

THE

# MEDALLION

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



WINTER/SPRING 2021



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TOP: The Star of the Republic Museum in Washington is featured in the article Remember the Republic! on page 7.

ON THE COVER: The French Legation State Historic Site in Austin. Photo by Patrick Hughey.

CORRECTION: In the Fall 2020 article Going Green, the photo of the domed ceiling should have been identified as the Cameron County Courthouse.

# THE MEDALLION

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
WINTER/SPRING 2021

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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.

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GOVERNOR OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT  
LEADERSHIP LETTER

Greetings,

In 1953, the Texas Legislature created an agency charged with preserving the proud history of the Lone Star State. Today, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) works diligently to fulfill this mission, guided by a knowledgeable and focused commission.

Preserving Texas' history is an important responsibility that requires persistence and expert attention. If neglected, we lose a part of our storied past that cannot be retrieved.

One of the enduring ways this is accomplished is through the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. Across Texas, these temples of justice stand as proud beacons to our past and remain vital destinations for business and travel.

Restored historic sites and buildings throughout the state boost local economies, attract tourists, and spark reinvestment in the heart of downtown Main Street districts. Preservation of historic buildings supports employment and pride in local communities.

These values and our durable heritage are the foundation of our great state. They guide our citizens as the famously proud people known as Texans.

I encourage everyone to support Texas' historic treasures, from time-honored battlefields to county courthouses and revitalized Main Streets. These impressive heritage attractions are a sight to behold, and their history tells the true story of Texas.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott

Governor of Texas



# PLANTATIONS' PAST

## THC SITES IN BRAZORIA COUNTY BUILT ON BACKS OF ENSLAVED LABOR

By William Polley  
Educator, Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site

Since Texas' colonization, people of African descent have been contributing to the state and its history. With their arrival in Texas as early as 1528, African Americans—whether enslaved or free—were instrumental in settling Spanish Texas.

When Texas was part of New Spain, enslaved African Americans made up only a small portion of the population. Initially, slavery was not allowed in Texas under Mexican rule. Later, Stephen F. Austin gained an exception to the law from the Mexican government to entice more Americans from the United States to settle in Texas; thus, slavery gained a foothold by 1824.

At plantation sites in Texas and across the South, stories have traditionally focused on the property owners and the wealth and power they accumulated. It wasn't until recent years that places like the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Levi Jordan Plantation and Varner-Hogg Plantation state historic sites shifted a portion of the narrative to the enslaved workers who built and maintained these properties. For many African Americans who were enslaved at the Levi Jordan and Varner-Hogg plantations, the only record of their existence lies in what they created.

In Brazoria County alone, there were 63 plantations. A coastal region with rich soils, long growing seasons, and access to markets by transportation systems, Brazoria County was a premier agriculture producer and once home to the capital of Texas. But what many people don't know is that much of the county's and southeast Texas' prosperity was built by enslaved men and women.

An exhibit at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

reveals the Texas Constitution of 1836 gave more protection to slaveholders while further controlling enslaved people's lives through new slave codes. Around this time, the Congress of the Republic of Texas passed increasingly restrictive laws governing the lives of free African Americans, including a decree banishing all free Black people from Texas.

The state's enslaved population grew rapidly. In 1845, there were about 30,000 enslaved people in Texas. By 1860, that number had increased to 182,566.

### LEVI JORDAN HISTORY

Levi Jordan arrived in Texas in 1848. He brought his wife Sarah, his daughter Emily, her husband James C. McNeill, four grandchildren, and 12 enslaved workers. Over the next few years, the enslaved were responsible for building the plantation house, slave quarters, and a sugar mill considered the largest in the county.

The Jordan family prospered up to and during the Civil War. In 1852, Texas saw its antebellum peak of sugar production reach more than 11,000 hogsheads (large wooden cask barrels, each weighing a thousand pounds). Brazoria County produced 75 percent of this total.

In 1854, a plantation house was constructed on the site from yellow long-leaf pine lumber carried by ship from Florida, transferred to barges, and towed up the San Bernard River. Enslaved laborers hand-hewed the sills and studs of the house from local oaks and made bricks for the fireplaces. They worked on the Levi Jordan plantation until emancipation in 1865. Then they worked as sharecroppers on the land until being forced to move in 1892.



Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site—consisting of 92 of the plantation's original 2,200 acres—is now home to one of the best-preserved archeological properties associated with African Americans in Texas. The Levi Jordan Archeological Lab and Learning Center is under construction for the development of a public archeological program.

The THC is also creating plans and designs for a new visitors center and museum at Levi Jordan. An advisory committee of experts on African American history will help shape the project's educational content and provide a cultural perspective. Upon opening, site staff will educate the public about the enslaved and emancipated African Americans who helped build Brazoria County's economy and Texas' prosperity.

TOP: Varner-Hogg Plantation was known as Patton Plantation in the late 1800s and early 1900s. ABOVE AND RIGHT: These undated images reveal Levi Jordan Plantation's appearance during the same period.



San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site



Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site



San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

# REMEMBER THE REPUBLIC!

## 185 YEARS AFTER ITS FOUNDING, THE COUNTRY OF TEXAS STILL DRAWS INTEREST

*To this day, the Republic of Texas captures the imagination of people across the globe. On March 2, 1836, the founders set in motion a series of events which created an identity that transcended politics and still lasts with us.*

Some of the Republic's most legendary locations—San Jacinto Battleground, Washington-on-the-Brazos, and San Felipe de Austin—remain sacred spaces for Texans, and their stories are preserved and shared at several of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) state historic sites.

Despite challenges associated with the coronavirus pandemic, these properties have continued to achieve their mission by hosting visitors in a safe capacity and via online educational materials.

"People still have a strong desire to learn about the history of the Republic of Texas, so we're seeing a steady number of visitors in person and online interested in these sites," says Bill Irwin, director of Historic Sites Operations for the THC. "I think we'll see even more traffic during our 185th anniversary as it becomes safer to travel again."

### SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND

[visitsanjacintobattleground.com](http://visitsanjacintobattleground.com)

San Jacinto Battleground is one of Texas' most significant historic sites. The revolutionary army's quick and decisive victory over Mexico at San Jacinto (east of present-day Houston) gave rise to the Republic and State of Texas. A century later, plans were developed

for an appropriately larger-than-life structure to honor the monumental events that took place on the battlefield. Texans celebrated the San Jacinto Memorial Monument's opening in 1939. The remarkable 570-foot-tall limestone edifice honoring the victory site was deliberately designed 15 feet taller than the Washington Monument, and the 1,200-acre site preserves the surrounding battleground.

During the final, shocking, and decisive conflict of the Texas Revolution on April 21, 1836, Gen. Sam Houston and his army of nearly 1,000 Texian soldiers routed Gen. Santa Anna's approximately 1,200-man army in just 18 minutes. With fifes and drums playing "Come to the Bower," a popular tune of the day, the Texians attacked at a run, crying, "Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!" In the end, over 600 Mexicans were killed and 700 captured. A shot from a Mexican soldier shattered Gen. Houston's ankle, but only nine of his men were killed or mortally wounded.

To view an in-depth historical discussion about that fateful battle, watch an informative webinar dedicated to San Jacinto Day on the THC's YouTube channel ([youtube.com/user/TxHist](https://youtube.com/user/TxHist)).

### SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN

[visitsanfelipedeaustin.com](http://visitsanfelipedeaustin.com)

In 1823, Stephen F. Austin secured land grant contracts with the Mexican government to bring families (known as the Old Three Hundred) to form a colony in southeast Texas. The colony's main town, San Felipe de Austin, became a major hub for commerce, government, and diplomacy and was the site of the first immigration land office, postal service, and early schools.

When the Alamo fell, Sam Houston's army retreated toward San Felipe. Local militia evacuated the residents and burned the town to the ground on March 29, 1836, then defended the river crossing against Santa Anna's invading army. While San Felipe de Austin's prominence lasted only 13 years (1823–1836), nearly every significant character and event of this era of Texas history is connected to this frontier capital.

The site now boasts a contemporary visitors center with a state-of-the-art museum, interactive exhibits, map plaza, and educational programs focused on the site's history and archeology. An ambitious outdoor interpretive area called Villa de Austin—featuring new buildings evoking the town's significant past structures—is slated to open in late 2021.

