

THE  
**MEDALLION**  
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
SPRING 2023

*REUSE,  
RECYCLE,  
RETAIN*

THC HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAMS  
BENEFIT TEXANS

**Paramount**  
RECREATION CLUB  
AIR CONDITIONED  
Basement est. 1927 Barfield Bldg.





ISSN 0890-7595 Vol. 61, no. II  
thc.texas.gov thc@thc.texas.gov

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
John L. Nau, III Chair  
Catherine McKnight Vice Chair  
Garrett Kieran Donnelly Secretary

Donna M. Bahorich Lilia Marisa Garcia  
Earl Broussard, Jr. David A. Gravelle  
James "Jim" Bruseth Laurie E. Limbacher  
Monica Zárate Burdette Tom Perini  
John W. Crain Gilbert E. "Pete" Peterson  
Renee Rupa Dutia Daisy Sloan White

Mark Wolfe Executive Director

Medallion STAFF  
Chris Florance Division Director  
Andy Rhodes Managing Editor  
Judy Jensen Sr. Graphic Design Coordinator

thc.texas.gov Real places telling  
the real stories of Texas

textastimetravel.com The Texas Heritage Trails  
Program's travel resource

texashistoricsites.com The THC's 36 state  
historic properties

thcfriends.org Friends of the Texas  
Historical Commission

#### 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.

*The Medallion* is published quarterly by the Texas Historical Commission. Address correspondence to: Managing Editor, *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276. Portions of the newsletter that are not copyrighted or reprinted from other sources may be reprinted with permission. Contributions for the support of this publication are gratefully accepted. For information about alternate formats of this publication, contact the THC at 512-463-6255.

*The Medallion* is financed in part by a grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. All of the agency's public programs and activities are operated free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should write to Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

*The Medallion* is available online at [thc.texas.gov/medallion](http://thc.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](mailto: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.



**YOUR TEXAS HISTORY ADVENTURE AWAITS**  
Discover thousands of cultural, heritage, and historic sites across the 10 Texas Heritage Trail Regions.



**TEXASTIMETRAVEL.COM**

 **TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

ABOVE AND ON THE COVER: The Barfield Hotel in downtown Amarillo benefited from rehabilitation-funding programs, including the THC's Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program and the environmentally focused Property Assessed Clean Energy Authority (PACE). Photos by Patrick Hughey.





## THC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARK WOLFE

LEADERSHIP LETTER

Friends,

As I write this, the 88th legislative session is near completion, and we have every indication that this has been an especially successful session for the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

We are grateful for the ongoing funding we receive from the Texas Legislature, its leadership, and Gov. Greg Abbott. They clearly recognize the service our staff provides and the importance of the history we preserve across the Lone Star State.

One of their most impactful decisions is the establishment of a \$300 million preservation-focused trust fund that will benefit our agency's state historic sites and courthouse grants well into the future.

Speaking of courthouses, \$45 million is expected to be earmarked for our grant program, one of the largest appropriations we have received since the program began. A statutory change also increases the maximum amount a county can receive in grants to \$10 million for a single project. These changes will attract more counties to apply for the program and boost our efforts to restore these historic treasures across the state.

We also expect to receive more than \$200 million for several worthy projects, including a vastly upgraded visitor center and major site improvements for the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, with additional funding for upgrades at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site and other historic site enhancement projects.

We also hope to be given responsibility for the Iwo Jima Memorial and Museum in Harlingen, a unique and fascinating Marine Corps museum. Increased general appropriations funding will additionally help pay for new staff positions to expand our interpretation efforts at state historic sites. We are also excited about the possibility of funding for a new THC historical marker program to place individual markers memorializing 21 Black state legislators elected during Texas' reconstruction era.

We appreciate the assistance of our Chairman John L. Nau, III and his legislative team. I also believe these positive outcomes are an expression of confidence in this agency's ability to carry out our mission, thanks in great part to the THC staff's passion, creativity, expertise, and dedication to the great State of Texas. We look forward to ongoing advancements in the protection and preservation of Texas history for future generations.

Sincerely,

Mark Wolfe, THC Executive Director



# WILLKOMMEN!

## LEARN ABOUT GERMAN TEXANS' CULTURAL HERITAGE VIA THC RESOURCES

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

Historic preservation goes beyond protecting noteworthy architecture and event sites; it also preserves and honors cultures. The initial influx of German immigrants to Texas made an enormous impact on the Lone Star State, which continues today through captivating architecture, vibrant

festivals, and cherished culinary traditions in the Hill Country and beyond.

