

# History Programs Committee

January 31, 2023



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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**AGENDA**  
**HISTORY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

DoubleTree by Hilton Austin  
Phoenix Ballroom South  
6505 N IH 35  
Austin, TX 78752  
January 31, 2023  
10:30 a.m.

*(or upon the adjournment of the 10:15 a.m. Finance & Govt. Relations Committee meeting, whichever occurs later)*

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*This meeting of the THC History Programs Committee has been properly posted with the Secretary of State's Office according to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code. The members may discuss and/or take action on any of the items listed in the agenda.*

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1. Call to Order —*Committee Chair White*
  - A. Committee member introductions
  - B. Establish quorum
  - C. Recognize and/or excuse absences
2. Consider approval of the October 17, 2022 committee meeting minutes
3. Certification of Historic Texas Cemetery Designations (item 7.2)
4. Consider approval of text for Official Texas Historical Markers (item 7.3)
5. Official Texas Historical Markers and Undertold Marker topics report and discussion (item 14.2)
6. Consider approval of filing authorization of an amendment to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) removal procedures, for first publication in the *Texas Register* (item 14.3)
7. History Programs Division update and committee discussion —*Division Director Charles Sadnick*
8. Adjournment

NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE AT PUBLIC MEETINGS: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, large print or Braille, are requested to contact Esther Brickley at (512) 463-5768 at least four (4) business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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**MINUTES  
HISTORY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

The Stella Hotel  
Celeste Ballroom  
4100 Lake Atlas Dr.  
College Station, TX 77807  
October 17, 2022  
11:21 a.m.

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*Note: For the full text of action items, please contact the Texas Historical Commission at P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711 or call 512.463.6100.*

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) History Programs Committee was called to order by Commissioner Daisy White at 11:21 a.m. She announced the meeting had been posted to the Texas Register, was being held in conformance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, and that notice had been properly posted with the Secretary of State's Office as required.

**A. Committee member introductions**

Commissioner White welcomed everyone and called on commissioners to individually state their names and the cities in which they reside. Commissioners Monica Burdette, Donna Bahorich, Lilia Garcia, Daisy White, Renee Dutia, Tom Perini, and Laurie Limbacher were in attendance.

**B. Establish quorum**

Commissioner White reported a quorum was present and declared the meeting open.

**2. Consider approval of the July 25, 2022 committee meeting minutes**

Commissioner Bahorich moved, Commissioner Burdette seconded, and the commission voted unanimously to approve the July 25, 2022 History Programs Committee meeting minutes.

**3. Certification of Historic Texas Cemetery Designations (item 7.2)**

History Programs Division (HPD) Director Charles Sadnick brought forth seven cemeteries and recommended that the committee send forward to the Commission to formally certify them as HTCs. He made note that five of the seven were African American cemeteries.

Commissioner Garcia moved, Commissioner Burdette seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to recommend and send forward to the Commission to formally certify the designations as Historic Texas Cemeteries.

**4. Consider approval of text for Official Texas Historical Markers (item 7.3)**

Sadnick brought thirty-four marker inscriptions before the committee for approval. He recognized Alicia Costello, the new staff member for HPD, and thanked her for her work.

Commissioner Bahorich moved, Commissioner Garcia seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the final form and text of thirty-four (34) Official Texas Historical Markers with delegation authority to the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, working with the Commission chair, to resolve minor textual issues arising after Commission approval.

## **5. Consider removal of Recorded Texas Historical Landmark (RTHL) designations**

### **A. Potter-Hurley House, Gainesville, Cooke County (item 15.2A)**

Sadnick provided background on a request to remove RTHL designation. The Potter-Hurley House was built in 1894 and received an RTHL designation in 1973. Current owners reached out to the THC in July 2022 because their insurer was going to drop coverage. The owners reached out to other companies and were denied coverage. Staff recommended reaching out to Texas Fair Plan Association, which is an association established by the state to insure homeowners, but they were quoted a rate two times higher than the previous insurer's. THC staff is conducting more research since it seems to be happening more often, specifically reaching out to insurance companies and asking why they are not insuring these properties. National Register coordinator Gregory Smith has reached out to National Park Service to see if other states are having the same issue, and the current consensus from the service is that it is.

Commissioner White moved, Commissioner Bahorich seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to send forward to the Commission and recommend approving request for removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the Potter-Hurley House, Gainesville, Cooke County.

Commissioner Garcia voiced concerns regarding the trend of having RTHLs removed. She expressed that she does not like taking away designations, especially for economic concerns. She would like to attain more information on why insurance companies will not provide coverage. She will vote with reservations. Commissioner Limbacher shares that concern, says that RTHLs are honorific designation and there may be a misperception by insurance companies on the restrictive nature of designation. Commissioner Burdette noted that if this is a trend, expressed concerned about people not seeking RTHL designation due to insurance issue. Commissioner Limbacher asked if we would allow for favorable considerations under different incentive programs and asked if staff had researched if the property received any grant funding. Commissioner White expressed concern about the lack of insurance in case of emergency (fire) and who would be held liable. She also thanked staff for doing their due diligence. Commissioner Dutia asked if there is a lender or financial institution that comes into play as old historic neighborhoods are being purchased by younger buyers and perhaps staff can have conversation with insurance and mortgage lenders.

### **B. Luther Hotel, Palacios, Matagorda County (item 15.2B)**

Sadnick provided background on a request to remove an RTHL designation. The Luther Hotel was built in 1903, granted RTHL designation in 1962, and was listed on the National Register in 2013. It was also a Hurricane Harvey grant recipient. In 2020, the owner passed away and left 60 heirs to the estate. In late 2021, the grant was returned. Hotel operation ceased several months ago with plans to demolish and sell the property. History Programs Division staff conferred with Division of Architecture (DOA) staff and discovered that the firm representing estate owners have submitted a RTHL Review with intent to demolish. The RTHL Review process requires notification 60 days before action takes place and staff can require an additional 30-day waiting period. The purpose of that is to see if there are different alternatives

to demolition. If the THC removes RTHL now, it would cancel that waiting period. Staff recommended denying the removal to give DOA time to complete the RTHL Review.

Commissioner White moved, Commissioner Limbacher seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to send forward to the Commission and recommend denying request for removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the Luther Hotel, Palacios, Matagorda County.

Commissioner Limbacher stated that the need to allow the full waiting period is important, in hopes of finding a better outcome for the property.

Toward the end of the meeting, Commissioner Bahorich asked the committee meeting what the staff follow up would be? Sadnick noted that HPD will notify the estate that the removal of the RTHL is rejected if approved by the Commissioners tomorrow. DOA Director Elizabeth Brummett came up and said that her staff had sent a letter notifying the estate that they are imposing the additional 30 days and will follow up. They questioned whether the estate have made any efforts to sell the property to a potential buyer who would keep the hotel intact, adding that this property would be eligible for the Tax Credit Program.

#### **6. 2022 Official Texas Historical Markers topics report and discussion (item 15.3)**

Sadnick gave a report on the Official Texas Historical Markers.

Staff is now recommending approval of Sikh Center in Harris County as a large inscription. HPD staff had concerns about the history of center and discussing the names of the founders, some of whom are not yet deceased. While not ideal, the names of the founders will not be listed on the large marker inscription.

He also reported that undertold markers are not fully funded by application fees, which only fund about 7-8 markers a year; staff would like to do 15 a year. A donor has come forward and has agreed to cover the remaining half of the Undertold markers for 2022. Friends of the THC have also come forward and will make up the rest of the need for 2023 and beyond.

#### **7. Consider approval of work plan for 2024 Official Texas Historical Markers (item 15.4)**

Sadnick introduced the work plan for 2024 Official Texas Historical Markers. The application period would continue to be at roughly the same time for 2024, from March 1 through May 15.

Commissioner Garcia moved, Commissioner Bahorich seconded, and the commission voted unanimously to send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of staff recommendations for qualified Official Texas Historical Marker applications and adopt a work plan to complete no more than one hundred eighty-five (185) new historical markers in calendar year 2024.

#### **8. History Programs Division update and committee discussion**

Sadnick provided History Program Division updates, starting with a photo of NR staff at the September State Board of Review Meeting in Mineral Wells. Staff are making more site visits and being out with the public. He then gave a TEKS update. At the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the State Board of Education decided to postpone the K-12 Social Studies full framework revisions initiative until 2025. The board would focus on drafting revised version of current Social Studies TEKS to meet the requirements of Senate Bill 3, anticipating small adjustments to civics and literacy TEKS. Proposed changes for 2025 would including Texas history being taught in 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades instead of 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. Sadnick thanked Commissioner Bahorich and Linda Miller for their guidance.

Commissioner Bahorich commented that proposed changes for Senate Bill 3 have already been posted. A second reading would take place at the November State Board of Education meeting. Commissioner Garcia asked why the board would change the grades for Texas history instruction and Commissioner Bahorich commented that 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are when students are tested, but the change may not take place.

## **9. Adjournment**

At 11:51 a.m., on the motion of Commissioner White and without objection, the committee meeting was adjourned.

## Quarterly Report

History Programs Division  
October–December 2022

### **DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS**

Highlights for the History Programs Division (HPD) during this quarter included the 2022 undertold marker application cycle and traveling for projects, workshops, and meetings with County Historical Commissions and other preservation partners and constituents.

### **COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION (CHC) OUTREACH**

In October, CHC Outreach Coordinator Nano Calderon and Program Specialist Jaclyn Zapata completed a series of meetings with CHCs in DeWitt, Goliad, Refugio, Victoria, Matagorda, Calhoun, and Gonzales counties. Discussions focused on CHC programs and reactivation following the pandemic. In early November, staff prepared and mailed packets to county judges informing them of the 2023-24 appointment cycle; they included information regarding appointment procedures, staff recommendations, state statutes, and contributions made by CHCs to heritage tourism and preservation. In late November, staff presented at a CHC regional meeting in Goldthwaite attended by appointees from Mills, Brown, Comanche, Lampasas, and Hamilton counties. In December, staff prepared for the 2022 CHC annual reporting cycle, with tasks including reviewing and editing annual report forms, drafting necessary notifications to CHC chairs, and updating the CHC Outreach webpages. Annual reporting information will be distributed by mail and electronically in the first week of 2023. Outreach staff continue sharing CHC-related content on the listserv with a particular focus on 2021 CHC preservation projects and THC programs.

### **HISTORICAL MARKERS**

After being short-staffed earlier this year, the marker program has caught up with this year's marker applications, and every pending marker now has an inscription at the drafted, revised, or approval stages. More than 200 inscriptions have been completed since September 1. The foundry is also proceeding at a pace to complete production of markers in a timely manner.

Staff spent time this quarter researching and responding to a range of issues, including homeowners insurance for historic houses, damage and destruction to historical markers, and donor contributions to restore 1936 Centennial markers. An interdisciplinary team of THC staff evaluated and scored 61 undertold marker applications in December.

### **MILITARY HISTORY**

Military Sites Program (MSP) Coordinator Stephen Cure continues to work with National Park Service (NPS) staff at Vicksburg National Military Historical Park and the Friends of Vicksburg NMP to facilitate repairs to the Texas Monument. All masonry and stone conservation work has been completed, and bronze work is slated to be completed in January. Cure has continued assisting Historic Sites Division staff with interpretive material development for Palmito Ranch Battlefield SHS, including image acquisition and ensuring accuracy of visual materials under development. He represented the agency at the Rio Grande Valley Archeology Fair held at Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in Brownsville. Following that event, Cure assisted the Section 106 and Historical Marker Program teams by working with SpaceX to reset a Centennial marker at Boca Chica so it would be stable enough to withstand upcoming launch activities. He continued working with TSLAC staff on the digitization of items in the THC Oral History Collection. A process has been defined and materials will be transferred to TSLAC early in 2023. Lastly, the long-awaited World War I book manuscript was unanimously approved by the Texas A&M University Press advisory board and a contract delivered to the Friends of the THC for its publication.

### **MUSEUM SERVICES**

Museum Services continues work with the Texas Association of Museums as it transitions to a new executive director. Program Coordinator Laura Casey and Program Specialist Emily Hermans helped adjust the plan for the six remaining Digital Learning Network

Initiative workshops; the first workshop is scheduled during the TAM annual conference in April. Staff also continues work with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Bullock Museum developing a workshop series for 2023. Content of the workshop along with workshop activities, resource pages, and evaluations are being developed, reviewed, and adjusted. The first workshop is scheduled during Real Places 2023. The remaining six will be held between March and May, followed by two webinars in June. Staff also continues gathering photos from museums for inclusion in the new THC app. Webinars and discussion groups continue to be popular programs, engaging 650 participants and covering oral history, volunteer strategies, museum security, and learning styles.

## **FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

### **National Register of Historic Places**

National Register (NR) staff members Gregory Smith, Alyssa Gerszewski, and Bonnie Tipton processed nine NR nominations for review at the upcoming State Board of Review meeting, which will be held on January 14 at the historic 1940 Municipal Air Terminal in Houston. Properties under consideration include the Deep Ellum Historic District in Dallas, the Klein-Frankreich Rural Historic District near Fredericksburg, and the Big Spring Hospital. NPS approved seven nominations, including those for the Tyler Downtown Historic District, the Bonham VA Hospital, and the Kress Building in downtown El Paso. Nominations in the coming year will include the West Austin Historic District, Wimberley Historic District, and a multiple property submission for the San Antonio Zoo. Smith evaluated 18 federal tax credit projects (Part 1 of the application) and 28 state tax credit projects (Part A of the application). He began processing nominations for properties receiving Hurricane Harvey grants. Tipton and Smith reviewed FY 23 CLG grant applications.

### **Review of Projects under Section 106 and the State Antiquities Code**

Justin Kockritz and Jonathan Moseley traveled to Rockport in September, and Refugio and Port Lavaca in October, to present the preliminary findings of the county-wide historic resources surveys, which were funded through the Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund grant from NPS. Approximately 50 people, including county judges and County Historical Commission members, attended the public meetings. The project contractors are now compiling draft reports for delivery

the next quarter. Caitlin Brashear continued to meet extensively with the General Services Administration as they consulted regarding the proposed transfer of the Cliffside Helium Plant out of federal ownership. Charles Peveto was heavily involved in the recent exterior paint removal at Luther Hall, which won a Preservation Austin Merit Award. Moseley continued to expedite disaster recovery projects under THC's Programmatic Agreement with the General Land Office and researched potential historic districts.

## **HISTORIC HIGHWAYS AND HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY**

Survey Coordinator Leslie Wolfenden continued to work with volunteers to gather information on resources listed in historic African American travel guides. She visited Hitchcock and Galveston to conduct research and photograph extant sites for this project. She also located previously unknown-location sites in Hitchcock. Wolfenden gave two presentations to the Friends of the THC, on "Evolution of Overnight Accommodations" and "African American Travel Guides and HBCUs." She also made locational corrections to the Atlas map for survey icons.

