

1. Please enter the name of your county.

Newton

2. Enter your CHC chair name in the first box; a second box is given to list the name of a co-chair. Use the third box to enter in the address of your CHC office if you have a designated space or building; please do not enter the Chair's or another's personal address. Use the fourth box to enter in a telephone number if your CHC office has a designated telephone line for CHC calls and questions.

Name of CHC Chair - Pam Wright

Address of CHC office - 213 Court Street, Newton TX 75966

Telephone number of CHC office - 409-379-2109

3. Enter the name of the person entering in report information.

Pam Wright

4. Please provide the name and email address for the individual who can be contacted to answer questions about this report. If the individual does not use email, please provide a valid telephone number.

Pam Wright pam@history-newtoncotx.com

5. How many individuals are currently appointed to your CHC? Please enter numbers for your answer; do not use symbols or text.

of CHC appointees - 50

6. How many volunteer hours were contributed to CHC meeting, projects, and programs in 2011? Please enter numbers for your answer; do not use symbols or text. If you do not keep track of hours, enter an approximate number of hours. Enter the number "0" if your CHC is inactive.

Volunteer hours - 5908

7. Provide any comments/clarifications about the volunteer hours you entered above. Please skip this question if you have no comments/clarifications.

Please note that NCHC had an increase of 904 more volunteer hours in 2011 than in 2010.

8. Indicate the number of full commission meetings you held in 2011. Please use numbers; do not use symbols or text. If your CHC was inactive in 2011 and did not provide services to the county, please enter the number "0".

CHC meetings in 2011 - 6

9. How often did you have a quorum present for your full commission meetings? Please check the percentage that best reflects your answer. You must have a majority of appointees present to constitute a quorum.

100% of full commission meetings had a quorum

10. What percentage of your CHC members have completed Open Meetings/Records training? Please check the box that best reflects your answer.

1-25% of our CHC appointees have taken Open Meetings training

11. Who is the repository for CHC money? Check all that apply.

County treasury

12. Enter the amount of money provided to your CHC next to the source. Please use numbers for the DOLLAR amount; no text, no cents, no symbols. Each box requires an amount, so enter the number "0" if you do not have monies associated with the line item.

Balance carried over from 2010: - 0

Annual county allocation for 2011 (not including money for museums): - 9250

County money allotted for museums in 2011: - 0

Any other money issued by county during 2011 (one-time amount for a special project, etc.): - 0

CHC fundraising proceeds (events, book sales, etc.): - 6021

Grant money provided to CHC in 2011: - 0

Partner/nonprofit money donations made in 2011: - 2146

"Membership" dues (though not recommended, some CHCs do request dues): - 0

Any other money amounts not already included above; do not include CHC appointee out-of-pocket expenses, which will be requested later in the report: - 369

13. Provide any comments/clarifications about the above amounts. Please skip this question if you have no comments/clarifications.

NCHC received grant of \$1000 from the Nelda C. and H. J. Lutcher Stark Foundation to purchase new shelving for our resource center.

14. What IN-KIND DONATIONS has your CHC received in 2011 from your COUNTY? In-kind donations are goods and/or services provided to your organization at no charge. Check all that apply.

Meeting space for CHC

Space for a CHC-operated museum

Space for a CHC sponsored exhibit (history, projects, photographs, etc.)

Space for archive or records storage

Utilities associated with any spaces mentioned above

Assistance from county staff--posting meetings, financial reports, legal consultations, etc.

Internet access

Grounds maintenance, janitorial service, alarm system, exterminating service, building maintenance

15. What IN-KIND DONATIONS has your CHC received in 2011 from individuals and/or organizations OTHER than your county? Check all that apply. Keep in mind that some of your CHC appointees may be providing these types of donations.

Space for archive or records storage

16. Considering the boxes that you checked on the previous page, please check the dollar range that best represents the amount of in-kind services and donations provided to your CHC. Don't stress finding an exact answer; just estimate!

\$1,000 - \$2,500

17. Check the dollar range that best represents the amount of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by your CHC appointees. If you do not already track appointee out-of-pocket expenses, please start tracking these expenses, encouraging the county to reimburse appropriate expenditures, and thanking individuals for their donations.

