The Real Pecos Trail
Travel the Old Military Roads that Forged West Texas History
THE MEDALLION
FALL 2016

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ISSN 0890-7595
Vol. 54, No. IV
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FAST FACTS
The THC’s State Historic Sites play a significant role in drawing heritage travelers to rural areas of the state, where they contribute to local economies.

2.5 MILLION
SITES VISITORS FROM 2008–2016

126%
SITES VISITATION INCREASE FROM 2008–2016

49,571
VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED 2016
Texas Heritage and History Are Key to Our Strength

All over the country Americans look to Texas. Our economy is the tenth largest in the world and is the envy of other states and many countries. Our commitment to personal freedom and innovative government with the goal of allowing everyone to have the opportunity to prosper is a model for the world.

There are many things that make Texas such a special place, but our heritage and unique history are key components. Our state story is a story of liberty, hard won through revolution and sanctified by the blood of patriots and heroes. It is a story of generations of settlers, immigrants, native people, freedmen, and even carpetbaggers and outlaws, all of whom have deep roots here and have made their own contribution to our shared story.

It’s up to each of us as individual Texans to pay honor to this heritage and pass respect of it on to the next generation.

Educating our children about this history is one of the most important things Texans can do to ensure this. That’s why I strongly support the Texas Historical Commission.

The 21 state historic sites maintained by the Texas Historical Commission are valuable tools for parents and teachers to educate children about their history. One of my favorites is just outside of my hometown of Houston—San Felipe de Austin—where the great Texas hero Stephen F. Austin founded the first colony of Texas—and then burned it to the ground to deny it to foreign invaders.

I’m looking forward to the next legislative session and working with the Texas Historical Commission to discover ways that they can empower individual Texans to better understand our culture of liberty and personal achievement.

We are successful and free because of our Texas heritage. I hope you join me in honoring it.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick
Super Stewards
THC Avocational Archeologists Dig History at San Felipe de Austin

By Jeff Durst
Archeology Division Staff

On a hot and muggy June morning, members of the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) arrived at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site with an important mission: to unearth significant history. Located in the small village of San Felipe about 40 miles west of Houston, the site served as the hub of government and commerce for the Mexican colony and its settlers—including Stephen F. Austin, who laid out the township in 1823.

The highly skilled TASN volunteers were there to assist the THC’s Archeology Division with the fourth round of San Felipe test excavations, held in conjunction with the Texas Archeological Society’s (TAS) week-long field school in nearby Columbus for the third consecutive year. Several Houston Archeological Society (HAS) and TAS members assisted the TASN participants. The goal of this summer’s work was to locate two important features at the site: a brick oven and a wood courthouse.

The brick oven was owned and operated by Celia Allen, an African American woman who had been granted her freedom while living at Austin’s colony. The oven also functioned as a battery for cannon used by the Mexican army to fire on the San Felipe militia that had entrenched across the Brazos River to hold the crossing during the Runaway Scrape. Although the entire town of San Felipe had been intentionally set ablaze prior to the arrival of the Mexican forces, Celia returned afterward and reestablished her bakery.

Archival research conducted by historian Michael Moore, project consultant for the THC, indicates the oven was located in the southeast corner of Lot 579-A within the platted township of San Felipe. Remote sensing investigations conducted by THC archeologist Tiffany Osburn identified a magnetic disturbance in the vicinity of the oven’s presumed location.

With trowels in hand (and direction from the THC’s Archeology Division), volunteers uncovered a brick alignment, which may be part of the oven. Several nearby artifacts were also discovered, including a white porcelain mortar and an iron hinge section (possibly from the oven’s door), which offer intriguing clues to the bricks’ use.

The second feature excavators hoped to find was a small wooden building described variously in archival records as San Felipe’s “Court House” or “Convention Hall.” Moore’s research suggests this structure stood on Lot 566, where the brick basement of the Farmer’s Hotel had been located and excavated during the two previous summer field school sessions. According to Moore, this lot was subdivided numerous times, and historical records indicated no less than seven structures had been constructed there.

Records indicate the courthouse measured 26 by 22 feet, and was located in the southeast quadrant of the lot. While the remote sensing...
results indicated buried disturbances in this portion of the lot, archeological stewards found no obvious elements of the building.

