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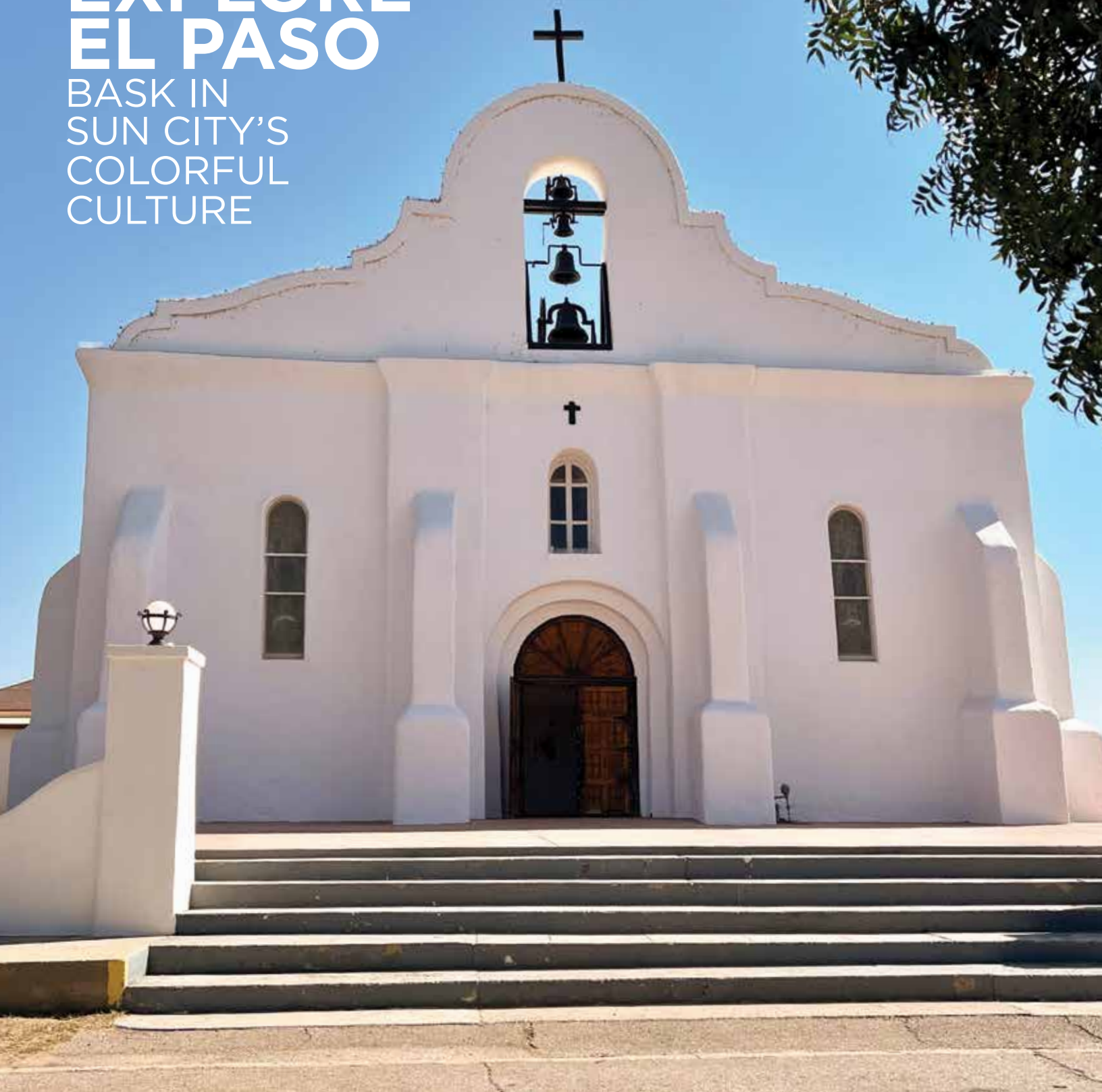
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MEDALLION

WINTER 2024

EXPLORE EL PASO

BASK IN
SUN CITY'S
COLORFUL
CULTURE





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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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ABOVE, TOP: El Paso's Socorro Mission was established in 1680; this building was constructed in 1848. ON THE COVER: The Presidio Chapel of San Elizario.

Correction from previous issue: Due to a typographical error on page 7, John F. Kennedy's date of death was listed as Nov. 23, 1963 instead of Nov. 22, 1963.





ED LENGEL
THC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEADERSHIP LETTER

Friends,

Most people—Texans especially—wouldn't enjoy the experience of being snowed in. How you feel about it, though, really depends on where you are when it happens.

Many years ago, a blizzard swept in while I was visiting George Washington's Mount Vernon as part of a small working group of educators and historians. For the next couple of days, with the estate closed to the public, I enjoyed the intimacy of wandering the gorgeous, snow-covered grounds, with nothing to do but meditate on history.

