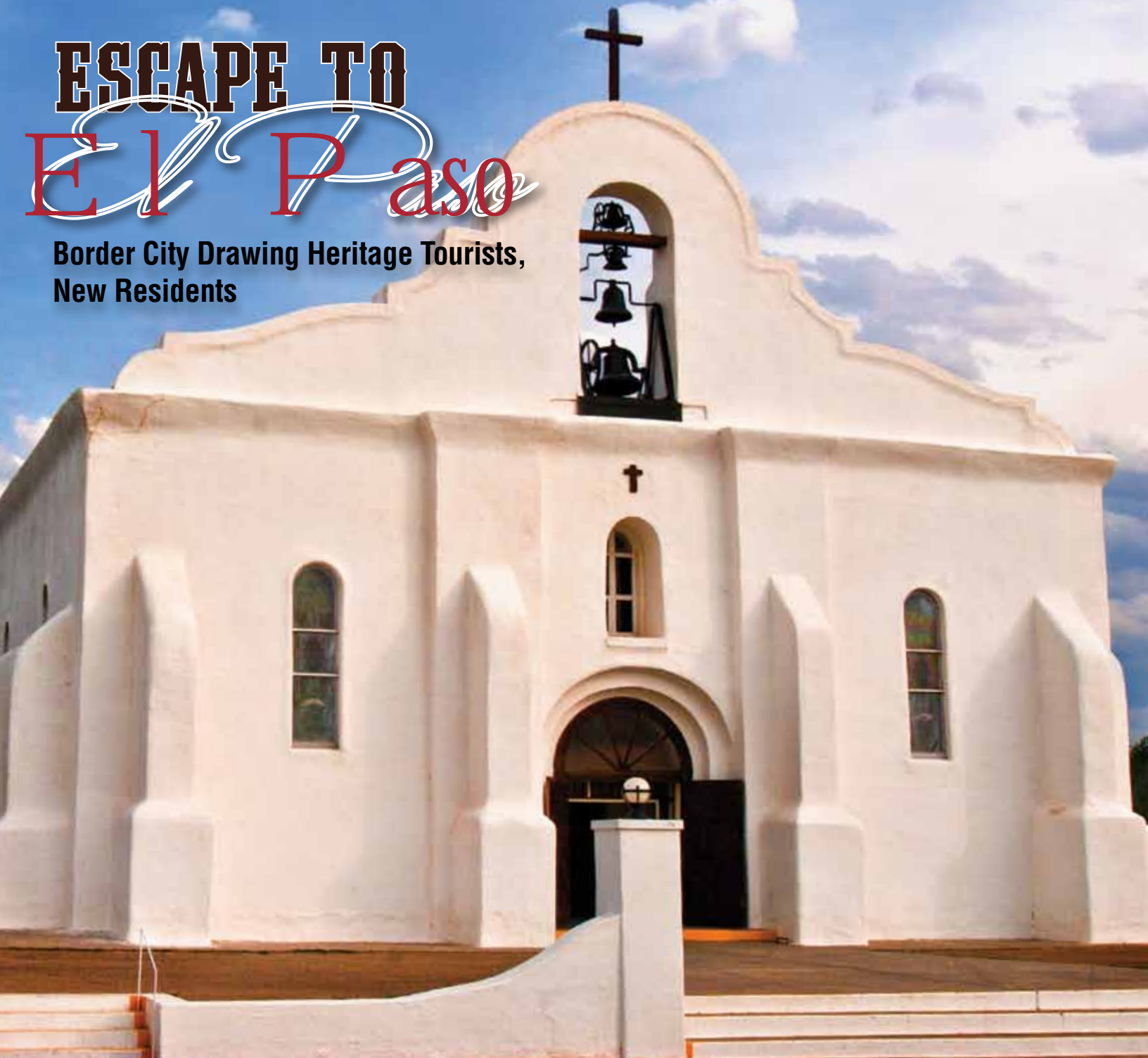


THE MEDALLION

ESCAPE TO El Paso

Border City Drawing Heritage Tourists,
New Residents



LBJ's Legacy

Former President Helped Establish Section 106 Review Process

As president, Lyndon Baines Johnson is often credited for his dedication to creating a better country for U.S. citizens. Many preservationists, however, are unaware of the significant impact LBJ also had on protecting the country's historically significant assets.

During his time in the White House, LBJ signed into law a number of initiatives that became known collectively as the Great Society. These programs and bills focused on issues of civil rights, education, poverty, health, transportation, culture, and the environment. Of the dozens of environmental-related bills signed by LBJ, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) is considered the country's most significant act of legislation concerning historic preservation.

The NHPA created the National Register of Historic Places and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. It also established grant funding for state and local agencies to perform historic resource surveys. Of particular significance was a portion of the NHPA requiring federal agencies to take into account the effect of their actions on historic resources. This section of the bill, Section 106, was a direct reaction to major demolition projects occurring across the country

because of large-scale highway and housing projects.