“Many of the TASN members are regular TAS field school participants, so it wasn’t too difficult to enlist them to assist with the excavations at San Felipe,” says Pat Mercado-Allinger, the THC’s Archeology Division director. “Fortunately, many of these stewards also served as volunteers during previous investigations, when they searched for evidence of Austin’s colony in the 1990s on private property surrounding the site. This firsthand experience was quite valuable, since they could easily identify the cultural materials being recovered based on their previous experience.”

Since its inception in 1984, the TASN has consisted of a hand-selected group of Texas’ finest avocational archeologists. Currently comprised of 117 members throughout the state, the TASN functions as the eyes and ears of the THC’s Archeology Division.

In addition to assisting with the THC excavations, several stewards helped wash, dry, sort, and bag artifacts at the on-site field lab. These TASN volunteers bring many years of experience to the project and work together like a well-oiled machine to sort through the myriad artifacts they encounter for processing.

At the conclusion of each field school, artifacts are boxed up and transported to the THC archeology lab in Austin. There, local TASN members continue to assist with the more-detailed processing and sorting of artifacts.

Afterward, TASN members with related expertise study certain artifact categories. For instance, historic ceramics recovered from the site will be analyzed by stewards Johnnie and Sandra Pollan, highly respected ceramic analysts from Brazoria County. The TASN boasts many other qualified specialists, including Collin County’s Jay Blaine, highly esteemed for his metal analysis skills, and Harris County’s Tom Nuckols, who specializes in identifying historic firearms and ammunition.

“With so much experience among this group, it’s easy to see why they are considered such a valued asset to our Archeology Division,” Mercado-Allinger says.

Watch a video about San Felipe’s archeological investigations at visitsanfelipeaustin.com.

Field lab crew members Beth Aucoin and Charlie Gordy clean and sort artifacts at the temporary field lab.
The Real Pecos Trail
West Texas Region’s Military Roads Forged History, Settlement

The wild west landscape that would become the Texas Pecos Trail Region was hostile territory in the 1800s. With natural landmarks like the Devils River, Horsehead Crossing, and Dead Man’s Pass reflecting the surroundings, it’s no wonder settlers sought the protection of soldiers while traversing this rugged part of West Texas.

These pioneers and soldiers often traveled on what was known as the military road. The rutted path had an upper and lower trek, and portions of both carried the names of other legendary western trails, including the San Antonio-El Paso Road, Chihuahua Trail, and Butterfield Overland Mail route. Although the military road was primarily used to connect the frontier forts, it also provided westward-bound settlers an artery for experiencing the burgeoning state of Texas and the region’s natural wonders—many now essential destinations for heritage travelers.

According to Jefferson Spillman, site manager of the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Fort Lancaster State Historic Site, the region’s namesake Pecos River played a vital role in the area. Before frontier forts arrived, the river served as an important mode of transportation; a lifeblood for Apache, Comanche, and Kickapoo tribes; and an unofficial border delineating what is currently known as Far West Texas from West Texas. By the mid 1800s, several forts were constructed, diminishing the river’s significance in favor of the connective military roads.

“These roads served an important purpose of moving people westward, just like I-10 does now,” Spillman says. “The upper and lower military roads connected many of the frontier forts—there’s still evidence of most of them, even though a few are just ruins.”

When Fort Lancaster was built in 1855, there were no other outposts between Fort Clark and Fort Davis. By 1860, however, eight military posts occupied the lower road between San Antonio and El Paso: Fort Inge, Fort Clark, Camp Hudson, Fort Lancaster, Fort Stockton, Fort Davis, Fort Quitman, and Fort Bliss (see map page 7).
Spillman explains that the fort’s location on Live Oak Creek near the Pecos River provided a reliable source of water, and strategically positioned it to defend settlers and westward-bound gold seekers traversing the lower military road. Though it was one of the isolated posts in Texas, Fort Lancaster offered a mail stagecoach stop, sutler’s store, and fresh water for weary travelers who hadn’t encountered civilization for several days in an often-unforgiving environment.

Other slices of life at the secluded military outpost are told at Fort Lancaster’s new visitors center, which opened earlier this year. Updated exhibits, informative videos, and interactive displays shed light on the soldiers’ lives and activity associated with the military road. Outside, reconstructed ruins and educational panels—including one dedicated to the road, visible in the distance—provide another glimpse into the past.

Spillman claims that interpretation at the site can be challenging due to the lack of preserved artifacts and archived materials. In fact, one of the only historic documents related to Fort Lancaster is a rudimentary drawing from one of Brig. Gen. Henry Sibley’s men, who spent several days at the fort in the early 1860s.

