very excited to see what the historic sites have in store with their dedication for interpreting the real stories of Texas.” ★

This article was written by Toni Turner, the THC’s development officer.

Opposite page: John Cobb, president of the Friends of Fort McKavett. Below: Roberta Sherer, Friends of the Fulton Mansion board member.



Would you like to join a Friends group or volunteer at a historic site? Please contact Suzannah Gravatt at 512/936-2189 or suzannah.gravatt@thc.state.tx.us.

Austin Establishes First Local Historic District

Austin is known throughout the state for its progressive culture. Socially and politically, Texas' capital city has a reputation for leading efforts to make changes and embrace new ideas.

Unfortunately, historic preservation hasn't always followed suit.

When city officials announced earlier this year that the Harthan Street district had been designated Austin's first local historic district, preservationists collectively applauded and breathed a sigh of relief. The district, just west of downtown Austin, is a residential street containing 10 houses built between

1875 and 1930. Nine of the homes are considered contributing structures to the district because they retain a high degree of architectural and historic integrity.

Because Austin's local historic district application process requires significant historical research on the context of the area as well as an inventory of the individual structures within the district, the small size of Harthan Street made it an ideal test case for the designation process.

"By establishing this first historic district, the city formally recognized its cultural resources and historic

neighborhoods as valuable assets to Austin's heritage and quality of life," said Terri Myers, founder of Preservation Central Inc., an Austin-based preservation consulting firm.

Austin is joining other cities and towns across the state with local historic districts, which establish design review procedures that encourage retaining the historic and character-defining features of a property or district whenever possible. Architectural and design elements such as windows, doors, porches and rooflines are among the most significant features of many historic structures. Setbacks from the street, building materials and building height are also considered in an attempt to maintain the historic character of a neighborhood or commercial area.

Though Austin has several historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it was not until the 2006 revisions to the city's local historic preservation ordinance and program that specific criteria for local protection of historic districts were established. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places offers recognition for historic areas, but does not offer protection from insensitive exterior changes to or demolition of historic properties.

Many neighborhood groups and local preservationists wanted protection for the historic character of Austin's neighborhoods and pushed for a city ordinance allowing for local protection of historic areas like Harthan Street.

"Local historic districts have many benefits, including protecting property owners' investments, encouraging sensitive and quality design and encouraging heritage tourism," Myers said.

Most of the Harthan Street district is comprised of Classical Revival and Craftsman/bungalow homes built circa 1915.





The largest home in the district is this 1875 Italianate/Greek Revival dwelling, which is listed in the National Register.

There are an estimated 2,300 local historic districts in communities across the nation and Austin is among the last of Texas' larger cities to designate local historic neighborhoods and commercial areas as districts worthy of protection from demolition and incompatible alterations. However, local preservationists are encouraged by the designation of the Harthan Street district. This summer, two additional local historic district applications were submitted to the city of Austin. The proposed districts are the Blanco Street Local Historic District and Terrace Park Local Historic District, both in the West Line National Register District in West Austin.

Texas communities of all sizes have adopted preservation ordinances and established local districts to protect, promote and preserve these real places and real stories. For more information on how to establish a local historic district in your community, enter "Working on the Past in Local Historic Districts" in the search bar at www.nps.gov. ★

This article was written by Bratten Thomason, director of the THC's History Programs Division.

Benefits of Local Historic Districts

The following guidelines are excerpted and adapted from *Maintaining Community Character: How to Establish a Local Historic District* by Pratt Cassity of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

- Local districts protect the investments of owners and residents. Buyers know the aspects that make a particular area attractive will be protected over time. Real estate agents in many cities use historic district status as a marketing tool to sell properties.
- Local districts encourage better design. It has been shown through comparative studies that there is a greater sense of relatedness, more innovative use of materials and greater public appeal within historic districts than in areas without historic designations.
- The educational benefits of creating local districts are the same as those derived from any historic preservation effort. Districts help explain the development of a place, the source of inspiration and technological advances. They are a record of our communities and ourselves.
- A local district can result in a positive economic impact from tourism. A historic district that is aesthetically cohesive and well promoted can be a community's most important attraction. The retention of historic areas is a way to attract tourist dollars and makes good economic sense.
- The protection of local historic districts can enhance business recruitment potential. Companies continually relocate to communities that offer their workers a higher quality of life, which is greatly enhanced by successful local preservation programs and stable historic districts.
- Local districts provide social and psychological benefits. A sense of empowerment and confidence develops when community decisions are made through a structured participatory process rather than behind closed doors or without public comment.