According to the Handbook of Texas, one of the state's first German immigrants was Johann Friedrich Ernst, who came to America in the

early 1830s with the intention of settling in Missouri. While in New Orleans before his venture, he learned about Stephen F. Austin's colony and applied for a 4,000-acre grant, which he received in 1831.

He immediately began writing lengthy letters to German associates, according to the Handbook, describing a land with "a winterless climate like that of Sicily. It had abundant game and fish, was fertile and rich...taxes were virtually nil, and large tracts of land were available...Texas was an earthly paradise."

Between 1865 and 1900, about 40,000 Germans arrived in Texas, representing the single largest European immigrant group at the time. Within a generation, a wide portion of Central Texas—from the Coastal Plains to the Hill Country—boasted dozens of German-settled communities. Many of these settlements, including Flatonia, Schulenburg, and Luckenbach, remain long-standing communities.

### EXPERIENCE GERMAN TEXAS

Many examples of German heritage still exist in rural Texas, from dance halls and shooting clubs to churches and schools. This legacy continues to exert a significant influence on modern-day Texas. The following sites in the state's Hill Country region represent these enduring cultural traditions.

#### Landmark Inn State Historic Site

Originally an Alsatian-style home and dry goods store with a rear-detached kitchen, this 1849 structure was transformed into an inn by John Vance. By the 1860s, Vance had constructed a second story and a bath house, the only man-made bath between San Antonio and Eagle Pass at the time.

Today, the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Landmark Inn State Historic Site offers eight guest rooms, four suites, and a continental breakfast each morning. Guests and visitors can take guided tours, fish, swim, or picnic around the site.

#### Kreische Brewery State Historic Site

In 1849, German immigrant Heinrich Ludwig Kreische purchased 172 acres of land on a bluff overlooking La Grange. A master stonemason, Kreische built a three-story house for his family and, in the 1860s, built one of the first commercial breweries in Texas. The brewery flew a unique flag to let the community know when a new batch of beer was ready.

Visitors can walk the ruins of this once-bustling brewery and envision how locals would come and enjoy a pint of Kreische's Bluff Beer while viewing the surrounding Texas landscape.

#### Luckenbach

Luckenbach's historic downtown contains three main buildings—a blacksmith shop, rustic tavern/general store, and historic dance hall. The 1849-era general store provides a step back in time as visitors walk across the well-worn wood floors to the back bar, where local musicians regale visitors with







## Vereins Kirche Museum

The Vereins Kirche Museum, operated by the Gillespie County Historical Society, features archives and exhibits containing photos and artifacts dedicated to the Fredericksburg area's history, particularly the rugged life experiences of the German settlers and everyday life on the frontier. Housed in a 1936

entertaining tunes and tales. This legendary German-style dance hall opened in 1887 and has since fostered the town's musical heritage by hosting regional acts and legendary Texas troubadours.

## Wurstfest

Wurstfest is an annual fall "Salute to Sausage" celebration that takes place on the Wurstfest grounds in New Braunfels. The festival received an official THC marker in 2017.

In 1961, when the celebration was conceived, New Braunfels had 19 commercial sausage-making businesses in the city. Since then, hundreds of thousands have attended the annual Wurstfest to celebrate the community's German heritage with music, food, and beer.

replica of the 1847 Vereins Kirche (Society Church), the octagonal building honors one of the first structures erected in Fredericksburg and holds the distinction of being the city's first museum.

To learn more about German Texas heritage, visit [texastimetravel.com](http://texastimetravel.com).

OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT: Students visit Landmark Inn in Castroville. Kreische Brewery in La Grange. ABOVE, FROM LEFT: Wurstfest historical marker. An undated photo of Vereins Kirche Museum.

## WILLKOMMEN TO THE WEB

### MOBILE TOUR

The THC's German Texans mobile tour features a rich blend of images, videos, first-person interviews, maps, and useful visitor information for exploring nearly 200 years of German cultural heritage across Texas.

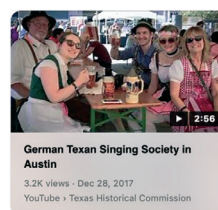
### YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Watch the German Texans video series on the THC's YouTube channel ([youtube.com/user/TxHist](https://youtube.com/user/TxHist)) to learn even more about German Texan cultural heritage in Texas.

Nineteen videos on the channel include titles such as The First German Texans, Speaking Texas German, German Singing Festivals in Texas, and German Texan Architecture.