“He sketched some of the building outlines and provided a view of the fort’s general layout,” Spillman says. “Thank goodness he decided to take pencil to paper that day—who would have known it would become our only tangible documentation of the fort during its active use.”

Nearly 100 miles to the northeast, the THC’s Fort McKavett State Historic Site—just outside the Texas Pecos Trail Region in the Forts Trail Region—depicts mid-1800s life along the upper military road. Like Fort Lancaster, Fort McKavett helped defend settlers when skirmishes with American Indians increased after the Civil War. From 1868 to 1883, Fort McKavett served as a major supply depot for military campaigns, other West Texas forts, and scientific and mapping explorations.

Perched atop the Hill Country’s scenic, windswept western edge, Fort McKavett’s 19 historic structures are among the most well-preserved of the Texas frontier forts. The first soldiers to arrive at the post were with the 8th U.S. Infantry, which established Fort McKavett in March 1852 and began building its structures with locally quarried limestone and hand-cut oak.

Fort McKavett was abandoned in 1859 after a decline in activity; however, by the mid-1860s, tensions escalated with the Comanche and Kiowa tribes. In 1867, the U.S. Army returned to the fort, which had become ruins. The dilapidated structures were rebuilt while the troops lived in tents, and the post was reoccupied in April 1868. The completed fort had four barracks, 12 officers’ quarters, a headquarters building, hospital, bakery, post office, and stables. Many of these structures remain accessible to visitors.

Site Manager Cody Mobley explains that the upper military road played a significant role in Fort McKavett’s history, primarily by connecting it with other western forts and serving as a conduit for Army activity.

Right: The historic military road traversed through Fort Lancaster State Historic Site.
“The upper military road was really important for troop supply—it provided a quicker way for soldiers to receive goods and payment,” he says. “It wasn’t quite as significant in terms of general migration patterns, but the connection between the forts and the protection they provided were important factors in the expansion of settlement in Texas and the West.”

**EXPEDITION: TRAVEL THE MILITARY ROADS**

It’s possible to drive more than 300 miles of the Pecos Region’s lower and upper military roads in just one day from Brackettville to Fort Stockton (using an approximate present-day route). That same journey would have taken nearly three weeks by stagecoach during the military road’s heyday.

An ideal starting point is Brackettville’s historic **Fort Clark Springs** (fortclark.com, 830-563-2493). Fort Clark traces its origins to the military road—its location was recommended by U.S. Army Lt. W.H.C. Whiting in 1849 while scouting a wagon route between San Antonio and El Paso. After being active for nearly a century, the fort was deactivated in 1946 with the distinction as one of the country’s last cavalry posts.

![Image](image.png)

Above: Del Rio’s Whitehead Memorial Museum features a replica of famed “Law West of the Pecos” Judge Roy Bean’s courtroom/saloon.

One of the fort’s biggest draws is its massive spring-fed swimming pool, built in 1939 by the Works Progress Administration and boasting the distinction of being the largest on any U.S. Army post. Fed by the ancient Las Moras Springs, which were used by Comanche and Lipan Apache tribes for nearly 8,000 years, the pool offers visitors a lush tree-surrounded watering hole and 68-degree respite from the South Texas heat.

From Fort Clark, travelers can follow the military road’s route westward along U.S. Hwy. 90 to Del Rio. Much of this 30-mile trek has been extensively documented by Russell Nowell of the Fort Clark Historical Society and fellow road historian Vickie Chism.

“This road is pretty fascinating to research,” Nowell says. “We’ve found some interesting artifacts along the way—especially lead-seal cans, which were commonly used at the time for food. People would just toss them to the side of the road when they were done.”

Nowell adds that he and Chism have also found evidence of the military road’s wagon ruts. They can become troughs for water and vegetation, and are often detected by lines of heavier tree and brush growth.

In Del Rio, heritage tourists can learn more about the region’s history at the **Whitehead Memorial Museum** (whiteheadmuseum.org, 830-774-7568). The 54-year-old museum is housed in several historic buildings on two landscaped acres. Highlights include exhibits dedicated to area military activity, the gravesite of famed “Law West of the Pecos” Judge Roy Bean, and a portion of the city’s…

![Image](image.png)

Above: Brackettville’s enormous Fort Clark Springs pool is fed by the ancient Las Moras Springs.