That experience returned to my mind recently when I began a "grand tour" of the THC's historic sites across the great state of Texas. Walking these sites with passionate and dedicated archeologists, interpreters, and preservationists, I was reminded once again of history's power to fire our imagination, and to inspire us to do good in the world. No one understands this better than the people who spend their days at these sites, working to transfer their knowledge and enthusiasm to visitors young and old.

We begin 2024 with gratitude to retiring THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe, who has guided the agency through over a decade of extraordinary growth. His hard work, under the oversight of our Chairman John L. Nau, III and his volunteer commissioners, has positioned the THC not just to preserve our history, but to impact meaningfully the lives of everyday Texans. More than anyone else, though, it's the efforts of the agency's more than 300 employees that make the real stories of real places come alive.

Read on to explore just a few of those stories in this issue of *The Medallion*.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Lengel, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

Editor's Note: To learn more about Edward, see page 12.

25 YEARS OF PRESERVATION

THC'S COURTHOUSE PROGRAM CELEBRATES QUARTER-CENTURY ANNIVERSARY

By Susan Tietz
Courthouse Preservation
Program Coordinator

Twenty-five years doesn't seem like a long time ago. But certain reminders offer perspective: Y2K panic was settling in. Gas was \$1.22 a gallon. And *Ask Jeeves* was a popular search engine.

On May 31, 1999, Texas Gov. George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP), making 2024 the 25th anniversary of one of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) most-recognized programs.

The THCPP's origins can be traced to New Year's Day 1993, when a tragic fire nearly destroyed the Hill County Courthouse in Hillsboro. The incident inspired concern for Texas' distinctive collection of county courthouses, which have since been listed twice on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Properties.

"There was a growing concern for these treasured historic landmarks, and that eventually spawned the largest preservation grant program in the country," says Elizabeth Brummett, director of the THC's Division of Architecture, which oversees the THCPP. "We're looking forward to spending this 25th anniversary year celebrating the courthouses we've helped preserve and making sure Texans continue to save these invaluable resources."

The THC's Real Places conference in April will help commemorate with images and stories of completed restoration projects throughout the conference. Plans are



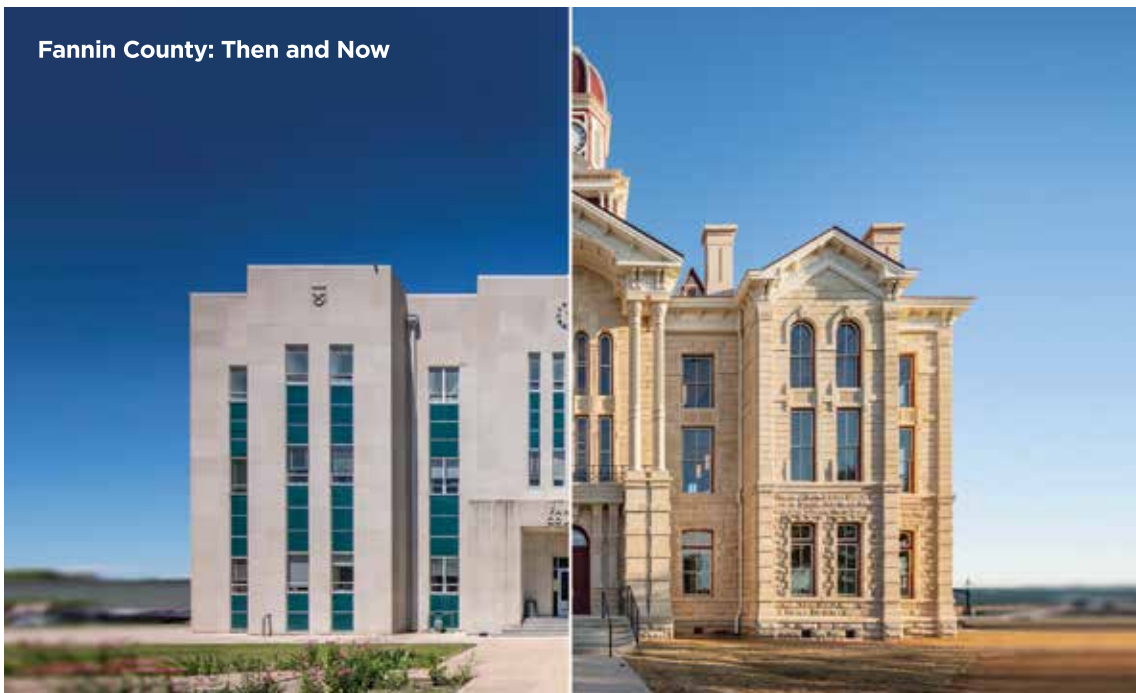
also in the works for an independently published book of photographs dedicated to the THCPP's restored courthouses from the past quarter century.

Since the first THCPP award in 2000, the nationally renowned, award-winning program has attracted over 140 participating counties and funded the full restoration of 77 historic courthouses. The THCPP has also supported the preservation of 25 others through emergency grants to address urgent needs and planning grants to prepare construction documents for

future restorations. Matching full restoration grants restore historic courthouses to their original grandeur while providing safer, more secure, energy-efficient, functional, and accessible buildings for their users, rendering them modern and efficient facilities to conduct county business.