## **CEMETERY PRESERVATION**

In October, Cemetery Program staff joined Historic Sites Division staff on workshops at Sam Rayburn House and the Eisenhower Birthplace state historic sites. Staff also visited five cemeteries funded through the Lana Hughes Nelson Fund for Cemetery Preservation. Program Specialist Carlyn Hammons has prepared a webpage for the CHC Cemetery Framework. The roll-out will be accompanied by CHC-oriented webinars and virtual meet-and-greets, the first of which was conducted on December 6. Program Coordinator Jenny McWilliams is preparing requisitions for three in-person cemetery disaster preparedness workshops to be hosted in the spring, and has been assisting partners with cemetery inventories, while Hammons continues to process Historic Texas Cemetery applications.

## **YOUTH EDUCATION**

Lead educator Linda Miller participated in collaborative planning sessions with leadership from the Historic Sites Division and Friends of the THC staff to begin development of an agency-wide strategic plan for site and community-based education initiatives. Miller also worked with agency staff across divisions to create and expand educational resources on both the THC Learning Resources webpage and the IMLS grant-funded e-learning platform.

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Item 7.2  
Texas Historical Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 31-February 1, 2023

### Certification of Historic Texas Cemetery Designations

**Background:**

During the period from period from 9/29/2022 to 1/9/2023, twenty-five (25) Historic Texas Cemetery designations were completed by staff. All have been recorded in county deed records as being so designated. Your approval is requested to officially certify these Historic Texas Cemeteries:

County	City	Cemetery
Atascosa	Pleasanton	San Ysidro Cemetery
Bastrop	Clearview	Clearview Cemetery
Bastrop	Smithville (vicinity)	Cunningham Cemetery
Dallas	Dallas	Oakland Cemetery
Galveston	League City	Magnolia Creek Cemetery
Goliad	Goliad	Cementerio San Fernando de los Flores
Guadalupe	Staples	Staples African-American Freedmen Colony Association Cemetery
Harris	Tomball	Kuehn Cemetery
Kerr	Kerrville	Brown Cemetery
Montague	Bowie (vicinity)	Selma Cemetery
Montague	Forestburg	Perryman Cemetery
Montague	Nocona (vicinity)	Molsbee Cemetery
Montague	Nocona (vicinity)	Shady Grove Cemetery
Montague	Saint Jo	Mountain Park Cemetery
Montague	Saint Jo (vicinity)	Dye Mound Cemetery
Montague	Saint Jo (vicinity)	McGrady Cemetery
Montague	Saint Jo (vicinity)	Mountain Creek Cemetery
Montague	Sunset	Sunset Cemetery
Parker	Weatherford	Parker County Poor Farm Cemetery
Polk	Livingston (vicinity)	Bold Springs Cemetery
Travis	Austin	Plummers Cemetery
Trinity	Groveton (vicinity)	Parker Ridge Cemetery
Wharton	Wharton (vicinity)	Waterhouse-St. John Lutheran Cemetery
Williamson	Georgetown	Collins-Thompson Cemetery
Williamson	Granger (vicinity)	Denson Cemetery

**Recommended motion (Committee):** Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend certification of these designations as Historic Texas Cemeteries.

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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**Recommended motion (Commission):** Move to certify these designations as Historic Texas Cemeteries.

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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### Item 7.3

Texas Historical Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 31 – February 1, 2023

### Consider approval of text for Official Texas Historical Markers

#### Background:

From September 24, 2022 to December 21, 2022, THC historical marker staff drafted and finalized inscriptions for fifty-seven (57) interpretive markers, now ready for Commission approval.

#### Recommended interpretive plaques for approval (57)

County	Job #	Topic
Anderson	20AN01	The Pinery Settlement
Atascosa	22AT01	Poteet United Methodist Church
Atascosa	22AT02	Peanut Farming in Atascosa County
Austin	22AU02	St. James Lutheran Cemetery
Bexar	22BX08	Kelly Air Force Base
Bexar	21BX01	P. F. Roberts
Borden	22BD01	Borden County Jail
Calhoun	21CL01	Louis Antoine Andry
Cameron	18CF02B	African American Troops at Fort Brown
Cameron	20CF08	Esperanza Plantation Bridge
Cameron	21CF01	Original Site of St. Joseph College
Colorado	21CD03	"Colonel" Ike T. Pryor
Comal	21CM01	York Creek Cemetery
Comal	22CM01	Edgar Alfred Grist, DVM
Comanche	22CJ01	Bibb Community
Cooke	22CO01	First Presbyterian Church
Dallas	21DL02	Harris-Savage-McAlester House (RTHL)
Dallas	21DL05	Kiest Memorial Garden
Dallas	21DL09	Hall of Negro Life
Dallas	22DL01	Manuel and Maria Valle Family
Dallas	22DL04	Elm Thicket/Northpark Neighborhood
El Paso	17EP09	Marcelino Serna
Ellis	21EL02	Old Bardwell
Gregg	22GG01	Boy Scout Troop 201
Gregg	22GG03	Trinity Episcopal Church of Longview
Hardeman	22HX01	The Demise of Joe Earle
Harris	21HR02	Mt. Vernon Baptist Church
Harris	21HR06	Sabine Street
Harris	22HR08	Willis Wood Cemetery
Harrison	21HS03	New Hope Baptist Church
Hood	20HD01	Keith Street School

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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Kendall	22KE01	Casper Sueltenfuss
Kendall	22KE03	Dan and Frances Holekamp
Lamar	22LR01	Paris Post Office
Lamar	22LR03	William J. McDonald
Lavaca	22LC01	Menger School
Leon	22LN01	Taylor Cemetery
Liberty	22LB01	Bailey's Corner
Liberty	22LB02	Pounds House
Liberty	22LB03	Rural Shade Baptist Church
Limestone	18LT01	Tehuacana Cemetery
Matagorda	21MG02	James Henry Selkirk
Matagorda	21MG04	West Side Elementary School
Matagorda	22MG02	Allenhurst Community
Matagorda	22MG03	Casa de Dios
Milam	22MM01	Gause Baptist Church
Nueces	21NU02	USS Lexington
Parker	22PR03	Martha Elizabeth Cockburn Tucker
Polk	22PK01	Bluff Creek Cemetery
San Saba	22SS01	Edgar Thomas Neal
Tarrant	22TR03	Haley's Meat Market
Van Zandt	22VN04	Potters Brown
Wharton	22WH01	Drastata Farm
Wharton	22WH05	St. James Missionary Baptist Church
Wichita	21WC01	Providence Baptist Church
Wood	21WD01	The Episcopal Church of St. Dunstan
Young	22YN01	1921 Young County Jail

**Recommended motion (Committee):** Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the final form and text of fifty-seven (57) Official Texas Historical Markers with delegation of authority to the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, working with the Commission chair, to resolve minor textual issues arising after Commission approval.

**Recommended motion (Commission):** Move to adopt approval of the final form and text of fifty-seven (57) Official Texas Historical Markers with delegation of authority to the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, working with the Commission chair, to resolve minor textual issues arising after Commission approval.

Texas Historical Commission staff (UNDERTOLD) (SEM) 10/21/2021, ed (BB) 4/18/22, 9/12/22, (CS) 11/14/22, (TEN) 11/23/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Anderson County (Job #20AN01) Subject CY, AA (Atlas 23246) UTM:  
Location: Elkhart, 8059 W. SH 294 (corner of 294 and FM 2116/2135)

### **THE PINERY SETTLEMENT**

Following emancipation, Isaac Butler, Isaac McClanahan and E.P. Murray, all formerly enslaved in Mississippi, settled this area near a natural spring with tall pines trees and land for farming, calling it The Pinery. Early settlers farmed using ox teams and plows, raised livestock, and built houses, a church and schoolhouse. They operated a sawmill and produced crossties for the railroad from local timber.

Murray and other landowners later provided land for churches, schools and cemeteries where faith, family, education and hard work contributed to their success as a community. The Living Green Church of Christ served as a house of worship and also housed one of the earliest schools in the area, called The School in The Pinery.

African American children and adults in the surrounding communities of Elkhart, Tucker, Magnolia and Long Lake attended the church and school for bible lessons as well as reading, writing and math. The church and schoolhouse eventually moved but remained central to the community.

Many citizens of The Pinery were buried in the nearby Magnolia Cemetery, including many from the Murray, McClanahan, Gross, Butler and Carter families. At least sixteen burials of former slaves were identified, including Isham Murray (1805-1880), with the first marked burial dating to 1855. Many more may exist.

The earliest settlers of The Pinery and their descendants created their own community and caused it to flourish. Here they could worship, learn and prosper, contributing to the culture and heritage of the area.

(2020)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post ed. (CTS) 1.2.23

Atascosa County (Job #22AT01) Subject (Atlas 23599) UTM:

Location:

### **POTEET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

In 1910, the Poteet Townsite Company, owned by Methodists Henry T. and Ida Fischer Mumme, donated land at Fourth Street and Avenue G for a church building and Fourth Street and Avenue D for a parsonage. The Methodists, under the leadership of the Reverend F.A. Grimes, had been informally meeting in houses and in the only school building in town. On February 3, 1912, they officially became a spiritual family. The Rev. Grimes made his home in a tent next to church property until the parsonage was complete. Amphion, the first county seat, provided salvaged lumber from the Amphion Methodist Church to build the Methodist Parsonage in Poteet. The church hired one of its members, A.J. Brown, to construct the large white-frame structure, which was the first Protestant sanctuary in Poteet. The building was dedicated on June 16, 1912. The Methodists shared their sanctuary with the Baptists until the Baptist church was completed later that year. In the 1930s, a new church building was built. In 1948, an educational building was added. A memorial hall and a new parking lot were finished in 1985 and 1997, respectively.

During Poteet United Methodist Church's long history, many have found a place of belonging at the church. The 1940s witnessed the Women's Society of Christian Service and the Women's Missionary Society both thrive. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Methodist Youth Fellowship was very active and successfully fundraised for a roof and sidewalk between the two church buildings. During the 1980s and 1990s, the United Methodist Men's Organization raised money for scholarships for graduating seniors who were members of the church. The congregation has also provided food pantries and medical and human services. For over one hundred years, Poteet United Methodist Church has been a steadfast place of worship and service for the Poteet community.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

### **PEANUT FARMING IN ATASCOSA COUNTY**

Although Poteet is well known for growing strawberries, farmers have enjoyed much success with harvesting peanuts as well. The first peanuts were grown in Atascosa County in the early 1900s. Harvesting was a hand-picked operation until the 1930s, when commercial threshers became available. In 1934, local farmer C.O. Bruce designed his own stationary, belt-driven thresher. In 1940, "The Bruce #2," a self-propelled combine with two Ford engines, revolutionized harvesting. Bruce also invented a peanut sheller locally used from 1943-1963. Production was highest during World War II due to government demand. Another important contribution came from the Ridgway family. The Ridgways invented the first peanut combine in the area in the 1930s. Steve Ridgway earned several accolades including top soil conservation farmer in 1958 and became a charter member of the Atascosa County Peanut Growers Association. He also invented a natural peanut dryer that produced a better product than commercial dryers.

The Warnken family shelled peanuts since the 1940s under the name "Warco Mills, Inc." In 1958, Charles Warnken was offered a plant manager job at the nearby Wilson County Peanut Co., or "Wilco." In 1966, Warnken negotiated a deal to be business partner to Wilco owner W.G. Conway. Eventually, in 1976, Warnken bought out Conway to own 100% of Wilco. Concurrently, the "Wilco 1" peanut variety became the first peanut to receive federal protection under the Plant Variety Protection Act. In 1978, Wilco moved its operations to Hwy 281 north of Pleasanton, much closer to the peanut farms that had been supplying their product. Since then, Wilco and others continue the strong tradition of peanut farming in Atascosa County.

(2022)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/12/2022 ed 10.3.22, rev (CTS) 12/12/22  
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Austin County (Job #22AU02) Subject (Atlas 23624) UTM:  
Location:

### **ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CEMETERY**

In the mid 1800s, German immigrants formed a community here known as New Wehdem. Early arrivals brought their families, culture and way of life to their new settlement. At first, they gathered at each other's homes for worship. In 1869, a group of these settlers, fourteen men and one woman, formed St. James Lutheran Church of New Wehdem. One of the founding members, Christian Emshoff, provided 15 acres of land for a church building and cemetery. The first recorded burial, for a two-year-old child, occurred in 1872. Several names belonging to the founding members of the church appear in the cemetery, some representing many generations of New Wehdem residents. The cemetery provides the final resting place for numerous war veterans, including those involved in the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. U.S. government markers denote many of these graves.

The cemetery required expansion several times, the largest of which occurred in 1952. The area where the original section was established had become boggy, so drier land for the new section was carefully chosen. During this expansion, a number of unmarked graves were discovered, so a portion of land between the older and newer sections was left untouched in order to leave those burials undisturbed. With this addition, the total rows of graves equaled 36. Additional growth has added to this number. More than 750 people are buried here. For over a century, St. James Lutheran Cemetery has provided the final resting place for many generations, as well as providing a testament to the intrepid settlers who made this place home.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2009

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN) 10/18/2022, ed. 10/19/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Bexar County (Job #22BX08) Subject ML, AV (Atlas ) UTM:

Location: Duncan Drive, 100 yard SW of Billy Mitchell Blvd. intersection, San Antonio

### **KELLY AIR FORCE BASE (REPLACEMENT)**

As World War I raged in Europe, the United States began to build up and expand its military aviation forces. In his search for a new army aviation training site, Maj. Benjamin Foulois found 700 acres of flat farmland with a water supply near the Missouri-Pacific Rail Line, then seven miles south of San Antonio. With the help of U.S. Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas, the site was acquired and cleared. Aviation operations began here on April 5, 1917, the day before the United States declared war on Germany.

Kelly Field, named for George Edward Maurice Kelly, the first military pilot killed in a plane crash at nearby Fort Sam Houston in 1911, trained aviators, mechanics and support personnel for war duty. After additional land was acquired, the field was divided into Kelly Number 1 (later renamed Duncan Field) and Kelly Number 2. The air service advanced flying school, which headquartered at Kelly Number 2, trained pilots including Charles Lindbergh, Curtis Lemay and numerous air force chiefs of staff.

During World War II, Kelly saw a tremendous increase in its civilian and military workforce, including women, who were known as "Kelly Katies." After the air force became an independent military service in 1947, the field became known as Kelly Air Force Base.

Personnel at Kelly were significantly involved with air transport and maintenance during the Korean conflict, the Cold War, Desert Shield, and Desert Storm. Once the largest employer in San Antonio, Kelly Air Force Base realigned in 2001 in response to peacetime defense spending cuts.

(2001)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (MR) 7/20/2022, ed (BB) 7/21/22, 10.12.22, 10/13/22 (CS) 11/14/22, (TEN) 11/23/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Bexar County (Job #21BX01) Subject (Atlas 23344) UTM:

Location: San Antonio, César Chávez and Indianola Streets

**P.F. ROBERTS  
(1864-1953)**

Born into slavery in 1864, Henry Porter Field (P.F.) Roberts graduated as valedictorian from Tougaloo University near Jackson, Mississippi in 1893 and moved to Texas to pursue a career in teaching. His first job was teaching at Floresville. He moved to San Antonio in 1895 to teach at the Norris Wright Cuney school in the Baptist Settlement, a racially diverse neighborhood adjacent to downtown. In 1906, Roberts purchased a commercial building near this site. This became Roberts' first grocery store and was likely the first African American-owned business in the neighborhood. In 1914, Roberts married educator Ira Aldridge Kilpatrick (1889-1987), and the couple had one daughter.