Currently, Fort Clark Springs is a charming resort with a recently restored historic motel and privately owned homes in former military quarters, including the 1888 Gen. George S. Patton House, occupied by the famous Army officer in 1938. Thirty of the fort’s properties are designated by the THC as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, and the entire fort is a National Register Historic District. The fort’s **Old Guardhouse Museum**, open weekends from 1–4 p.m., is housed in an 1870s limestone building.
1871 acequia (canal system). Just down the road is Del Rio’s appealing downtown district, a Texas Main Street Program participant with historic building styles ranging from late-1800s Classical Revival to 1950s Mid-Century Modern.

To continue following the military road’s approximate route, take SH 163 northwest from Del Rio toward Ozona. On the way, travelers will experience some of Texas’ most remote and scenic vistas. The absence of vehicles and everyday objects like billboards, telephone wires, and litter transports visitors to the military road era, when the sight of lush foliage on the horizon promised a refreshing water supply—in this case, the Devils River.

A THC Centennial Marker for Camp Hudson is located near the river, which crosses SH 163 approximately 20 miles north of Comstock. It commemorates the small mid-1800s post of rock buildings that helped protect occasional travelers on the military road en route to Fort Lancaster. Further south of the river, a THC marker notes Dead Man’s Pass, a treacherous section of secluded scrubland where several stagecoach teamsters and American Indians died in armed raids and animal attacks during the 1850s–1880s.

After visiting Fort Lancaster State Historic Site (visit fortlancaster.com, 432-836-4391), travelers can experience portions of the upper military road by driving slightly north of Interstate 10. Regional history is on display at the Rankin Museum (by appointment only: 432-693-2507), housed in a hotel built in 1926 by local rancher and overnight millionaire, Ira Yates. The imposing three-story structure on the empty West Texas landscape is a magnet for photographers drawn to its stately Art Deco architecture and vintage sign. Just west lies McCamey, home of the Mendoza Trail Museum (432-652-3192). The modest museum features local collections related to McCamey’s natural history and 1920s oil-boom era.

One of the most important military road sites—and Western trail landmarks—lies nearly 25 miles northwest of McCamey. Horsehead Crossing is a natural ford on the Pecos River providing one of the few crossable points on the entire waterway. Named for the horse skulls that lined the area (many died due to quicksand and briny water), the crossing was first mapped by the military in 1849 and became an integral spot on the Butterfield Overland and Goodnight-Loving trails.

Travelers can experience this extremely remote yet compelling site by heading north on FM 11 from Girvin for nearly 10 miles—a large metal Pecos County sign marks Horsehead Road. The three-mile dirt road leads to stunning panoramic views of the river and historic crossing, honored by a THC Centennial Marker.

From there, head an hour southwest to the National Register-listed Historic Fort Stockton (historicfortstockton tx.com, 432-336-2400) for another glimpse of Texas’ frontier military heritage. Of the fort’s original 40 structures, only a few remain, including three officers’ quarters and an 1868 guardhouse. Like many of the forts, it was established near a plentiful water source (Comanche Springs), which still operates as a public swimming pool. A visitors center offers educational videos, artifacts, and models depicting life for the enlisted men, including the 9th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers unit which patrolled the lower military road.

“The military road gave a reason and access for people to come to this region—they were experiencing life and culture out here and writing about what they encountered,” says Scott Jordan, former executive director of the Texas Pecos Trail Region. “It offered the first opportunity for non-Native Americans to travel through this region and ultimately settle it.”

To learn about other significant heritage sites in the area, download a free copy of the THC’s Texas Pecos Trail Region travel guide at texastimetravel.com.

View more Pecos Trail Region photos at thc.texas.gov/pecospics.
Meet the Friends of the THC’s New Executive Director
Anjali Zutshi Discusses Her Passion for Preservation and Assisting Texans

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor, The Medallion

This summer, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) welcomed Anjali Zutshi as the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission’s new executive director and the agency’s Chief Development Officer. She agreed to answer a few questions about her professional background and excitement for her future plans. An extended version of the interview is at thc.texas.gov/zutshi.

Tell us about your experiences that led you to this role. I have a bachelor’s degree in architecture, and practiced as an architect in India for several years before coming to Austin in 1994 for graduate studies in community and regional planning at The University of Texas at Austin. Upon graduation, I joined the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national land conservation nonprofit, where I established and grew the development program from scratch, led the expansion of the state program, and guided it through a period of financial crisis and leadership transition.