Over the past quarter century, the State of Texas has appropriated more than \$400 million to the THCPP. Participating counties have added more than \$300 million in

Fannin County: Then and Now



matching funds, generating over 13,000 new jobs, \$790 million in revenue, and almost \$970 million in gross state product.

Courthouse restorations also spark historic downtown revitalization and increase heritage tourism across the state. These striking historic structures—ranging in style from Neoclassical to Art Deco to Midcentury Modern—offer travelers the opportunity to visit areas defined by family-owned businesses, vibrant social gatherings, and a sense of community.

“Historic courthouses are more than just a place where people take care of county business—they serve as the heart of every county,” Brummett says.

She adds that the THCPP, combined with other THC programs, has been the catalyst that encourages additional public and private investment in historic downtowns across the state. Often, buildings in the central commercial district that were vacant when a courthouse project begins are occupied by the project’s completion.

The THCPP has also consulted with two courthouse advisory committees to provide feedback about its preservation efforts. As a result, program changes have been made to ensure best practices and improve equity and efficiency in awarding and managing grants of funded projects.

In addition, the THC created the accompanying Texas Historic Courthouse Stewardship Program. In partnership with generous annual funding from the Texas Land Title Association, it offers



maintenance resources and training to help counties preserve their restored courthouses for another century or more by providing training to county officials and facility managers through several annual workshops.

“We’re excited to have the opportunity to celebrate 25 years of the courthouse program’s growth and many achievements,” Brummett says. “With the strong foundation and support we have now, we expect to be commemorating this program

many more years into the future.”

To learn more about the THCPP, visit thc.texas.gov/thcpp.