By 1915, Roberts had bought a house and another store in the Denver Heights neighborhood and was teaching at the Douglass School. His original store, which he sold in 1922, was demolished along with the rest of the Baptist Settlement in the 1960s as part of a city-wide urban renewal project. Roberts co-founded the San Antonio chapter of the NAACP in 1918 and served as president in the early 1930s. Meetings were often held at his Denver Heights home, as members worried that their previous meeting location, St. Paul United Methodist Church, would become a target for arson. Roberts continued his involvement in the NAACP for many years, serving as treasurer and executive committee member until the mid-1940s. Roberts continued his passion for education late into his life. He would regularly give speeches at student organization events and served on the teachers council until his retirement in 1949 after more than 50 years of teaching. He left a profound legacy in education, civil rights and community engagement.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (SEM) 4/14/2022, rev (BB) 10/26/22  
Official Texas Historical Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque WITHOUT post, attach to stone  
Borden County (Job #22BD01) Subject (Atlas 457) UTM  
Location: Gail, 117 E. Wasson Ave.

### **BORDEN COUNTY JAIL**

Built of hand-hewn native stone from Gail Mountain. This jail was planned for maximum security. Diebold safe and lock company was awarded the \$4,500 contract in 1896. Behind two-foot-thick outside walls, the cell walls and floor are of 1/3-inch case hardened steel plates, impervious to hack saw blades. Doors fastened with huge hasps and padlocks were opened with a six-inch key. The county used the jail from 1896 to 1972.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 1967

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (SEM) 12/27/2021, ed (BB) 5/17/22, rev 9/12/22, 10/31/22, (CS) 11/14/222

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Calhoun County (Job #21CL01) Subject FC, ES, EX (Atlas 23383) UTM:

Location: Port Lavaca, Hwy 316 south, near La Salle Monument & beside Indianola marker

### **LOUIS ANTOINE ANDRY**

Born November 25, 1727 in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France, Louis Antoine Andry (aka Don Luis Antonio Andry) sailed to New Orleans in 1746. In 1752, he married Louisiana native, Marie Jeanne LAPierre (1732-1818), and they had nine children. Andry had an illustrious military career, first with the French and later with the new Spanish regime, serving as engineer of the colony, royal surveyor, adjutant major of the city of New Orleans and captain of the infantry. His assignments capitalized on his engineering, mathematical and mapmaking skills, greatly impacting the Louisiana Colony.

In 1777, Louisiana Governor Bernardo de Gálvez chose Captain Andry to map the Gulf Coast from the Mississippi River to Matagorda Bay. The mission was risky due to navigational dangers and conflicts between Texas coastal Karankawas and Spaniards. On December 13, 1777, Andry and his crew of 15 Spanish and French, including his 15-year-old son, Cadet Jean Constantin Silvere Andry, sailed from New Orleans on *El Señor de la Yedra*. Three months later, with mapping essentially completed and supplies running low, Andry's schooner entered Matagorda Bay to retrieve supplies from Presidio la Bahia. They encountered Native Americans led by Joseph María, who deceitfully attempted to gain Andry's trust. Over several days, small groups of crewmembers went ashore in search of food, never to return.

On March 20, 1778, Joseph María and 11 other Karankawas overran *la Yedra*, anchored in Matagorda Harbor. Using the ship's guns, they killed Andry, his son and three sailors, looting and burning the schooner. Tomás de la Cruz, sole survivor of the Andry massacre, was taken as a slave by Joseph María. The fate of Andry and his crew was unknown until 1779, when de la Cruz was rescued from slavery and informed Spanish authorities. This news raised Spain's concerns about the escalating threat posed by the Karankawas, resulting in the decade-long Karankawa-Spanish war.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB) 7/25/2022, rev (CS) 12/2/2022  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Cameron County (Job #18CF02B) Subject AA, ML (Atlas 23443) UTM;  
Location: Brownsville, Texas Southmost College, 80 Fort Brown St.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN TROOPS  
AT FORT BROWN**

In 1862, during the Civil War, African American soldiers known as United States Colored Troops (USCT) were allowed to join the armed forces. All captains and lieutenants in the regiment were also African American. USCT soldiers and sailors fought in every major campaign and battle during the last two years of the war. African American troops were stationed at Fort Brown and many other installations, but were completely segregated from white troops. Due to extensive levels of malaria and yellow fever, the death rate among African American troops was excessive at Fort Brown. USCT soldiers fought in the last battle of the war at Palmito Ranch outside of Brownsville on May 12-13, 1865. During Reconstruction, Buffalo Soldiers were stationed at Fort Brown and many sites along the U.S.-Mexico border.

In 1906, troops of the 25th infantry regiment, who were distinguished veterans of the Spanish-American War, were briefly stationed at Fort Brown. Conflict between soldiers and townspeople culminated in violence in August 1906, as African American troops were accused of hostile aggression against citizens. The so-called "Brownsville Raid" quickly became a national issue, and President Theodore Roosevelt dishonorably discharged 167 African American troops without a trial. The U.S. Army and President Richard Nixon reversed that decision in 1972 with mostly posthumous honorable discharges.

(2018)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 4/24/2021, rev 4/8/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Cameron County (Job #20CF08) Subject (Atlas 22831) UTM:  
Location: Brownsville, 1373 La Posada Dr.

### **ESPERANZA PLANTATION BRIDGE**

French-born Jean Celestin Jagou (1835-1898) arrived in New Orleans in 1859 and was in Bagdad by 1862. In the 1870s, he organized the Esperanza Agricultural Association, a visionary irrigated 640-acre tropical fruit farm near Brownsville. Reports mention that Jagou had hundreds of lemon, lime, orange and banana trees along with almonds, grapes and other crops. He dug canals from the Rio Grande and installed steam water pumps to irrigate the acreage. In 1893, Jagou built a distinctive brick bridge inspired by French designs. Two nearby kilns provided material for the bridge, which is 34 feet long and 15 feet wide, with a running bond brick pattern. It is supported by three vaulted arches.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2020  
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 5/13/22, rev 10/5/22, (CS) 11/30/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Cameron County (Job #21CF01) Subject (Atlas 23304) UTM:  
Location: Brownsville, 630 E. Elizabeth St.

**ORIGINAL SITE OF  
ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE**

French priests of the oblates of Mary Immaculate came here in 1849, forming a congregation before focusing on education. In Apr. 1863, Father Augustine Gaudet acquired block 52 (bounded by Elizabeth, Levee, 6th and 7th streets) "for the purpose of erecting a school, college and chapel." In Nov. 1865, Brownsville Academy opened with Father Pierre Parisot and two lay teachers conducting classes. A two-story brick building with classrooms and living quarters survived the 1867 hurricane. By 1868, the name changed to St. Joseph College. After closing intermittently through the 1800s, the school flourished and expanded at this site as St. Joseph Academy under Marist Brothers from 1906 until its relocation a mile north in 1959. The wall behind this marker is the last remaining visible evidence of St. Joseph Academy.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB) 7/1/2022, rev 10/18/22, ed (CS) 11/14/22, (TEN) 11/23/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Colorado County (Job #21CD03) Subject (Atlas 23419) UTM:  
Location: Columbus

**"COLONEL" IKE T. PRYOR  
(1852-1937)**

Isaac Thomas Pryor, orphaned at age five, became one of the most successful cattlemen and businessmen in the southwest. He was born in Tampa, Florida, the youngest son of David Christopher and Emma Almira (McKissack) Pryor. After his father died when Ike was three, his mother took her three boys to Alabama, where she died two years later. The brothers were sent to live with separate family members, but at age nine, Ike ran away. He found his way into the Civil War, traveling with the Third Ohio Cavalry and participating in battles at Murfreesboro, Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain. Ike then lived with the family of the regimental surgeon in Ohio and later with cousins in Tennessee.

When Ike was 18, his older brother, A.M. Pryor, convinced him to move to Texas with him. Ike was a farmhand near Austin and worked on cattle ranches for Bill Arnold near Llano and Charles Lehmberg near Mason. He led many cattle drives to Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado in the 1870s and 1880s and eventually bought Lehmberg's 77 Ranch in Mason County. Ike married Sarah Helen Rapp (1861-1888) of Austin and the couple had three children. After Sarah's death, Ike married Myra Stafford (1864-1943) of Columbus, daughter of cattleman and banker Robert Earl Stafford. After Robert's death, Ike managed his Columbus business interests. He successfully shipped cattle to Cuba following the Spanish-American War. In Zavala County, Ike established the 100,000-acre 77 Ranch, which included the city of La Pryor founded in 1908. "Colonel" Ike T. Pryor was honored by his peers with leadership positions of the Cattle Raisers Association of Texas, the Texas Livestock Association, and notable state and national organizations. Ike and Myra spent their later years in San Antonio at their home at Villa Finale, later a museum. They are buried at Mission Burial Park South.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 8/31/2022, ed (BB) 9/6/22, rev 10/26/22, (CS) 11/14/22  
18" x 28" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Comal County (Job #21CM01) Subject (Atlas 23308) UTM:  
Location: New Braunfels, 7960 Old Bastrop Road

### **YORK CREEK CEMETERY**

German families began moving into this area in the middle of the 19th century, establishing the community of Hunter in 1880. The York Creek Cemetery was established in 1882 when Ernst Gruene Jr. sold a one-acre parcel to the first trustees: D.G. Posey, Frank Tate and Charles Crawford. Twenty-two years later, William Simon Sr. sold an additional adjacent acre, thus doubling the size of the cemetery. In 1904, the York Creek Cemetery Association was formed. When Lizzie Crawford died in 1945, she left a donation which allowed trustees to add needed infrastructure, including rock posts and a concrete wall, to stabilize the land. The sign over the entrance was donated in 1961 in memory of Albert Charles Soechting.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2020

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/8/2022 ed (BB) 10/3/22, ed (AC) 10/13 w/ CHC rev., (CS) 12/2/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Comal County (Job #22CM01) Subject (Atlas 23533) UTM:

Location: 727 N. Live Oak Ave, New Braunfels

### **EDGAR ALFRED GRIST, DVM**

Raised in Austin and having received a degree in veterinary medicine from Texas A&M college in 1937, Dr. Edgar Alfred Grist (1915-1994) served the community of New Braunfels and Comal County in many ways throughout the mid-twentieth century. Grist was the first licensed veterinarian in the county and could often be found on-site at farms, checking on animals and educating farmers on disease prevention and good nutrition. He met Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Wille (1919-2007) in 1937 when she brought her sister's dog into his newly opened practice at 637 W. San Antonio Street. After receiving a scholarship to study sanitation, he began working for the Texas State Health Department Food and Drug Division. In 1943, he was elected Texas State Veterinarian. In this position, and as the city meat inspector, he enforced sanitary practices on local slaughterhouses, which were often sources of sickness due to lack of regulation.

In 1949, Dr. Grist bought 20.3 acres at 727 N. Live Oak Ave. and built the New Braunfels Veterinary Hospital, opening his practice in 1950. In the 1950s, he battled rabies and anthrax outbreaks in the county and continued to educate community members on healthy practices. After receiving a letter in which his son, John, described German village festivals with sausage, beer, and dancing, Dr. Grist had the idea to replicate the festival in New Braunfels, a prolific sausage making area. "Wurstfest" was a one-day event in 1961 but has grown to a multiple day event benefitting the local economy and numerous charities. In the 1970s, Dr. Grist retired from veterinary medicine and became the county sanitarian. His last decades were filled with civic work. His legacy lives on not only in the community but throughout the entire state.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/14/2022, ed (BB) 11/4/22, (CS) 12/2/22)  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Comanche County (Job #22CJ01) Subject (Atlas 23539) UTM:  
Location:

### **BIBB COMMUNITY**

The town of Bibb began when Anglo settlers moved to the area in the 1870s to farm cotton. Perhaps among the first settlers was John Wesley (1834-1924) and Floellar (Flullah) (Williams) Morris (1839-1903). The couple arrived from Alabama around 1869. The Bibb post office was established in 1878, located at J.W. Morris's home. On March 13, 1891, seven men filed paperwork officially platting the town of Bibb with 44 lots centered on Main and Water Streets. The seven included: J.P. Green, W.C. Jackson, C.W. Atchison, A.J. Whitaker, D. Pierce, J.H. Bridges and T.G. Preston. In the 1890s, Bibb had two cotton gins, three general stores, two drug stores, a school, one broom factory, one saloon, a masonic lodge and an Odd Fellows lodge. The town also had four churches: a primitive Baptist church, a Methodist Episcopal church, a Missionary Baptist church and a Church of Christ, which met in a building where the roadside park is located today.

As the population grew, their education needs grew as well. In 1907, an Independent School District was formed. Unfortunately, the original schoolhouse burned, but the town rebuilt. The second school was a two-story building with two rooms downstairs, one for lower grades, one for upper grades. The upstairs housed a meeting hall for the odd fellows and masons. In 1912, Bibb had 101 students. In 1926, Bibb ISD folded into Beattie ISD. The Bibb school was subsequently moved to Beattie. The village is shown on a 1920 map, but as transportation and roads began to improve, the town's population began to decrease. Today, Bibb is a ghost town with no trace remaining. Yet Bibb is remembered as an important community in western Comanche County for many decades.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/28/2022, ed (BB) 10/4/22, rev 10/31/22, (CS) 12/2/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Cooke County (Job #22CO01) Subject (Atlas 23649) UTM:  
Location:

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Built in 1912, the gothic revival style First Presbyterian Church building provides a tangible link to the past. The church first organized in 1879. A merger between Cumberland and First Presbyterian congregations required a new larger building. The church hired St. Louis architect William A. Cann to design this distinctive brick building, which featured a \$3,000 Felgemaker organ, lush furnishings and 93 stained glass windows. Its gable and hip roof compliments the pyramidal tower in the northeast corner. The church cost \$40,000 to build. It was updated in 1958-59 with air conditioning and the beginning of the William F. Rogan Library. In recent years, the church has restored the organ and building, part of the architectural and spiritual heritage of Gainesville.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2022  
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 5/25/2022, rev 9/12/22, 10/26/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Dallas County (Job #21DL02) Subject (Atlas) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N  
Location: Dallas, 5703 Swiss Avenue

### **HARRIS-SAVAGE-McALESTER HOUSE**

The roots of the Harris-Savage House go back to 1843, when pioneers William W. Cochran (1807-1853), the first Dallas County clerk, and his wife, Nancy Jane Hughes (1817-1877), lived in Peters Colony. Their grandson, William (Will) Randolph Harris (1877-1948), and his wife, Minnie Beulah (Bookhout) (1881-1955), moved into this home in 1921. Will, who was with the law firm Thompson, Knight, Harris, Wright and Weisburg, led a distinguished career, which included the successful impeachment of Gov. James "Pa" Ferguson. Will's wife Minnie was active in volunteer organizations.