\$0

18. A work plan is a document defining project tasks, participants, time estimates, and a schedule. How often is your work plan updated? Please check the option below that best reflects your answer.

Updated annually

19. Who participates in your CHC planning process? Check all that apply.

CHC chair

CHC officers

CHC appointees

20. Please select the answer below that best reflects your county's involvement with survey work.

County does not have a historic resources survey

21. If you have a historic and cultural resources survey, please indicate the survey formats that apply to your survey.

No Response

22. Please check the box if your CHC keeps track of the following information.

No Response

23. Enter the names and locations of the endangered resources in your county—properties under threat of demolition, that are structurally unstable, that are in areas of encroachment, etc. Please skip this question if your CHC does not keep this information.

No Response

24. Enter the names and locations of the cultural and historic resources demolished in your county in 2011. Please skip this question if your CHC does not keep this information.

No Response

25. Please check all actions below that apply to the work in which your CHC was actively involved during 2011.

Reviewed marker applications

Maintain an inventory of subject markers in your county

Periodically assess the condition of subject markers in your county

Cleaned or repaired markers

Provided an inventory of subject markers for public use (brochure, website posting, etc.)

Maintain an inventory of properties that are designated by Texas or the Secretary of the Interior as historic (i.e., National Register, Historic Texas Cemetery, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, or State Archeological Landmark)

Periodically assess the condition of properties designated by Texas or the Secretary of the Interior as historic

Provided an inventory of properties that are designated as historic for public use (brochure, website posting, etc.)

Maintain an inventory of cemeteries in your county

Maintain an inventory of cemetery organizations in your county

Periodically assess the condition of cemeteries in your county

Cleaned or repaired objects in cemeteries

Provided an inventory of cemeteries for public use (brochure, website posting, etc.)

26. Check the work with which your CHC has been involved during 2008-2011.

Identified and/or researched areas of development within your county that could impact cultural and historic resources

Identified and/or researched historic highways, roads, and trails in your county

Identified and/or researched historic farms and ranches in your county

Identified and/or researched historic bridges and/or bridge types in your county

Identified and/or researched waterways, dams, irrigation districts, etc. in your county

NCHC is trying to develop a partnership with the landowners of the Wild Azalea Canyons which is located in Newton County. We hope to form a "road map" with the owners for its restoration, maintenance, and preservation.

27. Check the work with which your CHC has been involved during 2010-2011.

Researched or pursued repair for a historic school complex/campus

28. In the text box below provide a list of the different landscapes that were involved in your 2011 body of work. A sample response to this request would be if Kaufman CHC noted that they pursued funding to maintain and promote interpretation of the Kaufman County Poor Farm. Details of this project could be provided in the Project Description section at the end of the report.

The NCHC Cemetery Committee documented 122 cemeteries. Two cemeteries were designated as historical cemeteries making a total of 24 Designated Historical Cemeteries in Newton County. They visited 28 cemeteries to note any needed repairs. The committee procured signs for Old Noses, Biloxi Evergreen & Call Community cemeteries because they did not have any signage indicating their names. Maintenance was done on the inside and outside of the Powell Hotel Museum.

29. Please check all comments, actions, and programs that apply to the work in which your CHC was actively involved during 2011. There is also the opportunity to indicate that you are unsure about certain actions or programs listed in this question.

CHC participated as a consulting party in a federal Section 106 undertaking review

Newton County's historical county courthouse is in the THC Courthouse Restoration Program.

30. Explain the extent of your role in reviewing and/or making recommendations for historic tax exemptions or incentives. Please skip this question if your CHC does not have a role in this work.

No Response**31. Indicate the work in which your CHC was actively involved in 2011. Check all that apply to your 2011 body of work.**

Promoted historic and cultural sites to develop and sustain heritage tourism initiatives

Secured private grant money to fund or partially fund a CHC project

32. List the public entities or private organizations that have provided grants or funding opportunities for your preservation projects. You may also use this text box to provide more information about the items you checked above. Please skip this question if it does not apply to your CHC.

NCHC received a grant of \$1000.00 from the Nelda C. and H. J. Lutcher Stark Foundation for a new shelving system for our History Center's resource/genealogy section.

