

# History Programs Committee

October 17, 2022



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

The Stella Hotel  
Celeste Ballroom  
4100 Lake Atlas Dr.  
College Station, TX 77807  
October 17, 2022  
11:00 a.m.

*(or upon the adjournment of the 10:45 a.m. Communications 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 July 25, 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. Consider removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designations
  - A. Potter-Hurley House, Gainesville, Cooke County (item 15.2A)
  - B. Luther Hotel, Palacios, Matagorda County (item 15.2B)
6. 2022 Official Texas Historical Markers topics report and discussion (item 15.3)
7. Consider approval of work plan for 2024 Official Texas Historical Markers (item 15.4)
8. History Programs Division update and committee discussion —*Division Director Charles Sadnick*
9. 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**  
Double Tree Suites by Hilton Hotel  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Houston Room  
303 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701  
July 25, 2022  
2:14 p.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 Tom Perini at 2:14 p.m. He 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 Perini welcomed everyone and called on commissioners to individually state their names and the cities in which they reside. Commissioners Monica Burdette, Donna Bahorich, Tom Perini, Laurie Limbacher, and Renee Dutia were in attendance.

**B. Establish quorum**

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

**C. Recognize and/or excuse absences**

Commissioner Burdette moved, Commissioner Bahorich seconded, and the commission voted unanimously to excuse the absence of Chair Daisy White and Commissioner Lilia Garcia.

**2. Consider approval of the April 28, 2022 committee meeting minutes**

Commissioner Limbacher moved, Commissioner Bahorich seconded, and the commission voted unanimously to approve the April 28, 2022 History Programs Committee meeting minutes.

**3. Certification of Historic Texas Cemetery Designations (item 6.2)**

History Programs Division (HPD) Director Charles Sadnick explained that Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation helps cemeteries that are at least 50 years old by recording cemetery boundaries in county deed records, which alerts present and future owners of land adjacent to the cemetery of its existence. Sadnick

brought forth sixteen cemeteries and recommended that the committee send forward to the Commission to formally certify them as HTCs. He also recognized Carlyn Hammons and Jenny McWilliams, members of the Cemetery Preservation Program.

Commissioner Perini 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 6.3)**

Sadnick brought thirty-one marker inscriptions before the committee for approval. He thanked Bob Brinkman, Historical Marker Program Coordinator, and announced the departure of Sarah McCleskey from the Commission. He thanked the commissioners for reviewing the texts and for the suggested revisions received.

Commissioner Perini moved, Commissioner Burdette seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the final form and text of thirty-one (31) 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 approval of filing authorization of an amendment to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Section 21.12, related to marker text requests, without changes to the text published in the May 20, 2022 issue of the *Texas Register* (47 TexReg 2942-2943) (item 6.4A)**

Sadnick brought forth a rule amendment for marker text requests which clarifies the rule by stating that a supplemental plaque is not a choice, but rather an interim measure when funds are unavailable for immediate replacement of markers that have received approval through the historical marker request process. The proposed amendment was published in the May 20, 2022 issue of the *Texas Register* (47 TexReg 2942-2943). No comments were received for this posting.

Commissioner Perini moved, Commissioner Limbacher seconded, and the commission voted unanimously to send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the filing authorization of the proposed amendments to Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Section 21.12, related to marker text requests, for first publication in the *Texas Register*. Chairman John Nau questioned the usage of the supplemental plaque that is to be used in the interim if funds are unavailable and asked often this request comes up. Sadnick clarified that if a large amount of text needs to be changed, then a replacement marker would have been ordered; otherwise a supplemental plaque was used. Chairman Nau questioned what happens to a marker once it is removed. Sadnick answered that previously, replaced markers would be sent to the contracted foundry and would melted it down for credit. Bob Brinkman came forward and mentioned that a request through Staff Services and the Comptroller's office was sent on what to do with those markers as they are the property of the State of Texas, but individuals pay for them. Motion passed.

#### **6. 2022 Official Texas Historical Markers topics report and discussion (item 14.2)**

Sadnick gave a report on the Official Texas Historical Markers. The application period was completed and the agency received one hundred and seventy-nine (179) submissions, and are recommending proceeding with one hundred and fifty-three (153) interpretive markers while recommending twenty-six (26) for cancelation, including the Sikh Center in Harris County.

The division received comments about the impending cancelation for the Sikh Center in Harris County. Most of the significant individuals involved with the Sikh Center are still alive and per marker program guidelines, persons must be deceased at least ten years to be named on an Official Texas Historical Marker.

Commissioner Burdette asked about marker application cancelations due to no County Historical Commission (CHC) approval. Sadnick explained that there is a process for applying for markers without CHC approval if a CHC does not exist in the county, as well as an appeals process.

**7. Consider approval of work plan for 2023 Official Texas Historical Markers (item 14.3)**

Sadnick introduced the work plan for 2023 Official Texas Historical Markers. The application period would continue to be at roughly the same time for 2023, March 1 through May 15. The Marker application approval limit would remain the same as well, at one hundred eighty-five (185): one hundred seventy (170) regular and fifteen (15) undertold.

Commissioner Limbacher 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 2023. Motion passed.

**8. Consider removal of historical marker for Burleson Quadrangle, Waco, McLennan County (item 14.4)**

Sadnick brought forth a request for removal of the “Burleson Quadrangle marker” at Baylor University in Waco (McLennan County). The removal request is based on the renaming of the Quadrangle. Baylor University also plans to move a statue that is mentioned in the marker. The McLennan County Historical Commission responded to say that they had no comment.

Commissioner Limbacher moved that the committee forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the request to remove the Official Texas Historical Marker for Burleson Quadrangle, Waco, McLennan County. Commissioner Perini seconded. Sadnick was asked if Baylor had been given options for replacement or relocation, and he stated that they had not. Commissioner Limbacher withdrew her motion and moved to instruct staff to inform Baylor University of replacement and relocation options for the Official Texas Historical Marker for Burleson Quadrangle, Waco, McLennan County, and report results of discussion to the Commission. Commissioner Burdette seconded. The motion passed.

**9. Consider approval of executive directors’ appointments to the State Board of Review (item 14.5)**

Sadnick brought forth State Board of Review appointments and reappointments. Asked to move forward to appoint Fernando Brave and David Danenfelzer and reappoint Nesta Anderson, Sehila Mota Casper, Tara Dudley and Eric Schroeder.

Commissioner Limbacher moved, Commissioner Bahorich seconded, and the commission voted unanimously to send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the State Historic Preservation Officer’s recommendations to appoint Fernando Brave and David Danenfelzer and to reappoint Nesta Anderson, Sehila Mota Casper, Tara Dudley and Eric Schroeder to the State Board of Review. Chairman Nau noted that most of these individuals reside in the Austin area and asked if geographic diversity was considered when making appointments. Sadnick indicated that members are typically from a more widely distributed area. Commissioner Limbacher emphasized a desire to see members from South Texas. Motion passed.

**10. History Programs Division update and committee discussion**

Sadnick provided History Program Division updates. He mentioned trainings, workshops, and webinars, including workshop on disaster preparedness provided by Nano Calderon and Museum Services staff; Cemetery Preservation staff’s workshop at Texas Archaeological Society Field School; and Park Day 2022 activities attended by Military Sites Program Coordinator, Stephen Cure. The also reported that a State

Board of Review meeting was held in September and about staff changes, with Sarah McCleskey leaving HPD, Jaclyn Zapata becoming the new CHC Outreach Program Specialist, and Jonathan Moseley starting as the new Disaster Recovery Project Reviewer.

#### **11. Adjournment**

At 2:49 p.m., on the motion of Commissioner Perini and without objection, the committee meeting was adjourned.

## Quarterly Report

History Programs Division  
July–September 2022

### DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights for the History Programs Division (HPD) during this quarter included the September 2022 State Board of Review Meeting and announcements of Distinguished Service Awards. HPD also welcomed new employees Jaclyn Zapata (County Historical Commission Outreach) and Alicia Costello (Historical Markers).

### COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION (CHC) OUTREACH

Jaclyn Zapata joined CHC Outreach on July 1. Training for her role as program specialist is ongoing. Outreach staff prepared Distinguished Service Award (DSA) packets and mailed them to county judges and CHC chairs in mid-July. DSA announcements were made on the THC website and CHC listserv. Outreach staff identified noteworthy trends and preservation efforts using 2021 CHC annual reporting data. Two documents summarizing this information were published on the THC website. CHC statewide trends focused on returning to in-person programs, increased monitoring of historic resources, online efforts, meeting attendance, and quorum. CHC project descriptions highlighted 12 exceptional CHC preservation efforts that reinforce participation in THC programs, positive preservation outcomes, and community partnerships. CHC statewide trends were shared on the CHC listserv and individual project description highlights will be shared throughout the fall. Between July and September, Outreach staff worked with other HPD programs and THC divisions to promote the RTHL photo project, disaster preparedness training for cemeteries, Real Places conference, and Texas Archeology Month through the CHC listserv.

### HISTORICAL MARKERS

Alicia Costello has come on board as the marker program's new inscription writer and historian. She most recently taught English and History at San Jacinto College. In recent months, staff has coordinated with law enforcement and insurance companies on three

markers (including one granite Centennial marker) hit by vehicles or stolen. The foundry continues to catch up on a backlog of orders now that supply chain and personnel issues have stabilized. HPD and IT staff continue to make corrections to Atlas entries in preparation for the mobile app launch. Marker staff sent a request to CHCs to survey and provide photos for RTHLs for the mobile app.

### MILITARY HISTORY

Military Sites Program 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 needed repairs to the Texas monument using private funds. Initial cleaning and masonry work to address shifting or broken stones has been completed. Stone conservators were onsite in mid-September to address issues with the monument's nomenclature. The bronze work cleaning and preservation remain to be scheduled. Cure has continued assisting with planning for a military history-oriented workshop series sponsored by the General Land Office that will include teacher workshops at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, the Alamo, and Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. He continues to work with Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) staff on the complimentary digitization of items in the THC Oral History Collection. A process has been defined and materials will start being transferred to TSLAC.

