AGENDA
HISTORY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
Embassy Suites Austin Central
Agave A-B
5901 N. Interstate Hwy 35
Austin, TX 78723
April 27, 2023
11:30 a.m.
(or upon the adjournment of the 11:15 a.m. Finance & Govt. Relations Committee meeting, whichever occurs later)

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.

1. Call to Order – Committee Chair White
   A. Committee member introductions
   B. Establish quorum
   C. Recognize and/or excuse absences for January 31, 2023, and April 27, 2023, committee meetings

2. Consider approval of committee meeting minutes
   A. October 17, 2022
   B. January 31, 2023

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) designation for the Old Lyford High School, Lyford, Willacy County (item 14.2)

6. Consider adoption of amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) removal procedures, without changes to the text published in the February 17, 2023 issue of the Texas Register (48 TexReg 787-789) (item 7.4)

7. History Programs Division update and committee discussion — Division Director Charles Sadnick

8. Adjournment

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

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

A. Committee member introductions

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

B. Establish quorum

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Consider approval of text for Official Texas Historical Markers (item 7.3)
Sadnick brought thirty-four marker inscriptions before the committee for approval. He recognized Alicia Costello, the new staff member for HPD, and thanked her for her work.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sadnick gave a report on the Official Texas Historical Markers.

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

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

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

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

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

8. History Programs Division update and committee discussion

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

Commissioner Bahorich commented that proposed changes for Senate Bill 3 have already been posted. A second reading would take place at the November State Board of Education meeting. Commissioner Garcia asked why the board would change the grades for Texas history instruction and Commissioner Bahorich commented that 5th and 8th grades are when students are tested, but the change may not take place.
9. **Adjournment**  
At 11:51 a.m., on the motion of Commissioner White and without objection, the committee meeting was adjourned.
1. **Call to Order**

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) History Programs Committee meeting was called to order by Commissioner Daisy White at 12:03 p.m. She announced the meeting had been posted to the Texas Register, was being held in conformance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, and that notice had been properly posted with the Secretary of State’s Office as required.

A. **Committee member introductions**

Commissioner White welcomed everyone and called on commissioners to individually state their names and the cities in which they reside. Commissioners Laurie Limbacher (Austin), Lilia Garcia (Raymondville) and Daisy White (College Station) were in attendance.

B. **Establish quorum**

Commissioner White reported a quorum could not be met and will defer to the April 2023 meeting.

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

Commissioner White to recognize and/or excuse absences at the April 2023 meeting.

2. **Consider approval of the October 17, 2022 committee meeting minutes**

Commissioner White deferred approval of the minutes to the April 2023 meeting.

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

History Programs Division (HPD) Director Charles Sadnick brought forth twenty-five cemeteries seeking certification before the full commission on February 1, 2023.

Commissioner Limbacher asked what is involved when a cemetery participates in the program. Sadnick explained that the cemetery is listed in county deed records and offers some protection and people are made aware that those cemeteries.
4. **Consider approval of text for Official Texas Historical Markers (item 7.3)**

   Sadnick brought fifty-seven marker inscriptions before the committee for approval. He thanked the commissioners for reviewing the texts and for the suggested revisions received.

   No action taken.

5. **Official Texas Historical Markers and Undertold Marker topics reports and discussion (item 14.2)**

   Sadnick brought forth sixty-one Undertold marker applications from forty-two different counties. A scoring committee chose fifteen applications to move forward. There was discussion about how Undertold markers are financed. Sadnick explained that the $100 application fees received for regular applications are used towards the Undertold markers. This year, it was also funded by a donor to help offset the costs from the lower than normal number of applications received in past years.

   Executive Director Mark Wolfe asked if we have a specific target number of Undertold markers to go out each year so that the Friends can budget. Sadnick says fifteen markers is the usual amount of Undertold marker applications that we move forward with each year. Commissioner Limbacher asked what would happen to the other Undertold marker applications that were not chosen. Sadnick explained that we encourage the sponsors that score highly but did not make the top 15 to reapply. Another question by Commissioner Limbacher asked if the listing of topics to be considered include the inscriptions for the markers; Sadnick explained that those are just summaries of the marker topics and that research will be done at a later time.

   No action taken.

6. **Consider approval of filing authorization of an amendment to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) removal procedures, for first publication in the Texas Register (item 14.3)**

   Sadnick brought forth a rule amendment for marker removal rule, specifically for RTHLs. This amendment will clarify that RTHLs will have a longer window of review and other language, and make corrections to grammatical errors and formatting.

   No action taken.

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

   Sadnick provided History Program Division updates. Staff continues to answer phone calls in office and at home, and is also going out on the road. Photos from different meetings with the public and preservationists were shown. Leslie Wolfenden gave presentation about the Green Book Project at Irving Archives and Museum, which was the winner of the Nau Award. CHC Outreach Program has been visiting counties to talk about the different programs and help with local preservation projects. The January SBR meeting held in Houston. Luther Hall won the Preservation Austin Award.

8. **Adjournment**

   At 12:18 p.m., on the motion of Commissioner White and without objection, the committee meeting was adjourned.
DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS
Highlights for the History Programs Division (HPD) during this quarter included the start of the 2023 marker application cycle, CHC appointments, the January State Board of Review Meeting, and Museum Services and Cemetery Preservation program workshops.

COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION (CHC) OUTREACH
In January, County Historical Commissions (CHCs) were notified the 2022 annual reporting period was underway. CHC annual reports were due to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) on March 31. As of the deadline, the THC had received 175 annual reports from the 224 CHCs on record. Two-year terms for CHC appointees begin in January of odd-numbered years. Statutes indicate that CHCs must be appointed in commissioners court and provide an updated appointee roster to the THC. County judges and CHC chairs have been notified of this statutory responsibility and as of March 29, 166 appointee rosters had been submitted. It is expected that this number will increase in the next two months pending officer elections. In addition to monitoring Real Places sessions, CHC Outreach staff planned and hosted the Virtual Networking Session for an audience that included CHC appointees, Main Street managers, and museum professionals. Outreach staff participated in virtual group discussions of the Historic Cemetery Preservation Framework for CHCs hosted by the Cemetery Preservation staff. Additionally, outreach staff published content on the CHC listserv for annual reporting best practices, appointments best practices, and noteworthy CHC project descriptions.

HISTORICAL MARKERS
In the past quarter and as of March 7, the marker program had received CHC and sponsor approval for 62 new marker inscriptions, sent 58 orders to the foundry, and approved final proofs for 52 markers. New applications for 2023 have started to be processed and evaluated (the application period runs from March 1 to May 15). Staff also gave presentations on the RTHL designation to Division of Architecture (DOA) staff, on the 1936 Texas Centennial at the Texas Living History Association meeting at San Felipe de Austin, and on painted churches for a Friends of the THC webinar.

MILITARY HISTORY
Military Sites Program Coordinator Stephen Cure completed 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 State Memorial using private funds. The last remaining work was completed in January. Cure has continued assisting Historic Sites Division (HSD) staff with interpretive material development for Palmito Ranch Battlefield SHS. He has also assisted U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff and consultants with the development of interpretive panels for the new viewing platform on the east end of the core battlefield area. Additionally, he has worked with NPS and SpaceX staff to facilitate discussions on the content and placement of interpretive panels around the battlefield provided by SpaceX. Cure represented the agency and the Military Sites Program at the TSHA Annual Meeting in El Paso, where he presented on March 2nd and 4th. Cure has continued working with TSLAC staff on the complimentary digitization of items in the THC Oral History Collection. A process has been defined and materials should start being transferred to TSLAC in the summer. Lastly, the long-awaited World War I book manuscript is going through the TAMU Press editorial and design processes.

MUSEUM SERVICES
Museum Services, working with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Bullock Museum, completed development of and offered the first workshop in the “Consultation and Collaboration” series in February. The workshop is scheduled for six more times throughout the state this spring, followed by two webinars in June. Program staff continue working with the Texas Association of Museums in planning the pre-conference workshop being held during its annual
conference as part of the Digital Learning Network Initiative workshops. A new year of discussion groups started in February and webinars continue to be a popular offering, engaging 814 participants and covering social media best practices, historic landscaping, developing a facility security plan, and building safety programs at living history sites. Staff at several state historic sites were presenters for webinars this quarter.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

National Register of Historic Places
National Register (NR) staff members Gregory Smith, Alyssa Gerszewski and Bonnie Tipton processed nine NR nominations for the January State Board of Review (SBR) meeting at the 1940 Municipal Air Terminal in Houston. Approved nominations included the Deep Ellum Historic District in Dallas and the Klein-Frankreich Rural Historic District near Fredericksburg. Staff are processing nominations for the upcoming SBR meeting in May, including those for the West Downtown Austin Historic District and the Herring Hotel in Amarillo. The NPS approved six nominations, including those for the Campbell Building/Union Bus Depot in Tyler and Indiana Avenue Historic District in Wichita Falls. Smith evaluated 10 federal tax credit projects (Part 1 of the application) and 13 state tax credit projects (Part A of the application). The NR program staff continued to process nominations for properties receiving Hurricane Harvey grants. Smith presented a program about strategies for including under-represented stories in nominations at the Real Places conference.

Review of Projects under Section 106 and the State Antiquities Code
In February, Justin Kockritz and Archeology Division (AD) staff met with TxDOT to begin negotiations for the next iteration of the Interagency Cooperation Contract, which outlines the THC’s commitment to expedited review of TxDOT projects and describes special projects the agencies will work together on over the next two years. Kockritz, along with HSD, AD, and DOA staff, met several times with the Federal Aviation Administration, SpaceX, and other consulting parties regarding plans for vibration monitoring at Port Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site and the treatment of historic bridge pilings near State Highway 4 during SpaceX launches from its South Texas Launch Facility at Boca Chica Beach. Caitlin Brashear traveled to Lufkin to meet with the U.S. Forest Service to discuss ongoing and upcoming projects and to plan for the development of a new statewide Programmatic Agreement (PA). She also attended meetings related to a proposed nationwide PA for NASA.

HISTORIC HIGHWAYS AND HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY
Survey Coordinator Leslie Wolfenden gave a presentation at the Irving Archives and Museum on African American Travel Guides and historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to close its Smithsonian Green Book exhibit. She visited Corsicana, Fort Worth, and Dallas to photograph extant sites for this project and attended the Black Houston Symposium to network and research sites. Wolfenden continued to work with volunteers to gather information on resources listed in historic African American travel guides. She attended the public meeting for the Hurricane Harvey grant-funded Jefferson County Survey project in Beaumont on March 30.

CEMETERY PRESERVATION
Cemetery Program staff participated in three gravestone repair workshops as part of the second phase of the Harvey grant; they were held in Houston, Wharton, and Rockport and follow a six-part webinar series on cemetery disaster training, which are available on THC’s website. Another outreach opportunity is ongoing: the CHC Cemetery Framework rolled out last fall and will continue throughout the year. This series of CHC-oriented webinars accompany virtual meet-and-greets. Many counties have followed up with county-wide inventories as part of the first step of the framework. Jenny McWilliams continues to help coordinate improvements for the Lana Hughes Nelson Fund for Cemetery Preservation, including tree-trimming and removal and legal land surveys. Carlyn Hammons continues to process Historic Texas Cemetery applications. Applications are accepted year-round and have increased by 21 percent since 2021.

YOUTH EDUCATION
During this quarter, lead educator Linda Miller worked to expand THC learning experiences and resources. She met with multiple divisions to plan education outreach efforts including historic site community programming surveys, content webinars, and activity lesson plan curricula. Planning sessions with leadership from the HSD and Friends of the THC continued with the goal of developing an agency-wide strategic plan for site and community-based education initiatives. She also facilitated education-targeted sessions at the Real Places conference in February.
Certification of Historic Texas Cemetery Designations

**Background:**
During the period from 1/10/2023 to 3/31/2023, 18 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Cemetery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bastrop</td>
<td>Elgin</td>
<td>Elgin Mexican Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burleson</td>
<td>Caldwell (v)</td>
<td>Goodwill Baptist Church Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burleson</td>
<td>Cooks Point</td>
<td>Carr Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comanche</td>
<td>Downing (v)</td>
<td>Buffalo Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freestone</td>
<td>Oakwood (v)</td>
<td>Rocky Mount Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grimes</td>
<td>Anderson</td>
<td>Fanthorp Family Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hays</td>
<td>Driftwood</td>
<td>Driftwood Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Crockett</td>
<td>Forest Lawn Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>Peach Tree</td>
<td>Watts-Fuller Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Wells</td>
<td>Sandia</td>
<td>Sandia Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Oak</td>
<td>George West (v)</td>
<td>Old Gussettville Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kendall</td>
<td>Boerne</td>
<td>Bergmann Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montague</td>
<td>Nocona (v)</td>
<td>Eagle Point Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montague</td>
<td>Forestburg (v)</td>
<td>McCracken Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montague</td>
<td>Sunset (v)</td>
<td>Smyrna Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wheeler</td>
<td>Mobeetie (v)</td>
<td>Finsterwald Family Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williamson</td>
<td>Taylor (v)</td>
<td>McFadin Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williamson</td>
<td>Walburg</td>
<td>Robbins Cemetery</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

**Background:**
From February 1, 2023 to April 26, 2023, THC historical marker staff drafted and finalized inscriptions for sixty-four (64) interpretive markers, now ready for Commission approval.