The Harris' daughter, Dorothy Harris Savage (1918-1999), inherited the home and, with her husband, former Dallas Mayor Wallace Savage (1912-2000), continued the family legacy there. The Savages founded the Dallas Academy and served on civic and philanthropic boards, including the historic Preservation League (now Preservation Dallas). With their help, this house and the Swiss Avenue neighborhood were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the first listed district in Dallas.

The Savages' daughter, Virginia Savage McAlester (1943-2020), the third generation in the house, became an architectural historian and preservationist with National Impact. She founded Friends of Fair Park, advocated for saving many historic Dallas neighborhoods, buildings and homes, and wrote several books, including the groundbreaking and acclaimed 1984 reference work, *A Field Guide to American Houses*.

The 1917 mission style residence boasts two curvilinear parapets; one defines the central entry to the front porch and the other enhances a large gabled attic dormer with Palladian window. Otherwise, the house design owes much to the prairie style with horizontal lines, triple windows, square brick piers and widely overhanging eaves.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2013

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN) 7/14/2022, ed (BB) 10/19/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post rev. CTS 12/12/22

Dallas County (Job #21DL05) Subject PK, SP, BY, FP, MC (Atlas 23339) UTM.

Location: Dallas, 3080 S. Hampton Rd

### **KIEST MEMORIAL GARDEN**

During the Great Depression, the establishment and improvement of public parks was a source of value and solace for many people. Edwin John Kiest, publisher of the *Dallas Times Herald*, saw the importance of public parks in his community. After his wife, Elizabeth (Patterson) Kiest, passed away in 1917, Edwin wanted to dedicate a public park in her honor. Between 1930 – 1934, he acquired 247.6 acres for the park. The total acreage was the largest land donation ever made to the City of Dallas for a public park. Starting in 1934, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) began construction on a two-story field house, flower beds and three stone entrances. The following year, the WPA constructed a 24-column stone pergola and a 300-foot-long water rill with a frog fountain, a reflecting pool, and stone benches. Upon completion of a rose garden and planting of 34 Thuya trees, the park was formally dedicated as Kiest Memorial Garden. From 1948-1986 the park expanded to include such features as baseball and softball diamonds, a junior pool, tennis courts, the Kiest Recreation Center, soccer fields and a hike and bike loop.

By the late 1980s, funding for the parks departments was cut and the park fell into disrepair. Beginning in 2002, articles in the *Oak Cliff Tribune* newspaper inspired efforts to restore the park. A call for volunteers was answered by residents and the Friends of Oak Cliff Parks (FOCP) was founded. By 2004, restoration was in full swing. In 2006, 34 Little Gem Magnolia trees were purchased to replace the Thuya trees. Original 1930s elements including the frog fountain, water rill and pergola were recreated and reconstructed. The restoration work and rededication of this public park space received statewide awards and recognition, including the Lone Star Legacy Park Award.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/26/2022, rev 10/24/22, (CS) 12/2/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Dallas County (Job #21DL09) Subject (Atlas 23373) UTM:  
Location: 3536 Grand Ave, Dallas, TX 75210

### **HALL OF NEGRO LIFE**

One of the federal work programs enacted during the Great Depression was the construction of a Texas Centennial Exposition to celebrate 100 years of independence from Mexico. The city of Dallas was awarded the honor of hosting the statewide exposition site. The task of remaking the fifty-year-old Fair Park into a modern exposition fell to Dallas architect George Dahl (1894-1987). Of the approximately 50 structures designed by Dahl and his staff, one was built to showcase the accomplishments of the African American community: the Hall of Negro Life. Before Dahl was involved, federal funding for the hall was secured by the tireless work of Antonio Maceo Smith (1903-1977) and Maynard H. Jackson (1894-1953), two leaders of the Dallas African American community.

Jesse O. Thomas (1885-1972), once Southern Field Director for the National Urban League and a protégé of Booker T. Washington, was selected as the general manager of the building. Smith served as assistant general manager. The building contained nearly 14,000 square feet of exhibit space and 9,000 square feet of wall space. The hall featured exhibits under six classifications: education, fine arts, health, agriculture, mechanical arts and business. Nearly 400 exhibits from 32 states were shown, with Texas' 76 exhibits representing the most from any state. The federal government supplied an additional 78 exhibits. Total attendance to the Hall of Negro Life over the course of the fair was 400,000.

At the end of the Texas Centennial Celebration, the Exposition Corporation of Dallas took over the fairgrounds with the intention of continuing the next year as the Pan American Exposition. The Hall of Negro Life was one of only two exhibit buildings demolished. For the short time it stood, the Hall of Negro Life celebrated the numerous accomplishments and deeds of the African American community in America.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN) 9/28/2022, ed AC 10/6/2022, ed (BB) 11/4/22, 11/22/22, (CS) 12/2/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Dallas County (Job #22DL01) Subject MC (Atlas 23553 ) 32.909819, -96.638603

Location: Garland, 620 West Avenue C

### **MANUEL AND MARIA VALLE FAMILY**

The Valle Family, the first recorded Latino family in Garland, lived in a one-story home on West Avenue C. Manuel Valle (1898-1977), a Mexican immigrant who fought alongside Pancho Villa, moved to Texas following the Mexican Revolution. He worked at the Dieterich Brothers' Dairy in El Paso, where he met and married Maria Martinez (1902-1970). The company expanded and Manuel and Maria were transferred in 1928 when operations opened up in Garland. They were parents to eight children: six boys and two girls.

In 1944, the Valles purchased a home on West Avenue C and added a bedroom, kitchen and closet to accommodate the large family. Both Manuel and Maria stressed education, and all eight of their children graduated from Garland High School where they excelled in academics and sports. Garland Independent School District would later rename an administration building the Manuel & Maria Valle Student Services Center. The family often gave back to the community, even if they did not have a lot themselves. Serving their community and country were important values to them.

Following high school, all six of the Valle sons fought in the military. Representing the U.S. Army, Army Air Corps, Marines and Air Force. They fought from WWII to the Korean and Vietnam Wars, with the youngest fighting in Middle East conflicts. The eldest daughter helped build planes during WWII and both daughters married military men. Garland's Latino population has grown extensively since the Valles moved here, eclipsing 40% as of 2020. As the first Latino family in Garland, the Valles made a name for themselves and left a legacy for their family and future Latino residents.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/8/2022 ed 10.3.22, rev 11.14.22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Dallas County (Job #22DL04) Subject (Atlas 23556) UTM:  
Location: 4619 W. University Blvd, Dallas, TX

### **ELM THICKET / NORTHPARK NEIGHBORHOOD**

In 1881, a small agricultural community formed here around a dense thicket of plush elm trees surrounded by cornfields. They named their community "Elm Thicket." The neighborhood, one of several freedmen's towns in the Dallas area, evolved into a self-sufficient African American community with numerous churches, an elementary school, restaurants and various family-owned businesses. Residents describe a close-knit community where everyone looked out for each other. In 1917, Love Field School of Aeronautics confronted the neighborhood's growth with impending land and air quality changes. From 1920 to 1950, Elm Thicket faced racial segregation which led to numerous issues. The city of Dallas annexed Elm Thicket in 1929 but neglected the upkeep of the area, delaying connection to the city's water system, leaving streets unpaved and not providing access to the city's public transportation system. The Federal Housing Administration also "redlined" Elm Thicket, which negatively affected area home buying.

Despite these challenges, residents remained strong. From 1928 to 1949, students attended the local York School on Victoria Avenue, which was renamed in 1949 in honor of Kossuth B. Polk. In 1950, Hilliard Golf Course was opened as one of the first golf courses for use by African Americans in the south. However, it closed just four years later when Love Field announced expansion and took a significant portion of Elm Thicket, containing more than 300 black-owned houses and businesses along with the golf course. During the 1970s, residents began referring to the area west of Roper St. as "Elm Thicket" and the area east of Roper St. as "Northpark," and they were eventually combined. The Elm Thicket / Northpark neighborhood remains a testament to the resilience of generations of families.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (SEM) 9/28/2020, ed (BB) 9/1/21, rev 2/25/22, 3/1/22, 7/15/22, 10/12/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

El Paso County (Job #17EP09) Subject ML, WI, MC (Atlas 22664) UTM:

Location: El Paso, Veterans Park, 5301 Salem Drive (proposed)

### MARCELINO SERNA

Private Marcelino Serna was born at the Hacienda Robinson Mining Camp outside Chihuahua City, Mexico, on April 26, 1896, and came to the U.S. in 1915. When the United States entered World War I, Serna joined the U.S. Army. After three weeks of basic training, Serna was deployed to France with Company B, 355th Infantry of the 89th Division. Serna was not a U.S. citizen but chose to stay with his unit even after being told that non-nationals were not obligated to serve. In one of many combat actions, his unit advanced toward the Meuse River and Argonne Forest in northeastern France. After a German machine gunner killed 12 Americans in his unit, Pvt. Serna advanced alone and tossed four grenades into the enemy's machine gun nest, killing six enemy soldiers and taking eight prisoners. During a second mission, Serna shot and wounded a sniper, then followed him to a location where he killed 26 Germans and captured 24 more. Alone, he held the captives until his unit arrived.

Private Serna was wounded four days before the armistice in 1918. While in the army hospital in France, General John J. Pershing awarded Pvt. Serna the Distinguished Service Cross. The Supreme Allied Commander, Marshal Ferdinand Foch, awarded Pvt. Serna numerous medals. Serna's awards include two French Croix de Guerre for bravery, the French Medaille Militaire, French Commemorative Medal, the Italian Cross of Merit, the WWI Victory Medal, the Saint Mihiel Medal, the Verdun Medal, and two Purple Hearts with Oak Leaf Clusters, making Private Serna one of Texas' most decorated WWI veterans. After his discharge in 1919, Pvt. Serna settled in El Paso, where he married and raised a family. He became a U.S. citizen in 1924. He died on February 29, 1992, and was buried at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery. He was posthumously awarded the Texas Medal of Honor in 2017.

(2017)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/26/2022, ed (BB) 9/1/22, rev 10/28/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Ellis County (Job #21EL02) Subject (Atlas 23309 ) UTM:  
Location: 6102 W State Highway 34

### **OLD BARDWELL**

In the 1880s, Ellis County emerged as a leading cotton producing county in the area. A community known as Pleasant Valley developed here, convenient for farmers transporting cotton by wagon. Pleasant Valley School formed in 1882 to serve the families who had settled in the area. Down the road from the school, Elijah Reynolds (1840-1911) sold a 2.75 acre lot to Labon Bonapart "Bonie" Freeman in 1883 along the Ennis to Milford Road (later State Highway 34). Freeman built a steam-powered cotton gin on the site. In 1884, Elijah Reynolds sold his property to Isaac Allen (1832-1911), who sold several lots to form the nucleus of the town. John Ward Bardwell (1840-1921) of Ennis bought the Freeman gin in 1893. The same year, the post office was established, and an official name for the town was needed. According to local tradition, Postmaster John Richard Roach (1845-1900) suggested Bardwell after the cotton gin owner. Bardwell himself never lived in Bardwell and owned the cotton gin for only one year, selling in 1894 to William Whittington and William Roach.

Bardwell was on its way to becoming a thriving community with a church, cotton gin, general store, post office, blacksmiths and druggists. Bardwell had its own paper, *The Bardwell Herald*. When the railroad was built through Ellis County in 1907, it was built bypassing Bardwell by a half mile to the east. Town officials decided it was necessary to move the entire town to the railroad, beginning with the cotton gin and the Church of Christ. While the town prospered in its new location, Old Bardwell faded into history. The Bardwell cotton gin continued to operate in its new location for nearly 100 years before closing in 1983.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN), 10/26/22, ed (BB) 11/8/22, 11/22/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Gregg County (Job #22GG01) Subject (Atlas) UTM:  
Location: Longview, 1201 E. Park Lane

### **BOY SCOUT TROOP 201**

Established in 1917, Boy Scout Troop 201 is one of the oldest continuously operating troops in the state and the nation. On Feb. 19, 1917, the original charter application for Troop 1 (later becoming Troop 201) was filed, with 29 boys registered. The original troop committee included Dr. D.B. McPherson, Emir Hamvasy and Roy Sparkman. B.H. Griffin and J. Pope Koon were the earliest scoutmasters. Longview Lions Club, longtime sponsors of the troop, donated materials and helped build a cabin for meetings in Teague Park. Many scouts of Troop 201 have achieved remarkable success in their chosen fields. After more than a century of heritage, the troop continues to serve the community.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/7/2022, ed (BB) 10/31/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Gregg County (Job #22GG003) Subject (Atlas 23611) UTM:  
Location: 906 Padon Street, Longview TX 75601

### **TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LONGVIEW**

When Longview was established in 1871, the few Episcopalians who moved to the city needed spiritual direction, and the diocese designated the area as a mission field due to sparse population. However, the Longview congregation quickly grew. In 1932, the church achieved parish status. Two years later, they purchased land on Padon Street adjacent to the new Nuggett Hill neighborhood. In the 1950s, the church assumed management of Good Shepherd Hospital and established Trinity School of Texas. A new sanctuary and education classrooms were built in 1985. Trinity Episcopal Church of Longview continues its legacy of service to the community.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/2/2022, ed (BB) 12/8/22, (CTS) 1/2/23  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Hardeman County (Job #22HX01) Subject (Atlas 23644) UTM:  
Location: Quanah Cemetery, FM 2640, Quanah, TX

### THE DEMISE OF JOE EARLE

The sad story of Joe Earle's death typifies common dangers in early Hardeman County. Later reports offer wildly conflicting information on the date and who was involved, but a general story can be surmised. Much about Earle is unknown except that he was born in Georgia and later served in the Confederate Forces. He was traveling through Hardeman County with Joseph H. (1847-1923) and Frederick Estes (1855-1925), brothers and the sons of a prominent Mississippi plantation owner. Accounts of Earle's death come entirely from the statements of the Estes brothers. The three met while traveling to Leadville, Colorado to take part in silver mining, which reached boom status in 1879.

Even ten years earlier, their path would have brought them into Comancheria, a land rigorously defended by tens of thousands of loosely connected Comanche bands and neighboring peoples such as Kiowa and Lipan Apache. Deadly raids on settlements and travelers were common, and these tactics successfully halted new settlement for several centuries. Now, after setbacks due to European diseases and extermination of bison, Native American numbers were rapidly declining; many would surrender at Ft. Still in 1879. Joe Estes claimed the Native Americans came upon Earle first, as he was on horseback some 600 yards ahead of the brothers' wagon. They then advanced toward the brothers, who unharnessed the horses and fled, abandoning the wagon. The brothers returned later that day to survey the damage, which was complete, and bury Earle, who had been scalped.