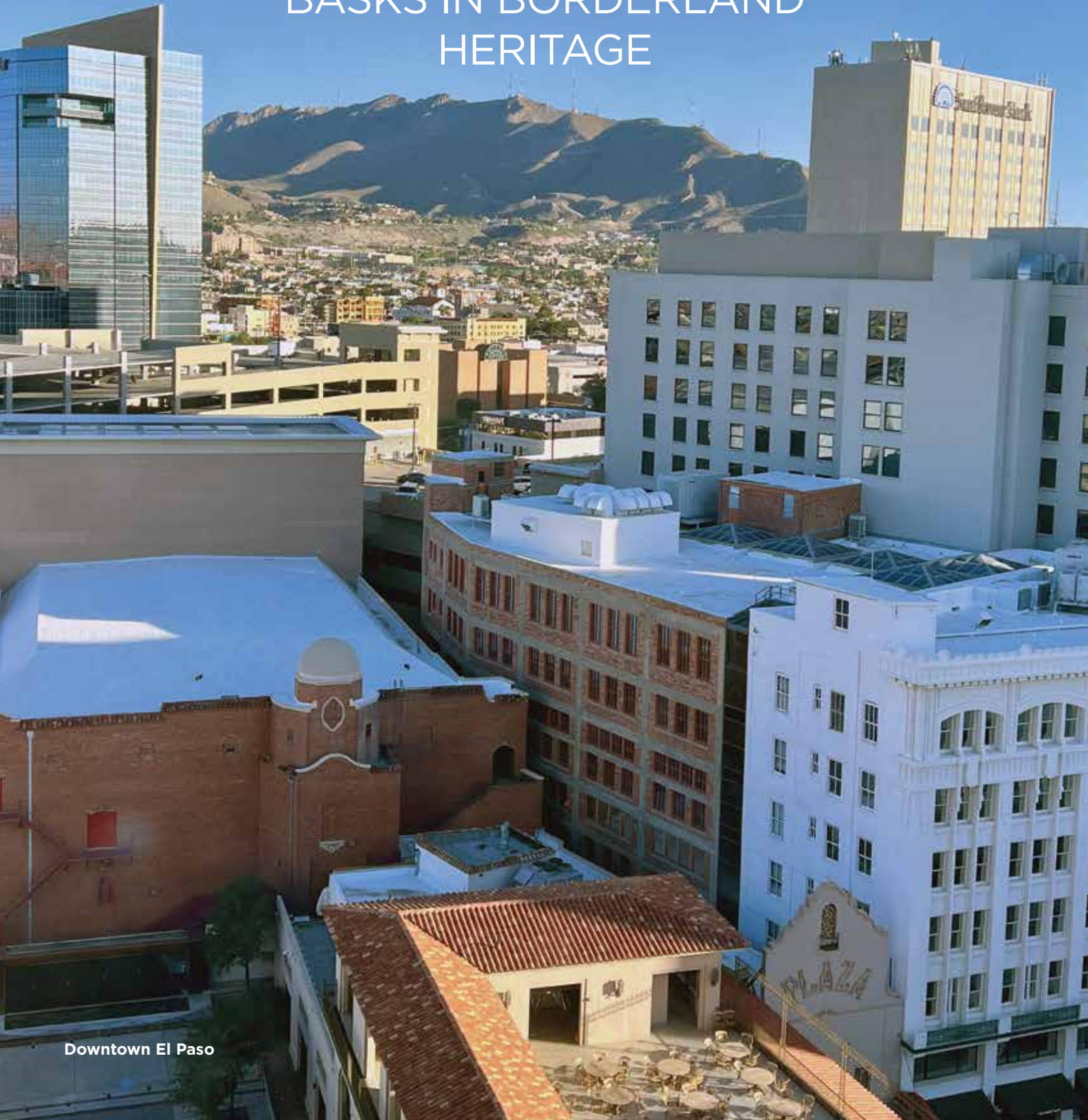


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The restored Falls County Courthouse in Marlin; Mason County Courthouse restoration, Mason; restored courtrooms in Navarro County Courthouse, Corsicana, and Hood County Courthouse, Granbury.

Story and Photos by Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

SUN CITY

WARM EL PASO BASKS IN BORDERLAND HERITAGE



Downtown El Paso

When El Paso is mentioned in the news these days, it isn't always a sunny report. However, despite accounts about border activity, the city is abundantly safe. It also deserves strong consideration for heritage travelers interested in Far West Texas history and architecture unlike anywhere in the state.

At a recent conference hosted by the Texas Travel Alliance, El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser greeted hundreds of attendees from across the state by reminding them that the city is welcoming to all.

Leeser should know—El Paso welcomed his family from Chihuahua, Mexico, when he was 9 years old. He went on to run a successful car dealership in El Paso, before running the city as mayor.

“I tell people that I'm living the American dream, and I dare anyone to wake me up,” he said. “We're a warm and friendly city, and that extends to the way we've handled asylum seekers. You'll notice that you don't see people in the street—we do not do street releases. We're proud of the way we've welcomed people into the community, and we make sure they get to their destinations.”

Regarding tourism, Leeser noted that “El Paso is the only city in the country with 400 days a year of sunshine. It's a great travel destination.”

TRAILING TROST

For travelers interested in regional architecture, El Paso is an ideal destination to experience the work of Henry Trost, an Ohio-born architect who honed his skills while working with influential Chicago School designers in the late 1800s and moved to El Paso in 1903.



According to the Henry C. Trost Historical Organization, he and his firm created some of the Southwest's most distinctive buildings, using the landscape and climate to inform and inspire the designs. Trost's architectural styles included Mission Revival, Pueblo Revival, Prairie Style, Chicago Art Deco, and even Bhutanese design.

Trost's work is peppered throughout the city, from lofty urban towers to modest residential neighborhoods. His experience in Chicago helped him refine the use of steel-reinforced concrete, which he introduced to El Paso and other Southwestern cities. The influence of Frank Lloyd Wright is also found in Trost's natural design of Mission and Pueblo-Revival style buildings, which complement the regional environmental style he called “Arid America.”

Trost's influence helped define the look of downtown El Paso and extended to smaller towns in the area, including several stunning hotels that remain

popular with heritage travelers. These resources are showcased in a new Trost Trail tour organized by the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Mountain Trail Region.

Locations include El Paso's Anson Mills Building, Hotel Paso del Norte, International Museum of Art/Turney Home, O.T. Bassett Tower (above), and Plaza Hotel at Pioneer Park. Other sites include the Gage Hotel in Marathon, the Holland Hotel and Horace Morlock Building at Sul Ross in Alpine, Hotel Paisano in Marfa, and Hotel El Capitan in Van Horn. A 16-page booklet is in the works and will soon be available at textstimetravel.com.

“They're all very different from each other—it's a fascinating collection of design styles and building types,” says Wendy Little, executive director of the Texas Mountain Trail Region. “It's pretty amazing to think that this one firm had such an impact on this part of the country. Trost really took design to another level, and that creativity

continues to draw people out here to experience these amazing places in person.”

Little adds that the project originated when a former board member suggested Trost’s distinctive early-20th century work in Far West Texas was a big enough draw for travelers to the region. Because his buildings are so numerous and widespread throughout the entire Mountain Trail Region, Little took these ideas and organized them into a tour that offers travelers a meaningful and interactive experience.

“We wanted people to be able to see the materials and design work up close and personal,” she said. “In the case of the hotels, you can directly experience them by staying in a room or just having a drink in the bar or lobby.”

The best way to do this in downtown El Paso is at one of the stunning Trost-designed hotels on the main plaza—the **Hotel Paso del Norte** or **The Plaza**.

The 1912 Beaux Arts-style Hotel Paso del Norte features massive European chandeliers, ornate mahogany carvings, Italian-style columns and sculptures,

and an enormous Tiffany stained-glass dome above the lobby bar. Recently rehabilitated to its original opulent state with luxurious accommodations, the National Register-listed hotel remains a centerpiece of downtown El Paso.