**Recommended interpretive plaques for approval (64)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Job #</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bexar</td>
<td>22BX01</td>
<td>Malvina Nelson House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bexar</td>
<td>22BX02</td>
<td>Jacob’s Chapel United Methodist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bexar</td>
<td>22BX06</td>
<td>John William and Maria Jesusa Curbelo-Delgado Smith House Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameron</td>
<td>22CF02</td>
<td>Bobby Joe Morrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>22CP01</td>
<td>Carol Hall Shelby</td>
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<td>Cherokee</td>
<td>22CE01</td>
<td>Landrum Community</td>
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<td>Collin</td>
<td>22COL08</td>
<td>Mt. Pleasant Hill Cemetery</td>
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<td>Colorado</td>
<td>22CD01</td>
<td>Eagle Lake Masonic Lodge #366</td>
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<td>Comal</td>
<td>21CM02</td>
<td>Market Plaza</td>
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<td>Comal</td>
<td>21CM03</td>
<td>Comal Cemetery</td>
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<td>Comanche</td>
<td>22CJ02</td>
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<td>Dallas</td>
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<td>Dallas</td>
<td>21DL07</td>
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<td>DeWitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>20EP02</td>
<td>Palmore Business College</td>
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<td>Fayette</td>
<td>21FY02</td>
<td>Willow Springs Road Bridge</td>
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<td>Fort Bend</td>
<td>21FB01</td>
<td>Orchard Cemetery</td>
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<td>Gray</td>
<td>21GY01</td>
<td>Alanreed Cemetery</td>
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<td>Grayson</td>
<td>22GS01</td>
<td>Kendall Chapel Cemetery</td>
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<td>Gregg</td>
<td>22GG04</td>
<td>Butcher C. Christian Sr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregg</td>
<td>22GG05</td>
<td>Old Fredonia Townsite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guadalupe</td>
<td>21GU02</td>
<td>Ridley Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>22HR01</td>
<td>Hill of Rest Cemetery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>22HR04</td>
<td>1940 Knapp Chevrolet Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>22HR09</td>
<td>Payne Chapel AME Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>21HS01</td>
<td>St. Paul’s Episcopal Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>22HS02</td>
<td>Cooperville Rosenwald School (RTHL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hays</td>
<td>19HY04</td>
<td>Alba Ranch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henderson</td>
<td>22HE01</td>
<td>Baxter School</td>
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<td>Jasper</td>
<td>22JP01</td>
<td>Roganville Baptist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimble</td>
<td>22KM01</td>
<td>Cobb Ranch House (RTHL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Marker ID</td>
<td>Name</td>
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<td>Lamar</td>
<td>22LR04</td>
<td>Paris Grocer Company</td>
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<td>Lavaca</td>
<td>21LC01</td>
<td>Yoakum Community Hospital</td>
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<td>Lavaca</td>
<td>22LC03</td>
<td>Pleasant Grove School</td>
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<td>Limestone</td>
<td>20LT03</td>
<td>Chinese Labor on the Houston &amp; Texas Central Railway</td>
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<td>Lubbock</td>
<td>22LU01</td>
<td>Mollie Abernathy</td>
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<td>Lubbock</td>
<td>22LU03</td>
<td>Bess Hubbard</td>
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<td>Lubbock</td>
<td>22LU05</td>
<td>Paul Whitfield Horn</td>
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**Recommended motion (Committee):** Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the final form and text of sixty-four (64) 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 sixty-four (64) 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.
MALVINA NELSON HOUSE

Thomas L. Devine sold land to his sister-in-law Malvina Nelson in 1863. She built a “ten-room rock house” and lived there until 1883. New owners Francisco (Frank) and Rosana Ruiz built a new brick residence sometime around 1889. The home’s limestone foundation indicates parts of the Nelson home may have been salvaged in construction. D.J. and May Woodward added a 1904 porch and back wing, giving the two-story side gabled brick house a neoclassical style entry with Corinthian columns. Other additions occurred in the 1970s. Later owners undertook a number of renovations, including restoring the front porch to its 1904 appearance and repairing original window pulley systems.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2022
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
In 1895, east San Antonio resident Eliza Napier began to evangelize her neighborhood. The residents of east San Antonio, mostly African Americans, were facing increasing hostilities in white-led houses of worship and other organizations. Napier encouraged residents to form independent religious and social fellowship groups to foster support within the Black community. She began a church, called "The East End Mission," in her home at the corner of Hedges and South Gevers Streets. When the number of attendees rose so that Napier’s house could not contain them, she petitioned the Methodist elders to open a church. Under the leadership of the Reverend J.T. Jacobs, the first church was built. Following the Rev. Jacobs’ death in 1911, the name of the church was changed to Jacobs Chapel Methodist Church.

In 1925 and 1948, new buildings were constructed. In 1943, Ernest T. Dixon, who was serving as Sunday school superintendent at Jacobs Chapel, received his first preaching license. In July 1972, he became the first African American elected to the Office of Bishop in the south-central jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. During the tenure of the Reverend E. Joseph Tanner, a new parsonage was purchased and food ministry outreach started. Further expansions have since been undertaken. The church enjoyed a strong music ministry and active children’s and youth ministries. Jacobs Chapel also began special senior ministries.

From humble beginnings as the vision of just a few, Jacobs Chapel grew with the tireless hands of many generations. It has been a focal point for the black community on the east side of San Antonio for decades.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
John William and María Jesús Curbelo-Delgado Smith

From the 1840s-1880s, Kingsbury Street near San Pedro Creek was affiliated with the family of John William (1792-1845) and María Jesús Curbelo-Delgado (1815-1894) Smith. The couple married in 1830 when he was a 38-year-old Green Dewitt’s Colony member, and she was the 15-year-old daughter of one of San Antonio’s elite families. The Curbelos had made their fortune when the Spanish colonized the Canary Islands in the 15th century. In no small part due to María and her family’s influence, John Smith became a prominent San Antonio citizen, the city’s first mayor, and a senator in the Republic of Texas representing Bexar County. The couple also amassed tens of thousands of acres in land holdings, including an 1840 house at this site near San Pedro Creek. When John died in 1845, María was left as executrix of his estate, which experienced significant litigation issues.

In 1848, María married James B. Lee (1809-1886). After their marriage, Lee bought land directly northeast of the 1840 home, and the 1840 home and the surrounding 14 acres were sold to Dr. William Kingsbury. During the 1850s, María regularly sold property to pay the debts of the Smith estate. In 1860, her land holdings were still worth $10,000, and Lee’s were $4,000. In 1883, James and María sold their home and moved away from the neighborhood, and three years later, Kingsbury subdivided and sold his property. María died in 1894. The 1840 house was owned by history activist Mary de Zavala from 1919-1921, but in the mid-twentieth century, the house was demolished. By the 1980s, the area had been redeveloped as athletic fields by the San Antonio School District. The history of San Antonio can be witnessed through María’s story, as she saw the city transform from Spanish colony, to Mexico, to the Republic of Texas, to the United States, to the Confederacy, and back to the United States. Through it all, María lived the unusual life of an elite businesswoman.

(2022)

Marker is property of the state of Texas
BOBBY JOE MORROW

Born in nearby Rangerville to Bob Floyd (1907-1983) and Mattie Lucille (1908-1996) Morrow, Bobby Joe Morrow (1935-2020) grew up in a simple clapboard house on a 600-acre cotton farm. Morrow began running by chasing jackrabbits. He attended San Benito High School where he played football and, in 1951, started competing in track and field. Morrow won state championships in the 100-yard dash (twice) and the 220-yard dash. After high school, he attended Abilene Christian College where he won around 80 sprint championships, including the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) championship in the 100-meter dash when he was a freshman. His coach, Oliver Jackson, said in an interview, “Bobby had fluidity of motion like nothing I’d ever seen. He could run a 220 with a root beer float on his head and never spill a drop.”

During college, he competed in the 1956 Olympic games in Melbourne, Australia. At the age of just 20, he won three gold medals for the 100-meter, 200-meter, and 4x100 meter relay, becoming the first man since fellow American and his personal hero, Jesse Owens (1913-1980), to win all three events. Only two men since Morrow have matched the feat. His Olympic performance also tied the world record for the 200-meter dash with a time of 20.6 seconds. Morrow received international acclaim for his achievement. He went on to set 14 world records and appear on the covers of famous magazines including Life and Sports Illustrated. Morrow is a member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame and the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. After not participating in the 1960 Olympics, he returned to the family farm and maintained a quiet life in Texas until his death.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
CARROLL HALL SHELBY
(JANUARY 11, 1923 – MAY 10, 2012)

Camp County native Carroll Shelby became world-renowned as a sports car driver and designer, entrepreneur and philanthropist. He was born in Leesburg to (Warren) Hall and Etoise (Lawrence) Shelby. Neighbors recalled his early racing exploits, riding in a wagon tied to the back of his father’s car. When he was about seven, Carroll developed a serious heart condition which proved problematic in later life. Warren relocated the family to Dallas, where Carroll graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School. He joined the Army Air Corps during WWII and served as a flight instructor and test pilot. He and his first wife, Jeanne (Fields), had three children.

Carroll found his true passion in 1952 in his first automobile race. By 1954, he was racing around the world and setting speed records at Utah’s Bonneville Salt Flats. In the 1950s he was noted as Driver of the Year by the Sports Car Club of America, Sports Illustrated and the New York Times. He considered the 1959 win in the 24 hours of Le Mans his highest achievement. Carroll retired from racing in 1960 due to health concerns and founded a performance driving school in California. He then worked with Ford Motors and others to design iconic 1960s American-designed racing and sports cars, including Shelby Cobra, Daytona, and Mustang Models. He later produced models with Dodge and through Shelby American. He returned to Camp County frequently to oversee two area ranches. Other business interests included a west Texas ranch at Terlingua and the start of a famous chili cookoff there. Carroll’s charitable work included establishment of a foundation for pediatric transplant patients and an automotive technology program at Northeast Texas Community College. The Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Museum in Pittsburg has a permanent display of his racing memorabilia. He is buried in the family plot in Leesburg Cemetery.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
LANDRUM COMMUNITY

In 1855, brothers Thomas Jefferson “Jeff” (1832-1915) and Jasper (1830-1891) Landrum and others left Fayette County, Georgia, and settled in Cherokee County, Texas, five miles west of Alto. They obtained 640 acres and grew a self-sufficient farm with cotton, corn, chicken, pigs and cows. Around 1884, Jeff Landrum built a successful cotton gin, and a community formed around his business. Jasper had a general store in 1890 with a post office in 1895. After the post office closed in 1905, mail was sent through the Alto post office. Landrum family members ran many of the businesses in town.

Landrum was a typical small town of the time. A baseball team provided the local residents with sport and welcome relief from the rigors of farm life. By 1915, there was a lumber company, two churches: Lynches Chapel Methodist Church and Camp Ground Baptist Church and two schools: Jones School and Hendrick’s Chapel. In 1917, the two schools were combined into a new, two-story school building named Jones Chapel, consisting of four classrooms and a large auditorium on the upper level. In March 1924, Jones Chapel burned and a new school was built. The school ultimately consolidated into Alto Schools in 1944.

The population began to dwindle by the 1940s as the younger generation left to earn money elsewhere. The Landrum tracts had been pared down to 272 acres which remained in family hands. The town of Landrum all but disappeared. However, some descendants of the Landrum and other families have in recent years begun efforts to remember the intrepid settlers who left what they knew to make a life for themselves in this area.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
The historic name of the church known as South Church was Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. The official name of the cemetery was Pleasant Hill Cemetery.
Eagle Lake Masonic Lodge #366

Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1873 when the town was still a fledgling settlement on the edge of a railroad, Eagle Lake Masonic Lodge #366 has served the Eagle Lake community for more than a century. The majority of its first members were existing Masons who had moved to Texas from elsewhere to take advantage of the economic prospects. The lodge’s longtime headquarters are located on McCarty Avenue. Prior to this, the lodge built meeting halls in 1882 and 1891. In 1912, the lodge hired G. W. Keith as builder and constructed its new headquarters to continue its work of fellowship and service. The lodge leased out the first floor as commercial space for income, while the second floor was reserved for lodge meetings. Additionally, the lot next door was also owned by the Masons. It was sold to J. Nathan with the stipulation that he would never build more than a one-story building or sell alcohol for consumption.

In 1880, the lodge purchased a burial ground in Eagle Lake, now known as the Masonic Cemetery (approximately .5 miles north). A notable member was Joseph Jefferson Mansfield (1861-1947), an attorney, newspaper publisher and Grand Master of Texas Masons who was County Attorney, County Judge and U.S. Congressman over more than 50 years of public service. In 1973, the Eagle Lake Lodge #366 celebrated its centennial with tributes to its membership for their leadership, brotherhood and community service. Additionally, the lodge laid cornerstones for several schools and local buildings. In recent years, the lodge has continued its focus on developing its members and supporting education and healthcare. For generations, the community and the area have benefited from the work of the Masonic Lodge in Eagle Lake.

(2022)
Market Plaza

To the earliest residents of 1840s New Braunfels, this block served as a *fleischhalle*, or meat market. Until the town's farms could be established, Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, who championed the town of New Braunfels and German immigration, provided residents free butchering services for the price of the animal. A daily dawn cannon blast informed residents the meat was ready for pickup. A shed was later erected, and butchers rented space from the city to provide butchering services. By the early 1900s, residents complained of the smell and sanitary practices of the meat market, so the lot transitioned into a space for town entertainment and storing crops. Since 1930, the *Marktplatz* has been an integral community meeting place.