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## WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS

[visitwashingtononthebrazos.com](http://visitwashingtononthebrazos.com)

The historic townsite of Washington was the seat of the Convention of 1836 that declared independence from Mexico and framed a constitution to govern the Republic of Texas.

It's easy to imagine the fathers of Texas gathering beneath the shade of the site's outstretched live oaks while forging the principles that would define the Republic. These ideas were officially set in place at Independence Hall, where 59 delegates adopted the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836. A 1968 replica of the hall gives visitors a sense of the era's vernacular architecture and Texas' humble beginnings.

Washington also served the republic as the national capital from 1842 to 1845. The town grew to become a modest community of 1,700 with riverboat trading on the nearby Brazos River, but it declined in population and its buildings were eventually dismantled and lost to wildfire by 1912.

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## BARRINGTON PLANTATION

[visitbarringtonplantation.com](http://visitbarringtonplantation.com)

Barrington Plantation features the well-preserved 1845 home of Texas President Dr. Anson Jones, with a breeze-capturing porch and Republic-era furnishings. Replica buildings based on Dr. Jones' original plantation include livestock pens, garden structures, and two cabins representing enslaved workers' dwellings.

These reconstructed log homes are the basis of "the quarter." Also in the quarter is a wattle (woven brush) fence enclosing a garden plot and chicken run,



which provided supplemental vegetables and eggs for the enslaved families.

Dr. Jones' records reveal that 37 men and women were in bondage at Barrington during his time there. In 1850, field workers Jerry, Mary, Willis, Jake, and Noble occupied the cabins, while house servants Lucy and Charity likely slept in the kitchen to be on call for the Jones family at all hours.

According to Dr. Jones' journals, he purchased several teams of oxen, which are currently represented on site with livestock used in the same seasonal way. In fact, the entire property serves as a living history farmstead, where visitors can interact with historical interpreters in period costumes and witness daily life on the 1850s frontier by experiencing crop harvesting, meal preparation, and livestock care.

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For more information about the THC's historic sites, visit [storiedsites.com](http://storiedsites.com) or call 512-463-7948.

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## THE STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM

[visitstaroftherpublic.com](http://visitstaroftherpublic.com)

The Star of the Republic Museum showcases the history of the Republic of Texas and social heritage of area inhabitants from Native American tribes to settlers of the 1800s. It is the only museum in the state created by the Legislature for the exclusive purpose of interpreting the republic period of Texas and its material culture.

Highlights inside the star-shaped facility include a Republic-era Lone Star flag, artifacts from La Salle's Fort St. Louis and *La Belle* expeditions, an enormous painting depicting the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence, and an entire second floor dedicated to the social and multicultural history of the Republic of Texas era.

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## FANTHORP INN

[visitfanthorpin.com](http://visitfanthorpin.com)

Eighteen miles northeast of Washington-on-the-Brazos is Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site, originally built in 1834 by English immigrant Henry Fanthorp. The historic structure reportedly hosted Sam Houston and Zachary Taylor during the Republic of Texas era. It remains a charming historic building with solid timber craftsmanship and furnished rooms offering a glimpse into life on the Texas frontier 170 years ago. The La Bahía trail passed the inn, bringing visitors by stagecoach and horseback. Fanthorp was admired for his business acumen—charging \$2 per guest and running a profitable agricultural enterprise with sheep and corn. However, the arrival of railroads caused stagecoach traffic to decline, prompting the inn to close in 1868.

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## Barrington Plantation State Historic Site



# FRIENDS FOR 25 YEARS!

THC'S PHILANTHROPIC PARTNER WAS BORN WITH *LA BELLE* IN 1996

By Katie Cukerbaum  
Development Manager,  
Friends of the THC

A quarter-century ago, when *La Belle* emerged from the murky waters of Matagorda Bay, another significant story was simultaneously developing.

Dr. Jim Bruseth—then director of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeology Division and a current commissioner—led the excavation project, which was extensive and costly. As the official agency for state historic preservation, the THC had funds for this distinctive project, but it required additional investment from the philanthropic community.

The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission (FTHC), a nonprofit partner to the THC, began in 1996 with the THC's discovery of *La Belle*, which needed additional funding to get out of the water and on the ground. *La Belle* sank during the ill-fated 1684 expedition of French explorer Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, who aimed to establish a French colony on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

"The goal was to pull this incredible find from the floor of Matagorda Bay, and preserve it so that its story could be shared with Texans and people from across the country and the world," says Anjali Zutshi, executive director of the FTHC. "So the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission was born. We became the nonprofit partner to the commission to help raise the private philanthropic support for this unique project."

