

TEXAS PRESERVATION TRUST FUND GRANT PROGRAM



The Noah Cox House

Roma • Starr County • Texas • ca. 1853

History

Built around 1853 by a local architect, the two-story house has been owned by the descendants of Noah Cox since 1856. Cox (1830-1883) was an early pioneer, attorney, and public servant. As a civic leader he held various positions: Deputy District Clerk, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, signer of the Texas Order of Session of 1861, officer in the Confederate Army and County Attorney. The building's fort-like architecture represents the perils of early border settlement and the blend of Mexican, Spanish and Anglo-American building traditions of South Texas and life along the border.

FY 2016-17 Development Grant

Listed in 2011 as one of Preservation Texas' List of Most Endangered Sites, the historic house had sustained serious deterioration due to its exposure to the elements over many years. The City of Roma and Cox Family heirs, secured an emergency THC grant in 2009 for the installation of a new roof. A TPTF Planning Grant awarded in 2015 allowed for the completion of construction documents and specifications addressing the complete interior and exterior restoration of the building. The latest grant was used to stabilize the exterior envelope of the building by repairing and restoring the stone masonry walls, restoring wood windows, adding historically appropriate wood doors, restoring the south façade iron balcony, adding metal gutters and downspouts, and installing perimeter French drain. Additional work included exterior wood stairs and north façade balcony, reconstructing the historic *banqueta* at the south façade, applying lime-based coating at exterior walls, and adding bracing to the south stone masonry site wall. The damaged original wood columns and beams were salvaged, replaced, and upgraded to take the second-floor load, and new tongue-and-groove wood flooring was installed.

DESIGNATION:

Registered Texas Historic Landmark,
National Register Historic District

HISTORIC USE: Residence

CURRENT USE: Community center

PROJECT COST: \$100,000

TPTF GRANT AMOUNT: \$50,000

DATE OF APPROVED

TPTF COMPLETION REPORT:

June 2019

For more info

www.thc.texas.gov/tptf

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