THC Marker Application Deadline Approaching

The new application forms for the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Official Texas Historical Markers are now posted under the Markers and Designations section at www.thc.state.tx.us. The THC will accept applications for the 2009 marker cycle via email (markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us) through Jan. 15, 2009.

The upcoming cycle brings several notable web site additions and application changes, including:

- A documented narrative and an application form for each marker are now the only requirements. References to topozone.com have been removed, since that web site now requires a subscription to access topographic maps.

- The Markers and Designations section at www.thc.state.tx.us now contains a new flyer of Official Texas Historical Marker types and sizes and an updated list of county historical commission chairs and marker chairs.

The THC's marker staff encourages applicants to include the stories of all Texans, particularly the stories of under-represented cultures. Applicants can also utilize the THC's online support materials to review the general procedures to ensure the continuation of a quality program.

Two THC Newsletters Offered in New Format

The THC's Museum Services and Heritage Tourism (HT) programs recently developed new electronic newsletters (e-newsletters), providing informative and educational resources in a convenient and accessible format. The redesigned publications allow readers to easily review topics of interest and to access links providing related information.



The Museum Services Minute and Heritage Tourism Connection are now offered in electronic format.

The *Museum Minute* and *HT Connection* both launched in September 2008 to promote the activities and practices of THC partners while giving insight on how to improve procedures. Future issues will be sent bimonthly, and readers can easily subscribe to (or opt out of) these newsletters at anytime.

All e-newsletters will be archived, allowing interested parties to conveniently peruse heritage tourism or museum-related topics. Other THC programs plan to follow suit in future e-newsletter development.

To subscribe to one of these e-newsletters, sign up through the THC web site (www.thc.state.tx.us) Email Newsletter button. For more information, contact Sarah Tober at sarah.tober@thc.state.tx.us or 512/936-2399.

Mark Your Calendars!

The THC's 2009 Annual Historic Preservation Conference is planned for April 15–17 at the Lakeway Inn

and Conference Center in Lakeway, 20 miles west of Austin.

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

The conference alternates yearly between Austin and other Texas locations to reach as many preservationists as possible. For more information call 512/463-6255.

THC, First Lady Anita Perry Announce First Lady's Texas Treasures Award

Is your hometown a Preserve America community or Main Street city? Does it participate in Texas Archeology Month or the Historic Texas Cemetery Program? A combination of any of these programs and numerous others puts your community in the running to be awarded the prestigious First Lady's Texas Treasures Award.

The THC, in partnership with the Office of the First Lady, recently announced the award, designed to honor Texas communities that have shown a high level of creativity and ingenuity in recognizing and preserving their authentic "sense of place." The First Lady's Texas Treasures Award will be presented to communities that demonstrate sustainable preservation efforts related to THC programs and tools, together with an increasingly strong preservation ethic.

The deadline for the 2008 award has passed, but it's never too early to begin the nomination process for next year (due in the fall). Award decisions are made by an interagency panel created by the

National Register News

The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of cultural resources deemed worthy of preservation, including more than 3,000 listings in Texas. Listing affords properties a measure of protection from the impact of federally funded projects, as well as access to technical expertise and grant funds to facilitate preservation. Income-producing properties are also eligible for federal tax benefits for sympathetic rehabilitation work.

The Medallion's expanded News in Brief page will include a regular update of recent Texas listings to the National Register — keep an eye out for sites in your region.



Santa Rita Courts, Austin, Travis County

One of three east Austin housing projects built under the 1937 Housing Act, Santa Rita Courts was home to families of Mexican descent. Constructed in 1938–39, the development was listed at the national level of significance as the first federal housing project completed under the 1937 act. It was also recognized for its association with Lyndon Baines Johnson, whose involvement with the project stands as a remarkable achievement in his early political career and foreshadows his active role in passing civil rights legislation as a senator, vice president and president of the United States. The district features 11 single-story multifamily residential buildings on a 3.2-acre site.