### TEXAS TIME TRAVEL

A map and links at [texastimetravel.com](http://texastimetravel.com) help travelers plan their trips to explore German heritage sites in Texas. Build an itinerary and save it on the site to help bookmark destinations for a weekend getaway or daytrips across the state.





By Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

# SUSTAINING PRESERVATION

THC ARCHITECTURAL PROGRAMS RETAIN  
PAST RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE



Sustainable architecture often conjures up images of sleek modern buildings with solar panels, rainwater harvesting tanks, and native landscaping. But preservationists maintain that the most sustainable structure is a historic one.

“The primary reason historic buildings are the most sustainable is that they’re constructed of extremely durable materials that will often last indefinitely with proper maintenance,” says Susan Tietz, the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Courthouse Preservation Program coordinator. “Adapting or preserving existing buildings saves an enormous amount of embodied energy.”

Historic commercial and residential structures across Texas exemplify this approach. By maintaining a building’s original scale, materials, and aesthetics, preservationists at the THC and throughout the state not only retain resources from the past, they also enhance appreciation for local and regional history.

## A HISTORICAL PACE

The THC’s Division of Architecture administers several programs that involve the use of sustainable architectural approaches. Reaching the most Texas communities is the Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, which offers state tax credits to eligible projects equal to 25 percent of qualifying expenses.

According to program coordinator Caroline Wright, project applicants can seek out eco-friendly assistance programs as long as work meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. One of the programs offering compensation is PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Authority. PACE works at the local level to provide additional funding for



property improvements related to energy efficiency, water conservation, and resiliency via long-term financing.

“The PACE program is great because it provides a lot of flexibility to projects,” Wright says. “Sometimes, people are under the impression that these sustainability-related assistance programs are overly rigid with requirements, but we’ve seen a lot of successful rehabilitation projects that worked well with PACE’s adaptability.”

Wright co-hosted a session at the THC’s Real Places 2023 conference with the Texas PACE Authority Director Charlene Heydinger that focused on Amarillo’s Barfield Hotel, which benefited from its involvement with both rehabilitation-funding programs.

The 1926 building on historic Route 66 was once a focal point of downtown Amarillo before it started to become dilapidated in recent years. The 10-story structure originally served as an office tower with ground-floor retail.

Although it had been previously modified and renovated, it retained a good amount of its original historic integrity. Project representatives applied for the THC’s tax credit program in 2015, and, with the help of the Dallas-based architecture firm Architexas, began rehabilitation and restoration work complying with the federal preservation standards.

“One of the sustainable elements the Barfield incorporated was using the original wood window frames,” Wright explains.

*Continued on page 14*



# TALL SAILS

## GALVESTON HOSTS INTERNATIONAL SHIP FESTIVAL

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

Clear skies, full sails, can't lose.

The 2023 Tall Ships Galveston festival, held April 13–16, delivered a win for everyone. Hosted by the Galveston Historical Foundation, the event featured nine ships representing numerous nations and nautical eras. The Spanish-based *Nao Trinidad*, a compact square-rigged vessel, is based on a 525-year-old ship, according to crew member Diego Roberto Bermudez. And the *Pride of Baltimore II*, a handsome schooner built to the lines of an 1812-era *Baltimore Clipper*, was originally designed to capture British ships, according to deckhand Aliyah Carter. The home team was represented by the stunning *Elissa*, an 1877 square-rigged iron barque. The Official Tall Ship of Texas welcomes visitors at the Galveston Historic Seaport.

---

To learn more about the *Elissa* and Texas' maritime history, visit [galvestonhistory.org](http://galvestonhistory.org).