I’ve also worked as a nonprofit consultant for conservation and youth-focused organizations, providing my development, fundraising, and organizational development skills to help them move toward sustainability and strength. In addition, I’ve served on several boards, where I raised several hundred thousand dollars in funding and support.

What specific experiences from your past made an impact on you? My commitment to service-oriented work in Texas is informed by my experience as a relative newcomer. I am constantly reminded of a story I heard during my time at the TPL about a Laotian woman who immigrated to Providence, Rhode Island. She and her daughters spent their days planting flowers in the urban lot as they waited for her husband to return home from work. This story has always been close to my heart, not only because it resonates with me as an immigrant, but also because, like her, working to serve my adopted home has made me feel very connected to it.

I am thrilled to bring years of deep experience to my work here—a strong network in the Texas nonprofit sector, an educational background in architecture and regional planning, and my personal commitment to Texas.

What is the most common misconception about fundraising? Most people are afraid of fundraising because they have to ask other people for money; it makes them very uncomfortable. I am frequently asked, “Isn’t fundraising hard?” I answer that by sharing something a colleague said many years ago: Nonprofits offer potential donors an opportunity to support something they are passionate about, but may not be able to work on themselves. His simple but profound observation has stayed with me all these years—as long as you believe in the mission and can help facilitate a clear and direct connection between a donor’s passion and the mission or programs we are raising money for, you will be a successful fundraiser.

What is Friends project are you especially excited about? Of the many projects, the museum at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site is one of the most exciting. The site offers incredible archeological resources that share the era’s rich history and provide a critical missing link in the story of the Texas Republic’s creation (something that interests me as a “relatively new” Texan as much as it does my native Texan twin sons). The Friends organization is coordinating a capital campaign for the museum, which will include a visitors center, outdoor interpretation, exhibits, and educational programs. The State of Texas has committed $5.2 million to the project, with another $2 million under consideration, and we have $5.3 million to raise from private philanthropic sources. This is a challenge I am ready to dive into!

How can people get in touch with you? You may email me at anjali.zutshi@thc.texas.gov or call 512-936-2241.

Working to serve my adopted home has made me feel very connected to it.

—Anjali Zutshi
Friends of the Texas Historical Commission and THC
Chief Development Officer
Heroic Deeds
Friends Program Offers Support for Preservation Projects

By Anjali Zutshi
Executive Director, Friends of the THC

Texas has always been known for its heroes, and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has its very own legends. The Texas Heroes gift program is an opportunity for all Texans to support the agency’s efforts to preserve history, educate youth and adults about our heritage, and celebrate the real places telling the real stories of Texas.

The generosity of the Texas Heroes listed here allows the THC to celebrate excellence in historic preservation and to honor those who play a key role in conserving and promoting our state’s history. The Friends invite you to become a Texas Hero to help continue building a strong financial foundation for the THC’s outstanding programs. For more information about the program, contact Anjali Zutshi (anjali.zutshi@thc.texas.gov, 512-936-2014) or visit thefriends.org.

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

FALL 2016

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The Newest Tax Credit on the Block
New THC Preservation Incentives Close Funding Gaps

By Valerie Magolan
THC Tax Credit Program Specialist

Many Medallion readers have likely heard the news about the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit. The program offers 25 percent of the qualified project costs for a certified rehabilitation of a historic building in the form of a state franchise tax credit. Since January 1, 2015, we have received initial applications for 192 projects with proposed investments of more than $1.6 billion; 31 preservation projects have been completed and approved, at an investment of over $217 million. To better acquaint readers with the state tax credit, we’ll answer some of the most common questions we receive about the program.

How does the state program differ from the federal tax credit program?
The federal program, worth 20 percent of eligible rehabilitation costs and officially known as Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives, has been available since 1976. It is overseen by our office in conjunction with the National Park Service and the Internal Revenue Service. Our state program is modeled after this federal program, but there are a few major differences. First, the state program requires that you spend only $5,000 in order to have an eligible project, whereas the federal program requires you to complete a “substantial rehabilitation” that is equal to or greater than the value of your building. This means that projects seeking the 25 percent state credit can be smaller, lower-budget, and undertaken gradually. More applicants from smaller communities throughout Texas have been able to take advantage of the program for this reason. Second, the state program allows broader participation by different types of applicants, such as nonprofit organizations.