### MUSEUM SERVICES

Museum Services continues work with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Bullock Texas State History Museum in developing a workshop series for 2023. Partnering with the Tribal Advisory Committee for this project, the planning group visited the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and the Mescalero-Apache tribe, as well as the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. Dates and locations for the workshops are set, and the first workshop will be held at the Real Places

Conference in February 2023. Program staff continues work with the Texas Association of Museums (TAM) on holding the first four in a series of 10 regional workshops, one in each of the Texas Heritage Trail Regions. The National Museum of the Pacific War and Fulton Mansion State Historic Site hosted two in-person workshops. and San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site hosted a virtual workshop. Webinars and discussion groups continued to be popular this quarter, covering exhibit development, distance learning, and interpretive writing strategies.

## **FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

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

National Register (NR) staff members Gregory Smith, Alyssa Gerszewski, and Bonnie Wilson processed eight NR nominations for review at the September State Board of Review meeting, which was held in Mineral Wells on September 17. Approved nominations included those for the Big Spring Downtown Historic District, the Suburban Alcoholic Foundation Clubhouse (Austin), and the Longhorn Ballroom (Dallas). The NPS approved seven nominations, including those for Parque Zaragoza (Austin), St. Mark's Methodist Church (Houston), and the Rio Grande Valley Gas Company Building (Brownsville). Smith evaluated 20 federal tax credit projects (Part 1 of the application) and 28 state tax credit projects (Part A of the application). Gerszewski continued to work on preparation of the statewide preservation plan. Smith and Judy George-Garza began preparation for the State Board of Review meeting in January, and Smith began site visits to properties receiving Hurricane Harvey grants.

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

Justin Kockritz continued to consult on major projects, including TxDOT's I-35 Capital Express project in Austin. In August, he traveled to Victoria to present at the annual Main Street Managers' workshop about how local stakeholders can become valuable consulting parties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Caitlin Brashear traveled to Houston for a site visit to NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) and to discuss how a proposed nationwide NASA programmatic agreement might be applied to JSC. Brashear also participated in nationwide meetings regarding potential changes to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Section 106 procedures and consulted with staff from the General Services Administration and the Oklahoma and Kansas State Historic Preservation Offices regarding the proposed disposal of the federally

owned Cliffside Helium Plant in Potter County. Charles Peveto continued to work with consulting parties regarding the potential redevelopment of the Alazán Courts housing project in San Antonio and on other major projects in Brownsville, Laredo, and Houston. In August, Jonathan Moseley attended a site visit to the Pleasantville neighborhood in Houston with staff from the General Land Office (GLO) and community stakeholders to learn more about the neighborhood's historic significance, the impacts of Hurricane Harvey, and the GLO's ongoing recovery efforts.

## **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 also made locational corrections to the Atlas map for the Neighborhood Survey icons.

## **CEMETERY PRESERVATION**

Cemetery Program staff completed a webinar series on disaster preparedness and began planning a hands-on workshop in the spring. Staff is also preparing for back-to-back workshops at Eisenhower Birthplace and Sam Rayburn House State Historic Sites on October 14. Carlyn Hammons continues to implement website updates, including CHC recommendations for cemetery inventories, which prioritizes county-wide cemetery needs into four steps. Jenny McWilliams and the Friends of the THC are reviewing results of a vendor's research of five Hill and Henderson county cemeteries through the Hughes Nelson Endowment. Hammons continues to process Historic Texas Cemetery applications while McWilliams assists partners with cemetery inventories.

## **YOUTH EDUCATION**

Senior education specialist Linda Miller continued to work with multiple agency divisions to expand available learning resources for digital delivery and onsite experiences. Collaborative development on e-learning platform content, as well as supplemental Texas history curriculum resources and student-oriented agency publications also continued. Miller participated in several Communication Division workgroup meetings to provide information and feedback on revising and updating the agency's Learning Resources webpage. In addition, she continued to track the progress of the Texas State Board of Education's social studies TEKS revision initiative, which was postponed until the 2025 school year by a board vote in August.

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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**Item 7.2**  
Texas Historical Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
October 17-18, 2022

## Certification of Historic Texas Cemetery Designations

**Background:**

During the period from 7/2/2022 to 9/28/2022, seven (7) Historic Texas Cemetery designations were completed by the 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                          |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bastrop    | Bastrop              | Shiloh Community Cemetery         |
| Burnet     | Briggs               | Mt. Moriah Cemetery               |
| Denton     | Lewisville           | Champion-Macedonia Cemetery       |
| Harris     | Hockley              | Roberts African American Cemetery |
| Matagorda  | Van Vleck (vicinity) | Allenhurst-Mt. Zion Cemetery      |
| Panola     | Deadwood (vicinity)  | Bethlehem Cemetery                |
| Williamson | Taylor               | Taylor City Cemetery              |

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

**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  
October 17-18, 2022

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

**Background:**

From June 5, 2022 to September 23, 2022, THC historical marker staff drafted and finalized inscriptions for thirty-four (34) interpretive markers, now ready for Commission approval.

**Recommended interpretive plaques for approval (34)**

| <b>County</b> | <b>Job #</b> | <b>Topic</b>  |
|---------------|--------------|---|
| Atascosa      | 21AT01       | Shiloh Community  |
| Bandera       | 21BN01       | Bandera Water Works Complex (RTHL)                      |
| Brazos        | 21BZ02       | A&M United Methodist Church                             |
| Burleson      | 19BU02       | Smith High School (UNDERTOLD)                           |
| Calhoun       | 21CL02       | Matagorda Island Lighthouse                             |
| Cameron       | 21CF02       | Miguel Fernandez Hide Yard Building (RTHL)              |
| Collin        | 22COL05      | First Baptist Church of Plano (SUPPLEMENTAL)            |
| Collin        | 21COL01      | Orenduff Cemetery (HTC)                                 |
| Comanche      | 21CJ01       | Sand Hill Cemetery (HTC)                                |
| Dallas        | 21DL01       | Collins Radio Echo 1 Project                            |
| Denton        | 21DN01       | Landrum Cemetery (HTC)                                  |
| Ector         | 19EC02       | Ghost Towns and Vanished Communities of Ector County    |
| El Paso       | 19EP02       | 1966 Texas Western Basketball National Champions        |
| El Paso       | 20EP01       | William Ward Turney & Iva Guthrie Turney                |
| Hale          | 21HA01       | Finney Field  |
| Hall          | 21HL01       | Ham's Barber Shop (RTHL)                                |
| Harrison      | 21HS03       | New Hope Missionary Baptist Church                      |
| Jefferson     | 21JF02       | St. Elizabeth Catholic Community                        |
| Live Oak      | 20LK02       | George West Cemetery (HTC)                              |
| Lubbock       | 21LU01       | Harmon Farms  |
| Lubbock       | 20LU01       | The 1970 Lubbock Tornado                                |
| Lubbock       | 20LU02       | The Fujita Scale  |
| Lubbock       | 21LU04       | Willie Lusk Jr.   |
| Lubbock       | 21LU03       | Wolfforth Cemetery (HTC)                                |
| Matagorda     | 21MG01       | Harmon Jerome McAllister                                |
| Matagorda     | 21MG02       | James Henry Selkirk                                     |
| McLennan      | 21ML02       | Pleasant Grove Baptist Church                           |
| Milam         | 20MM03       | Worley Bridge (RTHL)                                    |
| Shackelford   | 20SF01       | Alice Reynolds  |
| Tarrant       | 20TR03       | Lake Como Cemetery (HTC)                                |
| Travis        | 19TV02       | St. John Orphanage and Industrial Institute (UNDERTOLD) |
| Victoria      | 21VT01       | William A. Wood Memorial School                         |

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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|            |        |   |
|------------|--------|---|
| Washington | 19WT02 | Mount Olive District Missionary Baptist Association |
| Wharton    | 22WH01 | Drastata Farm                                       |

**Recommended motion (Committee):** Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the final form and text of thirty-four (34) 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 thirty-four (34) 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 (MR), 7/5/2022, ed (BB) 7/8/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Atascosa County (Job #21AT01) Subject (Atlas 23360) UTM.  
Location: Poteet, Shiloh Rd. (at Shiloh Cemetery)

### **SHILOH COMMUNITY**

The Shiloh community was started in the late 1850s when local rancher Issac Cavender (1816-1860) donated a portion of his land for construction of a church and school building. The church was reportedly one of the first Baptist congregations in South Texas. Located nearby was a general store owned by Cavender, as well as the community cemetery. Many of the residents of the Shiloh community were immigrants from Germany, Poland, and other Central European nations, along with several Mexican American families. Numerous descendants of early Shiloh community settlers still live in the surrounding area to this day.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 5/13/22, rev. 7/15/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Bandera County (Job #21BN01) Subject (Atlas 23365) UTM:  
Location: Bandera, 11<sup>th</sup> and Cedar streets

### **BANDERA WATER WORKS COMPLEX**

Walter and Francis (Adamietz) Ruge created the Bandera Water Works to serve businesses and residences. Walter Trenklebach bought the franchise in 1936, extending the water main to the school and promoting modernization. In 1938, Bandera citizens voted 86 to 1 to form a municipal water district, which bought Trenklebach's company and equipment. With federal Work Projects Administration (WPA) funding, capacity was greatly increased. The new complex included a limestone pump station and operations building, 30-foot diameter concrete reservoir with 50,000-gallon capacity, and 100-foot steel "tin man" water tower holding 60,000 gallons. Completed by March 1941, the improvements positioned the city for population growth and prosperity.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2021  
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB) 1/5/2022, rev 6/1/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Brazos County (Job #21BZ02) Subject (Atlas 23301) UTM:  
Location: College Station, 417 University Dr.