(2022)

Marker is property of the state of Texas
The first cemetery in New Braunfels was founded in 1845 with the arrival of the city’s early settlers. By 1846, however, the cemetery was nearing capacity with 293 burials, and a new burial ground was soon needed. In March 1868, John F. Torrey had a promissory note drawn up for eight acres and $500 to establish a new public burial ground high above the Guadalupe River. Torrey stipulated that the property be fenced, that a proper hearse be obtained for funerals, and that a small plot of land be reserved for himself, family and friends. An August 1868 article in the *Neu Branfelser Zeitung* reported a cedar fence had been completed, for which H. Weil supplied the rails and J.H. Petry erected the fence. The same article listed prices as $2.50 to dig a large grave and $1.75 for a small grave.

The state legislature incorporated the Comal Cemetery Association in August 1870, and Torrey released the bond and gave cemetery trustees a clear deed for one dollar. The first known internment in Comal Cemetery was for Frederick (Fritz) Hartwig on August 12, 1873. It is possible that earlier burials, documented as being on the bluff overlooking the river, took place in the 1850s. At John Torrey’s request, the city of New Braunfels took over administration of the cemetery in January 1887. After Torrey died and was buried in San Antonio, his heirs signed a quit claim deed to the reserved family lot. Through later acquisitions the cemetery was enlarged to about 25 acres. Features include ornamental metal entrance gates; mature sycamore, pecan, and oak trees; wrought and cast iron fencing and plot curbing. With more than 12,500 burials, Comal Cemetery reflects a continuum of community heritage.

**HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2000**

**MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS**
Board Church Cemetery

Board Church Baptist Church and its accompanying cemetery are the last vestiges of the Board Church community. The earliest Anglo settlers began to make their homes along Indian Creek before 1856. These settlers included John C. McCamey, Alexander Powers and family, N.J. and Margaret Powers and Guy Brashears. It is believed a log structure was erected on the Powers-McCamey property that served as a school and church prior to 1869. In 1875, a combination school and church was built out of boards instead of logs, and the community took the name Board Church. More families made their home in the Board Church community. The community came together to rebuild the church in 1890, 1895 and 1951. They also built a 1905-06 tabernacle.

In 1877, Margaret Powers set aside one acre for the Board Church and School. The church later established the cemetery. In 1887, Powers sold 120 acres of land to John Hardin, one acre of which he donated to expand the cemetery. Since the earliest days of the log school and church, it is believed that people were buried in the vicinity of the existing cemetery, but it is impossible to know how many due to a number of the graves being unmarked. There are over 103 unknown graves marked with rocks. The earliest headstone belongs to Tommie Logan (1866-1869). Another notable burial is that of Tillman Kimsey Seago (1836-1904), who served in the Texas Legislature in 1895-97 in the People’s (Populist) Party. Several former area residents held county roles, such as H.D. Lane, County Judge; Hazel Streety, County Clerk; Mitchell Davis, County Treasurer; and others. The Board Church community is still active, and the presence of the cemetery provides a tangible link to the area’s past.

Historic Texas Cemetery – 2022

Marker is property of the State of Texas
John Lewis Turner was born July 3, 1869, in north Dallas to two formerly enslaved persons. After finishing school in Dallas, Turner attended Wiley college in Marshall and then New Orleans University. On May 25, 1896, he graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree from Kent College of Law in Chicago. He practiced law in Chicago for about a year and taught for a time to earn extra money. At age 29, he returned to Dallas and practiced law at 155 Main Street with Joseph E. Wiley; the two men were among the first African American attorneys in the city. In 1908, Turner married Annie Mae Cates and they had three children together. Tragically, in the early hours of May 31, 1919, J. L. mistook Annie for a burglar and shot her. She died July 11; Turner never remarried.

Mainly a probate and real estate lawyer, Turner occasionally worked on criminal cases. One such case involved two eight-year-old boys accused of calling in a false fire alarm. By pointing out flaws in the case, like confessions made at gunpoint and a witness who saw a different youth commit the crime, Turner saved the two from further punishment. As a Black lawyer in the south, Turner’s cases were put last on the court docket and judges referred to him as “boy,” but he persevered. In 1930, he was one of 20 African American lawyers in the state. Eventually opening a law office with his son, Turner practiced law until his death in December 1951. He is buried at Lincoln Memorial Park. The Barristers’ Club, a Black bar association formed in 1952, changed its name in 1956 to the J. L. Turner Legal Association to honor Turner’s contributions to the law and to the community. A highly respected lawyer, J. L. Turner paved the way for generations of Black lawyers in Dallas.

(2021)

Marker is property of the state of Texas
New Hope Baptist Church

Following emancipation, many formerly enslaved African Americans established church congregations and schools as the hubs of communities and neighborhoods. The Baptist denomination was popular among new African American churches for its congregational autonomy and sense of unity. New Hope Baptist Church has the distinction of being the first church in Dallas entirely organized and owned by black community members.

The church’s origins began with prayer meetings held in the log cabin home of Sister Mattie Rainey. She joined Emma Robinson, Love Vickey Drake, Lucinda Williams, Emma Starks, Sally Taylor and Jerry Taylor to unite and form a church. They contacted the American Baptist Home Mission Society, who recommended the Rev. John Hay, a traveling evangelist, to organize their prayer band into a church. New Hope Baptist Church officially organized on July 27, 1873. For many years the church was located on San Jacinto Street.

With several long-serving pastors, New Hope Baptist Church has been led by only 14 ministers over nearly 150 years. Notable among them are the Rev. A.R. Griggs (1850-1922), who served from 1874-84. He started a grammar school for freedmen in 1875, started several newspapers and helped found Bishop College. The Rev. E.W.D. Isaac Sr. (1863-1931) led from 1890-98. He expanded church youth programs and also managed the Star Publishing Co., which published the Dallas Express. Rev. A.S. Jackson (1855-1936) ministered from 1899-1936, coordinating construction of a large brick sanctuary built in 1911 which became the center for many cultural, political and educational events. Dr. H. Rhett James (1928-2004) pastored from 1958-86, leading the congregation in many Civil Rights issues. New Hope Baptist Church continues to spread the gospel and minister to its community with faith and vision.

(2021)

Marker is property of the state of Texas
Hochheim Prairie Farm
Mutual Insurance Association

By the late 1800s, the Hochheim community and surrounding areas boasted a large German population. Immigrants and German Americans preserved their lifestyles, including frugality, hard work and fierce independence. Proud and self-reliant, they decided to form a group to protect against economic ruin in the event of devastating loss. Citizens met at Hochheim Prairie School in June 1892 to discuss creating a mutual insurance company to compensate homeowners in case of fire. James H. Schwab was elected the first president. In August 1892, a group of 30 founded “Hochheim Prairie Gegenfeitigen Feuer und Sturm Berficherungs Gefellfchaft” (Hochheim Prairie Mutual Fire and Storm Insurance Association). Beginning with Shiner, branch offices opened, and the association insured members across south central and coastal regions of Texas.

Prior to 1927, company business was conducted and membership certificates were written in German, reflecting the organization’s roots. By the 1930s, the association was the largest of its kind in the state. In 1940, the growing company built its first office in Yoakum. Changing insurance laws allowed the association to insure farm buildings, equipment and supplies, as well as churches and schools. As membership expanded across the state, the name changed in 1973 to Hochheim Prairie Farm Mutual Insurance Association (HPFMIA). A “statement of policy” slogan matching the acronym was adopted to reflect its mission: Honest-Protection-Fair-Minded-Individual-Attention. The company’s vision is “Texans serving Texans since 1892.” As one of the oldest, continuously operating companies of its kind in Texas, Hochheim Prairie Farm Mutual Insurance Association continues to serve its members and communities.

(2021)

Marker is property of the state of Texas
Palmore Business College

Palmore Business College was one of El Paso’s early institutions of higher education. Professor Servando Y. Esquivel (1877-1962) taught at Colegio Palmore, a Methodist-sponsored school in Chihuahua, Mexico, named for minister and missionary William B. Palmore. In 1913, Esquivel moved his family to El Paso, establishing Palmore Business College. After two temporary locations, he bought a house on Prospect Street, commissioning additions for the growing commercial college.

Palmore Business College was co-educational and bilingual, with courses including stenography, bookkeeping and business correspondence in English and Spanish. The campus included a dormitory and activity area. Many students were from Mexican families who were escaping the turmoil of the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920). The school flourished and produced many successful graduates in the United States and Mexico in fields such as politics, government, transportation, banking, medicine, education and the arts.

Professor Esquivel operated the school until 1952, when his failing eyesight made it impossible to continue. The school was closed and converted into the Palmore apartments. In a 1959 ceremony in Mexico City, Professor Esquivel was made a member of the Order of Ignacio M. Altamirano for his career in education. Mexican President Adolfo López Mateos awarded him the certificate and a gold medal of merit. In 1988, the Palmore Business College building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing property in the Sunset Heights Historic District. The school’s many graduates are part of its educational and community heritage.

(2020)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
WILLOW SPRINGS ROAD BRIDGE

Cummins Creek runs through Lee, Fayette and Colorado Counties as a major tributary of the Colorado River. The creek was named for early settler James Cummins, and the surrounding area was also settled by the families of James Miles and David Breeding in the 1830s. The point where the early road from Fayetteville to Industry crossed Cummins Creek became known as Breeding’s Crossing. The nearby community became known as Willow Springs by the early 1850s, named for the Cummins Creek tributary of Willow Branch.

Breeding’s Crossing was about 1/4 mile south of the present State Highway 159 bridge across Cummins Creek. However, high water frequently made it impassable. After a public meeting at Fayetteville on June 28, 1884 resulted in a petition to bridge the creek, county commissioners appointed a committee to study the issue and if deemed necessary to work with an engineer to site an iron bridge at or above the crossing. County judge Augustin Haidusek broke the commissioners’ 2-2 vote on February 17, 1885 to approve the bridge’s construction. On March 26, a $3,800 contract was awarded to the king iron bridge and manufacturing company of Cleveland, Ohio.

The wrought iron bridge is a one-span Pratt through truss with lattice railing and portal bracing. Primary structural members are pin-connected. The bridge has two short approach spans and an overall structure length of 149 feet and a deck width of about 12 feet. The community marked completion of the bridge on August 20, 1885 with a picnic celebration. It remained the primary local crossing of Cummins Creek until new bridges and bypasses were built nearby, beginning in 1915. As one of less than two dozen of its type still remaining in Texas, the Willow Springs Road Bridge reflects the state’s engineering and transportation heritage.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2021

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
ORCHARD CEMETERY

In 1891 along the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway on the former J.W. Johnson Ranch, investor Samuel K. Cross of Kansas platted Orchard for homes, business and farms. Families of German, Czech and Polish descent were among the first settlers. Henry H. Aylor bought the first property in 1891 and came in 1893. Swiss-born Annie (Gabathuler) Zogg (1837-1894) was the first burial, in a pasture of the Aylors near the railroad tracks in the Gail Borden Jr League. In 1924, the Orchard Cemetery Association formed; the next year, the widow Elizabeth Aylor deeded 1.5 acres for the cemetery. In 1975, the association incorporated and more land was donated, making the cemetery about six acres. Burials include veterans from the Civil War through Vietnam, original settlers and their descendants.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2018
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
ALANREED CEMETERY

This public cemetery includes more than ten acres on a rise overlooking the community. The site became an important supply point with expansion of the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad. On April 24, 1902, Robert Mangum moved the post office from Eldridge (4 mi. N), renaming it for railroad trustee Alan H. Reed (1851-1906) of Philadelphia. The oldest marked grave is for Nancy Louisa Baker (1841-1899). Most older burials are in the west section. Prominent features include family plot fences and curbing, and granite, marble and woodmen of the world grave markers. In 1918, the Alanreed Townsite Co. deeded the site as a community cemetery. With many veterans and prominent leaders buried here, it continues to be a beloved record of area heritage.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2017
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Kendall Chapel Cemetery

On April 20, 1877, Jesse (1802-1882) and Jane (Brown) Kendall (1805-1879) deeded two and a half acres to the trustees for the Sherman district North Texas Conference M.E. Church, South. The deed included a stipulation that the north acre of land be utilized as a burial ground. The trustees built a frame building in which to conduct Methodist services. It is unknown when that building (also known as Kendall’s Chapel) was removed. Burials soon began. Sarah Smith, who died August 22, 1878, was the first interred here. She was followed by the Reverend John Culwell (May 2, 1814 – Oct. 7, 1878) and George Harlow (Feb. 27, 1853 – Nov. 16, 1878). The Rev. Culwell was one of the trustees of the North Texas Conference of the M.E. Church, South. The Kendall Chapel Cemetery Association was first formed on December 7, 1938, with trustees John W. Bell (1903-1968), James Crow (1891-1960) and Fred W. Klas (1894-1978), all of whom are now buried in the cemetery. These trustees, along with William Allen “Bill” Hardy (1898-1990) and Frank Wright, worked toward the care of the cemetery.

The active cemetery has more than 170 burials. Of note, there are several descendants of the ill-fated donner party leader George T. Donner, including his grandson, also named George T. Donner (1839-1901), his two wives and several children, along with other relatives. Additionally, there are twelve veterans interred in the cemetery from the Civil War, World War I, World War II and the Korean War. One grave, that of S. W. Cherry, bears the symbol of Woodmen of the World. A decorative gate, donated by the Crow family, was added in the early twenty first century. Kendall Chapel Cemetery is a historic reminder of this rural community.

Historic Texas Cemetery – 2006

Marker is property of the State of Texas
Butcher C. Christian Sr.