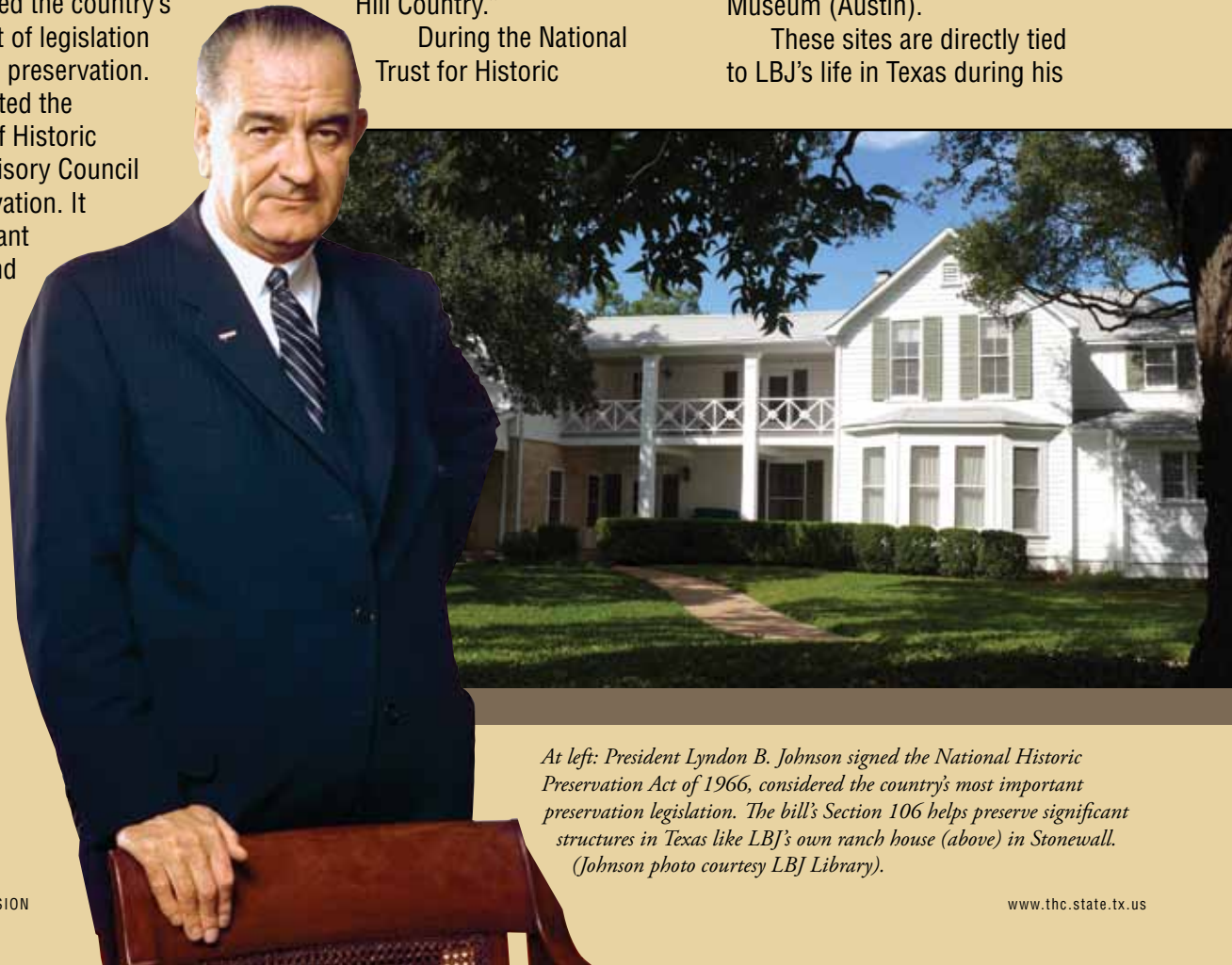
"The NHPA came about not directly from LBJ, but as a result of recommendations put forward by a presidential task force on environmental issues," explains Stan Graves, director of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Architecture Division, which, along with the Archeology and History Programs divisions, conducts thousands of Section 106 reviews annually. "LBJ supported the recommendations of this task force concerning historic preservation issues, though his personal focus was on the environment because of his connections to the Texas Hill Country."

During the National Trust for Historic

Preservation's 2010 National Preservation Conference in Austin, preservation professionals and community leaders joined THC staff members for an eight-hour tour of historical sites in Austin and the Texas Hill Country. The tour explored LBJ's life and heritage, offering a compelling perspective on how the Hill Country affected him and his politics.