33. Please check all actions below that apply to the work in which your CHC was actively involved during 2011.

Provided educational events/presentations/information on historic preservation and local history to audiences outside your CHC

Initiated projects to diversify interpretation of historic and cultural resources

Participated in a regional preservation or tourism event (Texas Archeology Month event, Preservation Month event, history conference, cultural heritage festival, etc.)

Coordinated a regional preservation or tourism event

CHC supports activities sponsored by one or more of the Texas Heritage Trails regions

CHC appointees volunteer at a historic site that is open to the public at large

CHC manages a historic site that is open to the public at large

CHC provided tours of historic buildings and/or sites within the county

34. List the events in which your CHC was involved that are associated with the boxes checked above. Details for selected activities can be provided in the Project Description section at the end of this report.

Several NCHC members attended and/or participated in the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Cemetery Marker Dedication ceremony at the historic McMahon Cemetery. NCHC supports the local archeological society by promoting and attending its meetings. NCHC Cemetery Com. Chair gave a presentation "A Survey of Newton County Cemeteries" to the local archeological society. NCHC hosted a reception for the public to meet James Harkins, Texas General Land Office/Outreach Manager/Archives & Records. NCHC works closely with the Newton Independent School District and local private schools in educating Newton's youth about Newton County and Texas History. We had a booth at the Middle School's Career Day. The NISD 4th grade student as well as a private school's students scheduled museum tours. NISD's Elementary School used a visit to the History Center as a reward to students that won the Anti-Bullying Contest. At the request of NCHC, the County Judge proclaimed May 2011 as National Preservation Month in Newton County which included an article in the local newspaper and photo op. Also, during the month of May, our Cemetery Committee Chair wrote 4 articles for the local paper on the cemetery preservation. The museum set up its first Civil War Commemoration Display as well as writes a weekly article in the local newspaper about the effects that the Civil War had on Newton County and its people. NCHC supports all Veteran activities by promoting their events as well as attend them. One NCHC member worked closely with our Historic Marker Com. Chair, the Historical Bridge Foundation, Starks Historical Society and the Historical Museum of Bridge City in getting the Deweyville Swing Bridge designated as an Official Historic National Register of Historic Places. The W. H. Ford Male and Female College/Powell Hotel Museum was able to be open to the public two days a week plus open for major city or county events because of volunteer commitment. The Powell Hotel Museum is open a third day during the winter months for its fundraising project of serving homemade soup, cornbread, dessert and tea. The Cemetery Committee had 2 more cemeteries designated as Historical Cemeteries plus purchased and installed cemetery signs for three unidentified cemeteries. The NCHC Chair gave a presentation as well as a tour to the children in Public Library Summer Reading Program and will now participate in this program annually. NCHC invited the new owner of a local historic home to be a guest speaker at a membership meeting as well as offered to be of any assistance to him to the preservation of that home. NCHC hosted a book signing of "From a Watery Grave, The Excavation of the Shipwreck La Belle" by co-authors Jim Bruseth & Toni Turner. NCHC also had an Open House and information booth for the Newton Exes Annual Homecoming Parade & Bazaar.

35. Partnering is more than just attending meetings of other organizations. Effective partnerships build a stronger and more diverse preservation community. Indicate individuals and organizations with which you partner. Check all that apply to your 2011 body of work.

County officials

City officials

Local law enforcement

Nonprofit organizations (heritage society, visitor bureau, etc.)

Educational institutions (school districts, community colleges, universities)

Cemetery associations

Texas Heritage Trails Program

Tourism organizations

Archeological societies/associations

Public Library, County Extension Service, private day care schools, local Veteran Association.

36. List the organizations with which your CHC has an effective partnership. A sample response for this request would be if Tom Green CHC noted that they regularly sponsored events with Fort Concho. Details of this partnership and particular events could be provided in the Project Description section at the end of the report.

Newton Co. Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center; as a representative of a local non-profit organization - the NCHC Chair is a member of the Middle School Site Base Committee; several NCHC members are active in the Deep East Texas Archeological Society; NCHC is a member of SETMA and Heritage Trails.