### **A&M UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

In 1918-19, Texas A&M President W.B. Bizzell asked ministers of Bryan churches to provide religious services for students of their respective denominations. In response, Rev. P.T. Ramsey of First Methodist Church provided \$500 and encouraged organization of the school's Methodist student group. The Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church established a two-point circuit of the Alexander Methodist Church at Tabor and the A&M Church in November 1919. The first minister appointed was Rev. King Vivion, who arrived in April 1920. Without experience or a church building, he successfully shepherded the congregation into existence, with an official organization date of February 23, 1923.

The church purchased land across from the A&M campus in 1923 for \$2,000. The first facility was a tabernacle which served as a sanctuary and church school building until 1951, then becoming the Wesley Foundation Building. Methodists throughout the state provided much-needed financial support. June 18, 1943 was designated "A&M Methodist Church Day," with offerings that day across the state pledged to the building program of new facilities. An educational building (later J. Gordon Gay Educational Building) was begun during World War II and completed in 1946. A new sanctuary was completed in 1951, featuring stained glass windows in honor of WWI and WWII servicemen. The campus and new buildings continued to expand as enrollment at Texas A&M and membership in the church both increased. The congregation helped launch other area churches including Aldersgate Methodist (1985) and Christ United Methodist (1994). Through community outreach and local and global missions, A&M Methodist Church continues to serve the university and the rapidly growing Bryan-College Station area.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (LH) 6/24/2020, ed (BB) 4/29/22, rev 6/14/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Burleson County (Job #19BU02) Subject AA, ED, SR (Atlas 22697) UTM:  
Location: Caldwell, 10395 FM 1362 North

### SMITH HIGH SCHOOL

During the 1880s, many African American communities in the area, such as Teal Prairie, Cedar Creek and Six Mile, did not have formal schools. In 1894, Horace and Charles Smith decided to open a school near Rita called Smith Grade High School. The first principal, Daniel Porter (1863-1916), later published the *Central Texas Teacher* newspaper and founded the Brenham Normal and Industrial College. Smith High School served the surrounding communities. Classes were held on the lower floor of the Knights of Pythias Hall, as the school did not have its own building at the time.

In 1919, the school received funding from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which through its programs sought to improve the quality of education for African American students, primarily in the southern U.S. Funds were used to build a permanent schoolhouse. The building consisted of two large classrooms. As more students from surrounding communities started attending, the two classrooms were then divided into four. In the 1930s, attendance increased greatly. Another building was added to the campus to teach vocational agriculture. Three additional classrooms expanded the original building, a teacher's cottage was built and home economic classes were added to the curriculum.

The school continued to grow until the 1960s. Desegregation dissolved the Friendship School District which oversaw operations of several area African American schools. Rural to urban migration also led to a decline in population that led to the school closing. Smith Grade High School was one of the first schools in the area dedicated to equipping young African Americans with vocational and academic skills. Though many of the buildings were later razed, graduates and former students cherish the memories and achievements of this historic institution.

(2019)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN) 4/26/2022, ed (BB) 5/17/22, rev. 7/14/22 (CTS) 9/26/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Calhoun County (Job #21CL02) Subject LT (Atlas 23382) UTM:  
Location: Port O'Connor, 506 W. Main St

### **Matagorda Island Lighthouse**

In 1848, the federal government acquired land on the eastern end of Matagorda Island to build a lighthouse as a navigational aid at Pass Cavallo. The Baltimore foundry of Murray & Hazlehurst was chosen to produce the cast iron tower. Construction began in June 1852 with a 75-foot-tall tower. The reflector-type light first shone on December 31, 1852, casting a light every 90 seconds which could be seen for miles. In the spring of 1854, the tower was painted with distinctive white, red, and black horizontal bands. In 1857-58, the tower's height was increased and the original light was replaced with a third order Fresnel lens. After the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the lighthouse ceased to operate. Confederate troops attempted to destroy the lighthouse, damaging six cast iron panels and removing the lens. The lighthouse was dismantled in 1866.

The lighthouse was rebuilt at a height of 92 feet at a new location further inland, using the existing iron panels and new materials. The tower was painted black, and the light was restored on September 1, 1873, serving the area and the coastal ports of Indianola and Port Lavaca. The lighthouse grounds also included a lightkeeper's residence. The lighthouse remained manned until the system was automated in 1956. The Coast Guard planned to abandon the lighthouse in 1977, when the historic Fresnel lens was moved to Port O'Connor, but the Matagorda Island Foundation and many in the community rallied to save it. In 1984, the lighthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Having survived several major hurricanes and storms, the lighthouse site, now part of the Matagorda Island Wildlife Management Area, remains an important part of the story of transportation, commerce and engineering in the region.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 5/2/2022  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Cameron County (Job #21CF02) Subject (Atlas) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N  
Location: Brownsville, 1105 E. Adams St.

### **MIGUEL FERNANDEZ HIDE YARD**

Brothers Miguel Fernandez (1839-1905) and José Fernandez-Toral (1837-1911) immigrated to Brownsville from Asturias, Spain, and partnered in an import-export business. After their partnership dissolved, Miguel opened a hide yard at this location in 1890, one of the first in the city. It came at a time of drought, when a shrinking market for live cattle forced many ranchers to slaughter their herds. Hide yards and related facilities would render tallow; bleach bones, horns and hooves; and dry and bale hides for later shipment to distant markets. Hide yards also stocked dry goods, hardware and other ranch supplies.

The Miguel Fernandez Hide Yard is a one-story commercial building with an L-shaped floor plan, built in two stages in border brick style. The building has an interior brick pier and arch wall system with iron tie bars that supports the wood roof joists and reinforces the exterior load-bearing brick walls. The exterior four-course walls are more than one foot thick. The original portion of the building, facing east 11th street, was built about 1890. Pilasters at the corners define the continuous 100-foot bay, with ten evenly spaced double wood doors with transoms and segmental arches along the façade. A projecting brick entablature with molded brick cornice rests on a dentil course. The second section of the building, facing East Adams Street, was built about 1900 with similar materials and details, with a central brick pilaster evenly dividing eight doorways along a 100-foot façade.

After his father's death, Miguel Fernandez Jr. continued operating the family business and was a banker, cotton gin operator, landowner and developer. The property remained in the family until 1984 and has since housed a variety of businesses. The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2021

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN), 7/20/22

12" x 6" supplemental plaque for attachment to existing post

Collin County (Job #22COL05) *Subject CH, BP (Atlas 23700) UTM:*

Location: Plano,

In September 2021, the  
congregation moved to this location  
from 1300 East 15th street in  
downtown Plano to continue their  
mission to serve the community.

Texas Historical Commission staff (LAC), 12/16/2021, ed SEM/BB 1/21/2022 (CTS) 9/26/22  
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Collin County (Job #21COL01) Subject GY, PI (Atlas #23388) UTM:  
Location: Melissa, 3592 CR 338

### **Orenduff Cemetery**

In 1855, William Orenduff (1807-1892) and his wife, Mary E. Orenduff (1808-1859), traveled by wagon train from Breckinridge County, Kentucky, and settled in an area of Collin County later called the Trinity community, due to its proximity to the East Fork of the Trinity River. In 1856, William purchased four tracts of land, one of which was part of the Polly A. Boone survey. William initially built log cabins to live in until lumber could be hauled from Jefferson to build a better house. During the Civil War, it was a stop on Matt Slaughter's stage line between Dallas and Bonham. Orenduff land was used for the community's Trinity Schoolhouse, which was built in 1884. Mary Orenduff never lived to see the completion of the new house, having died in 1859. Her grave was the first marked burial in a community graveyard on the property. Later known as Orenduff Cemetery, the graveyard was officially deeded to the community in 1897 by one of William and Mary's sons, John H. Orenduff (1837-1913). The trustees were Jesse W. Orenduff, James F. Graves and Jack A. Lewis.

Another prominent early family buried in Orenduff Cemetery is the family of Michael Mallow (1793-1862) and his wife, Charlotte (Gortner) Mallow (1797-1863), who settled in the area in 1853. There are fourteen Mallow graves marked in the cemetery. The last known burial in the cemetery was George Moncier (1872-1964). His son, Butch Moncier (1915-1962), is the only known World War II veteran buried in the cemetery. Other buried veterans include Charles P. Carter (1836-1924) from the Civil War and Michael Mallow from the War of 1812. The most unique feature of the cemetery is the grieving chair, which was carved from a tree stump. The chair was said to have been carved for a mother who came daily to mourn the loss of her baby.

Historic Texas Cemetery – 2018

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 7/26/2022  
18" x 28" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Comanche County (Job #21CJ01) Subject GY (Atlas 23273) UTM:  
Location: DeLeon, CR 160

### **Sand Hill Cemetery**

The Sand Hill community formed near Copperas Creek in the 1870s. Baptist minister Rev. J.M. Strickland is credited with naming the community, which besides scattered residences and farms included a church, school and a post office which operated from 1887-1891. A cemetery was established in the 1870s, with the earliest marked grave for Joseph Land (1799-1875), a Baptist preacher and missionary. Rayburn Scott officially conveyed the land for a community cemetery and church on November 27, 1901. Among more than 400 burials are dozens of military veterans from the Civil War to the Vietnam War. The Sand Hill Cemetery Association organized in 1982 to care for this historic burial ground, the only remaining vestige of the Sand Hill community.