Brought to Texas by the Christian family sometime before the Civil War, Butcher C. Christian Sr. (c. 1836-1903) was a local black landowner and civic leader. After emancipation, he and his wife, Caroline (Barr) Christian, settled near the county line of Upshur and Gregg counties. His former enslaver, Gideon Christian, gave him approximately 500 acres, to which Butcher added throughout his life, amassing 665 acres total. In 1871, he gave three acres to establish Shiloh Baptist Church and assisted in recruiting the minister. Around the same time, eight families including the Christians gave funds to establish a school for their community. Butcher C. Christian dedicated his life to improving his community.

(2022)

Marker is property of the State of Texas
OLD FREDONIA TOWNSITE

The community of Fredonia was founded by Haden Edwards, a land grantee who contracted in 1825 with the Mexican government to establish 800 families of settlers in east Texas. A later misunderstanding with Mexico caused him to organize the famous Fredonian Rebellion and flee to the U.S. in 1827 in failure. The town of Fredonia prospered, though, as an important ferry crossing and river port. The numerous structures built by residents included a brick kiln, homes and warehouses, mainly for cotton. After the Civil War, the population declined and the post office closed. Residents abandoned the town after it was bypassed by the railroad circa 1870.

(1967, 2005)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Ridley Cemetery

This cemetery, formerly known as Jakes Colony Cemetery, remains a memorial and resting place for the enterprising families of the freedmen’s settlement of Jakes Colony. It was founded by Jacob Rogers and others as a safe place where previously enslaved African American people united to build community for themselves after emancipation. The community became a hub, replete with its own Rosenwald school, Methodist Church and approximately 70 working Black-owned ranches and farms. The settlement was a thriving sanctuary to freedmen and women who endured the struggles of Reconstruction and the Jim Crow South.

Ridley Cemetery begins with Henry Wilcox (1833-1922), who was taken from his home country and enslaved first in Kentucky and then in Guadalupe County. He is believed to be the first Black man on record to purchase land in Guadalupe County. He was a prominent businessman and in 1870 founded a now historic ranch. His son, Thomas Wilcox, expanded the ranch and land he inherited. Thomas saw fit to establish a cemetery and in 1919 he purchased six acres from his cousin, educator Daniel Ridley, the cemetery’s namesake.

Generations of Jakes Colony descendants lie in rest here. According to community folklore, Jacob Rogers is buried at Ridley Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Several people associated with Guadalupe College, as well as veterans from World Wars I and II and the Korean War are interred here. For over a century, Ridley Cemetery has memorialized the industrious trailblazers whose hard work carved a path of peace and prosperity for themselves and their families. It is a historical cornerstone of the Jakes Colony settlement.
HILL OF REST CEMETERY

The entwined histories of the tri-cities of Goose Creek, Pelly and Baytown can be traced at the Hill of Rest Cemetery. David A. Wiggins (1845-1908) moved to the area in 1879 with his wife Isabell (1844-1903) and purchased a farm from Mary Jones, widow of Republic of Texas President Anson Jones. As members of the Wiggins family and others died, they were interred on the property approximately 175 feet north of the Wiggins house. Most of these early graves are unmarked; the earliest marked grave is that of Isabell Wiggins.

In 1908, Wiggins officially dedicated the 40-foot-square family burial ground as a private cemetery. He named his son, Thomas Wiggins (1877-1910), as administrator. However, Thomas died only two years later, leaving care of the land to his widow, Hettie Wiggins. During the years of 1917-1932, only six known graves were added. The city of Pelly annexed the Wiggins property in 1928. The children of Thomas Wiggins became administrators of the cemetery. In 1935, they enlarged it from the original 0.037 acre to 6.3 acres and dedicated it as a public cemetery named Hill of Rest. By 1948, Goose Creek, Pelly and Baytown had consolidated under the name Baytown. Administration and ownership of the cemetery (now 4.5 acres) passed in 1966 to the nonprofit Hill of Rest Cemetery Association, led by former Baytown mayor Rolland Henry “Red” Pruett (1911-1994).

More than 2,300 people are buried here. There are at least 112 military veterans, including David A. Wiggins (a Union Civil War veteran erroneously marked as Confederate), two Spanish-American war veterans and a fighter pilot in WWII’s “Flying Tigers.” Forty-four markers bear fraternal order symbols. Early landowners for the former cities of Goose Creek and Pelly and two mayors of those cities find rest here. It is a historic reminder of the tri-city area.
1940 KNAPP CHEVROLET BUILDING

This 1940 commercial building was built by the Montalbano Lumber Co. based across the street. It was the first home of Knapp Chevrolet until the automobile dealer relocated to a larger facility a few blocks away. From 1943-1964, Goss Appliance Refinishing Shop occupied the building. Starting in the late 1960s through 2002, it housed industrial printers, inc., a print shop serving top Houston businesses, associations and politicians. The art moderne-style single-story building features a tan brick veneer highlighted by black horizontal bands and vertical bands in the stepped center bay.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2022
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Payne Chapel A.M.E. Church

Payne Chapel A.M.E. is a historic congregation and an anchor in Houston’s Fifth Ward. The church probably began in 1886 with a small group of people meeting in the home of Minerva Wells. It was the first African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) church in the Fifth Ward, although several existed in Houston’s other wards. Member James Calvin Lindsey named the church for Daniel Alexander Payne (1811-1893), the sixth Bishop of the A.M.E. Church. A circuit pastor possibly served the church in its earliest days. The first known pastor was Henry B. Sonly (b. 1866), appointed in 1896. The Reverend James B. Butler (b. 1874) led the church as they built their first building at 1517 Hill Street. When the church grew, a new building was needed. In 1919, under the direction of the Rev. Jesse C. Butler (b. 1879), the church purchased an existing wood frame church building at 2701 Lee and a parsonage at 2709 Lee. Several remodels took place over the following decades.

In 1950, the most extensive renovations began. Renowned architect Ralph M. Buffington (1907-2003) designed a 700-seat sanctuary and educational spaces. Additional expansions occurred in the 1960s and 1970s. Some of Houston’s most prominent city leaders, business persons and educators were members of the church, including Julia C. Hester and Henry Clay. In 1986, the church held an extensive centennial celebration and hosted several church and civic leaders. The next few decades saw Payne Chapel A.M.E. dedicate itself to local community and education services. In the words of the church’s centennial proclamation, “the Payne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church has weathered a century of tremendous change in the world yet remains a bastion of the Christian faith with an enthusiastic and devoted congregation.”

(2022)

Marker is property of the State of Texas
ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

When the nearby community of Karnack was chosen as the site of a large defense plant in 1941, thousands of job seekers flocked to northeast Harrison County. With new residents came new needs for spiritual direction, and only a Baptist and a Methodist church existed in the area at that time. Driving a long distance was impractical due to road conditions and wartime rationing. Mary Sanderson Blocker asked the Reverend Henry F. Selcer (1888-1966), then rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Marshall, to hold services in Leigh. Church tradition states services began in 1942. The church met every other Sunday evening at the White School in Leigh. This marked the second church active in Leigh, the first being Antioch Baptist Church. The services, although performed by Episcopalians, were not described as Episcopalian, but rather “Evangelical”. On January 26, 1948, the “Leigh Community Church” was received by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas as “an organized mission of the Episcopal church”. Four members of Trinity Episcopal in Marshall—Westwood Blocker, Mary Sanderson Blocker, Vera Baldwin Walker and Thomas Coleman II—transferred their membership. Two others, Shelley Blocker Sanderson and Annie Baldwin, joined them to become the six charter members. The Rev. Selcer was appointed priest.

Post-war, the defense plant was largely put on hold until the beginning of the Korean War, and then provided weapons for each major U.S. conflict until its closing in 1995. In 1953, Leigh’s school district voted to consolidate with Karnack ISD. In 1954, Karnack ISD sold the school building to the church for $500. The church made additions to the building. The social calendar included a local unit of St. Mary’s Guild, Sunday school conducted by Clyde Baldwin Shepherd and a quilting group. The church continues to serve the community and the surrounding area.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
COOPERVILLE ROSENWALD SCHOOL

In the 1890s, the Pleasant Hill community established a school in the existing Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. By 1920, the increased number of children warranted a school building of its own. T.C. Cooper, Allie Mae Hamilton and Estella Long were hired to teach. In the 1925-26 budget year, Pleasant Hill was chosen to receive a Rosenwald grant. Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears Roebuck, had collaborated to build state-of-the-art schools for African American children throughout the south. These efforts were necessary due to marked indifference on the part of local school officials to adequately fund black education. Like all other Rosenwald schools, several groups funded the Pleasant Hill School: $1,300 from the African American community, $1,800 from public funds and $900 from Rosenwald. The school was originally named Pleasant Hill Rosenwald School, but quickly renamed to Cooperville after T.C. Cooper, the teacher.

The school was built on two acres. The building contained three classrooms, a lunchroom and an industrial room where the students could gather before school. The three-classroom design was used three times in Harrison County, the other two being Granger Hall and Morning Star, in the Woodlawn Community. One of the classrooms had a small stage for performances. Black students were integrated into white schools in the 1950s, and the school was abandoned. Demolition began with the school’s north wall, but the local masonic lodge #458 asked permission to use the building for their meetings. The north wall was repaired. Today, only the steps to the school remain, a reminder of the struggles and successes of this community’s early history.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Victoriano Alba (Alva) (c.1840-1932) moved from Mexico to Texas as first recorded in 1867, when he married Loreta Tijerina (1852-1897). The couple and their children lived in Bexar and Travis counties for the next three decades. On January 15, 1903, Alba, by then a widower, purchased 160 acres of the southwest quadrant of the N. McArthur Survey. Along with the already-established Anacleto Duran, Alba became one of the first Mexicans to own land in the Dripping Springs area. Their families would join when Alba’s son, Cresencio, and Duran’s daughter, Gregoria, married in 1908. Alba and his sons Alberto, Francisco, Santiago, Cresencio, Felipe and Anastasio built six houses on the property, three of which still stand. All but the main house were stone buildings, 12 by 12 feet with walls one foot thick. Each house features a window, a fireplace with chimney, and evidence of wooden-floored lofts. Embedded in the stonework around one door are fossils, porcelain shards, and other objects.

The families raised livestock and crops, grew vegetables and fruit, kept bees, and used a root cellar for storage. Gone is the ranch’s iconic cottonwood, the alamo tree, which, beside a well, was a popular gathering spot. For over a century, Alba’s Ranch served four generations. His offspring helped settle neighboring lands. Alba’s grandson, Cleofas Alba Ramirez, and his wife, Gregoria Garza, helped organize Dripping Springs’ growing Catholic community, resulting in St. Martin de Porres Parish. Alba’s daughter, Cruz, and her husband, Jesus Ramirez, in 1916 conveyed two acres for school purposes to the patrons of the Millseat School near Henley. Rooted in the Alba Ranch, the family remains integral to the area’s rich Mexican American community. Many lie buried nearby in the James-Duran-Alba historic Texas cemetery.

(2019)
BAXTER SCHOOL

Settlers began occupying the Baxter area in 1850. At first, schools were informal and community-based, although the Texas legislature attempted several times to ignite a public school system. In 1876, the Alligator Public School began classes. Early teachers included George G. Hendricks, J.A. Jennings, J.T. Ray and Sallie Crumpler. Pilgrim’s Rest School #19 and the Oak Grove school #2 began operations in 1891. These schools consolidated in 1906 with Baxter School. In 1907, Willie and Annie Johnson donated one acre of land to the cause of education and the Woodmen of the World fraternal order. A two-story frame building was constructed on the site. The Woodmen of the World building housed the Baxter School for several years until a storm destroyed the structure in 1914. W.R. Thomas served as school teacher under trustees H.T. Reynolds, W.C. Frizzell and W.E. Johnson.

In 1915, W.E. and Annie Johnson sold one acre to the school trustees directly behind the original acre. The cornerstone for the new school building was laid on Oct 1, 1915, by Camp no. 1408 of the Woodmen of the World. Frank J. Davis served as teacher from 1916-28, and later county school superintendent and three terms as Henderson County judge. Classes were taught in the Baxter schoolhouse until 1943, when Baxter School District consolidated into the Athens School District. After consolidation, the schoolhouse was used by the community for meetings, family reunions, quilting bees and a voting location. In 1951, Athens ISD sold the property to the Baxter Home Demonstration Club. In 1997, the property was deeded to the Baxter Community Center. Repairs and modernizations have occurred throughout its history. The property continues to bring the people of Baxter together.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Roganville Baptist Church

At the turn of the 20th century, the town of Roganville had developed around the local sawmill and its busy railroad depot. To feed the spiritual lives of the new residents, Roganville Baptist Church was formed in 1898. The church bell later on display was added to the 1921 church building. The population dissipated during the Great Depression, but in 1939, the church was reorganized. In 1969, a new building was completed to accommodate a growing membership. Additional land was also acquired for future expansion. This included the present activities building, which continues to be used for church and community events, reflecting the church’s legacy of service to the area.

(2022)

Marker is property of the State of Texas
COBB RANCH HOUSE

Joshua Oliver “Ollie” (1864-1940) and Irene (Griffin) Cobb (1873-1934) moved to this property in 1907. The family lived in a two-room shed with a lean-to addition while saving up money to build a new house. The couple shared that early house with their seven children: Margaret (1891-1978), Lola (1893-1982), William (1896-1949), Olga (1898-1964), Lida (1900-1915), Edna (1903-1987) and Robert (1906-1991). In later years, the couple would add three more children: Thomas Benjamin “Ben” (1911-1987), Bernice (1911-2003) and Lillian (1914-1991). Their new home was completed in 1915. The entire order of lumber from Ingram cost $1,000, and the carpenter was paid $1.25 per day. Neighbors and friends made up the rest of the construction crew. The 1 1/2-story side gabled house features board and batten construction. The Cobb family owned the property until 2012. After Ollie’s passing, twins Ben and Bernice and other Cobb family continued to live in the home until 2001.