While many Central Texas sites are associated with LBJ, three in particular are important to telling his story and the effects of the NHPA and Section 106. They are: the LBJ National Historical Park (Johnson City and Stonewall), the J.J. Pickle Federal Building (Austin), and the LBJ Presidential Library and Museum (Austin).

These sites are directly tied to LBJ's life in Texas during his



At left: President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, considered the country's most important preservation legislation. The bill's Section 106 helps preserve significant structures in Texas like LBJ's own ranch house (above) in Stonewall. (Johnson photo courtesy LBJ Library).

What Is Section 106?

The term Section 106 is used often in preservation circles, but it can still cause confusion even among seasoned professionals. Although a thorough explanation of the statute—which officially requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties—would require several pages, a handy online resource is available. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation details the Section 106 process—including its initiation, identification, and implementation—on its website (www.achp.gov/106summary.html). The site offers links to the original document containing the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and related resources.

presidency and beyond. They are each owned and operated by federal agencies and therefore subject to Section 106,

requiring them to consult with the THC as part of the review process that ensures citizens have input regarding potential changes to public sites.

The LBJ National Historical Park is a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) that preserves and interprets the LBJ ranch. The site includes the first school attended by LBJ, a 1960s reconstruction of the house in which he was born, his childhood home in Johnson City, and the settlement founded by Johnson ancestors for whom Johnson City is named. LBJ spent nearly a quarter of his presidency at the ranch, which he was directly responsible for operating.

The J.J. Pickle Federal Building, located in downtown Austin, was completed in 1964 during LBJ's presidency. It was designed by two significant Texas architectural firms: Page Southerland Page and Brooks, Barr, Graeber & White. The building features a unique cladding system formed of cast concrete "T" shapes repeated across all facades to form window openings.

Because LBJ spent so much time in Texas and needed workspace for his staff, an office suite was designed for the building's top floor, complete with formal entertaining areas and a helipad on the roof with elevator access. LBJ's private bathroom includes his signature shower with five separate showerheads and mirrors designed to allow the president to see the back

of his head. The building is owned by the federal General Services Administration, and the office suite remains largely untouched today.

The LBJ Presidential Library and Museum is located on the University of Texas at Austin campus. LBJ took no great interest in establishing his presidential library, so his wife Lady Bird chose to have it built at her alma mater. The building was dedicated in May 1971 (just two years before LBJ died), and was designed by the nationally renowned firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.

Though only 40 years old, the library, like the Pickle Building, has been recognized as historic for its architecture and for its connection to LBJ. The library is operated by the National Archives and Records Administration and houses papers and personal artifacts related to the presidency.

All three LBJ-related sites have undertaken restoration and rehabilitation work in recent years, and the Section 106 review process has been vital in guiding many of the changes.

Most notable are modifications at the LBJ National Historical Park, allowing increased visitor access to the Texas White House. Closed to the public while Lady Bird maintained a partial residence there, the NPS spent the past several years restoring the house room by room to its appearance during its 1963–73

period of significance.

As is often the case with modern structures, new approaches to design and

engineering have resulted in new problems for preservationists. The Section 106 process has played an important role in addressing several shortcomings at the LBJ structures.

The Pickle Building has encountered problems with its aluminum window system, which the THC has been investigating to determine the appropriate approach for repairs. The LBJ Library recently addressed paving issues on its extensive plaza and water problems associated with its fountains. With the THC's assistance, library representatives decided to fill in the fountains with garden beds and replace pavers with a more-appropriate type of stone. This decision was made in consultation with the THC to ensure the project would not adversely impact the National Register eligibility of the site.

"The THC's role in project consultation under laws like Section 106 is one of its lesser known functions, but it's a critical aspect of historic preservation," Graves said, noting that the agency provides expertise and creative solutions to federal and local agencies unfamiliar with preservation standards that receive federal funding. "It's part of our mission to enrich lives through history by preserving Texas' significant resources." ★

This article was written by Caroline Wright of the THC's Architecture Division.

Making Main Street Meaningful

Vital Downtown Revitalization Program Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Nearly 30 years ago, the National Trust for Historic Preservation tested a theory in three Midwestern communities to revitalize America's neglected downtowns. At the time, historic business districts across the country were struggling against the exodus of customers and businesses to the suburbs.

The selected pilot communities experienced positive, incremental change in a relatively short period of time. A national competition soon followed, resulting in the selection of six states (including Texas) that became the first official state-coordinating programs for a new concept called the Main Street Four-Point Approach®, which uses historic preservation and downtown revitalization as an economic development tool.

Since its inception in 1981, the program has helped generate approximately \$2.2 billion in reinvestment in Texas downtowns and urban neighborhood commercial districts, created more than 26,500 jobs, and established more than 6,800 new businesses. Volunteers have contributed almost 685,000 hours to their Texas Main Street cities since these figures were initially collected in 2001. Texas Main Street

communities currently represent more than 2.5 million of the state's residents.