37. Check the boxes that reflect your CHC's role with museums.

CHC appointees volunteer with museum/s

CHC operates a museum

CHC operates more than one museum

CHC operates a museum that adheres to professional standards in the care, collection, management, and interpretation of artifacts

CHC appointees sit on board of a county museum

CHC is considered as the board of the county museum

38. Provide the name and location for each of the museums your CHC operates. Please skip this question if your CHC does not operate museums.

The Newton County History Center & Genealogy Library (213 Court Street) and the W. H. Ford Male & Female College/Powell Hotel (Courthouse Square)

39. When considering a CHC's overall workload, please choose one answer that best indicates the percentage of time your CHC spends on museum-related work.

51-75% of CHC time spent on museum related work

40. How did your CHC report 2011 activities to your county officials? Please check all that apply.

Presented summary of 2010 accomplishments to county commissioners court in 2011

Presented summary of 2011 accomplishments to county commissioners court in late 2011/early 2012

Meetings with the county judge

Meetings with county commissioners

Submitted a CHC budget

Provided suggested CHC appointments

A monthly financial report is presented to the Commissioners Court.

41. If your CHC budget or services are reduced or cut, how will your CHC most likely respond? Please check all that apply.

Look for funding other than what is provided by the county

Have a discussion with county officials about our needs

Prepare documentation to show county officials the services, volunteer hours, and in-kind donations secured by your CHC

42. Please check the types of elected officials that you regularly invite to CHC events and activities.

County judge

County commissioners

43. What elected officials attended one or more of your CHC events in 2011? Please list the names and the events.

Precinct 2 County Commissioner Thomas Gill attended the McMahon Cemetery DRT Marker Dedication as well as the Farr Family Cemetery designation as a HTC.

44. Please check the activities and communications undertaken by your CHC in 2011 in support of Texas history and preservation.

Submitted articles and/or letters to media outlets

NCHC submitted monthly Newton history articles to the Steven F. Austin University's Regional Heritage Project website.

45. For 2011, in what areas did you make a concerted effort to improve CHC efforts relative to previous years? Check all that apply.

Membership

Preservation education for appointees

Partnerships

Community outreach

Relationship with county commissioners court

Initiated a new CHC project

46. Briefly tell us why the above improvement effort/s were made, what actions were taken, and the results of those actions.

Our HC is continually finding ways to educate our community and get residents interested in the histories of Newton County and the State of Texas. NCHC willingly uses new avenues to make researching easier, information more accessible, the museum more interesting, and making the community aware of the great resource available to them locally. Membership: The museum receptionists encourage all local visitors to volunteer. Several articles are written for the local newspaper telling about the many HC projects and how volunteers can use their skills to help us achieve those project goals. All regional preservation workshops are reported and NCHC members encouraged to attend at our bi-monthly meetings. If at all possible at least one NCHC volunteer attends area SETMA, Heritage Trails Program, SFA Historical Preservation, and other regional Historical Society meetings and workshops. Partnerships: NCHC partners with the NISD to develop projects and programs for students. NISD classes are sent a certificate of appreciation for visiting the museum. NCHC partners with the Public Library in giving presentations during the summer break. NCHC also partners with the Newton Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Information Center in promoting local businesses and events to history center visitors and in turn NCHC's history center and museums are listed on the Chamber's website and rack cards. Community Outreach: To encourage children visitors, certificates of appreciation are personalized and given when they visit the museum. Age-appropriate genealogy charts and coloring pages with pictures pertaining to artifacts on display are freely handed out. Articles regarding Newton's history are written weekly for the local newspaper. Any visitor investigating family history is asked to donate their findings as well as copies of important papers, documents and photographs to our Family File Folder Section. NCHC now has a website so potential visitors can find us by way of the internet. Relationship with County Commissioners Court: NCHC has an excellent rapport with our County Commissioners Court. The Commissioners occasionally use our facilities for their meetings. We are now on "first name basis" with all of them. The County Judge agreed to write a chapter for NCHC's project of publishing a pictorial history of our historic County Courthouse. Initiated a new project: The Cemetery Committee investigated and entered updated information for all cemeteries. Pictures were taken of all headstones in the county. Now all this information is available to researchers. Also, because of this endeavor, NCHC published a resource book of all buried Veterans including their pertinent military information. All of the above efforts have increased the number of History Center visitors as well as more requests for information regarding genealogy and Newton history by phone and email.