The family was known in the area for their enduring hospitality. Newspaper records of the time are replete with news of social visits and events centered at the Cobb ranch house. Ollie’s obituary opines that “their ranch home is the mecca for visitors for miles around.” Life in such a remote area did not have modern conveniences such as running water, heat or plumbing. The home is a traditional dogtrot style. It featured a large open breezeway through the center of the house to keep occupants cool during the hot Texas summers. The breezeway has since been enclosed. A distinctive beadboard adorns the ceilings. The living area includes a fireplace. T.B. Cobb’s initials can be seen carved into the exterior chimney stone. For generations, the Cobb family ranch house provided a place of gathering and hospitality for the entire community.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
In 1871, a modest grocery business appeared at the southeast corner of the public square in Paris. It was named Hooks & Adams after its owners, William H. Hooks (1828-1881) and John Newton Adams (1839-1881). Early business partners included Rufus Fenner Scott and George Hicks. The company grew quickly. In 1891, Belinda Babcock, widow of Willet Babcock, sold Scott & Hicks to the old Babcock Opera House on South Main. This move and later expansions in the same location vastly increased their available space. Scott left in 1892 and Hicks retired in 1900 after reorganizing under the name Paris Grocer Company. Samuel W. Williams (1850-1922) then took the helm and made the fateful decision to leave the downtown location and purchase property on South Church Street, near the Texas & Pacific Railroad tracks. This purchase was complete in 1915. Just under a year later, the Babcock Opera House, along with the entire downtown business district, would succumb to the 1916 Paris fire. Due to its location, the Paris Grocer Company building was safe and able to operate as normal. The company aided in recovery by offering food supplies for the people of Paris after the fire.

In the following decades, the company was one of the largest wholesale grocers in the area, serving northeast Texas and southeast Oklahoma. At one time, it had four Texas branch offices: McKinney, Greenville, Sulphur Springs and Clarksville, and two Oklahoma offices: Hugo and Idabel. When Samuel Williams died, William D. Mulling (1886-1951) became president, occupying the position for 29 years. Ultimately, business slowed and, in 1955, the Kimbell Grocery Company purchased the Paris Grocer Company, which continued for ten years before closing. For nearly 100 years, the Paris Grocer Company was a source for produce and groceries in the region.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
The city of Yoakum incorporated in 1889. By 1896, it was a thriving town of 3,000 residents, many businesses and institutions, and 12 practicing doctors. Dr. Edward H. Schwab was said to have operated the first hospital in 1910 in an area bound by Coke and East Morris Streets. Dr. James D. Gray, assistant medical director for the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway (SA&AP), opened the second hospital in the W.L. Burton building on Grand Avenue in 1916.

When German immigrant and Yoakum resident Willhelmena Huth died in 1912, her husband, John L. Huth, purchased land on Hubbard Street for a future community hospital site. Efforts to proceed were hindered by family lawsuits contesting Willhelmena’s will and estate and additional legal actions contesting John’s will after he died in 1916. Plans went forward in 1918, when John Huth’s cash donation was finalized and when Yoakum citizens voted to issue $50,000 in bonds to erect a building. The John Huth Memorial Hospital (later Huth Memorial Hospital) opened in 1922 in a two-story brick facility on Hubbard Street. The city operated the facility until 1933, when the city contracted with Four Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria. The building and inventory remained property of the city, while the Sisters managed the operations, an arrangement which continued for 50 years. An auxiliary board formed in 1934 raised funds for equipment and supplies and continues to support the hospital.

At its Hubbard Street location, the hospital continued to serve the community until 1997. Beginning in 1984, hospital ownership reverted to the city of Yoakum, while the Sisters assumed sponsorship of what was renamed Yoakum Community Hospital. A new facility was dedicated in 1997 on Carl Ramert Drive, continuing the hospital’s legacy of care.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
PLEASANT GROVE SCHOOL

During Reconstruction, central Europeans, mainly Germans and Czech-speaking Bohemians, flooded Lavaca County. Coinciding with this population boost was additional state funds to build rural schools. In the Pleasant Grove Community, a school site was filed on December 17, 1881. A small wooden building was erected in 1882. The building served several purposes, as the community also used it as a church and community center. The school year operated from October to April to coincide with work on the farm. In the 1895-1896 school year, Viola Kroschel taught 40 students at a salary of $30 per month. The population of the school averaged between 40 and 75 students. Emily Hornshu (1897-1973) began teaching during the 1924-1925 school year. She taught for more than two decades. Hornshu taught all grades, earning a reputation as a disciplinarian and a superior teacher. She faithfully performed her duties as an educator; her students knew her horse and buggy would arrive each day.

The school’s student population began to decline as families moved away. 1947-1948 was the final school year for Pleasant Grove as it was annexed by Hallettsville Independent School District on July 24, 1948. The final graduating class included Walter Evans, Leonard Woytek, Jeanette Mertz, Gladys Schaefer, Josephine Zappe, Emily Jean Fahrenthold and Mae Appelt. Emily Hornshu followed her students and continued teaching in Hallettsville school district until she retired after 41 years in education. The school building was moved to Good Hope. The land was sold. For many decades, Pleasant Grove School provided excellent education to the students of the surrounding farms.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Chinese Labor on the Houston & Texas Central Railway

By 1861, the Houston & Texas Central Railway (H&TC) extended from Houston to Millican, a distance of 81 miles, but construction was halted during the Civil War. After the war, extension of this important transportation and commerce corridor continued.

On behalf of the railroad, General John G. Walker arranged with San Francisco-based labor contractor Chew-Ah-Heung late in 1869 to employ several hundred Chinese laborers to expedite construction of the H&TC. These experienced workers, most from southern China’s Guangdong province, had just completed the Central Pacific Railroad. The group traveled this first transcontinental rail line from Sacramento to St. Louis in December 1869, then rode the steamboat Mississippi through New Orleans to Galveston. Finally, they were taken on the H&TC railroad to its then-terminus at Calvert. The workers began clearing and grading the right-of-way from Bremond to Steele’s Creek (near present-day Groesbeck), working at least as far as Thornton. Kosse was near the midway point of this 20-mile section. The 1870 U.S. census enumerated ten Chinese laborers boarding together in Limestone County, all men ages 19 to 36. Newspaper accounts reported celebrations of the Chinese New Year in January in Bremond.

Historians have noted the significance of this importation of Chinese labor as perhaps the earliest example in both Texas and the South. Some promoters intended it as an experiment to test post-Civil War political and economic ideas about contracting with Chinese laborers to displace African American labor. The initial group stayed only a few months, though some individuals moved to the area permanently after the rail work was done. Their initial experiences and imprint on the land laid the foundation for later generations of Asian Americans in Texas.

(2020)

Marker is property of the state of Texas
MOLLIE ABERNATHY

Born in Hood County to parents John and Elizabeth (Robertson) Wylie, Mollie (Wylie) Abernathy (1866-1960) was an early prominent businesswoman in Lubbock. Her mother and father both came from large ranching families, and Mollie became acquainted at a young age with ranch life and the cattle industry. At school, she met fellow student James Jarrott (1861-1902). The couple married in 1886 and had four children. In 1901, they moved out west to a ranch of their own near Lubbock. The region was in a volatile state because large established ranch owners did not want competition from new smaller ranches. While Mollie was at a hotel recovering from an illness, James was murdered. Mollie suspected the ranchers; the grand jury questioned her knowledge of the circumstances. No one was ever charged.

Mollie settled into life on the ranch with her children. She tripled the size of the ranch through prudent business dealings. Under her management, the ranch became prominent and successful. In 1905, Mollie married Monroe Abernathy (1868-1962). She and her husband were instrumental in negotiating the deal that brought the first railroad to Lubbock, creating an economic boom. Mollie sold the ranch in 1920 and focused her business closer to the town center, buying and selling properties. Among others, she built the Leader Building on Broadway in 1916. When it burned in 1951, Mollie rebuilt it with updated features including air conditioning and two elevators. She was an active supporter of women’s suffrage and of the temperance movement. Until her death in 1960, Mollie remained an active member of Lubbock society and business. Her legacy speaks to the “pioneer spirit” that can still be seen throughout West Texas.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
BESS HUBBARD

Born in modern-day Oklahoma in 1896 to Jesse and Frances (Burton) Bigham, Bess Hubbard was a renowned sculptor, lithographer and painter. Her family moved to Fort Worth shortly after Bess was born. As a child, Bess drew in secret, as her parents encouraged music rather than drawing. She studied at Texas Christian University. In 1913, during a visit to Lubbock, Bess met Chester Hubbard (1894-1957). The couple married in 1917. In the early 1920s, they settled in Lubbock. On a family vacation at the Texas Artist Colony in Christoval, Bess studied under renowned painter and sculptor Xavier Gonzalez, sparking a lifetime of artistic pursuits. For the next two decades, she would win awards at regional art shows, gaining additional exposure. In the 1950s, Bess Hubbard’s renown had reached Denver, Honolulu, New York and London. Ever the student, she continued to study and travel throughout her life. Bess promoted and mentored younger artists. She died in 1977 after a long illness.

Bess Hubbard’s work reflects the regionalist movement being advanced by contemporary Texas artists. She drew inspiration from the region surrounding Lubbock and Taos, New Mexico. Although primarily known as a sculptor, she worked in a variety of mediums, such as paint, lithograph, clay, bronze, chrome, wood and stone. Among her well-known pieces are Taos Mountain (1944), Crusita of Taos (1947), St. Francis of Assisi (c. 1967) and Head of Christ During His Ministry (1968). Perhaps her most personal piece is Kneeling Figure, a six-foot limestone woman in flowing garments bowing on one knee. She put aside the unfinished piece when Chester became ill. After his death, she finished the statue and installed it over his grave. Considered an important Texas artist, Bess Hubbard’s work is still sought by collectors, galleries and museums.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
When Texas Technological College, now Texas Tech University, was created in 1923, the board selected longtime educator Paul Whitfield Horn as its first president. Horn was born in 1870 in Boonville, Missouri, to George Washington Horn and Mattie Myers. He graduated with a master’s degree in education and began a teaching career. He married Sallie Maud Keith in 1890, and their only child, Ruth, was born two years later. The Horns moved to Texas in 1892, where Paul served in a series of increasingly prestigious public school positions and wrote many articles and books on public education. He served as the President of the Texas State Teachers Association in 1910. In 1922, he was selected as the sixth president of Southwestern University in Georgetown (Williamson County). It was from here that the newly formed Texas Tech board hired him as their first president.

Horn and his family arrived in Lubbock on December 6, 1923, and quickly got to work. He oversaw all aspects of the building and growth of the college. He was not in favor of Greek fraternities and sororities because he deemed them exclusive, which ran contrary to his vision of an institution where all students regardless of creed or background could fit in. He did support student clubs, all areas of study, and athletic programs, especially football, which helped raise the college’s profile. Controversy arose around academic freedom near the time of the famed Scopes Monkey Trial in 1925, as local clergy accused Tech professors of teaching evolution, leaving Horn to act as referee. At the age of 64, Horn died on April 11, 1932, after suffering several health issues. In the words of Texas Tech student newspaper The Toreador, “President Horn has finished his work, but his spirit lives on forever!”

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
A fur trapper by trade, Daniel Larrison was an early Anglo Texas settler who received a Mexican land grant in 1833, which included the area later organized as Madison County. Born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, Larrison served under Zachary Taylor in the War of 1812. He married Sarah Emmaus Greenwood in 1815. In total, they would have twelve children. The couple settled in the area around 1828 near the junction of the La Bahia Trail and El Camino Real, which made a convenient stop for travelers. The Larrison family engaged in hunting, trapping, fishing, livestock raising and corn and cotton farming. Larrison Creek is named for the family.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
ABEL HEAD “SHANGHAI” PIERCE  
JONATHAN EDWARD PIERCE

Born in Little Compton, Rhode Island, to Jonathan (1801-1866) and Hannah Phillips (Head) Pierce (1803-1879), brothers Abel Head “Shanghai” (1834-1900) and Jonathan Edwards Pierce (1839-1915) came to Texas penniless and built a cattle and land empire. Abel was given the nickname of Shanghai because, with his long legs, he was told he resembled a shanghai rooster, an early name for the cochin breed. Abel arrived in Texas in 1853 and found work as a cowboy. Part of his job included cattle procurement. Jonathan arrived in 1860 and worked with his brother. In 1865, Abel married Frances Lacy (1839-1870). In 1875, he married Harriette James (1841-1915). Jonathan married three times: in 1866, Nannie Lacy (1845-1896), in 1897, Grace Lawrence (1864-1900), and in 1911, Laura Duffield (1888-1972).