The Quanah Cemetery developed around Earle's grave as part of the platted town of Quanah when the railroad came through the area. As Hardeman County aged, tales of the "Old West" were popular and spurred some to place a new grave marker at his burial site.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/26/2022, ed (BB) 10/12/22, rev 11/14/22, (CS) 12/2/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Harris County (Job #21HR02) Subject (Atlas 23281 ) UTM:  
Location: 3618 Stassen, Houston, TX 77051

### **MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH**

In 1912, real estate developer H.H. Holmes platted the first development for "Sunny Side Place," later named Sunnyside. The community was far south of the developed areas of Houston, surrounded by cotton and sugar cane plantations. Many of the previously enslaved men and women of African descent stayed in the area after emancipation and took up residence in the development. To meet the spiritual needs of this community, nine residents, under the leadership of the Rev. Joe Edwards, came together in 1920 to form Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. This group named the Rev. A.E. Bell the first pastor, Della Gibbs as secretary and Velma Washington as treasurer. Services were held monthly, with baptisms performed in Sims Bayou. The church soon purchased property at Stassen and Corinth streets. The first building, dedicated in 1928, had two entrances, a porch, and a baptismal pool which negated the need to travel to Sims Bayou. This structure lasted until 1941, when a strong storm blew the structure off its block foundation. In 1955, a new brick building was completed. In 2005, a new building was built. Over time, necessity dictated the church acquire additional property for parking.

The church's dedicated leadership included the Rev. J.W. Marshall, who was first a deacon here before pastoring the church from 1939-1989. Under his long tenure, the Rev. Marshall instituted many ministries and performed hundreds of baptisms and marriages. One of the cornerstones of Mt. Vernon has always been helping the community through numerous efforts, including food distribution, prison ministry, beautification projects, scholarships and youth-focused programs. Since 1920, Mt. Vernon has enriched the Sunnyside community with its outreach and spiritual direction.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (SEM) 12/17/2021, 5/9/22, 10/12/22, rev. (CS) 12/2/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Harris County (Job #21HR06) Subject RD (Atlas 23376) UTM.  
Location: Houston, 1718 Lubbock St.

### **SABINE STREET**

From the beginning, improving Houston streets was a primary concern because the frequent heavy rains and soft soil made travel difficult. Houston's road material of choice was gravel, wood, planks and blocks. By the early 1900s, vitrified brick became the best available material for paving streets because it was fired at a higher temperature and for a longer period, making it harder and impervious to the absorption of water.

The oldest of Houston's six remaining brick-paved roads, Sabine Street's brick-paving construction from Washington Avenue to the Sabine Street Bridge was completed in 1902 with stone curbs instead of concrete. At the same time Sabine Street was paved, Heiner Street was paved from the bridge to San Felipe Road (now West Dallas). This created a high-quality route between Washington and San Felipe, the main roads into downtown from the west. Although the manufacturer of the original bricks on Sabine Street is unknown, some of the bricks from the intersection of Sabine and Washington (paved in 1898) bear the stamp "Thurber Brick Co.," a brick plant company located in Thurber, Texas.

Over the years, Sabine Street fell into disrepair but endured as a beloved asset of the Old Sixth Ward Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1978. In 2018, the city and the Old Sixth Ward Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone 13 revived the three remaining brick-paved blocks. Refurbished bricks and historic stone curbs were reinstalled. Salvaged brick and stone curbs supplemented the lost Sabine Street materials, and new underground sewage, storm drainage and accessibility ramps were installed, renewing the historic road landscape.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/1/2022, ed (BB) 9/21/22  
18" x 28" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Harris County (Job #22HR08) Subject (Atlas) UTM.  
Location: Saddleback Road, Houston, TX 77070

### **WILLIS WOOD CEMETERY**

Born in 1846 to unknown parents in Mississippi, Willis Wood (d. 1926) came to Texas with his brother Jacob and five other African American families around 1867. They sought economic success after emancipation. Originally, they settled in the Piney Point area (20 miles south). Through hard work in the logging and farming industries, the families prospered. Willis and Jacob bought over 100 acres of land here in the 1870s and established a community called "The Bottoms." Willis gave one acre of his land for a cemetery. Notably, Willis Wood himself is buried in Kohrville. This cemetery serves as a final resting place and memorial for the families who embarked on the harsh journey to Texas searching for a better life.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/23/2022  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post rev. (CTS) 12/12/22  
Harrison County (Job #21HS03) Subject (Atlas 23285) UTM:  
Location: Scottsville, 8277 FM 1998

### **NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

In the years immediately following the end of the Civil War, a group of freed slaves, organized by the Rev. Lewis Hanson and the Rev. George Pettygree, began meeting in the home of Samuel Graves. To accommodate growing numbers, the church moved their meeting to this site in an open-sided structure known as a brush arbor. Church membership continued to increase, so a new church building was built. Although this second building shielded congregants from the weather, it had no indoor electrical or plumbing systems. The second church building burned in 1945. The third building's cornerstone was laid in 1946, under the supervision of the Rev. Albert Perkins, who became a noted evangelist.

Through revival and youth efforts, New Hope enriched the community. A week-long series of revival meetings culminated in the church's biggest annual celebration, known as "Big Day," held on the fourth Sunday in September/ Attendees responding to the revival's message would be baptized, participate in a worship service, and be welcomed in a new member ceremony, followed by a church-wide meal. "Big Day" hosted crowds much larger than normal attendance.

The youth, organized and shepherded by Ethel Saxon, enjoyed an active program. Saxon organized the congregation's youth chapter of the Baptist Training Union. Here, youth were instructed in the Bible, public speaking, and held leadership positions. Youth members represented New Hope at week-long annual conferences held at various participating churches. Saxon also led the youth's annual Easter and Christmas programs. These programs reached people throughout the area, who then desired to participate in church activities.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/29/2022, ed (BB) 9/8/22, rev 10/28/22, (CS) 11/14/22, 11/30/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Hood County (Job #20HD01) Subject (Atlas 23253) UTM:

Location: 500 N. Brazos, Granbury, TX 76048

### KEITH STREET SCHOOL

In the 1860s and 70s, African Americans in Granbury fought for educational opportunities, but local and state officials continuously denied them public school funds. Despite these challenges, two schools were established in southwest Granbury for their children to further their education. The first, named Mount Zion, was located a few miles outside of Granbury, and the second, Mount Ebo, was located in the southwest part of town. To provide land for the Mount Ebo School, the black community deeded a house and other lots they owned. According to school records, 26 students attended Mount Ebo in 1880. The July 27, 1893, issue of *The Granbury News* reported on a petition by white citizens filed a memorial to move the school to the northeast side of town, and another petition signed by black and white citizens opposing the relocation.

Records are incomplete, but it is believed that the school moved to a lot on Keith Street in the northeast section of town in 1893 or soon after and became known as Keith Street School. The Mount Ebo Baptist Church was located next to the school. Over the years, the school continued to educate many generations, despite attendance numbers tending to fluctuate. In 1922, a school report listed 35 black students attending Granbury schools. A new one-room school building was completed in 1946, with Eva Mae Williams teaching. Finally, in 1964, faced with losing funding from the federal government, Granbury ISD integrated the schools, and students were bused to other schools. The Keith Street School was rendered obsolete. On Sunday, June 21, 1987, the school building succumbed to fire. For nearly one hundred years, the school provided vibrant civic life and opportunity to the African American community of Granbury.

(2020)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/20/2022, ed (BB) 10/5/22, rev 10/28/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Kendall County (Job #22KE01) Subject (Atlas 23492) UTM;

Location:

### **CASPER SUELTFUSS**

After immigrating from Prussia and reuniting with his family who had arrived in San Antonio in 1848, Casper Sueltenfuss (1844-1916) dedicated his life to bringing necessary public services to the people of Kendall County and the Guadalupe River region. During the Civil War, Sueltenfuss remained loyal to the Union and planned to escape to Mexico with a group of German American loyalists. However, he was unable to meet the group and decided to travel alone. From a distance, he witnessed the 1862 attack on the group by Confederate troops, now known as the Nueces Massacre. He arrived in Mexico and joined the Union troops. When he returned to Texas after the war, he settled in southeast Kendall County on a land grant and married Anna Voelcker (1852-1942), eventually amassing a property of 4,246 acres.

During this time, he began to assume a leadership role within the county. After serving as a school trustee and election officer, he was a charter member and occasional officer of the Germania Farmers Verein, an association of local farmers. In 1883, Sueltenfuss assumed the role of postmaster of the Guadalupe post office. Sueltenfuss continued serving the region for 24 years, bringing postal stability to southeastern Kendall County residents. In 1890, he renamed the post office "Schiller," reportedly because the Guadalupe P.O. mail was getting mixed with nearby Guadalupe County's mail. The post office remained open until 1907 when it folded into the Bergheim office. Until his death in 1916, Sueltenfuss continued the community philanthropy that had defined his adult life. His 40-year public service record facilitated the economic growth of early Kendall County.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/21/2022, ed (BB) 10/27/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Kendall County (Job #22KE03) Subject (Atlas 23494) UTM;  
Location: Comfort, 421 7<sup>th</sup> St.

### **DAN AND FRANCES HOLEKAMP**

Dan Holekamp (1851-1931) and his second wife, Franciska "Frances" (Wiedenfeld) (1862-1947), both children of founding families of Comfort, operated several businesses beginning in the 1880s. Among their interests were a mercantile and a combination saloon, pool hall and amusement hall, Holekamp's Hall, which featured concerts and other events. Some of these performances were in the German language; Dan's involvement in the Local Sons of Hermann Lodge also helped promote and preserve the German heritage of many of Comfort's residents. In 1907, Dan and Frances purposefully selected a lot on 7th Street for a house because it was equidistant between their business ventures. They are remembered for their social and cultural contributions.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/21/2022, ed (BB) 10/5/22, rev 10/31/22, (CTS) 1/2/23  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Lamar County (Job #22LR01) Subject (Atlas 23490) UTM:  
Location: Paris, 231 Lamar Ave.

### **PARIS POST OFFICE**

The Republic of Texas established the Paris Post Office on April 1, 1843, and George W. Wright (1809-1877), the town's founder, was named its first postmaster. According to the custom of the day, Wright's store on 1st St and US 82 likely acted as the first post office. In fact, for the first fifty years of existence, mail distribution probably was conducted out of the existing business office of the current postmaster. Wright remained in the role until July 1844, when he was replaced by Jacob Long. After 1845, when postmasters were appointed by the U.S. government, the post office continued to operate from each postmaster's place of business. Locations included a drugstore, a grocery store, a bookstore and several hotels.

Finally, in 1894, the U.S. government built a federal court and post office building for the town. Thus began a span of 106 years when a post office located on the 300 block of Lamar Avenue served Paris residents. The original post office grew, and an annex on the same block was opened in 1915. Sadly, the 1916 fire destroyed the federal building and badly damaged the annex. Repairs were made, but Congress appropriated funds to build a new post office. After a decade of hurdles in construction, the new post office opened in 1925, still on the 300 block of Lamar. The old annex continued to be of use to the community as educational and commercial property. The 1925 post office was expanded significantly just two years later when a second story was added. The west extension and basement, along with other modernizations, occurred in 1964. By the 1990s, the post office had outgrown its facility. On Feb. 20, 2001, the Paris Post Office moved to Clarksville Street, ending the 106-year span on Lamar Avenue. The Paris Post Office, regardless of location, has faithfully served its citizens since the city's founding.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/4/2022, ed (BB) 11/8/22, rev 12/8/22, rev (CTS) 12/12/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Lamar County (Job #22LR03) Subject (Atlas 23527) UTM:  
Location: Paris, 220 SE 1<sup>st</sup> St.

**WILLIAM J. McDONALD**

Lamar County native William J. McDonald (1844-1926) was a lawyer and banker who endowed the bulk of his fortune to the University of Texas (UT). After attending school and working in Clarksville, he returned to the area in 1886 to open the first National Bank of Paris. He was a lover of natural sciences, especially astronomy. Near the home of A.C. Paul on East Kaufman Street, McDonald often viewed the stars through a telescope. When he died, he left UT an endowment of 1.5 million dollars for an observatory. UT entered a 30-year operational partnership with the University of Chicago in 1932, and McDonald Observatory was dedicated in 1939 on Mount Locke near Fort Davis in West Texas.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/19/2022, rev (CTS) 1.2.23  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Lavaca County (Job #22LC01) Subject (Atlas 23568) UTM:  
Location: 3176 FM 533, Shiner, TX

### **MENGER SCHOOL**

The Menger School represents one of many rural public schools that operated in Lavaca County around the turn of the 20th century. On August 19, 1898, Charles and Minna Menger sold a one-acre parcel of land to the Menger School trustees. The school needed a building, so donations were taken up and locals volunteered their time constructing the one-room schoolhouse. In total, construction cost \$400. The students used homemade benches and desks that were about seven feet long and sat 4-5 pupils. A lawyer from Hallettsville, Charles Fertsch (1879-1951), taught the first two years. The school opened with 49 students. In 1916, Menger School received \$200 in state aid, which paid for new desks for the teacher and students, chairs and other equipment. Agnes Kavanagh started a school library through donations. In 1921, growth necessitated adding another classroom and teacher.

The school excelled in many ways. Menger students competed in county meets for academics, volleyball and track and field. 4-H clubs for both boys and girls were a popular pastime. The school also hosted drama productions and a Christmas program. A forerunner to the PTA, the "Home and School Circle Club," supported the school. The club participated in community fundraisers, with the community rising to the occasion to support the school every time. Despite the school continuing to thrive, in 1949, the school was closed in order to consolidate with Shiner Independent School District, per new state laws. The building was later moved to Shiner and served as the cafeteria for the Shiner Public School. For many decades, the Menger School was a joy and centerpiece for the rural community.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/16/2022, ed (BB) 10/6/22  
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Leon County (Job #22LN01) Subject (Atlas 23570) UTM:  
Location:

### **TAYLOR CEMETERY**

Settlers from Mississippi, traveling in a caravan of 23 covered wagons, came to what was then known as Kidd's Mill (later named Flo) in 1858. Some who settled here included the Oden and Raley families. The first burial in this cemetery is that of Elias Oden (1802-1868), who operated a cotton gin, sawmill and gristmill. Oden's headstone has not been found. The cemetery served those settler families and their subsequent generations. Both the Oden and Raley sections have marked and recently discovered unmarked graves.

The location was renamed Taylor Cemetery in honor of William Franklin Taylor, who is interred here. Taylor was born in Tennessee in 1854 or 1855 and orphaned at age 12. He survived by apprenticing in a pharmacy for room and board. Four years later, he came to Hillsboro (Hill Co.). He married Elizabeth Hunt in 1879. Dr. Taylor obtained a license to practice medicine in 1893. Soon after, Dr. Taylor and Elizabeth moved to Flo. Unfortunately, tragedy struck in 1895 when Elizabeth died in a house fire. She is the first Taylor to be buried at Taylor Cemetery. Dr. Taylor went on to wed Mary Lee House and invest heavily in the community. He owned a cotton gin, commercial real estate, and 2,000 acres of land. He is best remembered for serving as the community doctor and dentist for area residents and was noted for his deep commitment to his patients. Dr. Taylor often went above and beyond to help. Dr. Taylor was a mason and member of woodmen of the world. He died in 1925 and is interred in Taylor Cemetery surrounded by his wives and many generations of family members. This small cemetery is a historic vestige of this rural Leon County community.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/27/2022, ed (BB) 10/24/22, rev (AC) 11/14/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Liberty County (Job #22LB01) Subject (Atlas 23602) UTM:  
Location:

### **BAILEY'S CORNER**

James Washington Bailey (1866-1924) was a prominent physician around the turn of the twentieth century. Dr. Bailey came to practice medicine in Liberty in the early 1890s. He married Lilla Lee Finley (c. 1871-1926). They had five children: Maud, Sunshine, James Jr., A.B., and Mozelle. Dr. Bailey was well-loved and well-respected by the community as he made many house calls, saw patients day or night in his own home and served the county during times of pandemic, plague and poverty. His wife Lilla experienced bouts of illness of her own, and when she was committed to an asylum in 1914, Dr. Bailey took the responsibilities of the family on his own.