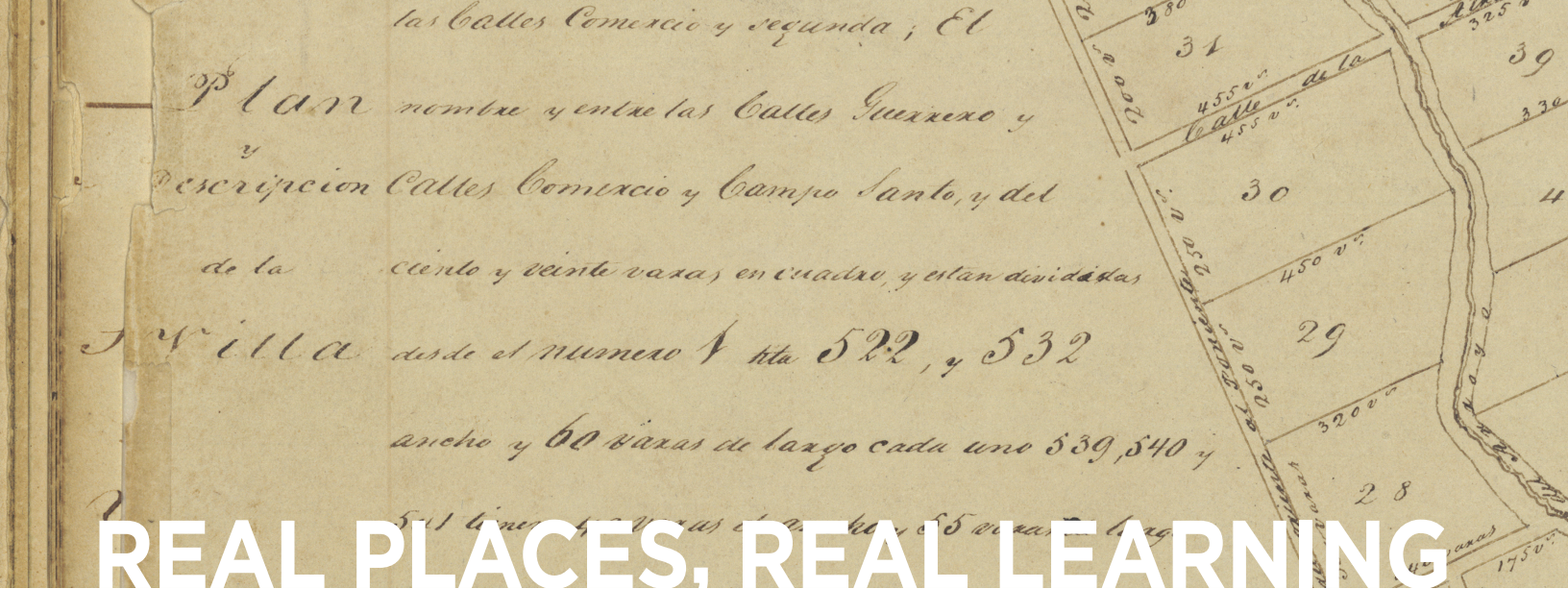






OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The 1894 schooner *Ernestina-Morrissey*; *Pride of Baltimore II*; the parade of ships in the Gulf of Mexico, including the *Elissa*, top left. ABOVE, CLOCKWISE: Crew member Diego Roberto Bermudez aboard the *Nao Trinidad*; Galveston's Pier 21; the *Pride of Baltimore II*; nautical gear at the Tall Ships Galveston festival. Photos by Patrick Hughey.



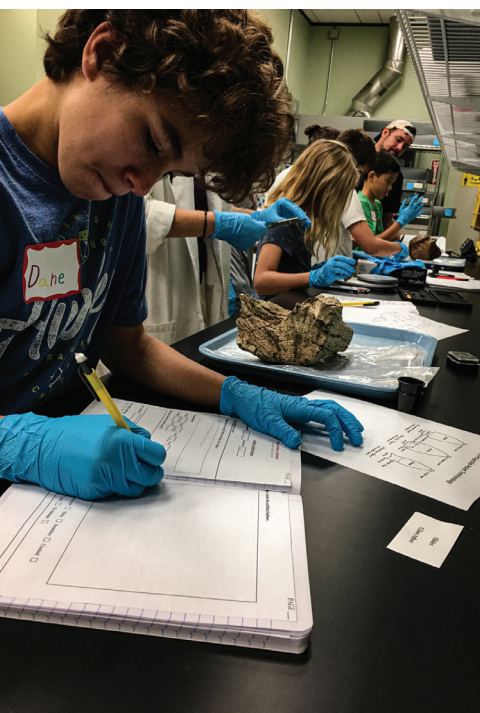


# REAL PLACES. REAL LEARNING

THC'S EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES BENEFIT TEXANS OF ALL AGES

By Linda Miller  
THC Senior Education Specialist

“Wow. You could tell all that from looking at a green bottle and an old map? That’s actually kind of cool.”



High praise indeed from a sixth-grader at a Texas Historical Commission (THC) history camp. This positive feedback came after an archeologist at the agency’s Curatorial Facility for Artifact Research explained how site excavation and artifact analysis helped tell the story of a bustling tavern and business district in 19th-century San Felipe de Austin.