Just down the street, the Pueblo Revival-style Plaza Hotel Pioneer Park originally opened in 1930 as one of Conrad Hilton’s first high-rise properties. The handsome 19-story structure, crowned with a clay tile pyramidal roof, forever changed El Paso’s skyline as the tallest building (it’s now the fourth tallest).

EL PASO ESCAPES

After exploring downtown, head a few miles east to experience one of the city’s historic gems: the **Magoffin Home State Historic Site**. This stunning THC property, which dates to 1875, is considered a prime example of Territorial-style architecture, a distinctively Far West Texas approach combining adobe and Victorian details.

Named for prominent El Paso politician and businessman Joseph Magoffin, the Magoffin Home was constructed around a central patio with a striking,

white-plastered exterior. Inside, visitors find antique furniture and vintage artifacts representing the upscale yet down-home lifestyle of this prominent and popular El Pasoan who served four terms as the city’s mayor.

Tours of the Magoffin Home were recently upgraded by Site Manager Danielle Brissette, who added a new element: the artwork of Octavia Magoffin Glasgow, Joseph’s granddaughter.

“Octavia was the last Magoffin family member to live in the home—she was still here with a padlock on her door when people walked through on tours in the 1980s,” Brissette says. “She was an art teacher at nearby Bowie High School, and she was part of the city’s thriving art scene. She had an art studio in the house, and people can see some of her portraits, landscapes, and mixed media works here.”

Another essential heritage destination in El Paso is the **Mission Trail**, an eight-mile route southeast of the city featuring three fascinating historic adobe structures. The centuries-old and still active **Ysleta, Socorro, and San Elizario missions** were constructed in





Magoffin Home State Historic Site

the 1800s, but their original settlements date to the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Ysleta and Socorro missions have an especially rich history. Native Americans fled present-day New Mexico to the El Paso area after the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. The community of Ysleta includes the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, where the Native American Tigua tribe is based.

Visitors can enter the missions' sanctuaries and experience these sacred spaces while admiring distinctive regional design details, like intricately carved massive doors, three-foot-thick adobe archways, and ceilings comprised of *vigas*—peeled-log beams in symmetrical patterns that serve as structural support for the roof.

West of town, an unexpected cultural experience awaits at **The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)**. The campus transports students and visitors across the globe to Bhutan via its stunning architecture. Academic and residential buildings uniformly feature

overhanging red roofs, massive sloping walls, and earth-tone color palettes that reflect their Himalayan region of origin while complementing their current Southwestern environment. The tradition dates to 1917, when Kathleen Worrell, wife of the dean, was inspired by Bhutanese architecture featured in *National Geographic*.

Most striking of all is the centerpiece **Lhaxhang temple**, a beautiful multi-colored building with red accents and intricately painted Bhutanese details. The interior is even more stunning, with jaw-dropping wall-to-wall murals depicting historical events and religious traditions, helpfully explained by a student docent. The structure was initially built for the Smithsonian's Folklife Festival in 2008, and later reassembled on the UTEP campus to complement the surrounding Bhutanese architecture.

Visitors to the Lhaxhang can park at UTEP's nearby **Centennial Museum**, which features exhibits dedicated to Bhutan, regional native groups, and

the cultural history of the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico. The surrounding **Chihuahuan Desert Gardens** boasts 600-plus species, including colorful cacti and exotic foliage unique to the arid environs of Far West Texas.

Back downtown, the contemporary **El Paso Museum of History** is packed with touchscreen maps, historic artifacts, and engaging displays. The nearby **El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center**, one of only four of its kind in Texas, teaches the history of the Holocaust to combat prejudice through education and community outreach.

“El Paso is one of those places that people have an idea of what it’s like, but it’s so much more than they’d ever expect once they soak up the amazing culture and history,” Little says. “People really need to come out here and experience it for themselves!”

To learn more about heritage travel destinations in El Paso and the Texas Mountain Trail region, visit textastimetravel.com.



The Lhaxhang

CLASSIC CINEMA

TEXAS MOVIE THEATERS AND SIGNS ILLUMINATE THE PAST

By Dan Valenzuela
THC Division of Architecture Staff

People around the world have had an affinity for cinema since 1893, when the Edison Company's Kinetoscope displayed moving pictures for the first time. Patrons paid only a few cents to view scenes that were several minutes or less in length. Cut to 130 years later, the industry totaled more than \$9 billion in domestic box office sales.

During that stretch of time—in Texas and across the globe—the venues where patrons experience the movies have evolved along with the theater's outdoor signage. The following overview represents a mere sampling of these historic venues and signs across the state.

OPENING CREDITS

Many of Texas' currently operating historic theaters date to the late 1800s, when they opened as opera houses in Bastrop, Granbury, and Victoria, to name just a few. By the early 1900s, several of the state's first movie theaters mirrored venues across the country—simple storefront parlors called nickelodeons featuring short, silent films costing only a nickel per view (the name is derived from the price plus the Greek word for theater, odeon). These storefronts were simply adorned with bright lights directing the public's attention to the ornate facades.