Historic Texas Cemetery – 2019

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (ABL), 8/12/2021, ed. SEM/BB 2/14/2022 (CTS) 9/26/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Dallas County (Job #21DL01) Subject SC, IV (Atlas) UTM.  
Location: Richardson, 830 E Arapaho Rd

### **Collins Radio Echo 1 Project**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) invited radio companies to conduct experiments with Echo 1 (its first communications satellite), so when Echo successfully launched on August 12, 1960, Alpha Corporation (a subsidiary of Collins Radio Company) was ready. At 3:04 a.m. on August 13, a message was transmitted using Echo from Richardson, Texas to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. They soon received a reply, marking the first successful two-way radio voice transmission via satellite. At 12:48 a.m. on August 19, the first photograph via satellite was received in Richardson from Cedar Rapids. By being the first to transmit voice, photographs and later teletype, Collins helped lay the foundation for later technological breakthroughs.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Denton County (Job #21DN01) Subject GY (Atlas 23259) UTM: 33.207198, -96.848340  
Location: 0.2 miles south of Panther Creek and 0.5 miles west of the Denton-Collin County Line

### **Landrum Cemetery**

Married on June 15, 1848, John T. Landrum (1823-1890) and Julia Ann (Hawkins) Landrum (1823-1880) began their life together in Barren County, Kentucky. In the fall of 1853, they became early settlers in north Texas. They arrived in Denton County and settled in the Hawkins Settlement, which was also known as the Kentucky Settlement since many neighbors were from the same area in their home state of Kentucky.

In 1860, John T. Landrum obtained an official patent for his original 160 acres on the line of Denton and Collin counties along Panther Creek. He spent the rest of his life farming, standing as a trustee in his church and raising five children. The farm later expanded with several purchases of acreage from neighbors and grew to accommodate extended family.

The first burial in what became a family cemetery was for John and Julia Ann's four-month-old baby, William H. Landrum, who died on October 16, 1856. The Landrum Cemetery was used until the burial of John T. Landrum on January 20, 1890, laid to rest next to Julia Ann, who had passed a decade before in 1880, and near their only other son, John D., who died at the age of 21 in 1882.

Only those four members of the family were buried here. Other Landrum children married, moved away and were buried elsewhere, such as in the Good Hope Cemetery nearby. The land with the cemetery plot remained in family hands until 1943 when descendants sold the property and farm to Bert Fields. The Landrum Cemetery remains as a reminder of the pioneer families who settled and developed the area.

Historic Texas Cemetery – 2021

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (SEM) 11/8/2019, ed (BB) 11/14/19, rev 3/25/21, ed (CTS) 9/23/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Ector County (Job #19EC02) Subject GT, CY (Atlas 22579) UTM.

Location: Odessa, 400 N. Grant Street

### **GHOST TOWNS AND VANISHED COMMUNITIES OF ECTOR COUNTY**

As the Texas and Pacific Railway moved into West Texas in the 1880s, towns developed along the tracks, especially in areas with an abundant water supply. Other towns grew out of the oil boom in the early 1900s. Some of these communities continued to prosper and develop while others essentially vanished over time due to a decrease in economic activity or natural or human-caused disasters.

Several railroad stops in Ector County developed into or were intended to be towns, including Arcade, Judkins, Metz and Prairie Home, but these ultimately diminished to ghost towns between 1890 and 1950. Some areas without a water source struggled during periods of drought which affected the population. During the oil boom, towns appeared near oil fields, including Badger, North Cowden, Penwell and Scharbauer City. These communities served as a home for the many oil field workers and their families, as well as hubs of economic and social activity, sometimes serving thousands.

The town of Douro was established along the railroad but never developed; however, after oil was discovered at Penwell Field, Douro became a boom town until its rapid decline in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Smith's Chapel in central Ector County was the setting for a rural school and church, established by two local ranchers. It operated until 1921 when all county school districts consolidated and the town vanished.

The arrival of the railroad and discovery of oil played a significant role in the development of Ector County and the State of Texas. Although these towns and communities no longer exist, they helped shape the Texas we know today.

(2019)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (JJR), 6/20/2019, rev (BB) 4/1/21, 2/23/22, ed (CTS) 9/23/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker **WITHOUT POST, ATTACH MASONRY**  
El Paso County (Job #19EP02) Subject SP, AA, SR, CX (Atlas) UTM;  
Location: El Paso, University of Texas at El Paso, 500 W. University Ave

**1966 TEXAS WESTERN BASKETBALL  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso) was the first institution of higher education in a southern state to integrate, with a dozen African American students enrolling in 1955. Charles Brown became the Miners' first black basketball player in the 1956-57 season, followed by several others under head Coaches George McCarty and Harold Davis. Coach Don Haskins arrived in 1961 for the first of 38 seasons and continued to recruit black players. Though federal laws prohibited racial segregation in education, many southern schools resisted, particularly in athletics through laws, policies and the refusal to play integrated teams.

Texas Western transformed college sports in the 1965-66 season. Its fully integrated basketball squad compiled a 23-1 regular season record and joined the postseason NCAA tournament. Wins over Oklahoma City (89-74), Cincinnati (78-76, overtime) and Kansas (81-80, double overtime) earned the Miners a trip to the national semifinals at the University of Maryland. After defeating Utah 85-78, the Miners faced four-time national champion Kentucky in the title game. In a historic first in a college basketball championship, all five starters for the miners were African American. Kentucky's entire roster was white. Coach Haskins said he was not trying to make a more profound statement about race but was simply playing his best players. The Miners led 34-31 at halftime and demonstrated a superior defense and disciplined half-court offense in a 72-65 victory at Cole Field House. It was the only time in the 20th century that a Texas team won the NCAA men's basketball title.

The game was a watershed moment for the integration of college athletics, as southern universities began actively recruiting African American athletes. Texas Western inspired generations by achieving one of the most significant wins in both American sports and the Civil Rights Movement.

(2019)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB) 4/21/2021, rev 5/19/22, ed (CTS) 9/23/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
El Paso County (Job #20EP01) Subject (Atlas 22813) UTM;  
Location: El Paso, 1211 Montana Ave.

**WILLIAM WARD TURNEY  
IVA GUTHRIE TURNEY**

Born in Marshall, William Ward Turney (1861-1939) became a prominent West Texan. He was elected the first Brewster County attorney in 1887. William married Iva Guthrie (1872-1960) in December 1892 and the couple moved to El Paso, where he was a partner in the firm of Turney, Burges, Culwell and Pollard. That same year, William was first elected to the Texas Legislature, serving in the House (1893-97) and Senate (1897-1903). Turney was known for supporting legislation that helped ranchers' interests. A cattleman himself, he bought the O-2 ranch in Brewster County, which became one of the largest ranches in West Texas. Specializing in corporate law, Turney represented oil, telephone and railway companies and also served as director of the El Paso branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. His business sense and civic leadership promoted the economic growth and development of the flourishing city of El Paso.

Designed by Trost & Trost, the Turneys built their home in the Arizona Rio Grande District in 1906. The house was designed in the classical revival style and included five bedrooms upstairs and one large sitting room, a grand parlor, ballroom, dining room and kitchen on the main level. Over the years, the couple enjoyed giving elegant parties and entertaining dignitaries in their home. The Turneys had no children but enjoyed frequent visits to their ranch and participated in many social and charitable organizations. After William died in 1939, Iva managed family ranchland and businesses, while living out her later years in the Paso del Norte Hotel. Iva donated the home to the city of El Paso, and in 1947 the city leased the building to the International Museum, where Iva served on the board of trustees. In 1959, the museum changed its name to the El Paso Museum of Art and in 1960 Carroll, Daueble & Associates remodeled the building. Iva Turney passed away in 1960. The Turney house, now home of the International Museum of Art, is a tribute to the Turneys and their dedication to their community.

(2020)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Hale County (Job #21HA01) Subject (Atlas 23358) UTM:  
Location: Plainview, SH 788, 0.1 mi. W of I-27

### **Finney Field**

In the late 1930s, area aviation enthusiasts organized Plainview Flying Club, acquiring a two-seat Aeronca Chief with a 65-horsepower engine. Their first site was six miles south of Plainview, later moving north of Plainview near Finney Switch. In September 1940, the City of Plainview and Hale County jointly purchased 320 acres at the site for a municipal airport facility named Finney Field.

When the U.S. entered WWII, pilot training swiftly accelerated. Clent Breedlove, a civilian contractor in the federal government's Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) since 1939, contracted in May 1942 to train pre-glider students at Finney Field. Plainview Pre-Glider School (officially 4th Army Air Forces Glider Training Detachment, or AAFGTD) was activated on June 1, 1942. The facility had two runways and 23 buildings, including headquarters, hangars, barracks, mess hall and medical clinic. There were also three auxiliary airfields within nine miles. Finney Field was a primary school where student pilots, with an instructor pilot on board, flew powered aircraft from 1,000 to 5,000 feet altitude, turned off engine power, and steered and landed the aircraft in "dead stick" mode. After a four-week course, students graduated to advanced glider training, often at Army Air Fields at Dalhart (TX), Fort Sumner (NM) or Victorville (CA). A total of 1,169 pre-glider students trained here, with 876 completing the course. Finney Field transitioned to a liaison pilot program for another 241 students, remaining open until April 14, 1943, when Breedlove moved the operation to Lamesa.

Ralph Brown and Claude Hutcherson converted the field to a private airport with an aerial service, private lessons and charter flights. It was later the site of Cloverlake Dairy. Finney Field is remembered for its local contributions to aviation and its impact upon the glider and liaison programs of WWII.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 5/23/2022, ed 8/12/22, 9/12/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Hall County (Job #21HL01) Subject (Atlas 23396) UTM:  
Location: Turkey, 211 Main St.

### **Ham's Barber Shop**

Floyce Oliver (F.O.) Ham (1896-1967) left his family's farm in Beaver, Oklahoma, at age 15 in search of business opportunities. He settled in Turkey and opened the town's first barber shop, which had various locations before he built a brick commercial building in the spring of 1925. The narrow rectangular plan building features a brick façade in running bond pattern, a display window and transom windows for ventilation. The deep red and black "rug textured" bricks are stamped by Acme Brick Company of Denton and dated 1924. The shop flourished in its location in the middle of Turkey's business district, and F.O.'s younger brother, Clayton (1907-1959), joined him in the shop as a partner. Along with a haircut and shave for 25 cents, customers could get shoes and boots polished while they waited for an open chair. Ham's Barber Shop also offered the only public bath and shower facilities in town, with rainwater captured in a brick cistern near the back of the building.