Later, as students stood at tables weighing, measuring, sketching, and theorizing about a

random artifact set before them, they talked not only about the object itself, but also how and why it might reflect a particular history. For those learners, “history” became different that day—not just a set of disconnected dates, but a narrative arc of people, places, and small and momentous happenings that ran from the *then* up to the *now*, a now that included them, standing there analyzing the artifact.

The THC’s tagline is Real Places Telling Real Stories. It’s a good foundation for building meaningful learning

experiences that capitalize on the THC’s unparalleled historic sites, an expanding catalogue of print and digital educational resources, and a vision for creating even more effective educational opportunities and outreach across Texas and beyond.

The term “place-based education” is critical to historic preservation. Broadly, it is much as it sounds: places—historic structures, archeological sites, cultural landscapes and districts, and geographical features among them—are at the center of learning experiences that connect history and community.

This academic programming uses the local community and environments as starting places for multidisciplinary learning, to increase student engagement through experience, and to encourage greater personal connection to local contexts, cultures, and environments.

The THC has, at present, 36 sites where visitors can walk the very ground on which battles raged, stagecoaches rumbled, and Texas legends lived. The talented administrative and education/interpretation staff members at each site offer fascinating place-based education experiences for school and community audiences where our state’s history can literally be touched, traipsed over, and tasted.







These sites also function as living laboratories for exploring and understanding strategies in historic preservation. Those same students who theorized about artifacts in a lab also experienced the dusty prep work involved in the structural renovation of the French Legation State Historic Site. The rebuilding of the Koo Hoot Kiwat Caddo grass house at the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site provided extraordinary real-time witness to history and culture being brought to life through the hands of ancestors, experts, and volunteers. This is learning that no textbook can replicate.

## REAL PLANS

In 2020, the real places of Texas history suddenly became unavailable. Due to the in-person restrictions of the COVID-19 outbreak, the THC's History Programs and Historic Sites division staff pivoted to create online materials posted on the agency's Learning Resources webpage. In addition, the Friends of the THC and the Historic Sites Division were awarded a CARES Act Grant for Museums and Libraries funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

After the pandemic, the agency returned to its focus on providing resources for teachers to use for educational programming. One of the most significant ways this is accomplished is through the THC's Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) certified lesson plans available on the agency's website.

The THC's next steps for educational initiatives are currently in the works. Educators and administrators across the agency recognize the rapid expansion of resources and programs for onsite and online learning that has occurred over the past five years. The agency is now looking five years down the road to expand partnerships and build strategies to address the need

for instructional materials, training, and professional development for staff tasked with developing those resources.

The THC is uniquely positioned to tell and teach the stories of how and why "Texas is Texas." The agency is dreaming big about how to do that even better. Staff members hope to address the needs of school and community learners, in person and online, through an organized, efficient, and creative development strategy. Staffers also want to raise the agency's profile

as a reliable and valid source for history education and ensure an invested generation of young stewards become capable of interpreting and preserving the ever-evolving Texas history happening in their own communities.

That's a big vision, and it's actually kind of cool.

To learn more about TEKS-aligned lesson plans, go to [thc.texas.gov/education/learning-resources](https://thc.texas.gov/education/learning-resources).



TOP: Plan of the Town of San Felipe de Austin, *Registro*, GLO Map #94116, Courtesy of the Texas General Land Office, Austin.  
OPPOSITE AND ABOVE: Participants in the THC's history camps learned that artifact research brings history to life.



# PLANTATION EDUCATION

## LEVI JORDAN SITE SHARES STORIES OF TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site tells a difficult story that isn't shared at most cultural destinations.

Located just outside Brazoria, the site was home to a sizable sugar and cotton plantation with dozens of enslaved workers. Today, the THC's site highlights the multiple perspectives and evolving relationships of those who lived and worked on the land during the 19th century.

Over the past several years, a group dedicated to telling this story developed the Levi Jordan Plantation Committee. The organization is assisting site staff with sharing the significance of Texas plantations' social and political evolution, their impact on the people who lived there in the mid-to-late 1800s, and the legacy of slavery.

Plans are currently in the works for the Levi Jordan Plantation's visitor center, envisioned as 15,000 square feet of dedicated gallery space. The exhibit/design firm, Gallagher & Associates, created themes to educate visitors, allowing them to reflect on the history and culture of African Americans in southeast Texas.

According to committee representatives, the new exhibits (opening date TBD) will encourage the public to consider the people and political environment that forged a community. The displays will also celebrate the resilience, creativity, and ingenuity African Americans have shown in creating a strong culture and heritage in the face of past history.