After a few short years, nickelodeons gave way to larger, purpose-built establishments to accommodate larger crowds. By the 1920s, feature-length movies were commonplace across the state at places like the Odeon in Mason, the National in Graham, and nationally in theaters owned by the films' production studios, including Paramount.

In the case of Texarkana's Saenger Theatre, architect Emile Weil designed the facilities as a "combination house" that opened its doors in 1924. The Italian Renaissance-inspired interior boasted full-stage functionality that included backdrops, an organ from the Robert Mortan Organ Company, and projection capabilities.

Like early movie theaters, the Saenger's signage was modest, and film promotion was handled with simple poster boards decorating the entry vestibules. This allowed flexibility to promote a stage production throughout the week, then easily entice movie-goers to attend on the weekends.

The Saenger continued to show movies until 1977, when it

was closed for a multimillion-dollar restoration. In 1980, it was rededicated as the Perot Theatre and continues as a performing arts center.

BLADE RUNNER

Throughout the first half of the 1900s, events at Texas theaters were considered grand social affairs. From small rural communities to greater urban areas like Austin or Beaumont, the bright lights of theater signs attracted patrons to attend these marquee events.

The construction of a new theater on Congress Avenue in Austin was an attempt to attract the premier vaudeville talent and performers from across the country. The 1,316-seat venue opened as the Majestic Theatre on October 11, 1915, and soon began projecting silent films.



By the 1930s, the theater underwent an extensive remodel and rebranding of the establishment that included cushioned seats, air conditioning, and a state-of-the-art movie projection system. In August 1930, the theater reopened with a name reflecting the new owner, Paramount-Publix Studio—or simply, The Paramount.

The remodel of the theater also included a 75-foot-tall blade sign attached to the façade of the building. The Paramount Theatre sign exemplified grand style and high technology for the time—bright colors and running lights, along with the flashing bulbs of the marquee sign.

The 1960s saw a significant decline in movie attendance, and the Paramount fell into disrepair. It was then that the iconic blade sign was removed from the building in the hopes of being restored, only to be lost and never returned.

Efforts began in the 1970s to restore the theater to its former glory; by May 1977, the Texas Historical Commission dedicated a historical marker. A listing in the National Register of Historic Places qualified the Paramount for federal funding to begin the restoration process.

It wasn't until preparations for the Paramount's centennial celebration in 2015 that efforts to recreate the blade sign began. Reproduction of the sign included careful count of each lightbulb and color-matched paint schemes from historic photos and postcards of Congress Avenue.

MIDCENTURY MODERN AND BEYOND

In post-World War II Texas, the suburbs sprawled, and neon signs buzzed on the marquees of new movie theaters. Residents were drawn in by the sleek, colorful, sophisticated structures.

Suburban neighborhoods like Oak Cliff in Dallas, Upper Kirby in Houston, and Rosedale in Austin were expanding and thriving. The Plaza Theatre in Garland represented Dallas' suburban shift, with an Atomic Age neon spire serving as a beacon to newly prosperous residents seeking a night of entertainment in a contemporary environment.

The mid-century era also saw a shift in how people attended the movies. The 1960s and '70s brought the suburban growth of shopping malls and, with them, the development of multiplex movie theaters.



Regardless, the classic cinema venues of Texas' past remain enticing destinations for newer generations of patrons who value experiencing movies in historic downtown theaters. These buildings are often significant structures in Main Street districts and historic commercial areas. With proper preservation and designation, these venues are returning to positions of prominence for many Texans seeking a memorable night on the town.

Read more about active historic theaters at the THC's Texas Time Travel website: texasimetravel.com/blog/historic-theatres.

OPPOSITE: Paramount Theatre exterior, 1936; University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History; crediting Austin History Center. The National Theatre in Graham was built in 1941. ABOVE: The Plaza Theatre in downtown Garland received an Atomic Age upgrade in 1951.

MEET ED LENGEL

THC HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

Edward Lengel, a noted military and presidential historian, author, and museum executive, joined the Texas Historical Commission (THC) as its sixth executive director in January.

“I’m excited to join the THC and engage with the millions of Texans who love this state’s unique history and recognize how it has contributed to the Lone Star State’s rise as a dynamo of economic and cultural success,” said Lengel. “I look forward to building on the many accomplishments of my predecessor and leading this amazing team of preservationists, historians, archeologists, and other professionals as we fulfill the THC’s mission to Texas.”



for museum experience and from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, where he was senior director of programs. Additionally, he was a full professor at the University of Virginia and served as chief historian for the White House Historical Association.

Lengel is a co-recipient of the National Humanities Medal for his work on the George Washington Papers project and the author of *General George Washington: A Military Life*, *Never in Finer Company: The Men of the Great War’s Lost Battalion*, and other works. He received the Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Book Award, the Norman B. Tomlinson, Jr. prize, and other awards.

Lengel comes to the THC from the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas, where he served as vice president

Ed Lengel was recently named the THC’s executive director.