Over the course of four years, the FTHC raised millions of dollars from Texas foundations, corporations, and individuals for the excavation of *La Belle*. The excavation was conducted in a cofferdam and produced nearly two million artifacts that provide a unique glimpse into what was thought to be necessary to set up a 17th-century European colony in North America. Artifacts included an amazing array of finds, including the hull of the ship, three bronze cannons, thousands of glass beads, bronze hawk bells, pottery, and even the remains of a crew member.



From 1999-2002, following the excavation of *La Belle*, the FTHC continued its role as a partner to the THC, raising additional money for the excavation of Fort St. Louis, the settlement established by La Salle and his colonists on Garcitas Creek in 1685. At the time, the THC's funding requirements, beyond *La Belle* and Fort St. Louis, were focused on smaller programs.

Once the La Salle projects were complete, the FTHC turned its attention to other agency programs and projects that required private philanthropic support. Notable among these were the Texas Flags Project, the Red River War Battle Sites Project, Texas in World War I, Texas in World War II, Texas in the Cold War Oral History Project, the Palmito Ranch Project, the Caddo Mounds Grass House, the Starr Family Home portrait restoration, and many others. The FTHC also focused on building long-term partnerships like the one with the Texas Land Title Association for initiatives like the Courthouse Stewardship Program, in addition to the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network and the THC's annual Real Places conference.

In 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a bill transferring 19 historic sites from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the THC. With this and subsequent transfers came the THC's need for capital funds to improve existing visitor facilities, build new ones, and create new and improved visitor experiences at the sites.



In 2016, the FTHC launched a capital campaign to support the development of a new, state-of-the-art visitors center at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. The visitors center opened to the public in April 2018, and sets the standard for exhibitory development by the THC, including the Villa de Austin town site.

After a significant legislative transfer in 2019, the THC now oversees 32 historic sites and museums. The FTHC is actively engaged in capital projects at five sites, in addition to continuing to support other education and stewardship programs.

"Historic preservation is a long road—it took over 20 years for the *Belle* shipwreck to go from the floor of Matagorda Bay to its place of pride today at the Bullock Museum," Zutshi says. "It is the Friends' privilege to be a partner to the commission on this journey."

"To celebrate 25 years of working with the THC, throughout



2021 the FTHC will be offering a closer look at the numerous projects and programs it has helped support. The Friends will host virtual events—historic cooking demonstrations, book talks, and more.

"We look forward to celebrating with our friends and supporters across the state, without whom the work of the FTHC would not be possible," Zutshi says. "In the meantime, we ask you to think about the importance of stories like *La Belle* shipwreck. How did the discovery and excavation of *La Belle* change our understanding of Texas history? What would we be missing today if the *Belle* had not been excavated? What other stories are waiting to be discovered and shared, with continued support from the FTHC over the next 25 years?"

Visit [thcfriends.org](http://thcfriends.org) for virtual event topics and dates.

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OPPOSITE PAGE: The Villa de Austin town site. ABOVE: *La Belle* at the Bullock Museum, Caddo Mounds' grass house reconstruction, and the Real Places conference.

# A NATURAL PARTNERSHIP

THC, PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT WORK TOGETHER  
TO PRESERVE TEXAS HERITAGE

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

As the 87th Texas Legislature continues deliberating under the Capitol dome this spring, lawmakers will be reminded how partnerships play a significant role in state agencies' productivity. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) have developed a strong bond over the years, assisting each other with everything from disaster recovery to data sharing to pet adoption.

Within two days of a devastating tornado striking the THC's Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in April 2019, TPWD game wardens arrived to offer assistance. While walking the grounds on security detail, warden Anthony King noticed he was being followed by a plucky black-and-white pup.

King was comforted by the dog's presence while surrounded by the storm's aftermath, so he befriended her and ultimately offered to adopt her. He named her Caddo to remind him of their time together watching over Caddo Mounds.

"Caddo now has a happy forever home with Mr. King and his family," says Site Manager Tony Souther. "We hope to see Caddo back here again soon. She provided some light and a sense of hope during the dark early days of the site's clean-up and recovery process."