In a recent committee update, Kennedy Wallace, Levi Jordan's lead educator/interpreter, discussed her job and its challenges.

"I create educational experiences for people, research and interpret plantation and antebellum history, and collaborate with other educators, historians, and community members," she says. "Other than creating specialized

educational experiences and conducting community outreach and engagement, I focus on researching the history of the site to ensure the tours are enriching for all."

Wallace adds that the biggest challenges and opportunities she faces in her job are calmly and effectively interpreting uncomfortable history.

"It's a bittersweet situation," she says. "Though in the long run it's going to help me get through tough times."

### FROM LEVI JORDAN TO THE CAPITOL

In 2005, researcher Antony Cherian conducted an oral history with Jesse James Mack, who was born to York and Ola Jammer Mack on June 3, 1950, in Matagorda County. Jesse would go on to achieve monumental success as an elite member of the Texas Rangers, ultimately providing detail for legendary Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock.

The THC's Shannon Smith, assistant site manager at the nearby Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site, recently wrote a blog post based on the oral history. The following text is an excerpt; to read Smith's full blog post, visit [thc.texas.gov/jessemack](https://thc.texas.gov/jessemack).





At the time of his birth, Jesse's parents were living on the grounds of the Levi Jordan Plantation. York Mack worked as a ranch foreman for Harry Martin, a descendant of Levi Jordan. Jesse's father died suddenly, shortly after Jesse was born, and his mother Ola moved off the plantation to continue taking care of the Martin family in Brazoria.



Jesse graduated from Sweeny High School in May 1968, and in December of that year, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force to support the Vietnam War. He said that his mother's wish for Jesse to receive a higher education was a driving factor behind his decision to enlist.

"I knew we did not have a lot of money. The material that the military had to offer (mentioned) the GI Bill ... and they showed pictures of ... Thunderbirds flying in the air. And I thought, 'Man, that looks pretty good. I think that's what I want to do.' And that's what I did. I joined the Air Force."



For a little over four years, Jesse worked as a jet mechanic. During his time in the military, Jesse started playing basketball and eventually attended St. Edward's University in Austin on a scholarship to play once his time with the Air Force was complete. While attending St. Edward's in 1972, Jesse got married and welcomed his first child.

Jesse stayed at St. Edward's on scholarship for more than two years before he was approached by a friend to join the Department of Public Safety. At the time of his training, Jesse stated that there were roughly 1,500 commissioned DPS officers, and only five were Black. Jesse was part of a graduating class of about 30 African Americans. Jesse described his DPS experience:

"My career started off in '75 and I progressed through the ranks and became an investigator in 1988, and was promoted out of uniformed service into plainclothes service. And then in 1994, I got promoted to the Texas Rangers, which, at that time only had three Blacks in the 170-year history of the Texas Rangers."

Jesse was responsible for assisting local law enforcement and the district attorney in investigations carried out in Grimes, Washington, and Waller counties. Jesse's reputation as a Texas Ranger grew and soon he was appointed to detail high-ranking Texas politicians such as former Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock. Jesse recalled:

"He was a powerful man. And of course, I got to know him very well. For some reason, I guess he just liked me. And he and I became good friends and I used to go visit him all the time."

Jesse would go on to be the lead pallbearer at Bullock's funeral per the request of Bullock and his wife. Jesse Mack's story is one of perseverance as he kept his nose to the grindstone and continued not to give up on his goals just as his grandfather had instructed.

To learn more about Levi Jordan Plantation, go to [visitlevijordanplantation.com](http://visitlevijordanplantation.com)

---

OPPOSITE: Kennedy Wallace, Levi Jordan's lead educator/interpreter; the Levi Jordan plantation house. ABOVE, TOP: Public participation at recent Levi Jordan events; Jesse James Mack, Texas Ranger. Courtesy Department of Public Safety.



*Continued from page 7*

“This keeps high-quality material intact with the building and out of the landfill.”

In 2021, the Barfield opened as a boutique hotel with 112 guest rooms, a restaurant, basement speakeasy, and event space. The hotel, PACE’s first in downtown Amarillo, also incorporated environmentally friendly features such as LED lighting, sustainable-minded plumbing, and water conservation measures. The project drove heritage tourists and cross-country travelers to the city’s historic business district.

Another highly regarded tax credit/PACE rehabilitation is the New Isis Theater in Fort Worth, a multimedia events venue housing Downtown Cowtown. The 1936 building was vacant for many years, and at one point was so dilapidated it had streams of sunlight pouring through the roof.