Can I apply to both programs at the same time?
Absolutely, and that’s one of the notable aspects of the state program. It was designed to be easy to apply to both of the programs concurrently—only if you’re eligible for both, of course. The combination of both programs offers an unprecedented financial incentive (up to 45 percent of the project cost) that has made many challenging preservation projects financially feasible.

How can I benefit from the state tax credit if I don’t pay franchise tax?
Many applicants who receive the state franchise tax credit don’t actually use it themselves—they sell it. One of the program’s features is that the credit can be freely sold, and there is a healthy market of tax credit buyers who will purchase the credit certificates. The current values are close to the face value of the credit.

Do you have any application tips for these tax credit programs?
First, the application process should begin before your project starts, and you receive the credit after your project has been successfully completed. A large part of the process is the architectural review of your plans for the proposed work. It’s important to coordinate with the THC early in your project planning stage to ensure your project is eligible and will meet the architectural guidelines.

For more information about these programs, visit thc.texas.gov/taxincentives.
300-Year-Old Mission Property Joins THC’s Historic Sites
East Texas’ Mission Dolores Resisted French Incursions, Interacted with Ais Indians

By Heather McBride
THC Senior Communications Specialist

The Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) State Historic Sites recently added an 18th-century East Texas mission to its diverse collection of statewide properties. Mission Dolores State Historic Site—which commemorates a 1700s Spanish mission that countered French intrusions and attempted to convert the Ais Indians to Christianity—became the agency’s 21st historic site this summer.

“On behalf of the Texas Historical Commission, we are certainly proud to welcome this new state historic site to our family of properties,” said John L. Nau, III, chairman of the THC. “We are committed to this community to preserve its important history and develop its reputation as a heritage travel destination.”

In 2010, the THC worked with the community to restore the San Augustine County Courthouse through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. San Augustine was also designated an official Main Street City in 2013 and has shown a strong commitment to revitalizing its downtown.

Mission Dolores, known as Mission Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Ais, was originally established in 1717 and abandoned in 1719, but its precise location is not known. Mission Dolores State Historic Site is the location of the reestablished 1721 mission, active until 1773 when the Spanish government recalled its priests.

Today, no above-ground remains exist, but extensive archeological surveys have discovered the original location of the 1721 mission compound. It was part of a string of missions and presidios throughout East Texas, and was located along El Camino Real de los Tejas, which is now a National Historic Trail. The trail runs through the property.

“The THC is honored to take the helm and continue preserving this historic site and spreading the word about the significance of Mission Dolores to the history of Texas,” said Site Manager Mick Haven. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Mission Dolores is a designated State Antiquities Landmark. Visitors can explore the site’s history at the museum, where interpretive displays tell the real stories of Mission Dolores. The site also includes a visitors center and RV campground. Future plans by the THC include renovations to the museum and potential additional archeological investigations of the mission.

Betty Oglesbee, a lifetime resident of San Augustine and patron of the site, expressed gratitude for the THC’s recent acquisition of Mission Dolores.

“An awareness of the archeological and historical importance of Mission Dolores has long been uppermost in my mind,” she said. “It’s my considered opinion, and of many historically minded San Augustine citizens, that the logical choice for the future best interest of Mission Dolores is under the care and tutelage of the Texas Historical Commission.”

Mission Dolores State Historic Site
701 S. Broadway St.
San Augustine, TX 75972
936-275-3815
Open Tuesday–Sunday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
visitmissiondolores.com
THGC In Search of Texas Liberator

The Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC) is in urgent need of Texans' help. The THGC is working with Texas Tech University on a special project to commemorate the Texan liberators of the Nazi concentration camps during World War II. A Texas liberator has to have been born in Texas or lived here at some point; they also have to have arrived at a concentration camp within the first three days of its liberation.

If you are a liberator, know someone who is, or just want to know more about this one-of-a-kind project, please visit thgc.texas.gov and submit an information form. Even if you don’t know a liberator, you can still help by spreading the word about this project! Contact the THGC’s Cheyanne Perkins with any questions at 512-463-5674 or cheyanne.perkins@thgc.texas.gov.

SET SAIL FOR GALVESTON’S WWII-ERA MARITIME HISTORY

Texans can commemorate World War II maritime history and the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor by visiting Galveston’s American Undersea Warfare Center, home to the USS Cavalla. The former U.S. Navy submarine is best known for sinking the Japanese aircraft carrier Shokaku, a veteran of the Pearl Harbor attack.