Bill Irwin, the THC's Director of Historic Sites Operations, notes that many of the sites also maintain a positive working relationship with TPWD's game wardens—especially those who patrol fishing areas at San Jacinto Battleground and Sabine Pass Battleground state historic sites. They've had an even closer partnership with the State Park Police, a separate branch within the agency's Law Enforcement Division. They have assisted with support for large-scale events including the Independence Day Celebration at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site and San Jacinto Day at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site.

Jamie Ross, an archeological collections manager with the THC's Historic Sites Division, is overseeing a committee dedicated to transferring collection items from TPWD. The records-transfer project involves much more than moving file cabinets from one storage facility to another. Hundreds of thousands of files—from archeological reports to photo collections to original land deeds—document activities related to Texas' public resources. The files include recorded information created or received by a Texas government



official, including from periods in which Texas was a province, colony, republic, and state.

"We had a great time working with the folks at TPWD, and our collaboration really did a lot to prepare us to transfer collections and records," Ross says. "It's been a very comprehensive approach and as good of an experience as we expected."

THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe adds, "The THC and TPWD enjoy a close working relationship. Our agencies, though vastly different in size, share a common goal of protecting and preserving Texas' public assets so future generations can benefit from our rich history and natural heritage."

Contact [thcfriends.org](http://thcfriends.org) to assist with Caddo Mounds' recovery efforts.

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TOP: TPWD Game Warden Anthony King and his family pose with their adopted dog Caddo, who accompanied Anthony on patrol after the 2019 tornado at Caddo Mounds in Alto.



# MAISON OUVERT

FRENCH LEGATION IS THC'S FIRST HISTORIC SITE IN AUSTIN

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

The French Legation began in 1841 as a private home for Alphonse Dubois, the French chargé d'affaires to the Republic of Texas, after France's monarch officially recognized Texas as a sovereign nation. Around this time, the Republic of Texas Congress was held in Austin, and Dubois regularly entertained politicians there, including President Sam Houston.

Dr. Joseph W. Robertson bought the property in 1849, and he, his wife, their 11 children, and nine enslaved workers lived at the site. After the Civil War, the area surrounding the Legation became home to a community that included Anglo, African, and Mexican Americans, as well as German, Italian, and Swedish immigrants. The State of Texas acquired the property in the 1950s, and it served as a museum until the THC gained custody of the property in 2017 and provided restorations and upgrades.

To learn more, go to [visitfrenchlegation.com](http://visitfrenchlegation.com).





*Continued from page 5*

## VARNER-HOGG HISTORY

Martin Varner initially purchased the property now known as Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site as part of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred, and his family and the people he enslaved lived at the property. The land soon changed hands—in 1834, Varner sold it to the Patton family from Kentucky, who traveled to Texas with 12 enslaved Africans.

The enslaved workers turned the land into a booming agricultural complex. They built the plantation home, the two-story sugar mill, the 18 slave quarters (12-by-12 feet each), the blacksmith shop, and a cotton gin. At the height of production, they produced 245 hogshead barrels of sugar using enslaved labor.

Columbus Patton was in a relationship with one of his enslaved women, Rachel, who shared his name and many other amenities that even whites did not enjoy at the time, including fine clothing. After Patton's mother died and his sisters left the plantation, Rachel assumed the role of mistress of the house. She exercised her authority over the slaves, and had charge of the house and premises.

Rachel reportedly sat with Patton and conversed with him as an equal. Sarah Ford, a formerly enslaved worker at the plantation, noted the slaves had to call her "Miss Rachel." Even after his death, Patton left Rachel a stipend in his will of \$100 annually and granted she could live anywhere she liked; however, he did not grant her freedom.

After Patton died in 1857, the plantation was left to his niece. Between 1869 and 1901, the site changed ownership several times.

At one point, owners used convict labor, which some historians deem a form of slavery under a different name. African Americans, who were now legally free, were being incarcerated in disproportionate numbers and put to work on the same plantations where they were formerly enslaved. In 1875,



however, state investigators found "particular cruelty" toward convicts at Patton Place, including handing out 604 lashes to one convict, so the program ended and the plantation turned to a sharecropping system.