After the Civil War, Abel worked in cattle procurement for large firms and purchased herds of cattle and land for himself. Abel and Jonathan were business partners operating El Rancho Grande for 26 years, in addition to several other ranches. At their split, each focused on their own ranches. Abel is credited with bringing a large number of brahman cattle to Texas. Railroads came to town, and both brothers were approached about rail going through their land. Along the railroads, Abel developed the town of Pierce, and Jonathan developed the town of Blessing. At his death, Abel had procured 400,000 acres, formed the Pierce-Sullivan pasture company and owned 30,000 head of cattle. Jonathan focused on developing Blessing into a prosperous community until his death.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Katy Park

At the turn of the 20th century, baseball fever captivated the city of Waco, and leaders set their sights on providing a ballpark for a potential hometown team. They chose farming lot #13, a non-descript piece of land owned by local businessman Alfred Abeel (1836-1922) on the corner of Eighth Street and Webster Avenue, near the MKT rail line. Abeel also owned the architecturally notable home known as Cottonland Castle. Katy Park was designed by Henry Fabian (1865-1940), a former baseball player and entrepreneur. Fabian had arrived in Waco in 1904 to manage and co-own his first baseball team, the Waco Tigers. In the early years, the Tigers and Fabian were instrumental in overturning legislation outlawing Sunday baseball.

The Tigers struggled with profitability, and Katy Park sometimes went without a home team. In 1925, the Galveston Cubs were acquired and became the Waco Cubs. The Cubs hosted the New York Yankees in a 1929 exhibition game. When Babe Ruth hit a line drive over the right field fence, the ball struck a boy. Ruth waded into the crowd to check on the boy and gave him an autographed baseball. The Cubs left town in 1930, and three years later, Waco received another team, the Pirates. Katy Park hosted both white and black teams, as baseball was still a segregated sport. The first night game was played in May 1930 between the Negro League’s Kansas City Monarchs and the Waco Black Cardinals. In 1946 and 1950 respectively, Jesse Owens and Joe Lewis held events at Katy Park. The ballpark was completely destroyed in a powerful 1953 tornado but was later rebuilt. The Pirates remained until 1955. The last baseball games, part of a statewide tournament of African American teams, were held at Katy Park in June 1965. Katy Park was eventually torn down, but the site remains an important part of the city’s sports and cultural legacy.

(2022)

Marker is property of the State of Texas
Spade Community

Spade is a vanished rural community from the early twentieth century situated in a valley of Wild Horse Creek. After the Civil War and forcible removal of Native American tribes, Anglos began settling in the area, primarily operating large cattle ranches. In 1881, the Texas and Pacific Railway was extended from Weatherford to Colorado (later Colorado City, about 12 miles northeast), a town that estimated 117 residents. Ranchers rejoiced; shorter cattle drives meant better survival and weight retention for the product. In the 1890s, early farming families, such as the Northcutts, the Hargroves, the Hoods and N.P. Browne arrived, purchasing land from the railroads or rail agents. The community was dubbed “Spade” for the nearby spade ranch. By 1910, small businesses had opened. The community would peak at a population less than 200. Spade provided travelers heading south from Colorado City a place for services and rest from the roads, which could be difficult in the best conditions.

In 1901, a post office opened at the corner of present-day state highway 163 and CR 327, named Herbert after the postmaster. It served all the area residents. In 1912, it relocated to Spade and adopted the community’s name. A school, at one point enrolling over one hundred students, served the community until being consolidated in 1938. Religious needs were met by Spade Baptist Church and Spade Methodist Church, which disbanded in 1948 and 1952, respectively. A bridge over Wild Horse Creek was granted in the federal aid Road Act of 1917 and served the community for many years before being decommissioned in the early 2000s and moved to the site of the last spade school, at the intersection of CR 337 and SH 163. Today, only memories and stories of the community remain.

(2022)
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Born into slavery in Smith Station, Alabama, to parents Anderson and Clara Jackson, George Washington (G.W.) Jackson (1856-1940) was a pioneer Navarro County educator, author, civic and religious leader for 52 years. His parents valued education although anti-literacy laws made it illegal to educate African Americans. His father was a reverend who is credited as one of the founders of the Colored Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church. After Emancipation, he secured teaching credentials. Jackson moved to Texas briefly to teach near Kerens before enrolling at Fisk University to continue his education. He returned to Texas in 1882 when he learned the first public high school for African Americans was being built in Corsicana. Jackson was selected as the inaugural principal. Jackson was a fixture in the progressive education movement in Texas, and he practiced a wholistic approach to education. He installed a sense of identity, dignity and self-worth in all students in addition to providing general education and vocational instruction. He spent the entirety of his career in Corsicana and Navarro County.

In 1884, Jackson became active in the Texas State Colored Teachers Association. He served as the association’s seventh president from 1894-1895. Jackson was Grand Master of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows. He was also active in the Corsicana Cemetery Association, the Negro Business League and the community center. He and his wife Mattie (1878-1954) were active in Bethel AME Church. He also wrote several books, articles and editorials on education.

The school suffered a fire in 1925, and the new school erected in its place was named the G.W. Jackson High School in his honor. Jackson influenced and inspired generations of students, and in so doing, helped change their lives for the better.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
BETHEL AME CHURCH

In 1872, African American residents of Corsicana came together to incorporate Bethel AME Church so that they could worship together during the social and economic turmoil that accompanied the end of the Civil War. First meeting in a tent, the church moved to their own land on north 4th Street soon after organizing. The congregation enjoyed an active spiritual and social life, hosting regional conferences, evangelists and famed musical acts. A substantial frame sanctuary was built in 1903. Notable members include Principal G.W. Jackson. In 1968, Bethel AME congregants participated in a march downtown to protest employment discrimination. Bethel has been a spiritual center to the community for many generations.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
In the 1840s and 1850s, the Methodist Church in America experienced several splits over the slavery question. When the newly formed Methodist Episcopal Church, South, affirmed its commitment to race-based chattel slavery, many African Americans who had found solace in that church left to form their own denomination, named the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (formerly “Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.”) The Reverend R.A. Eddleman (1812-1891), the first leader of the new congregation in Weatherford, named the church after the Reverend A. Bartlett Prince (1820-1905), a charter member and presiding elder of the West Texas Conference. Other charter members included Henry Johnson, Emily Washington, Clarissa Mosley, Lucy A. Norton, Samuel Washington, James Rachel, America Rachel and George Dawson. Henry Johnson was appointed class leader and Stephen Carter and Joseph Davis, stewards.

Prince Memorial CME Church is one of the earliest established CME churches in the state, the others being Allen Chapel in Fort Worth and Reedy Chapel in Galveston.

In 1871, the Prince Memorial CME church building was constructed in Weatherford at West Oak Street between Brazos and Lamar under the leadership of Bishop Miles. According to church records, the congregation has been meeting in the same location since its founding. The 1871 building was wood frame construction and held about 250 people. In its earliest days, the building served the black community as a church. For more than 150 years, Prince Memorial CME church has been an enduring and uplifting presence for the Weatherford community.

(2022)

Marker is property of the State of Texas
MATHEW “BONES” HOOKS

Born in Robertson County to formerly enslaved persons Alex and Annie Hooks, Mathew “Bones” Hooks (1867-1951) was a famed black cowboy, Texas Panhandle pioneer and Amarillo community leader. He began ranch work at age seven and developed a reputation for unusual skill taming wild horses. One day, a cowboy asked Hooks to hand him some dice, referring to the dice as “bones.” Hooks misunderstood the cowboy’s request and said, “My name ain’t Bones.” The name stuck.

In 1886, Hooks moved to Clarendon in Donley County. After noticing Clarendon did not have a church for African American residents, Hooks helped lead the charge to establish St. Stephen’s Baptist Church. In 1894, Hooks began a tradition of presenting white flowers at funerals after a tragic trail accident involving a friend. The tradition expanded to giving white flowers to living people honoring achievements or good deeds. It is estimated he gave 500 white flowers in his lifetime.

In 1900, he moved with his wife, Anna, to Amarillo. In addition to his day job on the Santa Fe Railroad, Hooks helped establish the North Heights area for the city’s black residents. In 1930, Hooks led the effort to build a park for North Heights residents. This park became the only park to which black Amarilloans had unlimited access. Officially it was named North Heights Park, but informally, it was known as Bones Hooks Park. The name was officially changed in 1982. Hooks also worked to establish a black high school and build Pioneer Hall, the central gathering space for North Heights residents. In 1934, he organized a boys’ social club to provide recreational access for black youth. In his last years, he fought for equal medical access for black Amarilloans.

Despite racial bigotry and injustice, Mathew “Bones” Hooks dedicated his life to building his community. In 2021, he was posthumously inducted in the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.
CALVERT COLORED HIGH SCHOOL

Built in 1929 with aid from the Rosenwald school fund, Calvert County Training School, later renamed Calvert Colored High School, was one of the largest Rosenwald schools built in Texas. Up until this point, what little African American education had been attempted in Robertson County was largely relegated to “plantation schools”. In Calvert, a small school taught black students until they were old enough to help in the fields or cotton gins. To make the new school possible, funds were acquired from various sources, including the black population ($3,900), the Julius Rosenwald Foundation ($2,600) and a county tax grant ($20,000). The school's 6-A floorplan accommodated up to 12 teachers and first through eleventh grades. Very little has changed of the c-shaped brick building itself, although modern conveniences have been added.

Willie Daniel Spigner (1895-1975) was the long-term headmaster. Students received training in home economics and vocational skills that did not conflict with occupations commonly held by white people. Headmaster Spigner increased enrollment by encouraging children from outlying rural schools to attend classes in Calvert. Indoor plumbing was added in 1948 along with other improvements to the building. The school gained a 12th grade class in the 1950s and a gymnasium in 1957. The name of the school was changed to honor Headmaster Spigner, and the class of 1961 were the first graduates of W.D. Spigner High School. Campus life was active with clubs, sports and bands. During integration, the high school students were transferred to Calvert High School, while elementary students remained at W.D. Spigner. In 1977, classmates gathered for a reunion, and in 1982, the reunion evolved into a three-day event terminating in religious services delivered by alumni ministers. When the school permanently closed, the alumni association retained the building.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2021
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
New Hope Baptist Church

Before the founding of both the town and county in which it is located, this predominately African American congregation has worshipped together. In 1859, settlers from around Texas and Oklahoma organized the church, naming it “First Colored Missionary Baptist Church”. Such an early date means the church is among the oldest continuously operating churches in the State of Texas. At the church’s formation, the membership likely included enslaved persons. Descendants of these founding members continued for many generations to call New Hope home. The church received property at 801 Greenville Road on November 3, 1868, and has worshipped at the site ever since. Early Juneteenth celebrations were also held here. The church held services on the property prior to issuance of the deed and the first church building was a worker’s shack. Under the leadership of Pastor Louis Rice, a permanent structure was built in 1914. Significant remodels or new buildings occurred in 1953, 1974 and 1994.

The name was changed to New Hope Baptist Church in 1906. New Hope was a centerpiece of the Royse City community. The church building served as a gathering space when representation was not allowed elsewhere. The church’s daily duties included not only religious, but family and educational support to local families. The church has numerous times advocated for education, evident by the fact that Royse City ISD named an educational building after longtime New Hope member and former trailblazing City Councilman Ernest Epps (1926-2008). The church has continuously adapted and grown with the community’s needs. New Hope Baptist Church is a fellowship of significant historical and cultural importance.

(2022)

Marker is property of the State of Texas
Fairview Cemetery

In 1880, C.N. Curry, C.E. Bell and their families settled in an area known as Bluff Creek Valley. Jack Mackey, a local cowboy, suggested their community be named in honor of John N. Winters, a rancher and land agent. The families spent the following decades building typical services for area residents, including a school, post office and newspaper. The city was officially incorporated in 1909, the same year the Abilene and Southern Railway built an extension from Abilene to Winters.

The Winters Lodge no. 184 of the Knights of Pythias established a cemetery near Winters to serve as a public burial place for local residents. The Knights of Pythias, founded in Washington D.C. in 1864, is an international, non-sectarian order. In 1910, G.A. Buchanan, S.H. Farrar and Albert Spill, trustees of Lodge no. 184, purchased 10.5 acres from D.R. Smith. They conveyed the land for the cemetery to the city. The city named it Fairview Cemetery. Several community members buried at Fairview have death dates prior to 1910.

The burials at Fairview Cemetery represent the history of this area and the contributions of its residents to major U.S. events. Many people interred here are first generation German immigrants or of German heritage, representing the first wave of European migration to this area. Among those interred at Fairview are veterans of the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Also notable are several gravestones belonging to members of the large fraternal order, Woodmen of the World. Fairview Cemetery is a significant chronicle of this Runnels County community.

Historic Texas Cemetery – 2022

Marker is property of the State of Texas
Anadarco Slaves Legacy

The Anadarco Slaves Legacy project is intended to name the 80 enslaved African Americans who appear on the inventory of Julien D. Devereux’s 1856 probated estate. These names appear on probate court records and in inventory ledgers that were part of the Devereux family papers. Therefore, the spellings of the names vary. The surnames of the former slaves of Monte Verdi plantation can be found in the 1870-1900 U.S. census records.

Julien S. Devereux wrote in his diary, “And for greater certainty, I here give the names of the slaves mentioned...” The names of the slaves are as follows: Aron, Allen, Amey, Amey [little], Amos, Anna [1], Anna Jr, Anderson [1], Anderson [2], Anthony, Arthur, Betty, Bill, Caroline, Charlotte, Cynthia, Cyrus, Daniel, Dennis, Eliza (Henry Mariah), Diana, Elmina, Emaline, Emelissa, Frances, Frank, George, Green, Harrison, Henry, Hugh, Isaac, Jack [little], Jane, Jesse, Jesse [little], Jim, Jincy, Jinny, Joanna, Joe, John, Juba, Judy, July, Katy, Kizzy, Leven, Lewis, Lewis (infant), Louisa, Lucius, Mahala [Helen], Mariah (Henry), Maria (Lewis), Martha, Martin, Mason, Matilda, Melba, Mindah, Nelson, Penninah, Peter, Phebe, Phillis, Randal, Rhoda, Richmond, Robert, Rolly, Sam, Sarah, Scott, Stephen, Tabby Sr, Tabby [little], Tom, Walton, Willis.