47. Please check all actions below that apply to the work in which your CHC was actively involved during 2011.

Initiated projects to diversify CHC membership

Provided educational presentations for your CHC appointees

Used the CHC Handbook to educate appointees

Met regionally with other CHCs to share experiences and efforts

48. If you met regionally with other CHCs in 2011, please indicate the counties that participated, topics or themes discussed, and how many times you have met as a group over the years to discuss CHC matters.

A NCHC representative attended the Southeast Texas Heritage Tourism meetings in Nacogdoches and Orange as well as a meeting at the Texas Forestry Museum in Lufkin regarding heritage/Environmental Tourism. Regional East Texas counties including from as far away as Brazoria and Louisiana attended these meetings. The topics ranged from how to set up a historical area to securing federal funding to partnering with selected communities to tell how they are connected by history and legends. One NCHC board member and one volunteer attended a genealogy workshop by author Emily Croom in Leesville, LA.

49. Please list the workshops that your CHC hosted in 2011, including information on the educational topic.

NCHC had a workshop for all of its volunteers on how to enter data in our Past Perfect Program. The curator at the Gulf Coast Museum was gracious enough to lead this workshop.

50. Enter the number of CHC appointees that attended the educational opportunity listed or attended a training offered by the organization listed. Please use numbers only; do not use text or symbols.

THC Annual Historic Preservation Conference - 1

Texas Heritage Trails Program - 1

Local/regional historical association educational opportunity - 5

51. Please list educational opportunities your CHC appointees attended OTHER than those already accounted for above.

At least five or more appointees attended the following Deep East Texas Archeological Society educational opportunities: Leslie Cecil's (SFA Professor) presentation on the Excavation at the Site of Port Pattonia; Roger Evans presentation "My Genealogical Journey"; NCHC Cemetery Committee Chair's "A Survey of Newton County Cemeteries"; James Harkins presentation "Genealogical Resources in the General Land Office"; and Jim Bruseth's presentation on the LaBelle shipwreck; "The Burkeville Cemetery Association" presentation by three of its members, "Indians of Texas" presented by Sheldon Kindall (Speaker's Bureau of Texas Archeological Society); and the presentation "Immigrants Who Made a Difference in East Texas" by Joanne Stiles from the Lutchter Stark Foundation.

52. Please let us know your thoughts about attending the Preservation Texas Summit in March of 2012. Check the one answer that best fits your thoughts on attending.

My CHC will not be able to attend the Summit

53. Please weigh the importance of the following THC services with the THC Conference and choose a ranking for each service listed.

	Much more important than conference	More important than conference	Equally important as conference	Less important than conference	Much less important than conference	I do not attend the THC Conference
Locally hosted THC workshops (markers, cemeteries, oral histories, etc.)			X			
THC website resources (handbooks, publications, general information, links, etc.)			X			
Access to listserves and preservation contacts databases				X		
Technical consultation with THC staff through telephone and email			X			
Appointments with THC staff in their Austin offices					X	
Publication of preservation success stories in Medallion and on Statewide Plan website			X			

Comments:

54. Information for your 1st project description should be entered in the box below. Please provide a description that includes the information requested in the bullet points above.

Project 1 was and continues to be NCHC publishing a book about Newton County's historical courthouse by means of text and photographs. To accomplish this, the Courthouse Book Committee is made up of one person from each of the following NCHC's committees: In-House Publishing, Finance, Properties, Transcribe, Historical Marker and the NCHC Chair. Non-NCHC members are the County Judge, a photographer, an editor and a retired Newton Co. District Attorney. All members of the Courthouse Book Com. were either born and raised in Newton County or are married to a Newtonite and have lived in the county many years. The courthouse's story begins with its conception in 1845 to its completion in 1903; to being nearly razed by fire in the year 2000 and its restoration that continues today. The last chapter will tell of its Re-Dedication Celebration. As stated in THC's Preservation Plan for Newton County Courthouse of 1902: "The county courthouse, the earliest permanent building to appear on the public square, represented organization, prosperity and, perhaps most important to newly independent Texans, self government. "Historic county courthouses do not just symbolize county pride and prosperity, they ensure it..." which continues to be the case with Newton County's courthouse. NCHC truly believes this pictorial history book will have a lasting impact on the community's awareness and admiration of their historic county courthouse.