In 1928, the Ham brothers hired Bob Wills (1905-1975), who grew up in Turkey, attended Dendy's Barber College in Amarillo, and acquired his state license. Wills lived with F.O. Ham's family for a time in Turkey, barbering in chair four and playing fiddle between haircuts, often drawing large crowds to the shop and Main Street. In 1929, Wills stopped barbering and soon founded the western swing band "Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys." After achieving fame in music and movie industries, Wills and his band came back to Turkey and performed a free concert in front of the barber shop.

F.O. married Leona Keever (1893-1985) in 1919. Their son, Harold, began working in the shop in 1942 at age twelve and operated the business until it closed in 2001, by which time four generations of Hams had worked in the shop. As a longtime commercial enterprise and as a gathering place for news and fellowship, Ham's Barber Shop is remembered for its importance in local culture and heritage.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark – 2021

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  
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 by 1869. 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, held on the fourth Sunday in September, known as "Big Day." 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 and 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 (MR) 6/9/2022, ed (BB) 6/13/22, rev. 7/14/22 (CTS) 9/26/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Jefferson County (Job #21JF02) Subject (Atlas 23352) UTM:  
Location: Port Neches, 2006 Nall St.

### **St. Elizabeth Catholic Community**

The late 1850s saw the arrival of the first Catholic families to the area known as Port Neches. While no church would be formally founded for many years, the area was frequently visited by traveling missionaries known as "saddlebag priests." They would travel by horseback between towns to celebrate Mass in the log cabin homes of the Catholic families. One such example is Fr. Vitalus Quinon (c.1850-1894), a French native who established churches in the nearby towns of Orange and Beaumont, and other Texas cities. His parish extended from the Sabine River on the east to the San Jacinto River on the west.

By the turn of the century, the families of Port Neches had to travel several hours to Port Arthur or Beaumont to attend Mass. In the late 1910s, the Catholic population of the town had grown to over 400 and a request was sent for a priest to come formally establish a church. Fr. Fred B. Hardy (1886-1957) was transferred from Nacogdoches to Port Neches in 1922. Fr. Hardy named the church St. Elizabeth, after the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary. The first church was built from donated and salvaged building materials and served as the home of the congregation for many years. It still stands between the convent and the rectory in the 300 block of Ave. B. That same year, St. Catherine of Siena School was founded and held lessons in the church building. By the late 1920s, several hundred students were enrolled. In 1939, after 17 years with St. Elizabeth, Fr. Hardy was transferred to St. Charles Borromeo in Nederland. By 1957, the church moved to its current location on Nall Street to accommodate the growing size of the congregation. St. Elizabeth is still serving the community and beloved by its members.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (SEM) 11/19/2020, ed (BB) 4/21/21, rev 6/1/22  
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Live Oak County (Job #20LK02) Subject GY (Atlas 22724) UTM:  
Location: George West, Cemetery Road

### **GEORGE WEST CEMETERY**

The George West Cemetery was originally part of the George West Ranch. The ranch dates to the 1880s, when George Washington West (1851-1926) and his wife, Kitty Searcy West (1858-1939), purchased 140,000 acres in Live Oak County. On March 4, 1916, George set aside six acres of his vast ranch for use as a community and Live Oak County Cemetery. Management remained with George West and family until his death in 1926. The estate gifted the cemetery to the citizens of the county as a free burial ground. It was administered through a committee appointed by the Live Oak County Commissioners Court. Acreage added by West heirs and W. Hale Canfield expanded the cemetery to more than 20 acres.

The first legible headstone is for Espetasion Garza (1900-1916) and is inscribed in Spanish. Many early headstones are illegible. Notable burials include civic leader William Hale Canfield (1907-1991) and his wife, Mable Frances (Lamm) Canfield (1913-2004). Judge William "Bill" Scott Kendall (1913-1990) was a World War II veteran. Ramiro Garcia (1912-2000) was a lifelong George West citizen and owner of the successful T&T Café, along with his wife, Lena (Chapa) Garcia (1912-2004). Burials also include veterans, medical personnel, ranchers, business owners, educators, laborers and others from the area. All helped shape the landscape of George West and Live Oak County.

Improvements to the cemetery were made over the years, including a water well, electricity, caliche roads, and a stone gate. Since 1926, the George West Cemetery Association has maintained the cemetery, preserving this chronicle of early George West and Live Oak County heritage.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2018

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 5/23/2022, rev. 7/15/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Lubbock County (Job #21LU01) Subject (Atlas 23331) UTM:  
Location: Idalou, 2607 N. FM 400

### **Harmon Farms**

James Rush (J.R.) Harmon (1872-1927) farmed in Fort Bend and Lamar counties, marrying schoolteacher Alberta McClure (1879-1966) in 1903. To escape the boll weevil infestation in east Texas, J. R. bought farmland south of Idalou in 1919. The Harmon family, including six children, relocated by December 1920. When J.R. died, ownership of the land passed to his widow, Alberta. Their son Ralph left school at age 12 and took over the farming while three of his siblings went to college. In 1935, Ralph bought a modern, steel-wheeled tractor to replace his father's mules. Five generations have grown Harmon Farms from the original 160 acres into an extensive farming and cattle operation and Texas Family Heritage Farm.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (LH) 7/7/2020, ed (BB) 4/30/21, rev 5/19/22, 7/14/22, (CTS) 9/23/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Lubbock County (Job #20LU01) Subject WT, SC (Atlas 22774) UTM:

Location: Lubbock, 705 Ave Q

## THE 1970 LUBBOCK TORNADO

The major tornado that struck Lubbock on May 11, 1970, was one of the most destructive in American history. That evening there was an outbreak of thunderstorms with strong winds and hail. An initial tornado touched down east of Mackenzie Park at 8:15 p.m., traveling northeast through a sparsely populated part of the city. A second tornado formed at 9:35 p.m., near Texas Tech University, tracking northeast with a path of destruction nearly two miles wide. The central business district, industrial areas and downtown residential areas, including the Guadalupe neighborhood, were the most heavily damaged. The funnel continued north-northeast to the Lubbock County Club and airport where it also caused damage before lifting back into the storm at approximately 10:10 p.m.

The twisters caused more than \$250 million in damage (more than \$1.6 billion in today's dollars), affecting 25% of the city. It destroyed 1,100 homes and damaged 8,000 others. Hundreds of businesses were destroyed or severely damaged. Twenty-six people died and 1,755 people were injured. Cleanup and relief efforts commenced immediately. A state of emergency was declared, bottled water was shipped in, and the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum became a makeshift shelter.

Many important advancements resulted from the tragic event. The city was given \$59 million in federal relief, and a \$13.6 million bond package helped fund the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, George and Helen Mahon Library, city parks and the beginnings of the Canyon Lakes system. Dr. T.T. Fujita compiled data used to develop the Fujita Scale, which measures tornadic intensity by wind speed and resulting damage. Shortly after, Texas Tech University founded the institute for disaster research (now the National Wind Institute). While the 1970 Lubbock tornado was devastating, the response demonstrated the resilience of the city and its people.

(2020)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (LH) 7/7/2020, ed (BB) 4/30/21, rev 5/19/22, 7/14/22 (CTS)  
9/23/22

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Lubbock County (Job #20LU02) Subject WT, SC (Atlas 22775) UTM:

Location: Lubbock, 705 Ave Q

## THE FUJITA SCALE

The Fujita Scale is a tool used to estimate wind speed by looking at the damage tornadoes cause. It was developed by Dr. Tetsuya Theodore (Ted) Fujita (1920-1998), who began studying tornadoes and thunderstorms in the late 1940s at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan and later at the University of Chicago. While Dr. Fujita visited more than 300 sites from 1965 to 1991, the 1970 Lubbock tornado was significant in confirming his data. Shortly after his visit, he published the Fujita Scale.

A combination of the Beaufort Wind Force Scale and the Mach Number Scale, categories on the scale determined wind speed as seen by the damage left behind. F0 tornados were described as 'light damage' while F5 tornados were 'incredible damage,' as confirmed by the May 11, 1970, Lubbock Tornado. Shortly after its introduction, the National Weather Service and the meteorology community adopted the Fujita Scale as a means of describing tornadoes after the fact.

Although the Fujita Scale was widely used, it had limitations. The scale did not take structural integrity into account and damage could be misleading. In 2000, researchers from Texas Tech University's Institute for Disaster Research began to study ways to improve the Fujita Scale. In 2006, the researchers submitted their findings to the National Weather Service. The result was the Enhanced Fujita Scale, adopted on February 1, 2007. The new scale added metrics for the quality of construction and economic impact from damages. Other countries have adopted the Enhanced Fujita Scale or modified versions of the original. It continues to be a valuable tool for identifying safer construction methods and materials, as well as planning for severe weather events.

(2020)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB) 5/23/2022, rev. 7/15/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Lubbock County (Job #21LU04) Subject (Atlas 23366) UTM:  
Location: Lubbock, Willie Lusk Park, E. 25<sup>th</sup> St. at Oak Ave.

**Willie Lusk Jr.  
(1914-1976)**

Born in 1914 in San Angelo, Willie Lusk Jr. worked as a shoeshine boy in N.A. Brown's boot shop when he was 12 years old. He then apprenticed with Czech bootmaker Frank Urban, earning a daily wage of one dollar. In 1934, Lusk moved to Lubbock and worked for Brown's brother, E.E. Brown, at Brown's Boot and Saddle Shop on Broadway. After a few years, Lusk was promoted to foreman, overseeing 22 other bootmakers. In 1940, he married Dunbar H.S. teacher Mildred Kavanaugh; the couple had three children.

Benny Binion, wealthy Dallas gambler, was a frequent customer and asked why Lusk, a skilled craftsman and good manager, was not operating his own shop. When Lusk said he had no funds to get started, Binion loaned him the money at a time when few African Americans in Lubbock owned a business. Lusk set up his new boot shop at 1706 Ave. A. Within six months of opening in 1946, Lusk's boot shop received enough orders to put him and his employees six months behind.