These strong and resilient men and women were emancipated in 1865. They went on to create communities and families in Rusk, Cherokee and Nacogdoches counties in Texas. They took up surnames and built new lives for themselves. The names of these men and women were once forgotten in public memory. With the rediscovery of these names, the hardships and strife of these men and women can be remembered and the names can be given their due respect.

(2019)

Marker is property of the state of Texas
Angelita (littlest angel)

Angelita was one of several rural communities which grew up in San Patricio County after the Civil War. A schoolhouse was erected in the 1880s and was the center of community life. After the arrival of the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico railroad in 1904, a town was platted and businesses were established. The railroad station of Angelita provided a shipping point for agricultural products and cattle from nearby farms and ranches. The relocation of the post office and school to Odem in 1916 caused the town of Angelita to decline and eventually vanish.

(1988)

Marker is property of the State of Texas
GEORGE’S CREEK CEMETERY

Barnard’s Trading Post #2, called Barnardville, was an early Anglo settlement and trading post. At this post, they traded with the Comanche, Kichai, Tawakoni, Waco and Wichita people who had long occupied the area. The Anglos later built two settlements: Fort Spunky and George’s Creek. By 1854, a small community had formed. The population began to decline in the 1920s, and the post office ceased operations in 1939.

In 1870, Thomas Taylor conveyed seven acres for the specified uses of a school house, meeting house and burial ground to the trustees of George’s Creek Cemetery, James E. Norton, Thomas Taylor and Elias Underwood. The meeting house and school house were built where the cemetery’s section e currently stands; these buildings were moved west of the creek as part of an effort to move the town in the early 1900s. By 1901, the cemetery included 338 graves. In 1911, J.H. Allison deeded four acres containing the tabernacle to the trustees. An additional four acres were later donated.

There are at least 208 unmarked graves within the cemetery. The oldest marked grave is that of Sara Olive Berry (d. 1862). Burials include veterans of the Civil War and victims of the 1918 epidemic. In 1909, the tabernacle at the cemetery was built by the George’s Creek Baptist Church. Until 1915, the church held services, revivals, and camp meetings there. Active burials and community gatherings still occur. Until 1979, burial privileges were open to anyone. Later, burial privileges were restricted to direct descendants and their families. George’s Creek Cemetery is a historical link to the early Anglo pioneer settlements and the burial place for many of these settlers and their descendants.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2021

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Kenedale First United Methodist Church

As Anglo settlers began moving into Tarrant County and the area that would become Kenedale, they brought their Methodist faith with them. Most likely, Methodists who settled in the area would travel to nearby center point to hear a circuit rider preacher. The town of Kenedale was platted in 1886, and a school built in 1887. The school allowed the Methodists use of their building. In 1896, a plot of land was deeded to H.L. Thomas and the rest of the church trustees. Members began construction in 1903 on a simple, gabled, wood frame church building. The first parsonage was built shortly after. In their completed structure, the church hosted a revival that drew attendees from many surrounding cities. In the 1920s, the Reverend A.E. Turney organized a baseball team. The team played on Sunday afternoons, much to the dismay of many church members. In 1941, The church appointed its first full-time pastor, W.L. Connell.

Kenedale incorporated as a city in 1947. After World War II, Tarrant County and Kenedale experienced population growth. While pre-war Kenedale had a population of around 312, by 1950, the population had risen to 1,000. The congregation felt the benefits and challenges of so many new parishioners. A new fellowship hall was completed in 1950. A new parsonage followed the next year, along with construction on a new sanctuary. Under the leadership of Reverend Allen J. Moore, the new church building was dedicated on Sep 18, 1955. Attendance continued to grow throughout the 1950s, one 1950s report quoting 174 members. A 1961 education building served the growing church. In 1971, membership reached 293. Since its founding, First United Methodist Church of Kenedale has played an active role with the local community, serving as a meeting space and distributing food to those in need.

(2022)

Marker is property of the State of Texas
BOARD AND CHORN DRUGSTORE

A.J. Hunt first opened a building at this site as a saloon in 1895. When the saloon closed three years later, the building became a series of medical facilities. In 1898, James A. Board and Ebenezer H. Chorn moved their pharmacy to this location. In 1911, C.A. Smith and sons purchased the building; the Smith family's ownership was nearly unbroken for 100 years. Various members of the Board and Chorn families operated the pharmacy until 1925. Later, other pharmacists and drug stores utilized the building. Prominent local doctors had offices in the back of the pharmacy. For more than one hundred years, the site has provided medical services for the people of Mansfield.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
STAGECOACH BALLROOM

In October 1961, Ray Chaney opened a country and western nightclub he called the “Stagecoach Inn” in the old Stagecoach Hotel at 2408 North Main Street in Fort Worth. Opening night saw musical act Al Dexter of “Pistol Packin’ Mama” fame. The nightclub flourished, and soon the first location proved too small. In 1963, Chaney moved the club to the former Crystal Springs Ballroom at 5336 White Settlement Road. During this second iteration of the Stagecoach Inn, Chaney hosted many of the biggest names in that era of country and western music, including Bob Wills, Porter Wagoner, Jim Reeves and others. Sadly, in January 1967, the building was severely damaged by fire.

Chaney was determined the Stagecoach would continue. In April 1967, he leased the building at 2516 East Belknap Street. By eyewitness accounts, opening night “was one of the biggest crowds ever seen in a club in Fort Worth.” It was one of the largest dance halls in Texas with a dance floor covering over 3,000 square feet and one of Fort Worth’s longest continuous bars. Unfortunately, Ray Chaney died in a car accident on August 24, 1972. Chaney’s wife Fae ran the Stagecoach for a few years. Bruno Czajkowski and his brother-in-law Milton Trojacek took over the property in 1976. They renamed the club “Stagecoach Ballroom” and the house band “Stagecoach Express.” This was the beginning of the Czajkowskis’ decades-long ownership of the Stagecoach. Scenes for the motion picture “Square Dance” were filmed at the club in spring 1986. The movie was nominated for a Golden Globe (and also later known as “Home is Where the Heart is.” Since its inception, the Stagecoach has held a special place in Fort Worth’s unique music tradition.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Walter Carrington, a prominent central Texas homebuilder, constructed this 1968 house for African American dentist Dr. Sidney White Jr. (1928-2002) and his wife, Helen (1932-2015). Dr. White had settled in Austin in 1958 unexpectedly, as it was his intention to establish a dentistry practice in San Antonio. A chance encounter with Hobart and Venolia Gaines convinced him to stay. In 1960, he entered general practice. Two years later, he married Helen Marie Fields. As one of the only African American dentists in Austin at the time, Dr. White co-developed the medical plaza complex at 2113 E. MLK Jr. Blvd. He was the first African American member and later president of the Austin Dental Society and later taught at Howard University College of Dentistry in Washington D.C. Helen, a graduate of Samuel Huston College, taught elementary school in the still-segregated Austin ISD, including at the prestigious Highland Park Elementary School. As a socialite, she influenced black professionals to settle in Austin. The couple was committed to racial equality and uplifting African Americans in Austin. In addition to hiring a diverse staff and serving a diverse clientele, he assisted in the establishment of St. James Episcopal Church and Phases, a popular nightclub.

Their sprawling mid-century modern home served as the site of lavish parties, events, meetings and ceremonies, often benefiting charitable or civic causes with key leaders and politicians in attendance. The home features vertical wood siding and arched columns. The front and side gabled roof is a low-pitched L-shape with a weeping mortar brick chimney. The house showcases a unique, upgraded ground-level brick ledge to camouflage the underpinnings of the house. Within its historic walls, Dr. Sidney and Helen White changed the social dynamic of Austin.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
ST. JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH

After the Civil War, rural families, including those of former slaves, occupied the farmland and forest surrounding the area now known as Red Rock. In 1876, a group of these freedmen, led by Eliza Lockett-Ross, were inspired to start a church. Lockett-Ross opened her home to several families to organize St. James Baptist Church. The Reverend John H. Baptiste was chosen as the first minister, and he served in this capacity for seven years. Services were conducted in a pine grove under a brush arbor, a crude structure holding a ceiling to shield attendees from the elements, but no walls. A second building, a box structure, was constructed near the brush arbor.

In order to construct the third building, one acre of land was donated by Essick Lockett, Eliza Lockett-Ross's son. This third building was of frame construction. In 1938, the fourth church building was built, under the leadership of the Reverend George Hershel Adams. Reverend Adams pastored the St. James congregation for more than 50 years. Remodeling was undertaken in the 1950s and again in the late 1960s. Construction on the fifth building, led by the board of deacons and trustees, was completed in May 1985. The church retains the original iron bell first used in the late 1800s.

Store owners, city council members, teachers, farmers, college students, nurses and others in various stages of life have called St. James their spiritual home. They have participated and led annual revivals, choir, anniversary celebrations and served the community through nursing home ministry, feeding programs, prayer breakfasts, youth empowerment and hosting county and precinct election polls. For over 150 years, St. James has been a place of healing, hope and community for the local area.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Simpsonville Cemetery

The final resting place of early area settlers and their families, Simpsonville Cemetery is a vestige of this rural community. Originally filing for a post office as Chelsea in 1858, the community changed its name to Simpsonville shortly thereafter. In the following decades, the post office closed and reopened several times. When the office filed for re-opening in 1913, another Simpsonville in Matagorda County had taken the name, so the town changed the name of the post office to Thomas after Orlando Thomas (1851-1925), a longtime postmaster. The new post office operated from 1914-1954, during which time the town was still colloquially known as Simpsonville.

The cemetery lies down the road between the Simpsonville Church of Christ and the Simpsonville Baptist Church. The Baptist Church was established in 1853 and originally named the Missionary Baptist Church. A school was established in the 1860s. By 1929, the town reached a population of 400 and had several schools, blacksmiths, cotton gins and stores. Several of the families that contributed to the town find their rest in the cemetery.

There are over 700 marked graves. Burials reflect typical migration patterns to Texas of the time; there are many who were born in the Southern United States and relocated to Texas in the mid or late nineteenth century. The earliest born person buried at the cemetery is George Washington Tucker (1810-1880). Many veteran burials can be found, including those who fought in the Civil War, World War I, World War II and Korea. The Simpsonville Cemetery association oversees the burial ground.

Historic Texas Cemetery – 2021

Marker is property of the State of Texas
JIMMIE HUDSON KOLP
(1904 – 1970)

During the pioneer era of aviation, most women were discouraged from participating or relegated to subordinate roles. In spite of these obstacles, a few brave women were among the first pilots. Born in 1904 in Copperas Cove (Coryell Co.), Jimmie Hudson moved with her family to Electra in 1912. She became fascinated with flight after a chance meeting with a pilot in 1928 and began flight instruction April 9, 1929, in an Alexander Eaglerock biplane with a Curtiss OX5 engine. For Christmas in 1929, her husband, Charles (1878-1947), gave her a single-engine Spartan aircraft and 120 acres near Electra that would become Kolp Air Field.

During WWII, Kolp held events at the air field to raise money for war bonds and the field was used to train Air Force pilots stationed at nearby Sheppard AFB. Kolp was the first aviatrix in Wichita County and among the first in the state and nation. She was also the first woman commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Texas Civil Air Patrol. Kolp’s adventures took her all over the world, including India, where she met a female co-pilot for Indian Airlines; South Korea, where she witnessed the released crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo return to the U.S.; and Australia, where four escaped convicts helped free her plane, which was stuck in the mud.

Kolp died in 1970 after flying herself to Dallas for medical attention. Over her lifetime, she logged more than 5,000 hours in the air and was a state, national and international supporter of aviation advances. She was a leading advocate for female pilots, serving 40 years as a member and officer of the Ninety-Nines, an organization for female aviators founded by Amelia Earhart. Jimmie Kolp is buried in New Electra Cemetery.

(2020)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Ralph Harvey Jr. (1911-2008) was born to Ralph and Chloe (Blocker) Harvey as the eldest of four boys. The family moved from Seymour to Wichita Falls when Ralph Jr. was a baby in 1912. At first a small town, the arrival of the railroad caused the population of Wichita Falls to boom as it became a major transportation hub. Ralph Jr. graduated from Wichita Falls High School and then attended Washington and Lee University, later graduating from the University of Texas with a bachelor’s degree in cotton marketing in 1933. That same year he took over management of his father’s business, Harvey Spot Cotton in Galveston, but drought and the Depression decimated the cotton industry. He returned to Wichita Falls and became a roughneck for the R&G Drilling Company. In 1937, Ralph and his brother Gene bought their own drilling rig and started the Harvey Drilling Company. That same year he married Juanita Legge (1915-2005) of Grandfield, Oklahoma. They were married 68 years and had two children.

During World War II, Ralph became active in the war effort by collecting scrap metal. He would serve as an administrative officer with the Army Air Corps before entering service as a second lieutenant and being discharged as a captain. After the war, Ralph became very involved with his community. He began ranching, completed flight training and used airplanes for his oil business, took on leadership positions in various oil and gas organizations, and served on the Board of Regents of Midwestern University and the Board of Directors for First National Bank. One of his greatest contributions was as a historian, helping to establish the Museum of North Texas History, Wichita County Archives and the Fort Belknap Archives. His impact and influence continue to enrich the community.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
LLOYD RUBY
(January 12, 1928 – March 23, 2009)

Richard Lloyd Ruby, “The Gentleman from Wichita Falls,” was on the world stage in 1960, racing in his first Indianapolis 500. He went on to compete in the Indy 500 for 18 consecutive years, leading the race in portions of five of six consecutive starts. He scored 11 finishes in the top 11, with a close third place finish in the 1964 race. He joined fellow Wichitan George Barringer in the exclusive champion 100 mile-an-hour club and is enshrined in the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame.