This year, the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) celebrates 30 years of helping local communities implement the Four-Point Approach of preservation-based downtown revitalization. These four points are essential for a Main Street community's success:

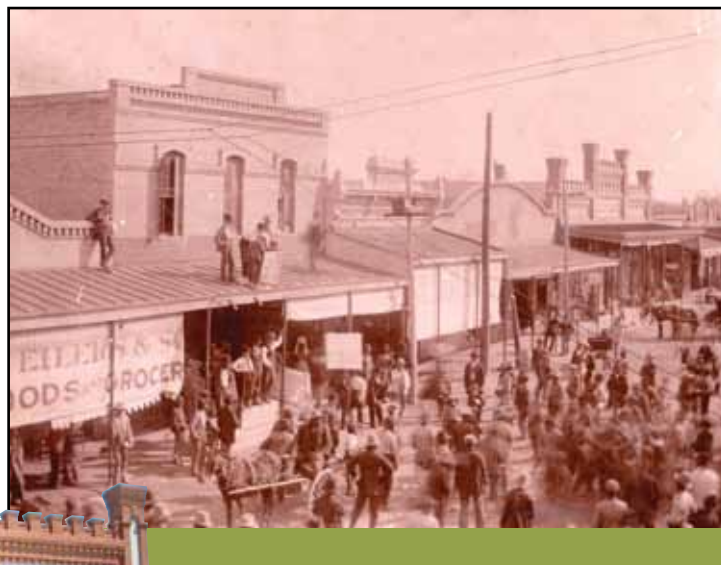
- An **organization** that capitalizes on community-wide engagement
- **Promotion** (festivals, image building, retail activities, and branding) that introduces the downtown experience to residents and visitors
- **Design** activities that capitalize on the Main Street district's unique physical characteristics and heritage
- **Economic restructuring** that identifies new market opportunities, new uses for historic buildings, and works to strengthen small businesses.

One of the most unique aspects of the program is the preservation ethic Main Street helps instill in a community through a grassroots, solution-oriented philosophy.

"Main Street in Texas is no longer a concept you have to explain to people like you did in the early years," says THC Deputy Executive Director Terry Colley, who served as a Main Street manager in the 1980s. "People understand what downtown revitalization can do—they have seen enough Main Street cities to know."

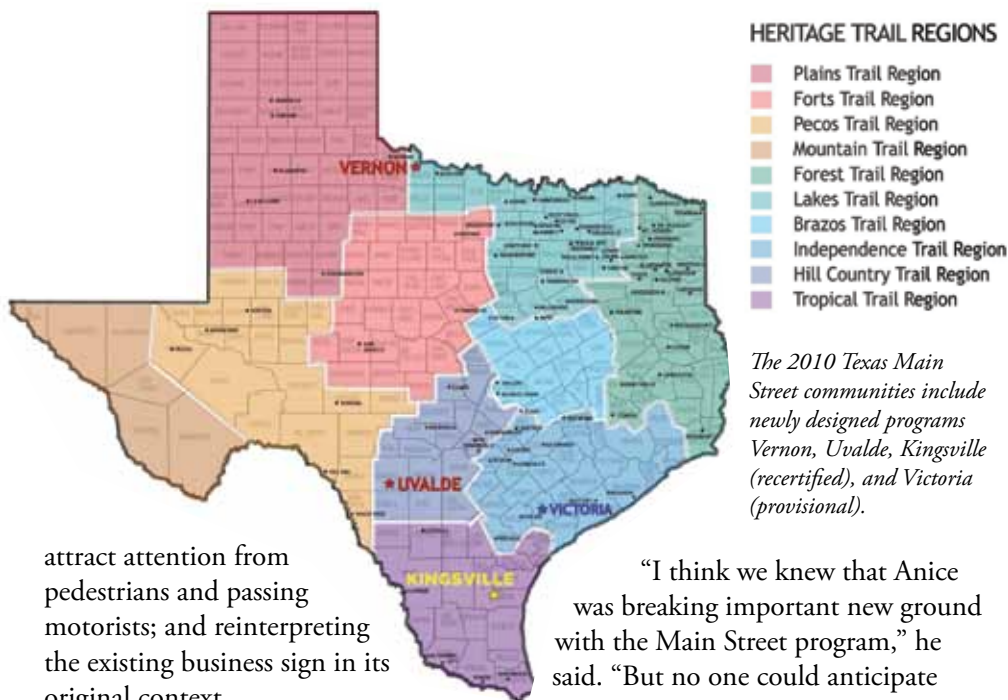
A successful project recently completed in Bastrop, a four-year Main Street community, helped refurbish the Baxters on Main restaurant (see photos at left). Constructed circa 1890, the building originally functioned as a grocery and dry goods business. Over time, the structure had been extensively modified. When TMSP design staff initially consulted on the project, they suggested the property owner should avoid further insensitive modifications. Their report recommended using traditional commercial building design elements in a thoughtful way that were respectful to the remaining historic fabric of the building.