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MARKING HISTORY

THC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIRES AFTER 15 EVENTFUL YEARS

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

After more than 15 years at the helm of preserving Texas history, Mark Wolfe has hung up his hat. In December 2023, Wolfe retired as executive director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), a position he'd held since 2008.

In his time leading the THC, Wolfe oversaw sweeping changes at the agency, including a doubling in size of staff, major expansion of the Historic Sites Division from 20 to 38 properties, and administering high-profile programs dedicated to Texas' county courthouses and heritage tourism.

"Mark Wolfe's strong leadership of the Texas Historical Commission is apparent in the evolution of the agency," said THC Chairman John L. Nau, III. "Today, the THC is one of the most robust and impactful historic preservation organizations in the country. We greatly appreciate the significant role Mark played to ensure that future generations can experience the historic places and stories of the Lone Star State."

Wolfe's achievements were also acknowledged by the agency's leadership team, who worked closely with him every day. The THC's Deputy Executive Director of Administration Dr. Carol Egele praised Wolfe's qualities as "an extraordinary leader who empowered and inspired staff."

Wolfe arrived at the agency in the summer of 2008 after serving as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for History in Colorado, where he directed one of the nation's largest historic preservation grants programs and developed a strategic plan for heritage tourism.

During Wolfe's tenure, the agency expanded its reach and influence further than it had in 60-plus years. The agency's historic sites, in particular, grew to include an additional 18 properties, including high-profile locations like the San Jacinto Monument, Washington-on-the-Brazos, Presidio La Bahia, and Port Isabel Lighthouse.

Deputy Executive Director of Historic Sites Joseph Bell fondly recalls taking road trips with Wolfe to research and visit new sites across the state, from Goodnight Ranch in the Panhandle to the southern tip of Texas and more than a dozen in between.

Bell said, "As he moves out into his next adventure, historic sites' staff and I are thankful for his leadership, patience, understanding, and great humor."

Another high-profile endeavor Wolfe oversaw during his tenure was the expansion of the agency's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. In his 15 years as executive director, the program added 31 courthouses to its roster.

During his speeches at the rededication events, Wolfe praised communities for their commitment to preserving the iconic local buildings for generations of local residents and heritage travelers to appreciate for generations to come.

"A community that has dedicated itself to completing their courthouse restoration shows a level of commitment and care that not all counties can claim," Wolfe said at a 2021 ceremony for Jefferson's Marion County Courthouse. "It's a physical manifestation of how strongly you care about your community and its citizens."

Yet another THC initiative that experienced tremendous growth during Wolfe's tenure was the agency's Real Places conference, which began in its current form in 2018 with 350 attendees and by 2023 was a hybrid with more than 800 participants.

"Mark gave us the freedom and support to experiment and innovate," said Brad Patterson, former director of the Community Heritage Development Division, which helps oversee the conference.

ABOVE, FROM LEFT: The 2009 THC Governor's Award honoring Frank and Mary Yturria; Mark, wife Alyson, and THC Deputy Executive Director of Historic Sites Joseph Bell.

VISIT NEW WEBSITE, ATLAS

UPGRADES PROVIDE MORE ACCESSIBLE, ROBUST HISTORICAL RESOURCES

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

Experience the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in a whole new way via the agency's updated website at Atlas database. Launched in January, this is the most significant update of the online resources in more than a decade.

For the website, all agency information, services, and content are now organized across four tabs—preserve, travel, learn, and review—allowing users to easily find the resources they need. For example, application information for historical markers, courthouse restorations, and cemetery designations are under the preserve tab, while state historic sites visitor information and historic road trips blogs are under the travel tab.

On the Atlas, a treasure trove of Texas history awaits via the newly redesigned and revamped Geographic Information System resource.

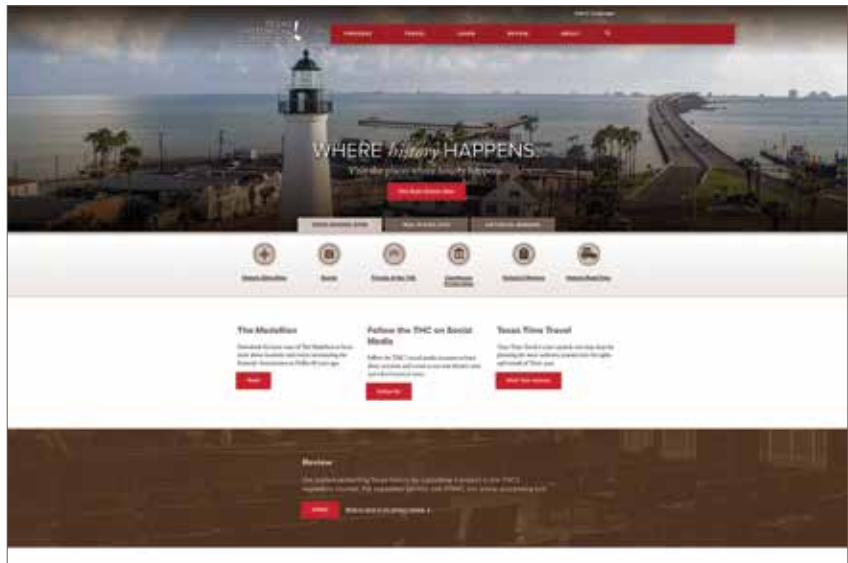
The Atlas features over 300,000 site records, including data on Official Texas Historical Markers and National Register of Historic Places properties in Texas. Also included are courthouses, museums, and cemeteries across the state. Visitors can search by historic designation, keyword, county, historical marker, or site name to get instant access to detailed textual descriptions, historic photographs, and interactive maps.