The land was purchased in 1901 by former Governor James Hogg, who turned the plantation into a family vacation property. Hogg's only daughter Ima donated the property to the state in 1958.

To learn more about these sites, go to [visitlevijordanplantation.com](http://visitlevijordanplantation.com) and [visitvarnerhoggplantation.com](http://visitvarnerhoggplantation.com).

TOP: An exhibit at Varner-Hogg Plantation is dedicated to the lives of the enslaved workers who toiled at the site. ABOVE: The main plantation house's 1919 upgrades are the basis for Varner-Hogg's current appearance.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## THC RECOGNIZES LEADERS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT REAL PLACES 2021 CONFERENCE

The THC's recent Real Places 2021 virtual conference brought together hundreds of individuals and organizations; during the conference, the agency honored worthy recipients for accomplishments and exemplary leadership in the preservation of Texas' heritage.

The Governor's Award for Historic Preservation was presented to the Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools Program from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award went to Lareatha Clay, who has served as a THC commissioner and as chair of the Board of Trustees of the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission. Sandy Fortenberry of the Lubbock County Historical Commission received the John Ben Shepperd County Historical Commission Leadership Award for her work as "manager, cheerleader, and collaborator" with her members to preserve Lubbock County's history.

John R. Dulin received the George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award for his countless accomplishments and volunteer hours in the Rusk County Courthouse in Henderson, and the John L. Nau, III Award for Excellence in Museums was presented to the Harrison County Historical Museum in Marshall for advancements made to the museum over a 13-year period. Kay Hindes received the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology for her work with universities, cultural resource management firms, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

The Anice B. Read Award of Excellence in Community Heritage Development was presented to Linda McCalla, one of the first Main Street managers for the City of Georgetown. The Award of Excellence in Preserving History went to the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries Special Collections Department for digitization accomplishments.

Dohn LaBiche received the Award of Excellence in Historic Architecture for providing historical restoration services across Southeastern Texas for over 34 years, and the Award of Excellence in Media Achievement went to editor Kathryn E. Holliday for *The Open-Ended City: David Dillon on Texas Architecture*.

## STEPHENVILLE JOINS MAIN STREET PROGRAM

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently designated Stephenville as an incoming 2021 official Texas Main Street community.

Stephenville joins 87 other designated Main Street communities throughout Texas committed to a preservation-based economic development program focused on their historic downtowns.



The application process for joining the next round of official Texas Main Street communities is now open. The application and timelines are available at [thc.texas.gov/becoming-main-street-community](http://thc.texas.gov/becoming-main-street-community). The Intent to Apply notification is due May 28.

For more information about the Texas Main Street Program, contact State Coordinator Debra Drescher at 512-463-5758, or [debra.drescher@thc.texas.gov](mailto:debra.drescher@thc.texas.gov), or visit [thc.texas.gov/mainstreet](http://thc.texas.gov/mainstreet).

ABOVE: The First National Bank in downtown Stephenville.

## HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM NOW RECEIVING APPLICATIONS

Applications for new THC historical markers will be accepted through May 15. The process begins at the county level—after applicants have reviewed the relevant information at [thc.texas.gov/markers](http://thc.texas.gov/markers), they should contact their county historical commission chair. A link with contact information for each county's CHC chair is available on the THC's website.

Please note that applying for a marker is highly competitive and that all required components must be included when submitting an application. For more information on how to apply, a marker toolkit, research guides, and resources about training and workshops are available on the THC's website. The entire process of application submission to marker dedication can take up to 18 months.

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## 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*. Send your answer to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 or email to [medallion@thc.texas.gov](mailto:medallion@thc.texas.gov). Limit one prize annually per contestant.

**NEED A CLUE?** This fortification site in the Texas Independence Trail Region dates to the Republic of Texas, and was later used as a bunker (pictured) for both world wars.



**ANSWER TO THE PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE:** The photo at left is part of an exhibit at Frontier Texas! in Abilene dedicated to the area's bone-gathering industry following the massive bison slaughter. Congratulations and (eventual) prizes go to the first three readers who correctly identified the site: Laurie Reagan of Leakey, Priscilla Terry of Ruidoso, New Mexico, and Raynell Wilke of Fredericksburg. Thanks to the many readers who participated!