Their specific suggestions included reintroducing the building's transom windows and storefront configuration; repairing the existing canopy and installing new support columns; installing signs on the underside of the canopy or the storefront glass to



Bastrop's Baxters on Main restaurant (at left) received design assistance from the Texas Main Street Program to return to its original 1890 appearance (at the far right in the above 1900 photo).





HERITAGE TRAIL REGIONS

- Plains Trail Region
- Forts Trail Region
- Pecos Trail Region
- Mountain Trail Region
- Forest Trail Region
- Lakes Trail Region
- Brazos Trail Region
- Independence Trail Region
- Hill Country Trail Region
- Tropical Trail Region

The 2010 Texas Main Street communities include newly designed programs Vernon, Uvalde, Kingsville (recertified), and Victoria (provisional).

attract attention from pedestrians and passing motorists; and reinterpreting the existing business sign in its original context.

There are many areas in which a community can independently work to create vitality for its historic downtown, whether or not it is through the Main Street network.

First, community members need to develop an understanding of historic preservation and how it can be effectively used as an economic development tool. Some preservation tools effectively used for downtown revitalization efforts include preservation ordinances and review commissions. There are also funding mechanisms authorized under the state's tax and local government codes that allow tax abatements, exemptions, and the use of economic development sales tax and hotel occupancy tax dollars to fund certain preservation efforts.

Second, it is essential to have a common vision for downtown. Coming to this vision is a beneficial journey that should involve the whole community because, as Colley notes, downtown ultimately belongs to everyone. "Partnerships are an important piece in the puzzle and are critical to the revitalization philosophy," he says.

Julian Read, the longtime husband of TMSP founder Anice Read and a current trustee of the Friends of the THC, reflects on the history of Main Street with pride and a touch of surprise.

"I think we knew that Anice was breaking important new ground with the Main Street program," he said. "But no one could anticipate the enormous long-term impact it would have across Texas and her rich legacy as its founder and guiding spirit for almost two decades. I am constantly amazed at how many people I see across the state who tell me how she touched their lives and their communities."

Adds Colley, "Texas has no idea how fortunate we were to have Anice as the one who started the program here. She knew how to motivate and inspire small communities and how to maneuver through the legislative process to establish the program here at the THC."

For the past 25 years, the TMSP has developed an important partnership with the Texas Downtown Association (TDA), a statewide membership organization for groups and individuals interested in downtown revitalization. The late Anice Read, who also served as a THC commissioner, founded both organizations.

Together, Texas Main Street and TDA have co-sponsored an annual statewide conference for those interested in downtown revitalization. The next conference will be November 1–4 in Nacogdoches, a 12-year designated Main Street program. ★

This article was written by Debra Farst, state coordinator of the Texas Main Street Program.

Becoming a Texas Main Street Community

The THC's website will be updated with information about potentially accepting new Main Street communities. In the past, applications have been considered under five criteria:

- **Historic commercial fabric and historic identity**—The historic significance of the proposed Main Street area and the interest in and commitment to historic preservation.
- **Community and private sector support and organizational capacity**—Demonstration of community and private sector support for the program, which shows the capability of the applicant to successfully implement the Main Street Program.
- **Public sector support and financial capacity**—Demonstration of public sector support and the financial capability to employ a full-time manager, fund a local Main Street Program, and support downtown-related projects.
- **Physical capacity**—The cohesiveness, distinctiveness, and variety of business activity conducted in the proposed Main Street Program area.
- **Demonstrated need**—The need for the Main Street Program and its expected impact on the city.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Program Marks Notable Structures and Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) program honors structures at least 50 years old that are judged worthy of preservation. It is therefore fitting that the RTHL's 50th anniversary celebration in 2012 will be marked by a significant milestone. In the coming year, the THC will collect and compile information from Texans to create a new and improved public database in time for the program's 50th anniversary celebration (see sidebar for more information).

The first structure to receive an RTHL medallion from the State Historical Survey Committee (now the THC) was the Eggleston House in Gonzales, a restored 1840s dog trot cabin designated on March 4, 1962.

Since then, the THC has awarded RTHL status to more than 3,600 worthy buildings and structures.

As the highest honor the State of Texas can bestow on a structure, the RTHL designation is intended to recognize the outstanding resources that meet all the qualifications for designation. The accompanying medallion serves as a visual affirmation of the designation, while also providing interpretation of the structure's history and architecture.

"When the first medallions were awarded, they were intended strictly as a way to identify Recorded Texas



Above: the Eggleston House in Gonzales (circa 1848) received the THC's first official medallion in 1962. At left: the 1941 Buffalo Courts in Canyon received RTHL designation in 2007.