In 1896, the Baileys purchased the lot at the corner of Trinity and Travis, which likely had both buildings on it at time of purchase. The residence is known locally as the Bailey-Chambers house. On the corner stands a building known as "Bailey's Hall." Built with two stories, the first floor of Bailey's Hall provided space for the offices of early doctors, lawyers and journalists in Liberty. The second story consisted of a large hall often used for public meetings, plays, orchestras, weddings, seasonal parties and more. In 1898, the Baileys sold the property to Ophelia Green and moved away from Liberty. Mrs. Green ultimately had the second floor removed because the noise of the social gatherings next door disrupted family life. The Baileys returned after nine years and purchased land near the town of Walter. Dr. Bailey died in 1924 at the Carr Hotel in Hull, and Lilla died in 1926 at the asylum. However, their memories live on in Liberty through their property and old stories of so many grand nights passed at Bailey's Hall.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/26/2022, ed (BB) 11/4/22, rev (CTS) 12/12/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Liberty County (Job #22LB02) Subject (Atlas 23605) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N

Location: Daisetta, 3428 FM 770 North

## **POUNDS HOUSE**

Georgia native William D. Pounds (1836-1882) settled in Liberty County after he married local resident Mary Barrow. William Pounds, his son George Washington Pounds (1869-1929) and other family members were large landowners, farmers and ranchers and thus important to the development of the area. In 1898, construction began on the Pounds House, for primary use of George Washington Pounds and his wife, Nettie (Canter) Pounds (1877-1963). The house was built in stages, with the kitchen and dining room area constructed first. Locals remember carpenter John Stegler and his son George as the builders. This two-story modified center passage home is of wood frame clapboard construction and features a hipped roof with a north chimney. Its front facade features 4/4 windows and three entrance doors.

In 1912-1914, six rooms were added with large porches on the front and back of those rooms. The Pounds family also installed a large woodburning kitchen range. Downstairs boasted two bedrooms, but upstairs was one large room. The back porch was taken into the house and another back porch was added, bringing the downstairs bedroom number up to four and a living room, and the upstairs was divided into five rooms, including an upstairs kitchen. Extended generations of Pounds children and their families lived here.

Over the years, Nettie would occasionally provide beds and meals for boarders, weary travelers and workmen. A bathroom was added to the house, and water was piped into the kitchen upstairs, but Nettie's kitchen avoided running water and utilized a pump on the porch. The house was wired for electricity in the 1930s. The Pounds family deeded the house to the Historical Society of East Liberty County in 1986.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN) 11/22/2022, ed (BB) 12/5/22, rev. (CTS) 12/12/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Liberty County (Job #22LB03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:  
Location: 7 mi. SE of Cleveland on SH 321, N (left) on CR 2274 (Rural Shade Rd.)

### **RURAL SHADE BAPTIST CHURCH**

At least 14 chapter members founded this church in the Tarkington's Prairie community about 1870. Land was deeded in 1878 for a combination Baptist church and Masonic Hall structure. That year, a two-story building was erected, with the second-floor housing the Masonic Lodge, and the church on the first floor. Many early church members were also active in the lodge. D.D. Forman was a Master Mason and the first church pastor from 1874 to 1876 and again in 1882.

In the early years, pastors were elected from the congregation members. Worship services were held once or twice a month, usually on Saturdays. "Meetings of Days," later called revivals, were held at the church building.

In 1908, the Ryan cemetery was deeded to the Rural Shade Baptist Church by Washington Berry. Located five miles south, the church held ownership to the land until 1989, when it was transferred to the Ryan Cemetery Association.

Since its founding, the congregation has continuously supported a variety of Christian programs for its members, as well as outreach mission work in domestic and foreign fields.

(1996)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (SEM), 6/19/2018, 10/8/18, ed (BB) 10/11/22  
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Limestone County (Job #18LT01) Subject GY (Atlas 12580) UTM;  
Location: Tehuacana, CR 225 (Cemetery Rd.) at Westminster

### **TEHUACANA CEMETERY**

This historic graveyard reflects the heritage of Tehuacana, an early Texas town founded in the 1840s by John Boyd (1796-1873). Elected from Sabine County to the first and second congresses of the Republic of Texas, Boyd moved to this part of the state and established the town's first post office in his mercantile store in 1847. His offer of land and money convinced the Cumberland Presbyterian Church to begin Trinity University here in 1869. Although no deed records exist for the cemetery, the earliest documented burial is that of Boyd's granddaughter, Roxana B. Campbell, who died in 1850 at the age of four months. Hers is one of many tombstones marking the burials of infants and children during the 19th century, bearing witness to the harshness of life on the developing Texas frontier.

Others buried here include William E. Beeson (1822-1882), first president of Trinity University; James Lisbon Lawlis (1856-1902), founder and first president of Westminster College, which moved to Tehuacana after Trinity University relocated in 1902; Robert Marshall Love (1847-1903), who grew up in Tehuacana and was serving as Texas State Comptroller at the time of his death; and town founder John Boyd (1796-1873). Also buried in the cemetery are veterans of many wars, including the Texas Revolution, Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The Tehuacana Cemetery Association maintains the burial ground, which, at the turn of the 21st century, contained more than 700 marked burials and a number of unmarked graves.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2019

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 8/30/2022, ed (BB) 9/20/22, 9/22/22, rev (CTS) 12.12.22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Matagorda County (Job #21MG02) Subject (Atlas 23351) UTM:  
Location: 22950 TX-60, Matagorda, TX

### **JAMES HENRY SELKIRK**

Born to William Selkirk (1792-1830) and Matilda (Hallenbake) Selkirk (1794-1820), James Selkirk (1815-1862) was heir to his father's Old 300 Spanish land grant in Matagorda. He possessed an astute business mind, which fostered regional import and export activity during the plantation and Civil War eras. Selkirk built a docking pier, warehouse and wharf, greatly increasing Matagorda's economic prospects. Selkirk also served in numerous city and county positions and as a commissioner of the free education system. His daguerreotype studio created a photographic library of great interest. A man of vision and action, his numerous contributions were crucial to Matagorda's early success.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (MR) 6/17/2022, ed (BB) 6/23/22, rev 10/18/22, (CS) 12/2/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Matagorda County (Job #21MG04) Subject (Atlas 23405) UTM:  
Location: Palacios, 900 Morton St.

### **WEST SIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The first public schooling for Mexican American students in Palacios dates to 1923, when a single room was set aside for them to receive an education. For first through third grades, most students with a Hispanic surname would be taught in this "Mexican Room" with a focus on learning English. Once they were considered to be proficient speakers, the students would move into fourth grade with the white students. Carolyn Sunshine Edwards (1922-2004) and Elizabeth Sisson (1910-1998) were among the first teachers specifically for the Mexican students. In 1936, the number of students had outgrown the single room they had been using, prompting the construction of a proper "Mexican School" for the following year.

The completion of the school allowed the Mexican American students to become more involved in the Palacios community. The children would have an opportunity to participate in programs and stage performances. The school was expanded again in 1942 to accommodate for the growing number of students.

In 1951, it was found that the West Side Elementary School would need a significant amount of funding to continue operation. The facility still lacked many modern features, and it was decided that it would simply be more efficient to transfer the students to another elementary school in town than spend the resources to update the facilities. While fully integrated schools were still a few years off, it was agreed that the Mexican American students could share classrooms with their white peers. The school officially closed in 1952. During its time, the West Side Elementary was a vital part of the town's Mexican American community.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/12/2022, ed (BB) 11/15/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Matagorda County (Job #22MG02) Subject (Atlas 23642) UTM:  
Location:

### **ALLENHURST COMMUNITY AND CEMETERY**

The town of Allenhurst was platted in 1905 along the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railway (SLB&M). From its founding, the families in the community were predominately African American freedmen. The town had a train depot, church, and school. A 1909 hurricane destroyed the depot. Allenhurst declined in the later half of the twentieth century, with the land being primarily now used for farming. Allenhurst's only historic remnant is the cemetery, which was deeded in 1917 by Louise Holt Mayfield. The oldest burial is John Jackson (d. 1915). Notable graves include combat veterans and a centenarian. Active burials continue, mainly for descendants of the community's pioneering families.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/19/2022, ed (BB) 12/12/22, (CTS) 1/2/23  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Matagorda County (Job #22MG03) Subject (Atlas 23659) UTM:  
Location: 900 Morton Ave, Palacios, TX

### **CASA DE DIOS**

First Methodist Church of Palacios founded Casa de Dios as a mission to Spanish-speaking people in 1912. Maria de los Santos donated the land. First Methodist and First Presbyterian worked together to enhance the success of the mission in the early years. In 1920, the property was transferred to the Presbytery of Mexico-Texas, and a few years later, it transferred to First Presbyterian. It was known for many years as "The Mexican Mission" of the First Presbyterian Church of Palacios and members of the mission were considered members of the church. The mission had 41 members by 1931. It was served by numerous volunteers, including W.H. Clement, Irene Batchelder, Mary Burnet, Nora Talmadge, Alice Barr, Rosa Flores and many others. In 1951, a house across from the church at Ninth and Morton was dedicated as a manse. The first pastor to live in the manse was the Reverend Bernardo del Pozo in 1953.

The mission was formally organized as the Second Presbyterian Church of Palacios on November 5, 1955. Second Presbyterian transferred 53 communicant members from First Church. The first elders were Jacinto Garza Sr., Reynaldo Garza, Manuel Guajardo and Guadalupe Serna. Mary Garza Guajardo was the first treasurer, followed by Angela Flores in 1956. The women's circle, named "Messengers of Christ," and a young people's circle organized. An annex was built and dedicated on June 13, 1963. In the mid-1990s, Second Presbyterian added the name "Casa de Dios." Since its founding, the church has participated in outreaches, advocacy, conferences and evangelism events. The decades-long work of many faithful hands continues to enrich the community.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/3/2022, ed (BB) 10/24/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Milam County (Job #22MM01) Subject (Atlas 23586) UTM.  
Location:

### **GAUSE BAPTIST CHURCH**

In 1877, a group of settlers gathered to found Gause Baptist Church. W.T.N. Beasley of Rockdale served as pastor. In 1889, services were discontinued but Sunday school remained active. In 1893, the congregation was reorganized and services moved to the Methodist church building. John Whitfield Stephen (1860-1927) served as the second pastor, and the church included 38 members. Four years later, Gause Baptist Church built their own building on land donated by J.R. Fraim (1832-1907). The steeple was topped with a bell that is still in use today. The early half of the twentieth century saw Gause Baptist Church hold successful revivals. New converts were sometimes baptized nearby in the Little River. In 1950, the original frame building was replaced with another frame building, which had many features including central heating and cooling. A new parsonage was also built during this time. In years thereafter, the brick exterior walls were erected.

The center of the church has always been the people who serve. To date, 48 pastors have served Gause Baptist Church. The church has enjoyed many dedicated members over its history. One such member was Emmagene Ferguson Goode Bland, who was baptized in the church in 1921 and spent 44 years teaching a women's Sunday school class. Another such member was C.W. Moore, who oversaw cemetery funds and raised his son, Joe, in the church. Joe went on to play left field for the New York Giants in the 1930s and 40s. His 12-year career included three pennants and a world championship. When he returned, the "Gause Ghost" became a deacon and took over the cemetery fund management from his father. Gause Baptist Church has been a faithful pillar of this community for more than a century.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (JJR) 11/1/2021, ed SEM/BB 1/21/2022, rev 6/16/22, 8/1/22, 10/31/22, (CS) 12/2/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Nueces County (Job #21NU02) Subject ML (Atlas 23379) UTM:

Location: Corpus Christi, 2914 Shoreline Blvd @ Lexington Plaza

### **USS LEXINGTON**

USS *Lexington* (CV-16) is the fifth U.S. Navy ship named for the Revolutionary War Battle of Lexington. The previous USS *Lexington* (CV-2) was sunk on May 8, 1942, during the WWII Battle of the Coral Sea. To honor CV-2, workers at the Fore River shipyard in Quincy, Massachusetts, petitioned the Secretary of the Navy to change the name of the carrier under construction from Cabot to Lexington. The request was approved and USS *Lexington* (CV-16) was commissioned on February 17, 1943.

The USS *Lexington's* first combat operation was against the air base at Tarawa in September 1943. She and her crew then served in nearly every major battle in the Pacific until the end of the war. Japanese propagandist, Tokyo Rose, referred to *Lexington* as "the blue ghost" due to the blue tint of her paint scheme and because she always reappeared after reportedly being sunk. The nickname was adopted with pride by the ship's crew. Two of those incorrect reports of sinking were after a torpedo hit to the starboard quarter on December 4, 1943, and after a kamikaze attack on November 5, 1944. In both cases, the ship returned to the fight relatively quickly. USS *Lexington* was the first foreign heavy carrier to enter Tokyo Bay in August 1945, leading to the saying, "Tarawa to Tokyo."

The U.S. Navy decommissioned *Lexington* in 1947. However, the escalation of the Cold War in the 1950s brought the ship back to service as CVA-16 with renovations to operate jet aircraft in support of missions near Taiwan, Laos and Cuba. In the 1960s, CVS-16/CVT-16 became the U.S. training carrier for naval aviators. In 1980, AVT-16 became the first aircraft carrier with female crewmembers. The U.S. Navy decommissioned *Lexington* for the last time on November 8, 1991, as the longest-serving Essex-class carrier. Since 1992, she has been berthed in Corpus Christi as a historic museum.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/12/2022, ed (BB) 10/6/22, 11/22/22, rev (CTS) 12/12/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Parker County (Job #22PR03) Subject (Atlas 23612) UTM:  
Location: Weatherford, 6904 Tucker Dr.

### **MARTHA ELIZABETH COCKBURN TUCKER**

Born as the seventh of eight children to Jeremiah Cockburn (1804-1894) and Johanna Henson (1809-1884), Martha Elizabeth Cockburn Tucker (1839-1915) personified the struggles of a typical female settler in Texas during the 19th century. In the mid-1850s, her family traveled by ox cart from Georgia to live in Parker County. The land was occupied by the Comanche and Kiowa peoples. Her family's actions were typical of many settlers from the southern states and European countries who flocked into Texas under the promise of cheap land. In 1858, Martha Cockburn married Moses Tucker (1833-1890), who had moved to Parker County from Kentucky in 1854 with his two brothers. The couple would have nine children, with eight surviving to adulthood. Early in their marriage, fear of violence from Native American tribes swept through the white population in Parker County. This fear increased when Moses left to fight in the Civil War, along with many other Parker County men.