Lusk promoted his business by touring western states to bring in new customers from rodeos, livestock shows and Binion's Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas. Lusk traced customers' feet directly onto the order form alongside notes and measurements. He did not sign his boots with any logo or trademark, but many are identified by his distinctive flame stitch variation and by use of wooden pegs instead of nails in the soles. His handcrafted boots were sought out by actors, musicians, politicians and working cowboys around the world. The business also grew through positive referrals and national press, such as a 1951 *Coronet* magazine article titled "Texas King of Cowboy Boots." In 1952, Lusk moved into a larger storefront to accommodate the increased demand. His work remains valued for its craftsmanship and artistry.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 5/16/2022, rev. 7/14/22  
18" x 28" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post  
Lubbock County (Job #21LU03) Subject GY (Atlas 23347) UTM.  
Location: Wolfforth, 937 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St.

### **Wolfforth Cemetery**

Established in 1916 on the Panhandle and Santa Fe Railway, Wolfforth had a post office and railroad depot by the 1920s. In 1927, 2.45 acres west of the platted town was designated for a community cemetery. Burial plots were provided free of charge for local residents. Infant Ruby Hazel Fulfer was the first burial; her grave is unmarked. The earliest gravestone is for infant Billy Lois Sims, who also died in 1927. By the 1950s, plots were sold for a small fee to establish maintenance funds. A mix of native flora enhances the grounds. The city, the Lions Club and a cemetery association helped with upkeep and improvements over the years. Wolfforth Cemetery continues to provide a source of comfort and rest for loved ones of this community.

Historic Texas Cemetery – 2020

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/31/2022, ed (BB) 9/1/22, (CTS) 9/26/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Matagorda County (Job #21MG01) Subject (Atlas 23350) UTM:  
Location: Bay City, 4100 Hiram Brandon Drive

**Harmon Jerome McAllister  
(1909-1963)**

Born in Quitman, son of Hugh McAllister (1876-1964) and June Kendrick (1878-1914), Harmon Jerome (H.J.) McAllister dedicated his life to serving this community as an educational leader in various roles. After graduating from Mineola High School, McAllister attended North Texas State Teachers College, completing a degree in business administration in 1933. Three years later, McAllister came to Bay City High School as a business administration teacher. He met and married a fellow teacher, Mary Belle Richeson (1916-2010). In 1941, he was named principal. McAllister served for five years before transitioning to the school district in the newly created position of business manager. During his tenure, Bay City and Hilliard high schools were built. McAllister left the school district in 1949 but served as a member of the school board and held other civic leadership positions. He returned as superintendent of Bay City schools from 1960 until his unexpected death in 1963 due to complications from surgery.

In June 1963, the H.J. McAllister Memorial Student Loan Fund was established by his pupils and friends to assist students completing their higher education. The next year, the H.J. McAllister baseball field was dedicated in his honor. After integration, it was determined that a new junior high school would need to be built to accommodate student growth. In 1967, the school board unanimously voted to name the new school H.J. McAllister junior high school. The school opened in the fall of 1969. Despite the school's closing and razing several decades later, the legacy of H.J. McAllister's service continues to inspire community residents.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 8/30/2022, ed (BB) 9/20/22, 9/22/22  
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 (BB) 5/13/22, rev 6/14/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
McLennan County (Job #21ML02) Subject AA (Atlas 23321) UTM:  
Location: Gholson, 399 Wagoner Rd.

### **Pleasant Grove Baptist Church**

In 1872, a small gathering of formerly enslaved African Americans listened to Rev. Bernard F. Standifer as he preached the gospel under a brush arbor near Gholson. Those gathered were convicted to establish Pleasant Grove Baptist Church there beneath the post oak trees. Rev. Standifer served as the first pastor from 1872-83, and under his leadership members built a 12-by-14-foot frame building, followed by a slightly larger sanctuary. Ed Scott and Jerry Williams were the first deacons during Rev. Standifer's term. In 1883, Harry and Martha Anderson officially deeded to the congregation the one-acre parcel where the first church had been built. Pleasant Grove helped establish other area churches, including Bold Springs Baptist Church in 1892.

In Jan. 1900, Clorissa and Ben Smith deeded an acre between the Pleasant Grove church and cemetery to establish Gholson School, which served African American students and families of the area through eighth grade at this site until 1953. Between 1900-02, the schoolhouse was used for worship on Sundays while a larger church building was under construction. Under Rev. J.M. Rayford, who served from 1920-24, a new facility with larger capacity was built with a prominent belltower. The original bell from this belltower remains intact. As the congregation grew, new sanctuaries were built in 1963 and 2009. Twenty-four ministers pastored the church over its first 150 years.

With its establishment in 1872, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church was central to the spiritual, cultural and communal lives of emancipated African Americans. For more than a century on the same site, the church continues to be a source of faith, love and encouragement to its members and neighbors.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB), 4/24/2021, rev 9/2/21

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Milam County (Job #20MM03) Subject (Atlas 22849) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N

Location: Rockdale, CR 428

### **WORLEY BRIDGE**

In the early 20th century, Milam County was growing in population and developing rapidly thanks to an agricultural economy fueled by cotton and other crops. Most smaller rural communities depended on good roads and infrastructure to get themselves and their goods to Cameron and Rockdale, the two most populous towns in the county.

In 1911, residents of the Sharp, Tracy and Duncan communities petitioned the Milam County Commissioners Court for a bridge to cross the San Gabriel River, which would enable farmers to travel a shorter and safer distance to markets to transport their crops. Frank Worley, a large landowner in the area, donated a site for building the bridge over the river on what is now County Road 428.

Construction on the Worley Bridge began in 1911 and was completed in 1913. The Pratt through Truss bridge spans the San Gabriel River near the historic Apache Pass Crossing. It is one of more than twenty metal bridges in the county dating from the early 20th century, in association with the Good Roads Movement to benefit homeowners, schools, churches and travelers with reliable roads for automobiles and wagons. The Worley Bridge is 271 feet long, spans 113 feet across the river and has an overall width of 13 feet with steel grate decking. The bridge has been maintained through the years to adapt to vehicle and safety requirements, including a 2011-14 restoration. Still in operation, it remains a vital link in the road network of the county and the region, continuing to facilitate travel and commerce after more than a century of use.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2020

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (LH), 8/3/2020, ed (BB) 4/10/21, rev 9/30/21, (CTS) 9/23/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Shackelford County (Job #20SF01) Subject AR, MU, PM, WN (Atlas 22717) UTM:  
Location: Albany, Cemetery Road & McComas Ln, (Section West 16, Lot 31)

### **ALICE REYNOLDS**

Albany native Alice Reynolds (1910-1984) was central to production of the Fort Griffin Fandangle. After graduating from Baylor University in 1931, she taught music in Albany schools and gave private music and art lessons, helping her identify and train talented performers for the Fandangle and the Albany Nativity. In summers, she studied art under Xavier Gonzales. Though most of her paintings are in private collections, she is known for her 1941 post office mural in Robstown. From 1939-1984, in cooperation with director Robert Nail, she designed sets and costumes and wrote and arranged and music for the Fandangle. Two of her songs, "Let's Settle in this Country" and "Here Comes the Texas Central," are still performed, and many of her stage sets are still in use.

(2020)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (SEM) 4/27/2021, ed (BB) 4/29/21, 1/27/2022, rev 6/30/22  
(CTS) 9/26/22

27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post

Tarrant County (Job #20TR03) Subject GY (Atlas 22815) UTM:

Location: Fort Worth, 5801 Helmick Avenue

### **LAKE COMO CEMETERY**

African Americans settled into what is known as the Lake Como Community between 1907 and 1908. Established to serve the African American population, a cemetery was founded about 1925 and was historically referred to as the Lake Como Colored Cemetery.

Some of the early residents were railroad/trolley car and domestic workers at the nearby Arlington Heights Inn and Lake Como Amusement Park serviced by the western roundabout of the city's trolley car line. Others owned and worked in local businesses or at the Industrial and Mechanical (I&M) College founded in 1909 by Baptist ministers. During World War I, part of the Como community was used for an army training camp called Camp Bowie.

Lake Como Cemetery Association was formally established by Zion Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend George Washington Burton II (1876-1966) as a burial ground for the community. Reverend Burton and his family members are buried in the cemetery.

Undocumented burials took place on these sacred grounds prior to 1925. The earliest recorded burial was Angus Woods in 1926, followed by the burial of 8-year-old George Wilson Jr., son of grocer George H. Wilson Sr., in 1927. Burials also include four persons who were born prior to the end of slavery in 1865 and veterans who served in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. Lake Como Cemetery serves as a reminder of the early African American families who developed the Lake Como community.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2019

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (LH) 7/16/2020, ed (BB) 9/1/21, rev 2/9/22, 5/3/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Travis County (Job #19TV02) Subject ED, AA, BH (Atlas 22709) UTM.  
Location: Austin, 6101 Highland Campus Dr.

### **ST. JOHN ORPHANAGE AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE**

The St. John Regular Missionary Baptist Association, founded by Jacob Fontaine, was a conference of historically African American Baptist congregations in Central Texas. Under the leadership of the Rev. Lee Lewis Campbell, the association bought 306 acres of land four miles north of Downtown Austin and established an orphans' home and school. Construction of the main building was finished in 1909. Around the time of its opening, the building burned down. The orphanage building was reconstructed by Austin architect John Andrewartha and completed in 1910. By 1915, five additional buildings were constructed to accommodate the growing number of students.

At that time, the Industrial Institute served first grade through the senior year of college. The curriculum included academic subjects such as math, English and chemistry. The institute also taught industrial, domestic and agricultural classes. In 1915, the St. John Industrial Institute held its annual summer school program with 2,000 students. The institute also held mass lectures and gatherings during annual summer encampments with as many as 15,000 people in attendance on the grounds. These sessions covered topics such as farming techniques, bible and sociology with guest lecturers, including Booker T. Washington in 1911.