Historic Landmarks to the public," says Bratten Thomason, director of the THC's History Programs Division. "However, these early designations granted no regulatory power to the agency."

The 1969 demolition of Brownsville's Convent of the Incarnate Word drove the THC to create more obvious and effective restrictions for the alteration of RTHL structures. In 1973, the Texas Legislature modified the THC's statute, solidifying these protective measures for RTHL structures. The new restrictions required that the THC be given 60-day notice prior

to any modification, relocation, or demolition of RTHL structures. It also allowed the THC to levy a daily fine for non-compliance.

In addition, the THC was given the authority to rescind the RTHL designation and require the return of the associated marker if any resulting modifications of the structure's exterior were deemed too drastic. The legislation does not give the THC the ability to restrict alterations or to prohibit relocation or demolition, but it does provide staff the opportunity to work with the property owner to develop a plan for a responsible and

effective restoration or rehabilitation that enables the structure to retain the RTHL designation.

The THC's new authority was first tested in fall 1974 when an Austin bank began demolition of the Reconstruction-era Shot Tower—which had been awarded an RTHL medallion in 1962—without first notifying the THC. However, after the district court denied the THC's injunction to halt demolition (on the argument that the 1973 legislation did not retroactively designate structures with previously awarded medallions), the THC took action to officially designate as RTHLs the 1,591 structures that had been awarded medallions prior to 1973.

As it stands today, historical designations such as RTHL can help trigger the project review process required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966). Section 106 of the act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and allows a state's historic preservation office, as well as the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an opportunity to comment. If the THC's records on a property are out of date or incomplete, an RTHL property might be overlooked during the planning or execution of a project, causing the context or physical integrity of the structure to be lost.

"In many cases, especially with structures designated in the early years of the program, the THC's documentation of RTHLs is limited, or has not been updated in decades," says Thomason.

The outdated documentation of the historic J.C. and Nancy Bryson Home in Williamson County was a contributing factor that led to the

information to update existing records, and the information will be made available to THC staff, consultants, and researchers on the THC's Texas Historic Sites Atlas.

The Texas Legislature's 1953 resolution creating the THC stated, "much source material is in danger of being lost, and many historical shrines in danger of being destroyed, unless



The Hofheintz-Reissig Store, an Austin grocery dating to the mid-1800s, was named an RTHL in 1983.

omission of the important site from a recent survey of the area. However, because the home's RTHL designation was later affirmed, property owners, developers, and planners may consider plans for the site that would better preserve its historic context.

In an effort to improve RTHL documentation, County Historical Commissions (CHCs) have been asked to coordinate inventories of RTHL structures in each county during 2011. THC staff will use the accumulated

the activities of all interested persons and agencies, public and private, are encouraged and coordinated."

Thomason adds, "The THC looks forward to continuing this mission by improving and promoting RTHL records. Ideally, all Texans will soon be able to access this information to appreciate and enjoy the real places that make our state so unique." ★

This article was written by Amanda Dyer of the THC's History Programs Division.

Nifty Fifty

Join us in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the RTHL designation.

THC Historical Markers Program staff members have worked during 2010 to evaluate and update the agency's existing data on RTHL structures and to create a simple inventory form to disseminate to CHCs. CHCs have been charged with developing and implementing a plan to inventory and photograph their county's RTHL structures and return the data to THC staff by the end of May 2011.

The remaining months of 2011 will be used by THC marker program staff to input the updated information provided by the CHCs, making it available to the public

on the THC website by 2012. A maintenance version of this inventory that CHCs can complete within their county on a regular schedule will also be implemented.

According to CHC Outreach Program Coordinator Amy Hammons, "CHC responsibilities, outlined in the Texas Local Government Code, include the directive to establish an assessment system for markers and designated properties, which is why CHCs are the perfect partner for this THC initiative."

CHCs are encouraged to invite other preservation groups, service organizations, and the public to participate in the inventory. If you would like to help with this important undertaking, contact the THC's Amanda Dyer at amanda.dyer@thc.state.tx.us, or your CHC.

ESCAPE TO El Paso

Growing Border City Hosts New Heritage Attractions and Residents

Recent headlines report El Paso has become the destination for thousands of Mexicans fleeing violence and instability. In response, the city has adapted to the influx by assisting with the newcomers' basic needs while providing a place for them to establish homes and businesses.

A century ago, the same stories were making the news, as thousands escaped the hostility and upheaval associated with the Mexican Revolution. The migration benefitted and burdened El Paso, but it ultimately played a vital role in shaping the city's cultural identity and heritage.

"The movement taking place today is mostly middle- and upper-class Mexicans who may have suffered harassment in some form—either at the hands of the drug cartels or the nameless gangs looking to exploit an already dire situation," explains Bernie Sargent, chairman of the El Paso County Historical Commission (CHC) and board president of the Texas Mountain Trail Region.