During the war, Martha Tucker was left to raise the couple's three oldest children, Aaron (b. 1859), Jeremiah (b. 1861) and Lourenia (b. 1864) and run the farm by herself. She managed to meet those challenges in her husband's absence and hold the family together. Moses returned to farming and by 1871 had acquired 7 horses, a mule, 10 sheep and 35 cattle. Additionally, the family welcomed the youngest six children: Nancy (b. 1867), John (b. 1869), Virgil (b. 1871), Amelia (b. 1873), Minnie Pearl (b. and d. 1875) and Gussie (b. 1876). Martha, along with her husband Moses, exemplified the frontier settler experience in Texas during the 19th century.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/23/2022, ed (BB) 10/3/22, rev 10/31/22  
18" x 28" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Polk County (Job #22PK01) Subject (Atlas 23491) UTM;  
Location: Livingston, 169 Bluff Creek Cemetery Rd.

### **BLUFF CREEK CEMETERY**

Bluff Creek Baptist Church and Cemetery were established in the 1890s. The church building still resides on the property and is used every homecoming. In 1897. David C. Walker, George A. Harrell, Mike McKim and John K. Walker bought the land to establish a public cemetery. At that time, there were only about fifty burials. In 1980, the cemetery was expanded with the purchase of ten additional acres. Of the nearly 500 graves present, the oldest is that of Samuel B. McKim (1880-1892). Veterans of military conflicts from the Civil War through the Vietnam War are buried here. This serene setting represents the legacy of hardworking, faithful and family oriented early settlers of the community.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2008

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/22/2022, ed (BB) 10/5/22, rev 10/28/22, ed 11/30/22, rev. (CTS) 12/12/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

San Saba County (Job #22SS01) Subject (Atlas 23574) UTM:

Location:

### **EDGAR THOMAS NEAL**

Born to Hamilton and Mary (Pedigo) Neal in the Fairview community in Wilson County, Edgar T. Neal (1869-1946) was a famed San Saba lawman. Early in his adult life, he followed his father and cultivated a close connection with the Masonic fraternity. On November 25, 1895, Neal became a Texas Ranger when he enlisted in John H. Rogers' Company E, Frontier Battalion. A few months later, Company E was ordered to stop the famous Maher-Fitzsimmons prizefight. In the late 1800s, San Saba County was under the rule of the vigilante group known as the "San Saba mob." Neal was part of the Ranger force ordered to quell the violence and murders, which successfully brought mob rule to an end.

In 1898, Neal was elected sheriff and his tenure slowly brought law and order back to San Saba County. He was re-elected as sheriff and tax collector three more times, ending his service in 1906 and relocating to Fort Worth. Neal returned to San Saba County and served as sheriff from 1918-1925. However, the Ku Klux Klan and the public's pushback against prohibition laws ran afoul of Sheriff Neal. In 1924, he was voted out in favor of a Klan candidate. In 1925, Neal was appointed Deputy Game, Fish and Oyster Commissioner for Central Texas. He was an active wildlife conservationist working with the Izaak Walton league. In 1929, Neal relocated to Lubbock where he again served as a ranger from June 1930 – January 1933 and February 1935 – July 1936. He served as security for the Marshall Ford Dam Project and later for the Republic Oil Company in Houston. His last position was Chief of Police for Galena Park, where he died in office. Throughout his long career, Edgar T. Neal spent his life on the forefront of law and order, active in wildlife conservation and the Masonic fraternity.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Tarrant County (Job #22TR03) Subject (Atlas 23662) UTM:  
Location: Crowley, 100 S. Texas St.

### **HALEY'S MEAT MARKET**

In 1951, Charles A. Haley (1917-2009) purchased an existing food locker plant on South Texas Street and opened for business. In the original layout, the processing floor occupied the back of the building, with meat lockers and offices in the middle and a meat market in front. The business grew rapidly and 10,000 square feet were added to expand the processing floor. Delivery routes were established to Azle, Lake Worth and Alvarado. The store sold 5,000 pounds of wholesale meat per day in addition to retail meat. The Haleys retired in 1984. A former meat market employee ran the business as "Crowley Meats" until 1990. The processing floor was later remodeled for office space.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/12/2022, ed (BB) 9/26/22, rev 10/28/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Van Zandt County (Job #22VN04) Subject (Atlas 23572) UTM:

Location:

### **POTTERS BROWN**

Artist Doug Brown (1943-2020) opened Edom's first pottery shop in 1971 and began making original creations. Brown's shop used a distinctive color technique, and the store became a haven for other craftsmen to learn and perfect their trade. His actions inspired other artists to create in Edom, including wood workers, jewelry makers, and glass blowers, forming a vibrant artists' community. They brought new economic growth and revitalization to the area. The artists launched the very successful Edom Art Festival in 1972 which attracted thousands. Potters Brown helped promote the small town of Edom and boost the local economy.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/7/2022, ed (BB) 9/21/2022, rev. (CTS) 12/12/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Wharton County (Job #22WH01) Subject (Atlas) UTM:

Location:

### **DRASTATA FARM**

Frank Drastata (1862-1936), his wife Antonia (Kuch) (1854-1942), and sons Frank J. (1892-1974) and Charles (1890-1978) immigrated to the United States from Mnichovice (modern Czech Republic) in 1893. The Drastatas were living in Ammansville (Fayette Co.) when many German and Czech immigrants began moving to Wharton County and forming communities. In late 1896, the family headed to Taiton. They bought eighty acres of unimproved farmland in November 1897. The Drastatas attempted to grow cotton but faced crop hardships and constant flooding due to the presence of Mott Slough, a tributary of nearby Mustang Creek. Around this time, Frank caught malaria and never regained his health. Charles married in 1914 and purchased a nearby farm. Frank J. married Frances Vacek (1892-1966) in 1917 and continued to live and work on the Drastata farm. Frank J. and Frances studied rice as a potential crop for their farm and decided to attempt its cultivation. They were among the first rice producers in the area. Rice grew extremely well on their property, and they had to hire many workers to help in its production.

One crucial aspect of rice production is controlled water to receive an optimal rice crop. Frank J. dug many ditches and constructed levees to control the water around the property. Additionally, by the early 1940s, he installed a line shaft turbine water pump. Since electrical service was not extended to the farm until 1946, the pump had to be operated by tractor. The rice farm flourished. The Drastatas gave back to the community in many ways, especially through the use of their powerful water pump. The Drastata family is just one example of the enterprising Czech immigrant families whose resilience and determination helped them prosper in Texas.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/4/2022, ed (BB) 10/31/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Wharton County (Job #22WH05) Subject (Atlas 23674) UTM:  
Location: Wharton, 815 Mattie St.

**ST. JAMES MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Under the leadership of the Reverend John Bolden, St. James Baptist Church formed in 1866 in an area known as Bolden Quarters. Thereafter, the historically African American congregation moved to 1921 Hendon St and then 435 West Milam in Wharton. In the 1970s, the church started a successful bus fleet "soul-winning" ministry under Pastor R.A. Williams Jr. A local radio station, KANI, broadcasted the church's weekly Sunday night messages. In 1991, the church constructed a facility at 815 Mattie. In the next decades, the church focused once again on community outreach, particularly to area youth. For more than 150 years, St. James Missionary Baptist Church has been a place of hope and vision in Wharton county.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Wichita County (Job #21WC01) Subject CH, BP (Atlas 23295) UTM:

Location: Burkburnett, 612 Floyd

### **PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH**

The first African Americans to this area were brought by settlers Mabel Gilbert and family in the 1850s. By the 1920s, a 3-mile square portion of the original township of Burkburnett was settled by African Americans and was known as "The Colored Community." Within its boundaries there existed a school, a cemetery and five churches of various denominations. In 1922, the Rev. T.M. Moore founded Providence Baptist Church, which moved to the corner of 6th and Floyd Street on a parcel of land gifted out of the Lela Harwell estate. A few years later, the members constructed a one-room frame building for worship. Under the early tenure of the Rev. T.L. Longmiles, who served the church from 1948-1981, this building was demolished and rebuilt. The Rev. Longmiles also focused on Christian education for both youth and adults. Another early leader, the Rev. Wade Johnson, assisted in the organization of the first local public school for African American children in addition to his church duties.

Since its beginning, the Providence Baptist Church prioritized service to the community. In the 1960s, the church supported area anti-poverty efforts stemming from the Federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. In the 1970s, Providence was the sole surviving church in the African American community and hosted many meetings and programs.

In 1972, with the financial support of the First Baptist Church of Burkburnett on land purchased from a local citizen, the church built a new worship center on the corner of 7th and Floyd. For more than a century, Providence Baptist Church has provided a guidepost of service and education to area residents.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/23/2022, ed (BB) 9/12/22, rev 10/28/22, (CS) 12/2/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Wood County (Job #21WD01) Subject (Atlas 23354) UTM:  
Location: Mineola, 800 N. Johnson Street

### **THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN**

In 1947, Charles Avery Mason, Episcopal Bishop of Dallas, directed the Rev. Henry Lee Fullerton (1913-2010) and others to explore six counties in east Texas where there were no parishes. They met with Helen Wade in Mineola and in July 1947 formed the Episcopal Church of St. Dunstan. With thirteen commitments from residents, the church began weekly services in Wade's home. The church broke ground on their own site on Johnson Street in 1948, and the following year, the first service was held on the site. Parish status was received in 1956. The congregation continued to grow as the Rev. Fullerton was beloved both within the church and community. He served on city and mission committees. The church expanded its reach, training lay leaders, torch bearers, crucifiers and lay readers. They hosted dances for high school students. When the Rev. Fullerton died, his bequest provided for updates to the building, including finishes to the metal roof and the enlargement, rewiring and repainting of the nave.

Other noted leaders at St. Dunstan have included the Rev. William Woods (1927-2002) who served the church from 1964-1983. During this time, the Rev. Woods led youth activities and community engagement. The Rev. R.E. McCrary served from 1987-2001. His tenure witnessed an increase in the number of daily services and the 50th anniversary of the church. Later significant additions to the church campus have included parish hall completion and a columbarium, memorial wall and courtyard. Through membership in the Mineola Ministerial Alliance and support of many local organizations, the congregation has served its neighbors and the area. The church continues to minister to the community through Christian leadership, religious education and civic involvement.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB) 10/10/2022, rev 12/8/22, ed. (CTS) 1/2/23  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Young County (Job #22YN01) Subject JA (Atlas 22851) UTM;

Location: Graham, 503 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

### **1921 YOUNG COUNTY JAIL**

Designed by Dallas architect C.H. Leinbach, this Young County jail was completed in 1921 by Henger & Chambers Co. The three-story concrete and brick building reflects commercial architectural style with prairie influences. It features a half basement, living quarters for the sheriff and family on the first floor, jail cells on the second and third floors and an indoor gallows. The jail held those awaiting trial until 1977, notably including three men from the 1927 Santa Claus bank robbery in Cisco. After remodeling in 1983, the building was used primarily in support of the Graham Area Crisis Center, an outreach facility for suffering families.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Item 14.2  
Texas Historical Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 31 - February 1, 2023

## 2022 Undertold Marker Topics Report

### **Background:**

At the May 2008 quarterly meeting, Commissioners approved and adopted criteria to score candidates for expenditures of Marker Application Funds collected since fall 2006. For each new and replacement historical marker, a \$100 application fee funds “an account to offer funding incentives for special or priority markers” to address historical gaps, promote diversity of topics, and proactively document significant undertold or untold stories. At the October 2020 quarterly meeting, Commissioners adopted a work plan that limits recommended topics to **15** markers through the Undertold marker program from the qualified 2022 applications received.

In October-November 2022, a statewide request was sent through THC emails and listservs, and a total of **61** candidates were received from **42** counties. An interdisciplinary review committee of THC staff reviewed and scored the topics and held a consensus scoring and discussion meeting.

### **Scoring criteria:**

- 30 pts max. Diversity of topic for addressing gaps in historical marker program; value of topic as an undertold or untold aspect of Texas history
- 20 pts max. Endangerment level of property, site or topic
- 10 pts max. Historical or architectural significance
- 10 pts max. Historical or architectural integrity
- 10 pts max. Relevance to statewide preservation plan and other THC programs
- 10 pts max. CHC support and existing documentation
- 10 pts max. Diversity among this group of candidates

### **Topics to be considered for approval (15):**

#### **Bexar Co. Gustavo “Gus” García**

Prolific Mexican American Civil Rights attorney and legal advisor to various Latinx advocacy organizations in Texas, notably LULAC and the American GI Forum. García was one of the lead attorneys on Supreme Court case *Hernández vs. The State of Texas* (1954), a case that helped reshape constitutional protections on the basis of race under the 14th amendment.

**Marker location:** Thomas Jefferson High School, 723 Donaldson Ave, San Antonio, TX 78201  
OR Gus Garcia University, 3306 Ruiz St, San Antonio, TX 78228

**Submitted by:** Dr. ToniAnn Treviño, Efraín Gutiérrez, and Plácido Salazar

#### **Brazos Co. Dr. William A. Hammond Sr.**

One of the earliest African American surgeons in Bryan. Graduated from Prairie View A&M and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn. In 1916. After, he moved to Bryan and began a practice serving African American clients. In 1929, he opened Hammond Memorial Hospital. The 16-bed facility served patients in Bryan until its closure in the 1950s. In addition, he was an entrepreneur and humanitarian in the African American Community.

**Marker location:** Grandview Cemetery, 3499 Old Kurten Road, Bryan, TX 77808

**Submitted by:** Kenneth W. Smith Jr., Brazos County Historical Commission Member

#### **Burleson Co. Clay Station Freedom Colony**

Clay Station Freedom Colony was established in South Burleson County. Freed slaves originally became farmers and sharecroppers, then the railroad came through town and offered additional employment.

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Town featured general stores, churches, schools, Masonic Lodge, businesses, a dance hall, a post office, and a baseball team. Also submitted in 2021.

**Marker location:** TBD

**Submitted by:** Gloria L. Smith, Dabney Hill Historical Society

### **Dallas Co.                      Robert Thomas Ashford**

Ashford opened the first African American owned record store in the Deep Ellum neighborhood of Dallas in 1922, focusing mainly on blues singers. He also managed many popular African American blues musicians, such as Lillian Glinn and Blind Lemon Jefferson. The record store closed in 1936.

**Marker location:** TxDOT Right of Way, 2439 Swiss Ave, Dallas, TX 75204

**Submitted by:** Jaclyn M. Zapata

### **Denton Co.                      Tom Cook Blacksmith Shop**

Freedman Tom Cook began blacksmithing in Bolivar in the 1870s and purchased his shop in 1882. While the building no longer stands, a TxDOT-sponsored road project uncovered archeological and archival records of the shop. It is the first African American blacksmith shop to undergo excavation and archeological investigation in Texas.