The public will also benefit from updates impacting the agency's internal users, who will enjoy more advanced and easier-to-use tools for content creation. This allows the information visitors encounter to be more robust and dynamic.

The relaunch of the site also creates a foundation to build on, depending on wherever the web and digital users go next.

Experience all these updates and more at thc.texas.gov.

FROM TOP: The THC's updated website premiered in January; homepage of previous website update, 2012; current homepage redesigned.



NEWS BRIEFS



TIME TRAVEL AT THC SUMMER CAMPS!

Embark on a historic journey through time this summer with the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Youth Summer Camps. Held at most of the agency's state historic sites, the camps immerse young historians in a distinctive blend of education and adventure.

The curated camps offer hands-on experience, allowing campers to step back in time and discover the rich heritage of Texas. Each historic site becomes a classroom, fostering a deep appreciation for Texas' unique history.

To register for camps, please call or email the site directly. The 24 participating sites and their contact information are listed at thc.texas.gov.

To register for camps, please call or email the site directly. Contact information is available at thc.texas.gov.

IS YOUR FAVORITE BUSINESS A TEXAS TREASURE?

Since 2005, more than 500 Texas businesses have been honored for their historic significance via the THC's Texas Treasure Business Award (TTBA) program. From well-known establishments like H.E.B. and Bill Miller BBQ to small town bakeries, florists, and general stores, these iconic businesses have stood the test of time.

The THC accepts TTBA nominations quarterly.

To learn more about criteria and the nomination process, visit thc.texas.gov.

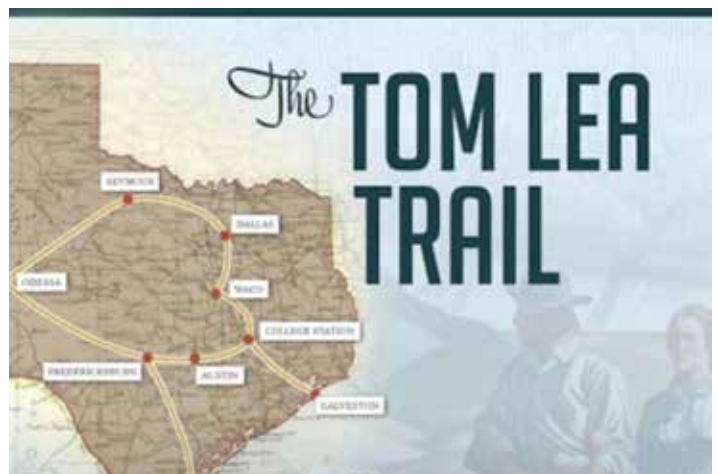
RIGHT: Lubbock Electric recently received a TTBA.

EXPERIENCE TOM LEA'S TEXAS WITH NEW THC MOBILE TOUR

The THC recently partnered with the Tom Lea Institute to present the Tom Lea Trail Mobile Tour, a new multimedia experience for art-loving heritage travelers.

Extending across the entire state—from Lea's hometown of El Paso to Alpine, Waco, College Station, Galveston, and six more communities—the tour of Lea's life and work takes travelers on epic drives to see his art among the pastoral landscapes for which Lea's dramatic canvases are well known. The Tom Lea Trail was established by the Tom Lea Institute, and recognized by the Texas Legislature in 2017.

To learn more about the Institute, visit tomlea.com. To experience the Tom Lea Trail Mobile Tour, visit texasimetravel.com.



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 be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Note: Due to recent administrative changes, mailed prizes have been discontinued. Please email your answer to medallion@thc.texas.gov or send to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711.



NEED A CLUE?

This Central Texas bridge, dating to 1918, is among the last of its kind in the entire country and is considered the only remaining one of this style in Texas.

ANSWER TO PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE:

The site pictured at left is the lobby of the Longview Post Office in Longview, featuring a mural titled "Rural East Texas" by Cuero native Thomas M. Stell, Jr. in 1942. Congratulations go to the first readers who correctly identified the site: John Baker of Lockhart, Francine Carraro of Burnet, and Sherry Seabourn of Pampa. Also, belated congratulations to previous winners Harold Gentry of Cleburne, Gwenda Neel of Menard, and Christopher Stephens of Burleson. Thanks to all who participated!