He adds that El Paso has once again experienced a tremendous growth spurt, leading to an increase in home sales, restaurants, and small businesses. "Just as in the revolution 100 years ago, our health care and education systems have taken on the weight of added numbers, but the newcomers' taxes help defer the cost to us El Pasoans," Sargent says.

These parallels tend to evoke discussion about the relationship between the U.S. and Mexico over the past several centuries,

particularly the connection between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, just across the Rio Grande. For most of their shared history, the sister cities have enjoyed a functional kinship, with residents and merchants passing over the bridges to visit and conduct business.

"For a long time, people came to El Paso so they could cross into Mexico for entertainment," recalls Jon Hansen, chairman of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and an El Paso native. "As a matter of fact, El Paso sold Juarez as part of the visitor package. That's certainly not the case anymore."

Hansen and Sargent note the city has recently developed an unfortunate reputation as an avoidable place due to its proximity to Juarez and the associated cartel-related violence. However, Sargent encourages travelers to visit, citing El Paso as one of the country's safest cities. (In 2010, the independent research firm CQ Press identified El Paso as the city with the lowest crime rate in the U.S. with a population of more than 500,000 residents.)

"We're trying to make El Paso a place to go to, not just a place to go through," Sargent says.

One of the ways the city has embraced this challenge is by commemorating its connection with Mexico. For nearly five years, local historians and civic leaders have been planning activities and developing materials associated with the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution. The decade-long



conflict, which officially began in November 1910, had a significant impact on border communities and El Paso, in particular.

According to Sargent, the city's population surge at the time was nearly identical to the current influx—upwards of 40,000 new residents—although the political motivations were decidedly different. The discontent in 1910 was tied to dictatorial policies and class warfare. The first Battle of Juarez in May 1911 prompted El Paso residents to take notice, while many Mexicans were prompted to take refuge across the border.

By 1912, 10,000 refugees were housed at Fort Bliss, El Paso's military base. Over the course of the Mexican Revolution, 50,000 servicemen, mostly from the National Guard, were stationed at Fort Bliss to help diffuse the violence. At this time, the fort also transformed from an infantry station to the largest cavalry post in the U.S., according to the Handbook of Texas.

One of the key figures of the Mexican Revolution, Francisco "Pancho" Villa, remains a source of intrigue for visitors and regional history enthusiasts. Villa, a Mexican revolutionary, had a notable presence in El Paso due to shared political leanings with some residents and especially for purchasing supplies from local merchants.

After the U.S. officially recognized an opposing regime in Mexico, Villa turned against Americans and occasionally directed violence their way. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered Villa to be captured, charging Fort Bliss-based Gen. John Joseph Pershing to initiate a punitive expedition to Mexico. Although Villa was never captured, Pershing's expedition is credited with dispersing the powerful Villistas (Villa's supporters) and defusing them as a threat to Americans along the border.

Exploring El Paso

Villa's activities and noteworthy roosts in El Paso are documented along with other significant buildings and events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution. The El Paso CHC erected several bilingual markers with photos throughout the city chronicling key activities, and co-produced a Mexican Revolution video and podcast (details available at www.elpasocountyhistory.com). Also, the city's Museums and Cultural Affairs Department helped develop a downtown walking tour and accompanying brochure

showcasing revolution-related sites (available at www.elpasotimes.com/ci_16524568).

The **Fort Bliss Museum and Study Center** (phone 915.568.3390, www.bliss.army.mil/museum/fort_bliss_museum.htm) contains buildings and exhibits featuring the fort's military heritage and its role in the Mexican



Opposite page: A THC marker in Franklin Mountains State Park. Above: Local heritage is displayed at the El Paso Museum of History. Left: Pioneer Plaza includes several buildings designed by El Paso architect Henry Trost. On the cover: The Presidio chapel in San Elizabet, El Paso County.

Revolution. Among the historical displays are artifacts and photos related to the conflict and the involvement of the

thousands of servicemen deployed to Fort Bliss at the time. Another permanent exhibit in El Paso dedicated to the Mexican Revolution is found at the **International Museum of Art** (915.543.6747, www.internationalmuseumofart.net). The facility includes an entire gallery highlighting the revolution and its impact on regional culture, including oil paintings, murals, clothing, currency, and Villa's "death mask."

The revolution is also featured at the **El Paso Museum of History** (915.351.3588, www.elpasotexas.gov/history), which relocated to a new two-story building several years ago. In addition to the informative displays and historic photos related to El Paso's role in the Mexican Revolution, the museum offers numerous eye-catching maps as well as interactive exhibits (including computer touch screens with video clips and a pop-culture trivia game), audio stations with recordings related to significant entrepreneurs, and hands-on architectural activities for students.