55. Information for your 2nd project description should be entered in the box below. Please provide a description that includes the information requested in the bullet points above.

Project 2 is the Deweyville Swing Bridge Designation as a National Register Historic Site. There are only three swing bridges remaining in all of Texas and one of them is located in Newton County. NCHC board member Ed Gallagher took on the challenge of getting the Deweyville Swing Bridge designated as a national historic site. It took Mr. Gallagher seven years and assistance from NCHC's Historic Marker Committee Chair, Precinct 4 County Commissioner, County Judge, Historical Bridge Foundation, and Starks Historical Society. The dedication ceremony held in early 2012 included all those mentioned previously plus the Deweyville High School Band, two local pastors, DAR members, and Newton County Chamber of Commerce representatives. NCHC's Public Relations Committee wrote before and after event articles for the newspaper. NCHC's In-House Publishing Committee published and printed the invitations, posters and programs. The local TXDOT installed the marker and cleaned the site before the dedication. The celebration was attended by all of Newton County's county commissioners, a State Representative, the county sheriff, as well as residents of Deweyville and nearby communities. This project clearly impacted the community's perception and appreciation of their county's history.

56. Information for your 3rd (and final) project description should be entered in the box below. Please provide a description that includes the information requested in the bullet points above.

Project 3 has been a project for the past 6 years. The goal was to publish an edited version of our Cemeteries of Newton County-2005 and add the names of those buried in Newton's cemeteries up to 2010. NCHC appointees and volunteers (including NISD students) visited every cemetery in the county taking inventories and photos of all the headstones and markers. The histories of the cemeteries were updated and GPS readings taken. With complications such as volunteers trying to learn a newly installed computer program, old members leaving, new members coming on board - the Cemetery Book Publishing Committee ran into many setbacks and the project came to a halt. In mid-2011, NCHC's Cemetery Committee offered to re-visit all the cemeteries checking each inventory and taking any photos where needed. By the end of 2011, the Cemetery Committee entered all the information into a data base. Now NCHC has the ability to publish and sell a cemetery book with each cemetery's updated history and GPS readings with a compact disk containing an alphabetical index of all those buried in Newton County. This new book and its CD can be sold for a very reasonable price. Also, NCHC will have the ability to quickly locate information as well as print out specific information such as one cemetery's inventory, or all people with the same family name, or veterans of a particular war, or people who were born in certain years, etc. Also by adding names on a weekly basis to the cemetery book's database, the information will

always be up to date when the book and its CD are purchased. This project will be considered completed other than updating the database as people are buried in the county.

57. Please let us know more about your preservation successes and/or challenges.

NCHC has a website with basic information about our commission. New pages were added in 2011 which included a price list of our in-house publications and "gift shop" items for sale. A new goal for the website is to add pictures and upcoming events throughout the year. In 2011, NCHC joined the Nation in commemorating the Civil War by setting up a display of "The Civil War's Effect on Newton County and Its People" in our museum. As we locate documents, pictures, and artifacts pertaining to the Civil War era, we are adding them to this display and will continue to do so for the next three years. A 2011 goal not reached was to access all of our artifacts, documents, and photographs. A new volunteer is in the process of learning the art of accessing and entering the data in the Past Perfect Program. NCHC is making plans for a Summer Day Camp in the museum with projects like making paper, create a family tree, and visit with People From Newton's Past (volunteers dressed in period clothing and tell stories of that era). There are plans to clean and restore two cemeteries that were damaged by Hurricanes Rita and Ike. Also NCHC wants to have photographs of all unidentified graves and keep a separate count of them. It is hoped that the County Courthouse Rededication will be celebrated in 2012 so the last chapter can be written and NCHC can publish the pictorial history of Newton's County Courthouse. Not only did NCHC see an increase in new volunteers and an increase of the total of volunteer hours as compared to 2010 and 2009 but we also had an increase in visitors. In 2011 there was a total of 1394 visitors – which is 226 more than 2010 and 745 more than the year 2009.