The Cavalla Historical Foundation will host a public memorial service and reenactment of Cavalla’s sinking of Shokaku at 12:45 p.m. December 7 at the warfare center. Built in 1943 and commissioned in 1944, the Cavalla sunk the 30,000-ton Shokaku on its maiden patrol during the Battle of the Philippine Sea in June 1944. The 312-foot Cavalla is open for daily tours, offering visitors the opportunity to see the period-accurate captain’s quarters and the ship’s office. The submarine is featured with other historic vessels at Seawolf Park on a former immigration station site. The park also contains one of only three destroyer escorts in the world: the 1942 USS Stewart. In addition, the remains of the 1919 tanker SS Selma—the largest experimental concrete ship ever constructed—are visible northwest of the park’s fishing pier.

Visit americanundersea warfarecenter.com for more information.

THC SEEKS WORLD WAR I INFORMATION

The THC is organizing commemorative efforts to educate Texans and honor the Lone Star State’s World War I experience. Texans can help the agency create an inventory of World War I-related exhibits, archives, trophy artillery, memorials, markers, and monuments.

While the THC honors the service of individual veterans, this is not a call for information about items from private collections; rather, the agency is attempting to determine where heritage visitor-accessible sites are located. Please email information to TXinWWIsurvey@thc.texas.gov. You can also mail information to: Texas Historical Commission; Military Sites Program; P.O. Box 12276; Austin, Texas 78711-2276.

Check out the October issue of Main Street Matters at thc.texas.gov/msm for a profile on Anice Read, the founder of the Texas Main Street Program (TMSP). The TMSP has been celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2016 as one of the first state Main Street programs in the country.
The Role of a CHC Chair
Tips for Providing and Receiving THC Information

By Amy Hammons
County Historical Commission Outreach Coordinator

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) considers County Historical Commissions (CHC) to be its primary contacts for local history inquiries. To streamline communication with Texas’ 225-plus active CHCs, the THC channels correspondence through each CHC’s designated chair.

CHC chairs can ensure this line of communication remains consistent by following these simple recommendations.

**COMMUNICATION**
- Provide accurate CHC chair contact information—including phone number and email address—to the THC.
- Maintain internet access and respond in a timely manner to THC email messages seeking information.
- Notify THC staff when chair names, phone numbers, or email addresses change.
- Read the CHC listerv messages and THC email notifications.
- Take advantage of training opportunities offered by THC and other history- and preservation-related organizations.

**DISTRIBUTION**
- Distribute THC correspondence to fellow appointees to ensure appointees have THC recommendations and the opportunity to respond to THC information requests.
- Share information immediately, and give appointees plenty of time to respond to information requests or participate in publicized events and trainings.
- Encourage fellow appointees to take advantage of training opportunities.
- Maintain contact with surrounding CHCs when planning, developing, and implementing programs.

**PLANNING**
- Plan events with an eye toward avoiding date conflicts or combining events to expand audiences for each CHC.
- Invite surrounding CHC appointees to your events and training opportunities.
- Meet regionally to learn more about CHC projects and goals.

Following these best practices motivates and mobilizes fellow appointees, while building relationships with other CHCs.

**Motivate and mobilize fellow appointees, while building relationships with other CHCs.**

THC Architecture Division staff discuss tax credits with CHC chair appointees at the 2016 Real Places Heritage Travel Conference.

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*The Medallion* is available online at the.texas.gov/medallion. If you would prefer to receive *The Medallion* electronically instead of through the mail, please send your name and address to thc@thc.texas.gov. You will be notified by email when each new issue is available on the THC website and will no longer receive a printed copy.

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*Our Mission*
To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.
Know your Texas history? Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of The Medallion. Send your answer to: The Medallion, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 or email to medallion@thc.texas.gov. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

Need a clue? This building in the Texas Lakes Trail Region once reportedly boasted the tallest sign in the world.

The photo at left is San Augustine’s Ezekiel Cullen House, an impressive 177 years old and listed in the National Register. Once home to a prominent judge in the Republic of Texas, it remains a headquarters for a local Daughters of the Republic of Texas chapter. Congratulations and prizes go to the first three readers who were the first to correctly identify the site: Eugenia Gilley of Canyon, Lois Lacy of San Augustine, and Laura and Kate Leske of Mequon, Wisconsin. Six-year-old Kate recently visited with her grandmother and immediately recognized the home—and sent us a sketch. Thanks to all who participated! ★

thc.texas.gov