The orphanage and school began to decline with the onset of the Great Depression. Since they were supported by the sale of crops grown on the land, a decline in agricultural prices and families leaving to find work in cities led to the eventual closure of the institute and orphanage in 1942. In 1956, the main building burned down in a mysterious fire, and the land was sold to developers for construction of homes and commercial buildings. In 1971, Highland Mall opened at this site. In 2011, the Austin Community College District purchased the property for its Highland Campus, returning the land to its original educational and community purposes.

(2019)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 8/31/2022, ed(BB) 9/6/22 (CTS) 9/26/22  
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Victoria County (Job #21VT01) Subject (Atlas 23353) UTM:  
Location: Inez, 101 Wood Hi School Road

### **William A. Wood Memorial School**

The son of community founders John and Nancy Wood, William A. Wood died at age 39 in 1900. In his honor, his widow, Nellie Wood-Kreisle, gave ten acres of land for a high school which opened in 1918. The community around the school became known as "Wood Hi." In 1948, upper grades began attending Patti Welder High in Victoria which left first through eighth grades at William Wood. Consolidation with Victoria ISD took place in 1956. Notable figures in school history include Henry Hosek, first graduate and longtime trustee, and 2nd Lt. T.J. Flynn, a Foster Field instructor who sacrificed his life in 1944 to avoid colliding with students at the school during a training mission. Throughout the 20th century, the school served as the center of the community.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (BB) 8/22/2019, rev 9/2/21, 2/16/22, 6/30/22, ed (CTS) 9/23/22  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Washington County (Job #19WT02) Subject (Atlas 22624) UTM:

Location: Brenham, 1502 Mount Olive St.

### **MOUNT OLIVE DISTRICT MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

The Mount Olive District Missionary Baptist Association began in August 1906 at nearby Palestine Baptist Church when its founders identified a need to assist, empower and unite African American church congregations in Washington County. The association began hosting annual conferences from its inception. The founders were: Reverends W.S. Barber, Richard Coleman, Benjamin Harris, E.D. Jefferson, Walter McConley, Robert McGill, J.H. Mosley, Isaiah Newsome, Marcellus Whiting and Jeff D. Young, Brother Percy McClellan and Professor Daniel Porter.

Professor Porter founded Brenham Normal and Industrial College (BNIC) eleven months before the association was formed. The association moved their meetings to the BNIC campus, taking over management of the school after Porter's death in 1916. The association purchased the property from the struggling BNIC in 1917 and financially supported the school until it closed in 1927.

The women's convention organized in 1908 to provide a platform for women to have a voice in the male-dominated organization. The first officers were Fredonia Byrd (president), Elizabeth Jameson, Julia Hoskins, B.E. Henderson, Katie Spencer, Lucy Newsome, Katie Little and Winnie Burkhead. From 1915-1950, Ada Wilson-Hill served as president of the women's convention. Under her leadership, women became instrumental in the growth of the association. It prospered financially and the membership grew from five churches to more than fifty by 1953.

Hattie Jefferson-Mills held many offices from 1922-1985 and kept abundant notes and speeches, assuring the history of the grounds affectionately known as "the campus" would not be forgotten.

(2019)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/7/2022, ed (BB) 9/21/2022

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 Mníchovice (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

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Item 15.2A  
Texas Historical Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
October 17-18, 2022

### Consider removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the Potter-Hurley House, Gainesville, Cooke County

#### **Background**

The Potter-Hurley House, 108 E. Church Street in Gainesville (Cooke Co.), was built in 1894 and designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) in 1973. In July 2022, property owners Stephen and Beth Sharp contacted the THC to inform the Commission that they were having problems attaining homeowners' insurance because of the marker and requested that the designation and marker be removed. THC staff has contacted the Sharps and insurance agents trying to find insurance options for the house. A photograph of the marker and the house are below, followed by correspondence from the Sharps.



**July 5, 2022 (Atlas error report comment):** Under Data, it has a "No" by Private Property. Our home is private property, owned by me and my husband, Stephen Sharp. We are having problems getting home owners insurance because of the marker and would like to have it removed from the registry list.

**July 18, 2022 (email):** My wife Beth Sharp has reached out to you regarding removing a "Historical Marker" from the front of our home in Gainesville, Texas. The home is located at 108 East Church Street, Gainesville, Texas 76240. The reason for considering this action is due to the cancelling of our homeowners insurance because the home is registered with the THC. I believe the marker was purchased by Ms. Hurley when it was registered in 1973. They had it mounted to the front of the home as a

registered historical property and it has been there ever since. What we truly seek is to have our home removed from the **THC records** as a historical home. We would like the marker to remain on the front of the home as purely "historical recognition". If this can be done, we would like you to remove the property from your records and send a letter stating it has been removed. This letter would then be sent to our Insurance Company so we can obtain insurance on the property. I have attached a picture of the marker for your reference. Anything you can do to help in this situation would be greatly appreciated.

**July 19, 2022 (email):** Thank you for your response. Beth and I have our Insurance Agent looking into this option for us. If this does not work for us we would like to regretfully pursue removing the "Pottery-Hurley House" from the THC registry. Please let me know if we have any other options. Currently our home is our largest investment and we need to protect it. Thank you for your help.

**July 29, 2022 (email and formal request to remove marker):** We have had our insurance agent search for an acceptable insurance through the Texas FAIR Plan Association (TFPA). He was able to quote the insurance, however it was twice the cost of the insurance we can obtain without having the historical marker on our home. Unfortunately this added expense is not affordable (\$10k/yr.) and we would like you to proceed with the removal of our home from the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

The following is our formal request to have our home removed. We are following the requirements and procedure set forth by the THC to remove our historical marker below.

1. Name and contact information: Stephen A. Sharp, 214-794-1271, [sasnvvis@gmail.com](mailto:sasnvis@gmail.com) Beth A. Sharp, 940-300-1168, [bethgillssharp@gmail.com](mailto:bethgillssharp@gmail.com) (Owners of the Potter-Hurley House)
2. Marker: "Potter-Hurley House" located at 108 East Church Street, Gainesville, Texas 76240
3. Justification for removal of marker: We are having difficulty obtaining homeowners insurance. We have been cancelled twice by two insurance companies due to the THC Registry and the Historical Marker on our home.
4. Narrative history and photograph of marker: The home was built in 1894. A previous owner of the home, Ms. Hurley, preserved the home and had it registered by the THC in 1973. Photos of the marker are attached.
5. Written owner consent for removal: Beth and I own the "Potter-Hurley House" and we would like the home removed from the THC registry.
6. A plan explaining how the marker will be removed, preserved and stored: The marker will be removed from the outer wall of the home's front porch. We will place the marker in a container to protect its condition and it will be stored within the home. The "Historical Marker" will remain with the home until such time that we, or another owner decides to re-register the "Potter-Hurley House" with the THC.

Beth and I would like for you to proceed with our request as soon as possible. We will need you to send an email acknowledging our request and that you are in the process of removing our home from the THC registry. A copy of your email will be sent to an insurance company of our choice to obtain a reasonably priced homeowners policy.

Anything you can do to expedite this would be greatly appreciated.

**Motion Option 1 (Committee):** Move that the committee 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.

**Motion Option 2 (Committee):** Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend denying request for removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the Potter-Hurley House, Gainesville, Cooke County.

**Motion Option 1 (Commission):** Move to approve request for removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the Potter-Hurley House, Gainesville, Cooke County.

**Motion Option 2 (Commission):** Move to deny request for removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the Potter-Hurley House, Gainesville, Cooke County.

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Item 15.2B  
Texas Historical Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
October 17-18, 2022

### Consider removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the Luther Hotel, Palacios, Matagorda County

#### **Background**

The Luther Hotel (Old Palacios Hotel), 408 S. Bay Blvd. in Palacios (Matagorda Co.), was built in 1903 facing East Bay, moved a few blocks to the present site facing South Bay in 1905, and expanded soon after and again in the 1930s-40s. Victoria architect Jules Leffland designed the original building. The hotel was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) in 1962 (RTHL medallion #209 awarded in 1962, interpretive plate added 1965). The property (including a 1941 motor court, demolished following Hurricane Harvey) was also listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2010, and the business received a Texas Treasures Business Award in 2013.

The Luther Hotel was damaged in Hurricane Harvey, but it remains in repairable condition. The owner had invested significant funds into repairs, with additional work planned. The hotel received a Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (HIM-ESHPF) grant in the amount of \$202,834. Roof and drainage work had taken place before the property owner applied for the HIM-ESHPF grant. Water damage was present throughout the building, resulting in collapsed ceilings, failing plaster, sheetrock, wallpaper and paint. Mold and mildew were evident on walls and ceilings. The owner concentrated interior repairs to areas most heavily used, his living quarters and one wing that formed the core of rentable hotel rooms. Some wood siding and wood windows showed signs of rot and were in need of repair. The hurricane had also shifted the pier and beam foundation so the building was not level. The property owner identified foundation repair as the most critical remaining repair. Work was planned to take place in three phases (east wing, middle, west wing), and THC staff worked with him and his contractor to rebuild the foundation on the easternmost section of the building. Plans were underway to begin foundation work for the middle section of the building, but to our knowledge, this work did not take place.

Owner Jack Findley died in June 2020, and there are approximately 60 heirs to his estate. The estate returned the HIM-ESHPF grant in November 2021 and ceased operation of the hotel a few months ago. The request for removal of the marker is intended to facilitate demolition of the building and sale of the land.