**Marker location:** Corner of FM 455 & FM 2540, Bolivar, TX 76266

**Submitted by:** Doug Boyd

### **Fannin Co.                      F.I.S. College**

The Farmer's Improvement School operated in Fannin County from 1906-1947. It was founded by the Farmers' Home Improvement Society, a self-improvement society providing various services to the black community in Texas.

**Marker location:** Highway 34 and CR 3910, Ladonia, TX 75496

**Submitted by:** Malinda Allison, Fannin County Historical Commission

### **Galveston Co.                      Galveston's African American Lifeguards**

James Helton and Wavery Guidry were among the first lifeguards that served Galveston's historically African American beach at 28th street from the 1930s-1950s. In total, they saved dozens of people from drowning.

**Marker location:** 2900 Sewall Blvd, Galveston, TX 77550

**Submitted by:** Julie Baker, Galveston County Historical Commission

### **Harrison Co.                      Leigh Community and Health Center**

Leigh Community and Health Center was a community-funded project established in 1943 that provided healthy recreation, leadership development and health education. The health unit also provided medical attention including immunizations, pre-natal exams, dental & much more.

**Marker location:** 14109 FM 134, Karnack, TX 75661

**Submitted by:** Thomas Speir, Harrison County Historical Commission

### **Hays Co.                      The San Marcos Mexican American Community and Urban Renewal**

In October 1962, the City of San Marcos developed an urban renewal plan with the express purpose of "slum clearance." The vast majority of those affected were Mexican Americans, including the Garza family, who held their land since 1906. Today's San Marcos library, Rio Vista Park and Children's Park were all developed on land usurped from Mexican Americans by Urban Renewal. In all, approximately 1,586 Mexican individuals were displaced.

**Marker location:** 555 Cheatham Street, San Marcos, TX 78666

**Submitted by:** Gina Alba-Rogers, The Council for Indigenous and Tejano Community

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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### **Hidalgo Co.                      Falcon Records**

Arnaldo Ramirez founded Falcon Records in 1948 as an independent recording company focusing on Spanish-language music from South Texas and Northern Mexico. It became one of the most popular recording studios along the border and helped popularize Tex-Mex music nationwide. It closed in the 1990s.

**Marker location:** Corner of Rafael Ramirez St & Doherty, Mission, TX 78572

**Submitted by:** Gabriel Ozuna, Mission Historical Museum

### **Limestone Co.                      St. Paul College**

Founded in 1928 during the days of a Mexia oil boom, St. Paul Normal and Industrial Institute educated black students in the usual college courses, however, setbacks from the Depression and World War II, the school had to scale back from being a four-year institute to a 2-year junior college teaching mainly religious and trade skills, such as cabinet making and shoe repair. The school closed in 1952. Also submitted in 2021.

**Marker location:** Corner of US Hwy 84 W & College Ave, Mexia, TX 76667

**Submitted by:** Dan Keeling

### **Matagorda Co.                      Japanese Farmers in Matagorda County**

Hiroto Katayama established a small Japanese colony to provide labor to his rice farm at Markham around 1906. Some laborers who worked on his farm married and settled in Matagorda and Harris counties.

**Marker location:** Corner of Broadway & 4th St, Markham, TX 77456

**Submitted by:** Carol Sue Gibbs, Matagorda County Historical Commission

### **Travis Co.                              Barton Springs Swim-Ins**

In 1960, Joan Elizabeth Means Khabele was a senior at the newly integrated Austin High School when her principal informed black students they would not be able to swim at Barton Springs with the rest of their classmates for the school's senior picnic. Instead of accepting the decision, she organized youth and college students in "swim-ins" as an act of civil disobedience. Integration came in 1962.

**Marker location:** 2131 William Barton Drive, Austin, TX 78746

**Submitted by:** Sarah Marshall, Austin Parks and Rec

### **Webb Co.                                Laredo Street Car**

On Dec 5, 1889, the Laredo streetcar, owned by the Laredo Improvement Company, made its debut. Four months later, a line was extended over a bridge to Nuevo Laredo, making it the first international electric streetcar in the United States. Prior to its end in 1935 the system had four lines of 6.21 miles and 9 cars.

**Marker location:** Near 109 Market Street, Laredo, TX 78040

**Submitted by:** Webb County Historical Commission in coordination with Jesus Najjar

### **Wichita Co.                              Youth Opportunity Center (RTHL)**

Local architect Eugene M. Elam designed this unique 1963 building in the round as a home for the Northside Girls Club. Other owners include Beacon Lighthouse for the Blind; the Wichita Falls Art, Entertainment and Culture, Inc; and the Youth Opportunities Center.

**Marker location:** 401 Madison Street, Wichita Falls, TX 76306

**Submitted by:** Becky Trammel, Wichita County Historical Commission

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**Other applications received (47):**

County	Topic	Comments
Atascosa	Dead Mans Tank	
Baylor	Augusta Hasslock Kemp	Also submitted in 2021
Bell	Colored VFW Post 9191	
Brazos	John Moore School	
Brown	Kress Depot (RTHL)	
Calhoun	Clark Station	
Comanche	Laura Valenta & Travelers Hotel	
Dallas	Stevie Ray Vaughan	
Denton	Fry Street	
Ellis	William Hobart Stafford School	
Ellis	Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church	
Fort Bend	Danover Community in Katy	
Goliad	Goliad Blacksmith Shop	
Grimes	Artie Fultz Davis	
Guadalupe	Staples African American Freedman Colony Assoc. Cemetery (HTC)	
Guadalupe	Jakes Colony Freedmens Settlement	
Harris	Clinton Park	
Harris	C.B. Rice	
Harris	Garfield Abraham Kennedy	
Harris	Washington Stokes	

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Harris	Oak Hill Missionary Baptist Church	
Harris	Judson and Josie Robinson	
Harrison	Antioch School	
Houston	Lake Creek Cemetery	
Lamar	Plaza Theatre	
Marion	Oakwood Free Ground	
Montgomery	New Home Community	
Nueces	Nueces County Livestock Show	
Nueces	Skirmish at Corpus Christi Pass	
Presidio	Cibolo of Far West Texas	
Rusk	Mt. Zion Baptist Church	
Tarrant	Panther Hall	Also submitted in 2020, 2021.
Travis	Donley-Goode-Walton House (RTHL)	
Travis	African American Labor at Flower Hill	
Travis	Juanita Craft	
Upton	Seals Family	
Waller	Williams Cemetery (HTC)	
Washington	Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church (RTHL)	
Wichita	Dick Sparks	
Wichita	Catherine Clark	Also submitted in 2021
Wichita	Abby Cooper	Also submitted in 2021
Wichita	Walter Cline	Also submitted in 2020, 2021
Wichita	Lottie Lobaugh	
Wichita	Spudder Park	Also submitted in 2020
Wilson	Rancho de Pataguilla	
Wood	"The Acre," Winnsboro's Black Community	

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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### Item 14.3

Texas Historical Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 31-February 1, 2023

**Consider approval of filing authorization of an amendment to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) removal procedures, for first publication in the *Texas Register***

**Background:**

The proposed amendments to Section 21.13 clarify procedures for Recorded Texas Historical Landmark (RTHL) removal requests and the time period for marker removal requests. They also correct formatting and grammatical errors in the rule.

The first publication will take place after approval by the Commission. There is a 30-day comment period following the publication, therefore rules approved by the Commission for this meeting will be considered for final approval and second publication at the April 2023 meeting.

**Recommended motion (Committee):**

Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the filing authorization of proposed amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) and historical marker removal procedures, for first publication in the *Texas Register*.

**Recommended motion (Commission):**

Move to approve the filing authorization of proposed amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) and historical marker removal procedures, for first publication in the *Texas Register*.

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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**Texas Administrative Code  
Title 13 Cultural Resources  
Part II Texas Historical Commission  
Chapter 21 History Programs  
Subchapter B Official Texas Historical Marker Program**

## **PREAMBLE**

The Texas Historical Commission (Commission) proposes amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) removal procedures. The proposed amendments clarify procedures for Recorded Texas Historical Landmark (RTHL) removal requests and the time period for marker removal requests. They also correct formatting and grammatical errors in the rule.

**FISCAL NOTE.** Mark Wolfe, Executive Director, has determined that for the first five-year period the amended rules are in effect there will be no fiscal implications for state or local government as a result of enforcing or administering these rules because the amended definitions do not alter the scope of the historical marker program or costs associated with its administration.

**PUBLIC BENEFIT.** Mr. Wolfe has also determined that for the first five-year period the amended rule is in effect, the public benefit will be greater clarity regarding procedures for Recorded Historical Texas Landmark (RTHL) designation and marker removal requests.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, MICROBUSINESSES, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES.** Mr. Wolfe has also determined that there will be no impact on rural communities, small businesses, or micro-businesses as a result of implementing these rules. Accordingly, no regulatory flexibility analysis, as specified in Texas Government Code § 2006.002, is required.

**ECONOMIC COSTS TO PERSONS AND IMPACT ON LOCAL EMPLOYMENT.** There are no anticipated economic costs to persons who are required to comply with the amendments to these rules, as proposed. There is no effect on local economy for the first five years that the proposed new section is in effect; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required under Texas Government Code § 2001.022 and 2001.024(a)(6).

**GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT.** Because RTHL designation removal would take place only with landowner consent, during the first five years that the amendments would be in effect, the proposed amendments: will not create or eliminate a government program; will not result in the addition or reduction of employees; will not require an increase or decrease in future legislative appropriations; will not lead to an increase or decrease in fees paid to a state agency; will not create a new regulation; will not repeal an existing regulation; and will not result in an increase or decrease in the number of individuals subject to the rule. During the first five years that the amendments would be in effect, the proposed amendments will not positively or adversely affect the Texas economy.

**TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT.** The Commission has determined that no private real property interests are affected by this proposal and the proposal does not restrict or limit an owner's right to his or her property that would otherwise exist in the absence of government action and, therefore, does not constitute a taking under Texas Government Code, § 2007.043.

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PUBLIC COMMENT. Comments on the proposal may be submitted to Mark Wolfe, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711. Comments will be accepted for 30 days after publication in the *Texas Register*.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. These amendments are proposed under the authority of Texas Government Code §442.005(q), which provides the Commission with the authority to promulgate rules to reasonably affect the purposes of the Commission, and Texas Government Code §442.006(h), which requires the Commission to adopt rules for the historical marker program.

CROSS REFERENCE TO OTHER LAW. No other statutes, articles, or codes are affected by these amendments.

The Commission hereby certifies that the proposed amendments have been reviewed by legal counsel and found to be a valid exercise of the agency's authority.

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### Chapter 13, Chapter 21, Subchapter B. OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

#### 13 TAC §21.13

##### *§21.13 Removal of Markers and Monuments.*

(a) Any individual, group, or county historical commission (CHC) may request removal of an Official Texas Historical Marker ("marker"), as defined in §21.3 of this title (relating to Definitions), or a monument ("monument") within the Commission's jurisdiction, as defined in §26.3 of this title (relating to Definitions). Staff of the Commission may also propose removal of a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (hereafter referred to as "RTHL") marker if such a property no longer meets the criteria for designation established in §21.6 of this title (relating to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation).

(b) With the exception of monuments that are State Antiquities Landmarks or included within the boundaries of State Antiquities Landmarks, which shall follow procedures as described in §191.097 and 191.098 of title 9 of the Natural Resources Code as well as applicable rules adopted thereunder, requests for removal of a historical marker or monument shall include:

- (1) [T]the name and contact information for the requesting individual, group, or CHC;
- (2) [T]the name and location of the marker or monument for which removal is requested;
- (3) [J]justification for removal of the marker or monument;
- (4) [N]narrative history and photographs of the marker or monument;
- (5) [W]written owner consent for removal from the landowner for sites not located on state land; [and]
- (6) [A]a plan explaining how the marker or monument will be removed in such a way as to protect its condition and be delivered to a location approved by [THC.]the Commission; and
- (7) For RTHLs only, notification of any proposed work sufficient to meet the requirements of §21.11 of this title (relating to Review of Work on Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks).

(c) Marker and monument removal requests shall be submitted to the Commission at 1511 Colorado St., Austin, [TX]Texas 78701; by mail to P.O. Box 12276, Austin, [TX]Texas 78711; or by email to thc@thc.texas.gov. The Commission will send a copy of the request and supporting materials to the County Historical Commission (CHC) for the county in which the marker or monument is located, return receipt requested. In the absence of a formally-established CHC, a copy will be submitted to the county judge, return receipt requested.

(d) The CHC or county judge shall have 30 days from the date of receipt of the request to submit a response to the Commission if they wish to do so. The CHC's or county judge's response shall consist of not more than 10 single-sided pages of material printed in a font size no smaller than 11 and shall be signed by the chair of the CHC or by the county judge.

(e) The Commission's History Programs Committee ("Committee") shall consider requests for removal of markers and monuments that are not State Antiquities Landmarks or located within

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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the boundaries of [a] State Antiquities Landmarks, including those also governed by §17.2 of this title and §442.008(a) of title 4 of the Government Code.

(f) The Committee shall include the request on the agenda of its next scheduled meeting[, assuming said meeting happens at least 20 days after the request is received by the Commission or expiration of the 30-day review period. If the 20-day deadline is not met, the request shall be on the agenda of the following meeting of the Committee.] after the applicable timeline has been fulfilled:

(1) For RTHLs, the Commission must receive a request for removal of the designation at least 90 days prior to the Committee meeting at which the request will be considered, to allow sufficient time for the notification and review process established in §21.11 of this title (relating to Review of Work on Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks) and Texas Government Code, §442.006(f).

(2) For all other markers and monuments, the Commission must receive a request for removal at least 20 days prior to the Committee meeting at which the request will be considered. Further, the 30-day review period referred to in subsection (d) must have expired or a response received from the CHC or county judge before the Commission may take action on such a request.

(g) The Committee may choose to take public testimony on the request. If public testimony is invited, such testimony may be limited by the Committee chair to a period of time allocated per speaker.

(h) Upon consideration of a removal request, the Committee shall make a recommendation to the Commission on whether to approve or deny the removal request. The recommendation of the Committee shall be placed on the agenda of the full Commission meeting immediately following the Committee meeting for approval or denial.

(i) The Commission shall notify the requesting individual, group, or CHC, and CHC for the county in which the marker or monument is located of the Commission's decision.

(j) If the request is approved by the Commission, the person who submitted the removal request must arrange for removal of the marker or monument in such a way as to protect its condition[,] and deliver it to a location approved by [THC]the Commission at the requestor's expense.

(k) Approval by the Commission of the removal of an RTHL marker constitutes removal of the designation on the property. Pursuant to §21.6 of this title (relating to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation), RTHL designation shall be effective until removed by the commission, whether or not the marker remains in place. Should the waiting period imposed under §21.11 of this title (relating to Review of Work on Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks) expire prior to Commission consideration of a marker removal request submitted pursuant to this rule, the property owner may proceed with their project as proposed. However, after expiration of the waiting period and before proceeding with any work that may damage the marker, such as demolition of a building on which a marker is mounted, the property owner must arrange for removal of the marker in such a way as to protect its condition and deliver it to a location approved by Commission staff at the owner's expense.