The restored Stockyards District theater screens classic western movies during the day and hosts live entertainment at night. PACE-incorporated sustainable elements include space heating and cooling, LED lighting, and water conservation features.

The 1923 Stratton Building in Waco, originally built as a five-story office and commercial space in the Classical Revival style, features environmentally friendly mechanical and plumbing systems

and light fixtures. Rehabilitated by a local developer, it now provides 31 loft apartments as well as commercial lease space.

Other examples of eco-friendly elements in restored historic buildings include a lithium-battery generator at the Sinclair Hotel in Fort Worth, a rooftop garden at the former Houston Post Office (now the POST cultural center), and solar panels at the Continental Gin Building in Dallas.

## SUSTAINING PROGRAMS

According to Elizabeth Brummett, director of the THC’s Division of Architecture, a significant resource for Texas preservation work is the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation & Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

“It helps our staff, architects, and building owners as a guiding document,” she says. “It’s valuable to have opportunities that enhance a building’s performance while safeguarding significant features and materials.”

The Guidelines on Sustainability pertain to historic buildings of all materials, construction types, sizes, and occupancy. They address sustainability measures such as efficient building systems, weatherization and insulation, and solar and wind technology.

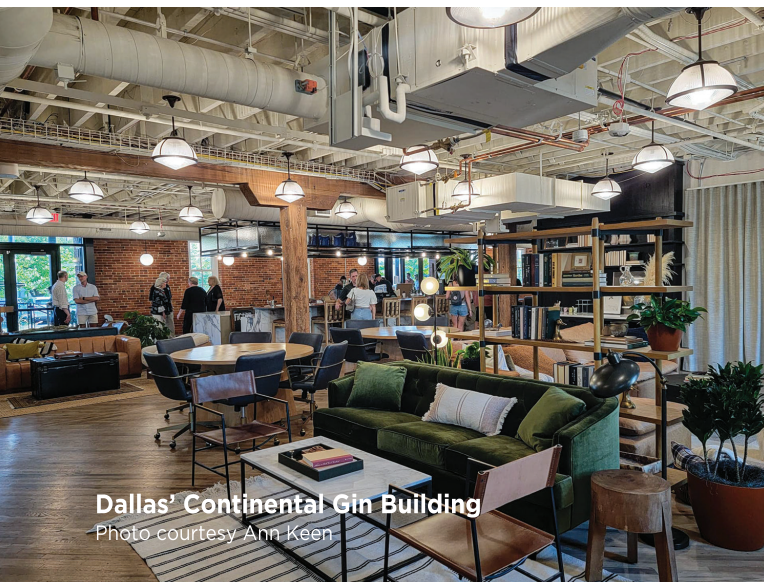


The THC also applies preservation guidelines for projects using sustainable approaches as part of its federal review role and in guiding projects with state-level designations.

In addition, the THC’s Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) supports inherently sustainable elements of historic courthouses by preserving masonry walls that absorb heat, keeping the building cool in the summer and warm in the winter, and using original, durable materials and climate-responsive designs like solar shading and natural light. Most grant-funded courthouse restoration projects make buildings even greener through energy-efficient mechanical systems, and water-saving plumbing systems.

“It would waste so much energy to demolish those buildings,” Tietz says. “The materials used in them are durable—they’ve already lasted a hundred years and, if they’re well maintained, they’ll be around forever.”

To learn more about the THC’s sustainability efforts, visit [thc.texas.gov/sustainability](http://thc.texas.gov/sustainability). Find sustainable PACE rehabilitation projects at [texaspaceauthority.org/project-list](http://texaspaceauthority.org/project-list).





# NEWS BRIEFS

## THC ACCEPTING 2023 PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

Preserving history and heritage takes effort. Recognize someone in your community for their hard work!

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) offers annual awards to recognize worthy accomplishments and exemplary leadership in the preservation of Texas' heritage. These awards cover achievements in the fields of archeology, historic architecture, museums, community heritage development, and more.

The 2023 award nomination period is now open. The deadline is July 21, 2023.

To make a nomination, visit [thc.texas.gov/awards](https://thc.texas.gov/awards).

## THC SEEKING EVENTS FOR TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH CALENDAR

Every October, Texas Archeology Month (TAM) celebrates the spirit of discovery and promotes awareness of archeological programs throughout the state. The Texas Historical Commission is accepting event submissions from the public for the annual TAM Calendar of Events.

For more information, contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-5915.