THC and the Office of the Governor, Economic Development & Tourism. For more information about the award, contact the THC's April Garner at 512/463-2630 or april.garner@thc.state.tx.us.

2009 Conservation Assessment Program Applications Available

The Heritage Health Index, a recent comprehensive study of the condition of U.S. collections, found that 64 percent of small historical societies and museums do not have a current, written, long-range preservation plan. Museums in this situation may wish to contact the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) about providing the framework for collections care.

CAP is designed to help small to mid-sized museums of all types — from art museums to zoos — obtain a general assessment of the condition of their collections, environment and historic buildings.

This report assists museums in educating staff and board members on preservation practices, creating long-range and emergency plans and raising funds to improve the care of their collections.

The 2009 CAP applications are currently available on Heritage Preservation's web site (www.heritagepreservation.org). The postmark deadline for applications is Dec. 1, 2008. For more information, please contact CAP staff at cap@heritagepreservation.org or 202/233-0800.

Deadline Approaching For THC Award Nominations

The December deadline for nominations for the THC's preservation awards is fast approaching. The THC encourages you to nominate your local historic preservation devotee for one of the major awards presented at the agency's Annual Historic Preservation Conference, held April 15–17 in Lakeway.

Awards include the Award of Excellence in Historic Architecture, the George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award and the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology.

Nominations will also be accepted for the prestigious T. R. Fehrenbach Book Award. This competition honors books based on original research that preserve, record and recount the prehistory or history of Texas. Books must be published with a 2008 copyright and have a minimum print run of 200 copies.

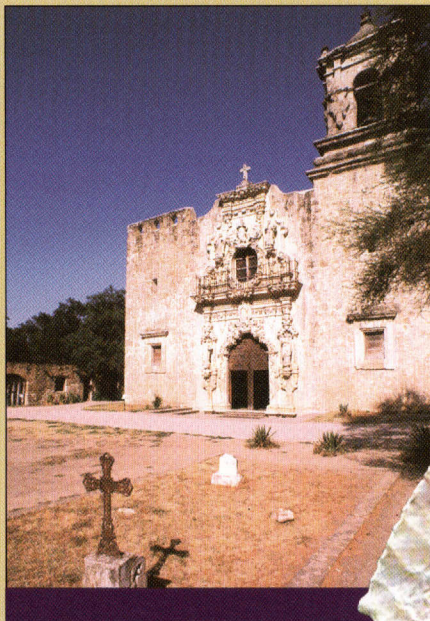
The deadline for preservation award submissions is 5 p.m., Dec. 12. For more guidelines contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512/463-5853. To learn more about the T. R. Fehrenbach Book Award contact the THC's Marketing Communications Division at 512/463-8886. To obtain a complete listing of awards available and a nomination form visit www.thc.state.tx.us. ★

Now YOU Know!

November is associated with cooler temperatures and Thanksgiving feasts, but did you know it's also National American Indian Heritage Month? In 1990, President George H. W. Bush officially dedicated this month to honor and recognize the original citizens of our country.

American Indians have been an important part of our culture throughout the United States' and Texas' history. Their values and ideas represent the spirit of our land, including an acceptance of people from different cultures and religions, an awareness that this diversity can be a powerful and uniting force, and understanding the importance of existing peacefully with the natural environment.

Texas' native population dates back more than 12,000 years, but one of the best places to get a sense of how they lived in more recent times is at the San Antonio missions. The real stories of the tribe members' lives at these Spanish facilities have been preserved, particularly with the hunter-gatherer group known as the Coahuiltecos.

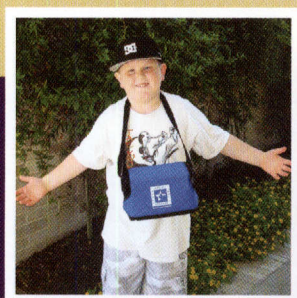
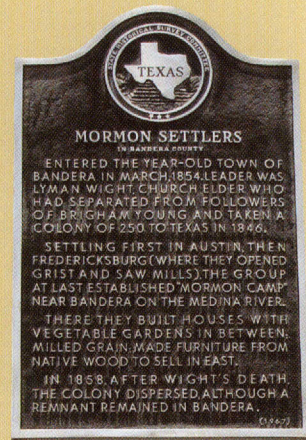


Mission San José in San Antonio

The Coahuiltecos were willing to become part of the mission system in the mid-1700s because it promised a reliable supply of food and protection from enemy tribes. The Indians learned how to do different kinds of jobs, including carpentry, masonry,

blacksmithing, weaving and farming. Religion was the most important part of their experience, with prayers and lessons scheduled throughout the day. The Coahuiltecos reacted to the mission system in different ways. Some participated fully, mixing their traditions with the customs from Spain. Others moved in and out of the missions, while some refused to join at all.