Representatives of the estate notified the THC of their intent to demolish the hotel and requested RTHL review pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 442.006(f) and Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Rule 21.11. Per these provisions, a person may not damage the historical or architectural integrity of an RTHL without notifying the Commission at least 60 days before the date on which the action causing the

damage is to begin. Staff may impose a waiting period of an additional 30 days if a longer period could increase the chances of preservation. THC staff responded on September 30, 2022 by imposing the waiting period, to expire December 19, 2022, and encouraging exploration of preservation alternatives, including rehabilitation, restoration, or sale of the property to be conserved by a future owner. The letter is enclosed.

In September 2022, the Welder Leshin law firm also contacted the THC to request removal of the historical marker and RTHL designation. THC staff has contacted the Matagorda CHC for their comments. By phone, the CHC commented that they are aware of recent efforts to restore the building before this request to remove designation. Historic and current photographs of the hotel and marker are below, followed by the request to remove the marker. The CHC has also compiled photographs and history of the property at [http://www.usgenwebsites.org/TXMatagorda/hotel\\_luther.htm](http://www.usgenwebsites.org/TXMatagorda/hotel_luther.htm). The 2010 NR documentation is at <https://atlas.thc.texas.gov/NR/pdfs/10000251/10000251.pdf>.



Circa 1920



2011 RTHL survey photo from Matagorda CHC



2011 RTHL survey photo from Matagorda CHC



1962 RTHL medallion and 1965 interpretive plate (photo from 2011)



October 2019 site visit



October 2019 site visit



October 2019 site visit

**September 19, 2022 (email):**

To Whom It May Concern:

This law firm represents Annie Ruth Findley Jones, the Independent Administrator of the Estate of Harold Jack Findley, Deceased. The Estate owns the Luther Hotel, which is located at 408 S. Bay Blvd., Palacios, Matagorda County, Texas. The Hotel is listed on the National Register of History Places and as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. It is our understanding that the Hotel's structure was designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1965. More details on the marker are listed at <https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details/5321003149>.

Unfortunately, there are now approximately 60 heirs to the Estate's assets and the Hotel is in a state of total disrepair, causing health and safety hazards. We hereby request that the marker be removed as the Estate would like to demolish the Hotel and sell the land. It is our understanding that the marker's condition is 14"x 9" in situ and located on the Hotel's front porch (photos are attached). We will ask the company demolishing the Hotel (Camacho Demolition) to remove the marker in a way to protect the marker's condition and deliver it to a location approved by the Texas Historical Commission.

Please advise whether our request is granted. I look forward to hearing from you.

Leigh Leshin Levy



Photographs included with September 19, 2022 email

**Staff Recommendation:**

The Texas Government Code section establishing Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation authorizes the THC to impose a waiting period when work is proposed that will damage the historic or architectural integrity of a landmark. As the waiting period was imposed and has not expired, it is premature for the Commission to take action on the request to remove the marker and designation. Staff recommends the Commission either deny the request at this time or postpone consideration to the January 31–February 1 quarterly meeting.

**Motion Option 1 (Committee):** Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend approving request for removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the Luther Hotel, Palacios, Matagorda County.

**Motion Option 2 (Committee):** Move that the committee 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.

**Motion Option 1 (Commission):** Move to approve request for removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the Luther Hotel, Palacios, Matagorda County.

**Motion Option 2 (Commission):** Move to deny request for removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the Luther Hotel, Palacios, Matagorda County.



P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, Texas 78711-2276  
512-463-6100  
thc.texas.gov

September 30, 2022

Annie Ruth Findley Jones  
Independent Administrator of the Estate of Harold Jack Findley  
800 North Shoreline, Suite 300 North  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401  
*Via email to [llevy@welderlesbin.com](mailto:llevy@welderlesbin.com) and [rlesbin@welderlesbin.com](mailto:rlesbin@welderlesbin.com)*

*Re: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark project review, The Luther Hotel, 408 South Bay Boulevard, Palacios, Matagorda County, Texas (RTHL 3149)*

Dear Annie Ruth Findley Jones,

Thank you for sending information regarding the proposed demolition of The Luther Hotel, which has been designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) since 1965. This letter presents the comments of the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

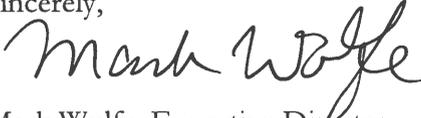
The review staff, led by Alex Toprac, has completed its review of the proposed demolition and redevelopment project, which was originally received on September 20, 2022. Pursuant to the Texas Government Code Section 442.006(f), a person may not damage the historical or architectural integrity of a structure the Commission has designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark without notifying the Commission at least 60 days before the date on which the action causing the damage is to begin. After receiving notice of a proposed project, our agency staff may waive the remaining waiting period or, if staff determines that a longer period could increase the chances for preservation, they may require an additional waiting period of no longer than 30 days, for a total of 90 days.

As the proposed scope of work involves demolition of The Luther Hotel, our staff has determined that the project does not meet the *Secretary of the Interior Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards)* and the Texas Historical Commission will enact the additional 30-day waiting period, with the full 90-day period ending on December 19, 2022. It is our staff's expectation that the property owner uses the additional waiting period to consider all preservation alternatives, including rehabilitation, restoration, or sale of The Luther Hotel to be conserved by a future owner. At the end of the full 90-day period, the property owner may proceed with the proposed demolition.

Pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 442.006(f), on the expiration of the time limits imposed by this section, the person may proceed, but must proceed no later than the 180th day after the date on which notice was given or the notice is considered to have expired. For the purposes of this project and review, that date is March 19, 2023. If Annie Ruth Findley Jones, Independent Administrator of the Estate of Harold Jack Findley, or any other entity responsible for development of the property is unable to proceed with the scope of work within the required 180-days, please contact our office for further review.

Thank you for your interest in the cultural heritage of Texas, and for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project in accordance with Recorded Texas Historic Landmark legislation. We look forward to further consultation with you as the private historic property owner and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Alex Toprac at 512/463-6183.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Wolfe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Wolfe, Executive Director  
Texas Historical Commission

MW/at

Cc: Carol Gibbs, Matagorda County Historical Commission Chairperson, *(via email)*

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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**Item 15.3**

Texas Historical Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
October 17-18, 2022

**2022 Official Texas Historical Markers topics report and discussion**

**Background:**

Under the provisions of the historical marker program, an annual list of applications is presented to THC Commissioners. The THC received 179 marker applications from 86 counties from March 1 to May 15, 2022 for the 2022 cycle. The Commission is required to establish a limit for the number of markers awarded annually, to apply guidelines and criteria for ranking marker applications, and to give priority to high-ranking applications. The maximum number of markers for 2022 is 170 new applications as adopted by the Commission in October 2020. Thematic priorities adopted for 2022 applications are: Communications; Industry, Business and Commerce; and Natural Resources. Marker topics within these themes received additional points when scored. Staff evaluated each application to proceed with 165 interpretive plaque applications and cancellation of 14 applications of the 179 received during the application period. This list was sent to Commissioners in July.

Staff was contacted about an application which was initially recommended for cancellation. This application is now being accepted and is listed below.

**Summary:**

Staff will be proceeding with **166** interpretive plaque applications and cancellation of **13** applications for Official Texas Historical Markers in calendar year 2022.

**Interpretive plaques to be approved (1)**

| County | Job #  | Topic                                    | Description           | Comments  |
|--------|--------|--|-----------------------|---|
| Harris | 22HR06 | Sikh Center of the Gulf Coast Area, Inc. | 1972 religious center | Topic was recommended for cancellation in July 2022 since most persons associated with the topic are still living. New recommendation is for 27" x 42" marker which will not list individual names. |

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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**Item 15.4**  
Texas Historical Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
October 17-18, 2022

**Consider Approval of Work Plan for 2024 Official Texas Historical Markers**

**Recommendations for 2024:** For new historical markers to be considered for calendar year 2024, staff recommends application period dates of **March 1 – May 15, 2024**. This will allow sufficient time to evaluate applications before the July 2024 quarterly meeting. Staff recommends the following thematic priorities for 2024: **Civil Rights; Education; and Social & Cultural History**. Topics addressing these themes will receive additional points when new applications are scored. Staff recommends approving and processing no more than **170** new applications and no more than **15** markers produced through the Undertold marker program (accumulated Marker Application Funds). The total of no more than **185** historical markers in calendar year 2024 shall proceed by the following work plan schedule:

| INTERNAL THC DATES    |  | EXTERNAL CHC/SPONSOR DATES |  |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Jan. 2024             | Marker applications posted to website  | Mar. 1 – May 15, 2024      | Application period for new markers (due May 15 at 2 pm CDT)      |
|                       |  | May 15, 2024               | \$100 fee benefiting Undertold markers (postmarked due date)     |
| Mar. 1 – May 31, 2024 | Staff processes and scores all applications  |                            |  |
|                       |  | May 17-31, 2024            | Public comment period for new topics (posted on website)         |
|                       |  | May 29, 2024               | Final day to submit missing or deficient components              |
| May 2024              | RTHL Meeting with DOA staff and scoring meeting with DDs, Admin staff                                  |                            |  |
| Jul. 2024             | Commissioners review 2024 marker topics at quarterly meeting   |                            |  |
| By Aug. 4, 2024       | Staff sends out payment vouchers to recommended topics   | Sep. 18, 2024              | Marker fee due for all marker applications (postmarked due date) |
| Oct. 2024             | Commissioners select application dates, priority themes and number of markers to be processed for 2026 |                            |  |
| Oct. 2024 – Feb. 2025 | Staff schedules workshops and webinars (as resources allow) on marker applications and other topics    |                            |  |
|                       |  | Oct. 1 – Nov. 15, 2024     | Application period for Undertold markers                         |

**Recommended motion (Committee):** Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of staff recommendations for qualified Official Texas Historical Marker applications and adoption of a work plan to complete no more than 185 new historical markers in calendar year 2024.

**Recommended motion (Commission):** Move to approve staff recommendations for qualified Official Texas Historical Marker applications and adoption of a work plan to complete no more than 185 new historical markers in calendar year 2024.