Lloyd began racing motorcycles in high school, dominating the flat dirt oval before transitioning to popular midget dirt cars. In 1948-49, Lloyd won 91 midget feature races and three regional championships across the United States. During the 1950s, Lloyd raced sports cars, finishing runner-up in the 1959 United States Auto Club National Road Racing Championship. In 1965, Henry Ford II hired legendary car builder Carroll Shelby to design a car that would beat Ferrari in motorsport endurance races. The now famous Ford GT40 was born. Shelby brought in Lloyd and Ken Miles as drivers. They won the 1965 Daytona Continental and the inaugural 24 Hours of Daytona and the 12 hours of Sebring in 1966. The Ford GT40, the “Ferrari Killer,” became the first American car to win a world class endurance race.

The fourth and youngest child of Paul and Roxie (Webb) Ruby, Lloyd always claimed Wichita Falls as his home. Lloyd was honored by the city in 2006 with the official naming of the Interstate 44 overpass as the “Lloyd Ruby Overpass.” Remembered fondly by those who knew him around the world, Lloyd is buried in Riverside Cemetery, overlooking the overpass that bears his name.

(2021)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Church of the Good Shepherd

Sensing the need for spiritual enrichment amongst the residents of the brand-new town of Wichita Falls, Harriet Seeley began conducting Sunday school classes in her bedroom in 1876. The Episcopal Bishop of Dallas, Alexander Garrett, discovered this ongoing class in 1879. In 1884, the Reverend Henry Shaw arrived in Wichita Falls to build a new church and serve as Rector. The first service was held on December 8. In 1885, the church purchased lots at 8th and Lamar and built a house of worship. In 1886, a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania women’s auxiliary gifted a carved marble baptismal font to the church. It has been used in baptisms ever since.

On February 20, 1913, the church received parish status. The next year, the Rev. Frederick Datson accepted the call to be the new rector. The Rev. Datson oversaw the $7800 purchase of lots at 10th and Burnett streets. The cornerstone for a new church was laid on April 13, 1915. The church was dedicated on October 3, 1915. Contractors Dyer & Co. of Stamford patterned the $21,000 building after parish churches in England designed during the Middle Ages.

In their new building, Church of the Good Shepherd began to engage the community. The Election Day Soup Bazaar, first held in 1928, is an ongoing tradition attended by many community members. During World War II, Church of the Good Shepherd led many war effort projects. After a devastating 1979 tornado, Church of the Good Shepherd was one of the leaders in relief aid. These efforts were the foundation of an organization called interfaith outreach services. Notable leaders include the Rev. Claude Beesley, Rector from 1933-1962. He served Wichita Falls State Hospital for 21 years as Chaplain and served as President and Secretary of the Wichita Falls Ministerial Association. Church of the Good Shepherd has been a pillar of Wichita Falls for over a century.

(2022)

Marker is property of the State of Texas
First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs

Originally called Sutherland Springs Central Baptist Church, the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs was established in 1926. Prior to this date, citizens of the community heard sermons from circuit riders traveling through the area and met in each other’s homes. In 1926, a group of people gathered to form a Baptist church, initially meeting in the old Sutherland Springs school building. Soon, the congregation erected a frame building on the site of the home of Dr. John Sutherland, the founder of the community. Dr. Sutherland’s hand-dug water cistern lined with limestone is still visible. In 1949, the original church was replaced with a new, modern facility on the same site using lumber from the old building. The farmers, laborers and truck drivers within the congregation adeptly constructed the 1949 sanctuary themselves. During the construction, the congregation met at the old town Sutherland Springs School gymnasium.

Members engaged with each other and the larger community through regular events. First Baptist’s calendar included vacation bible school, fall festival, Sunday school and meetings of the Women’s Missionary Union and Baptist Training Union. Baptisms were conducted in Cibolo Creek. Regular outings included trips to the zoo and aquarium, Old Towne Days parade and camp outs which featured sermons by the lake. Members organized community outreaches such as a food and clothing pantry, a twice-annual tent revival and Thanksgiving community dinner.

Tragedy struck the church on November 5, 2017, when a gunman killed 26 church members. To help heal from the horrible event, the church built a new sanctuary on the property, determined to continue its history of service and love in the community.

(2020)

Marker is property of the state of Texas
East Texas Serenaders

Combining elements from ragtime and waltz, the East Texas Serenaders, all hailing from Mineola or Lindale, were the forerunners of western swing, a uniquely Texas music genre popularized by Bob Wills. The group, consisting of left-handed fiddle player Daniel Huggins Williams, tenor banjo John Munnerlyn, guitarist Cloet Hamman and manager and cellist Patrick Henry Bogan Sr., began recording in the 1920s. All held traditional jobs in addition to music, and never traveled far to play. The group’s progressive arrangements sometimes consisted of jazz or Cajun influences from listening to radio stations from Louisiana. Songs were recorded for Columbia, Brunswick and Decca before disbanding in 1938.

(2022)

Marker is property of the State of Texas
Consider removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for
Old Lyford High School Building, Lyford, Willacy County

Background
The Old Lyford High School Building at Simon Gomez Road and High School Drive in Lyford (Willacy County) was built in 1923-24, designed by the San Antonio/Galveston architectural firm of Smith & Kelly with contractor Roland Moore of Donna. In 1985, it was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The building is a one story, T-plan layout of brick and cast stone.

On February 6, The THC received a request to remove the historical marker from the building through Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Rule 21.11. THC’s Division of Architecture responded with RTHL project review through Texas Government Code Section 442.006(f). 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 March 20, 2023, by imposing the waiting period, to expire May 27, 2023, and encouraging exploration of preservation alternatives, including rehabilitation, restoration, or sale of the property to be conserved by a future owner. This request pertains to whether the Commission would allow removal of the historical marker and designation through Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Rule 21.11 before waiting for the 90-day RTHL review waiting period to end on May 27.

Photographs of the school and marker, the removal request and THC response letter are attached. The 1985 NR documentation is at https://atlas.thc.texas.gov/NR/pdfs/85002770/85002770.pdf.
Circa 1950 postcard (from marker file)

1985 photo (from marker file)
Good afternoon.

Attached you will find the required documents of our request to remove the historical marker at the Old Lyford High School Building in Lyford Texas.

Miguel Tovar

ADM Group, Inc.

o. 737.228.0444  c. 210.900.8135

Send large files here
Request for removal of Official Texas Historical Marker

1. The name and contact information for the requesting individual, group, or CHC;
   a. Lyford CISD – Dr. Kristin Brown

2. The name and location of the marker or monument for which removal is requested;
   a. Old Lyford High School Building. Simon Gomez Ave., Lyford TX

3. Justification for removal of the marker or monument;
   a. The building has deteriorated beyond its usefulness, is a safety concern, and has been abandoned. It is a safety hazard and will be demolished to construct a needed student drop-off lane and parking area for the Lyford Elementary School.

4. Narrative history and photographs of the marker or monument;
   a. This building was constructed in 1923 for the high school students of Lyford and the surrounding communities. Representative of the neo-classical style of school architecture, the building features an entrance marked by a pedimented cornice set above the doorway.
   b. The marker is located on the South side of the building and has faded. See attached photo.

5. Written owner consent for removal from the landowner for sites not located on state land; and
   a. See attached.

6. A plan explaining how the marker or monument will be removed in such a way as to protect its condition and be delivered to a location approved by THC.
   a. Upon approval, the marker will be removed and safely packaged until delivery to an approved location is provided by the Texas Historical Commission.
old lyford high school building

designed by the architectural firm of smith and kelly of galveston,
this building was constructed in 1923 for the high school students
of lyford and surrounding communities. the structure is a reminder
of the importance of education to the early residents of willacy county.
representative of the neo-classical style of school architecture, the building
features an entrance marked by a pedimented cornice set above the doorway.
recorded texas historic landmark 1236
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
1511 Colorado St., Austin, TX 78701  
Via email: thc@thc.texas.gov

Re: Removal of an Official Texas Historical Marker  
Old Lyford High School Building. Simon Gomez Ave., Lyford TX

Dear Texas Historical Commission:

Lyford Consolidated Independent School District is hereby requesting the removal of an Official Texas Historical Marker from the Old Lyford High School Building. Simon Gomez Ave., Lyford TX.

This request is being made in accordance with RULE §21.13 - Removal of Markers and Monuments of the Texas Administrative Code.

The building has deteriorated beyond its usefulness, is a safety concern, and has been abandoned. It is a safety hazard and will be demolished to construct a needed student drop-off lane and parking area for the Lyford Elementary School.

This building was constructed in 1923 for the high school students of Lyford and the surrounding communities. Representative of the neo-classical style of school architecture, the building featured an entrance marked by a pedimented cornice set above the doorway. The marker is located on the South side of the building and has faded. Upon approval, the marker will be removed and safely packaged until deliver to an approved location is provided by the Texas Historical Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please contact me regarding the approval of this request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristin N. Brown  
Superintendent of Schools
March 20, 2023

Dr. Kristin N. Brown
Superintendent of Schools
Simon Gomez Avenue
Lyford, Texas 78569

Re: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) Old Lyford High School Building, Lyford, Simon Gomez Ave., Willacy County, Texas

Dear Dr. Brown,

Thank you for sending information regarding the proposed demolition of the Old Lyford High School Building, which is recognized in the National Register of Historic Places for its educational significance, and has been designated as a Record Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) since 1985. The review staff, led by Sheena Cox, has completed its review of the proposed demolition project, which was originally received on February 26, 2023. 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, an 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 the demolition of the Old Lyford High School Building, 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 May 27, 2023. It is our staff’s expectation that the Lyford Consolidated Independent School District uses the additional waiting period to consider all preservation alternatives, including rehabilitation, restoration, or sale of the Old Lyford High School Building to be conserved by a future owner. At the end of the full 90-day period, the school district 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 demolition 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 September 13, 2023. If the school district 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 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 Sheena Cox at 512/463-6083.

Sincerely,

Mark Wolfe, Executive Director

MW/sc

Cc: Miguel Tovar, ADM Group, Inc., mtovar@admgrouplnc.com
**Staff Recommendation:**

**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 Old Lyford High School Building, Lyford, Willacy 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 Old Lyford High School Building, Lyford, Willacy County.

**Motion Option 1 (Commission):** Move to approve request for removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for Old Lyford High School Building, Lyford, Willacy County.

**Motion Option 2 (Commission):** Move to deny request for removal of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for Old Lyford High School Building, Lyford, Willacy County.
Consider adoption of amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) removal procedures, without changes to the text published in the February 17, 2023 issue of the *Texas Register* (48 TexReg 787-789).

**Background:**
The amendments to Section 21.13 clarify procedures for Recorded Texas Historical Landmark (RTHL) removal requests and the time period for marker removal requests. They also correct formatting and grammatical errors in the rule. No comments were received during the 30-day comment period following publication.

The Commission hereby certifies that the section as adopted has been reviewed by legal counsel and found to be a valid exercise of the agency’s authority.

**Recommended motion (Committee):** Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of adoption of amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) removal procedures, without changes to the text published in the February 17, 2023 issue of the *Texas Register* (48 TexReg 787-789).

**Recommended motion (Commission):** Move to approve the adoption of amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 21, Subchapter B, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) removal procedures, without changes to the text published in the February 17, 2023 issue of the *Texas Register* (48 TexReg 787-789).
Texas Administrative Code  
Title 13 Cultural Resources  
Part II Texas Historical Commission  
Chapter 21 History Programs  
Subchapter B Official Texas Historical Marker Program

PREAMBLE

The Texas Historical Commission (Commission) adopts amendments to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Section 21.13, related to Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) removal procedures, without changes to the text published in the February 17, 2023 issue of the Texas Register (48 TexReg 787-789).

The amendments to Section 21.13 clarify procedures for Recorded Texas Historical Landmark (RTHL) removal requests and the time period for marker removal requests. They also correct formatting and grammatical errors in the rule. No comments were received during the 30-day comment period following publication.

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

No other statutes, articles, or codes are affected by these amendments.

The Commission hereby certifies that the amendments as adopted have been reviewed by legal counsel and found to be a valid exercise of the agency’s authority.
Chapter 13, Chapter 21, Subchapter B. OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

13 TAC §21.13


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

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

1. the name and contact information for the requesting individual, group, or CHC;

2. the name and location of the marker or monument for which removal is requested;

3. justification for removal of the marker or monument;

4. narrative history and photographs of the marker or monument;

5. written owner consent for removal from the landowner for sites not located on state land;

6. a plan explaining how the marker or monument will be removed in such a way as to protect its condition and be delivered to a location approved by the Commission; and

7. For RTHLs only, notification of any proposed work sufficient to meet the requirements of §21.11 of this title (relating to Review of Work on Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks).

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

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

(e) The Commission's History Programs Committee ("Committee") shall consider requests for removal of markers and monuments that are not State Antiquities Landmarks or located within the boundaries of State Antiquities Landmarks, including those also governed by §17.2 of this
Texas Historical Commission

Title (relating to Review of Work on County Courthouses) and §442.008(a) of title 4 of the Government Code.

(f) The Committee shall include the request on the agenda of its next scheduled meeting after the applicable timeline has been fulfilled:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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