To find out more about Texas' native groups, visit www.texasbeyondhistory.net or www.tshaonline.org. ★



Having Fun with History

Earlier this year, we asked students to submit photos of themselves visiting Official Texas Historical Markers. One of the most enthusiastic responses we received was from 8-year-old Logan Hall of Seabrook. He submitted photos of his visit to Bandera, adding that "it was fun to stop and read the messages" depicted on the markers.

For his efforts, Logan received several prizes from the Texas Historical Commission's Heritage Trails program, including the nifty portable cooler he uses for school (pictured). Thanks to Logan for his interest and zeal for learning about Texas history!





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Our Mission

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

Charles R. Schultz

Brazos County Historical Commission

How long have you been serving with your CHC?

I have been a member of the Brazos County Historical Commission since 1986 and have served as chairman since 1989. Between 1936 and 1988 Brazos County obtained 33 historical markers. Between 1989 and 2008 Brazos County obtained 25 historical markers.



County Historical Commission during my entire service as a member of the group.

What interesting projects are your CHC members currently undertaking?

One member of our commission regularly scans microfilmed copies of newspapers to seek out every bit of the history of

Brazos County he can locate. He makes careful notes of the titles of newspapers and the dates and page numbers and shares that information with other interested parties.

What have you found is the most effective way of working with your county officials and county residents to keep them interested and active in historic preservation?

We have a good relationship with our county officials — they provide us modest funding every year and from time to time provide additional funding for special activities. One of our members has been working with Brazos County to establish an updated web site about the Brazos County Historical Commission. The site includes text for all of the Brazos County historical markers, and the narratives submitted to obtain the markers has resulted in more people becoming aware of the availability of that historical information. ★

What are your group's most memorable projects?

I believe that the single most memorable project was our combined effort with the College Station Historical Preservation Committee and others to sponsor a very well-attended (more than 1,200 people) End of World War II Celebration on Sept. 3, 2005 at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. The celebration included panel discussions by veterans of the war, gallery talks on a variety of topics by several volunteer speakers, vintage music and movies and a number of local citizens circulating through the crowd in period vintage 1940s costumes. The *Bryan-College Station Eagle* contributed free advertising for the event and local businesses, organizations and city governments donated money to make it a rousing success. This event was probably the most memorable event of the Brazos

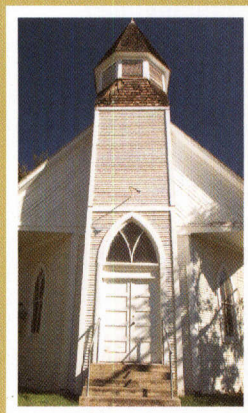
Where on Earth? You tell us! Write to the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276. You also may fax your answer to 512/463-6374 or email it to medallion@thc.state.tx.us. The first three people who correctly guess the site will be named with the answer in the January/February 2009 issue of *The Medallion*. The first correct mail answer will be counted, even if correct emails and faxes arrive first. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

Want a clue? This 1928 building, adorned with colorful Spanish tiles and intricate cast stone sculpture, is located in the Texas Tropical Trail Region.

Answer to the photo from the July/August issue: The First Christian Church in Menard (below) was constructed in 1899 and features native stone

and lancet windows. It is reportedly the oldest church in the San Angelo Diocese. Congratulations to the following readers who submitted correct answers: Tina Hodge of Menard, Barbara Kothmann of Menard and Robert Wright of Ballinger. They will receive prizes from our Texas Heritage Trails Program,

the Texas Historical Commission's regional tourism initiative, as tokens of our appreciation for taking part in the fun. Thanks to all participants! ★



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