## GET A TEXAS REVOLUTION AND REPUBLIC HISTORIC SITES PASSPORT

Visit a participating state historic site and pick up a free copy of our Revolution and Republic Historic Sites Passport. The sites include: Barrington Plantation in Washington, Casa Navarro in San Antonio, Fannin Battleground in Fannin, Fanthorp Inn in Anderson, French Legation in Austin, Monument Hill in La Grange, Presidio La Bahía in Goliad, San Felipe de Austin in San Felipe, San Jacinto Battleground in La Porte, Star of the Republic Museum in Washington, Varner-Hogg Plantation in West Columbia, and Washington-on-the-Brazos in Washington.

Stamps are available at participating historic sites' admission desks or museum stores. Once you have collected stamps from all participating state historic sites, visit any of their museum stores for a special gift.

For more information about the THC's historic sites, visit [thc.texas.gov/historicsites](https://thc.texas.gov/historicsites).

## Levy's Electric House, Galveston

Photo courtesy of the property owner



## GALVESTON HISTORIC OVERNIGHTS PROJECT CONNECTS VISITORS TO ISLAND HISTORY

The THC recently launched its Historic Overnights initiative, a new and unique way for travelers to discover in-depth details about historic places and experience local history in a more immersive fashion through the state's official heritage travel website, [TexasTimeTravel.com](https://TexasTimeTravel.com).

Galveston is the pilot city for this initiative, which will expand to other communities across the state. The initiative will promote greater investment in heritage tourism, cultivate thoughtful historic home ownership, and provide tools a community can use to highlight and promote its abundance of historically significant lodging.

The THC and Visit Galveston partnered with local archivists, historians, and property owners to uncover the in-depth history of each building and its original inhabitants.

Delve into the stories of Galveston's Historic Overnight properties at [TexasTimeTravel.com/Galveston-overnights](https://TexasTimeTravel.com/Galveston-overnights).



## WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

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*. Email your answer and preferred mailing address to [medallion@thc.texas.gov](mailto:medallion@thc.texas.gov) or send it to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711. Limit one prize annually per contestant.



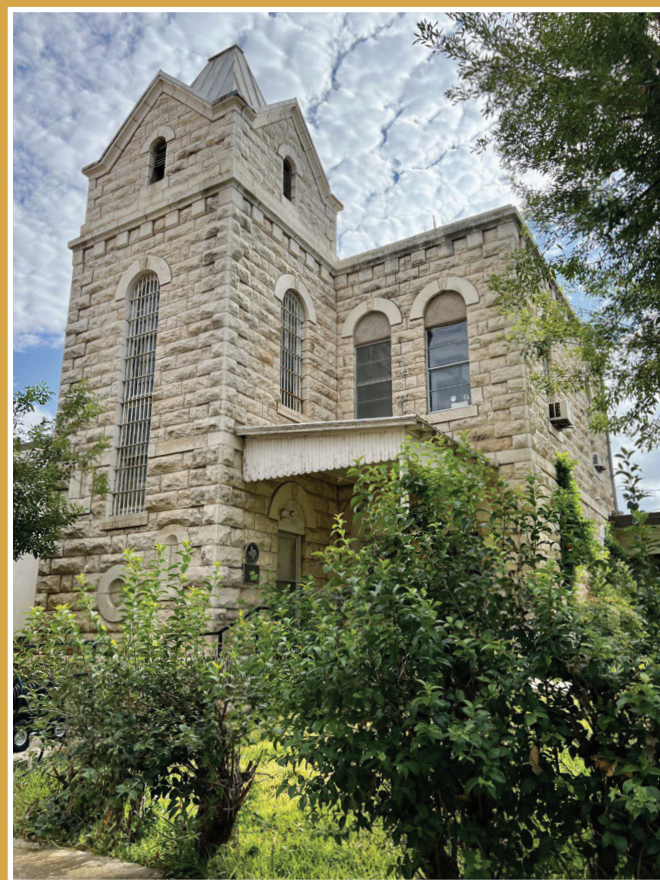
### NEED A CLUE?

This late-19th-century building in the Texas Pecos Trail Region is tucked just off the courthouse square in the historic downtown district.

### ANSWER TO PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE:

The photo at left is Brownsville's 1913 Dancy Building, named for Oscar C. Dancy, who served 48 years as county judge. The THC assisted with the Classical

Revival structure's restoration, and it was rededicated as the official Cameron County Courthouse in 2006.



Congratulations and prizes go to the first readers who correctly identified the site: Tara Putegnat of Brownsville, Craig Wolcott of Kerrville, and Wendy Wright of Richardson. Thanks to all who participated!