Several blocks away, another important aspect of El Paso's history is showcased at the **Railroad & Transportation Museum** (915.422.3420, www.elpasorails.org). According to local historians, the railroad's arrival in 1881 is considered the most significant factor in El Paso's development over the past century, bringing commerce from east-west and north-south. Its legacy is featured at the museum with a remarkable collection of historic photos and its main attraction, a rare restored 1857 steam engine used by the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad.

The impact of the railroads remains evident in El Paso's downtown, which retains much of its historic fabric. Despite signs of neglect, numerous blocks of buildings from the late 1800s and early 1900s stand as testament to the city's first major population surge. Although many of the structures can be visually unappealing at street level due to merchant shops hawking discount wares, a glance upward to the buildings' second floors (and beyond) reveals impressive architectural detailing and regional influences.

"There's still much work to be done downtown, but progress continues and there's been great sensitivity to the historic fabric," says Gary Williams, a local historian and senior program officer with the El Paso Community Foundation. "The 1910 Mills Building has been beautifully restored, the Centre Building (1912 White House Department Store/Hotel McCoy) has been further renovated, and the Plaza Hotel will be undertaken down the road. There are a lot of good things happening in downtown El Paso."

Williams' organization was instrumental in preserving one of the city's most prominent historic buildings, the 1930 **Plaza Theatre** (915.534.0600, www.theplazatheatre.org). Advertised as the largest theater of its kind between Dallas and Los Angeles, the Plaza boasted a capacity of nearly 2,400 and was known for its intricate interior design and pioneering technological features (the elevating, sonically

Just across the street from the Plaza is the distinguished 1912 **Camino Real** hotel (originally known as Hotel Paso del Norte, 115 S. El Paso St.), designed by renowned regional architect Henry Trost. A glimpse inside the lobby area reveals rich architectural detailing, grand light fixtures, and the hotel's centerpiece—a 25-foot diameter Tiffany stained-glass dome. Trost designed several other notable El Paso buildings, including the adjacent towering 1930 **Plaza Hotel** (the first high-rise Hilton Hotel, 106 Mills Ave.), the nearby Spanish-Moorish-style 1914 **Palace Theater** (originally known as the Alhambra Theater, 209 S. El Paso St.), and the stately **El Paso High School** (1600 N. Virginia St.).

Trost also designed several buildings on the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) campus, most notably the Bhutanese-styled 1917 **Old Main** (500 W. University Ave.), a design approach suggested by the then-dean's wife, who was inspired by a feature on Bhutan in *National Geographic*. The building, featuring a wide overhanging roof, sloped walls, and decorative brickwork, now boasts a THC Recorded Texas Historical Landmark marker.

Also on campus is the 1936 **Centennial Museum**

(915.747.5565, www.museum.utep.edu), containing exhibits dedicated to regional heritage, ethnology, and culture. One of the most engaging displays, recently designed by a UTEP alumni, showcases local geology and the school's history as the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy. According to museum curator Scott Cutler, the facility is also expanding its museum studies program, allowing UTEP students to assist with exhibits and design.

Further outside of downtown near the Socorro community is **Rio Vista Farm** (800 N. Rio Vista Rd.), a 1917 "poor farm" that hosted public welfare programs during the Great Depression and sheltered thousands of abandoned children and indigent adults. Trost also played a role in



Top: The 1930 Plaza Hotel, Hilton's first high-rise hotel, will soon be rehabilitated. Right: The St. Ignatius Catholic Church is in the historic Segundo Barrio neighborhood. Bottom: A Luis Jimenez sculpture greets El Paso Museum of Art visitors.

“Our city may be far away from folks in other parts of the state, but there are some pretty remarkable things in El Paso that you won’t find anywhere else in Texas. It’s worth the drive just to experience the real stories of our unique history—it’s really a wonderful place to behold.”

—Jon Hansen
THC Chairman and El Paso native

innovative Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, in particular). Thanks to a successful fundraising campaign and a grant from the THC's Texas Preservation Trust Fund, the theater was spared the wrecking ball in the 1980s and continues to host cultural events in its intricately restored auditorium.



designing the structures, which are included in the Rio Vista Farm National Historic District and remain remarkably well preserved.

“This is one of the more extant county poor farms you’ll see anywhere,” Williams notes. “It’s especially impressive because so much of the landscape is preserved due to the protected cotton farms surrounding it. You get a pretty accurate sense of what life was like here in the early 1900s.”

Nearby is the nationally significant **Mission Trail**, a collection of three extraordinary adobe mission buildings with ties to 17th- and 18th-century settlements. The missions and their associated cultural attractions, including the Tigua Indian Reservation, merit more attention than available in this limited space. For more information, consult www.epcounty.com/history/missiontrail.htm or the May/June 2005 *Medallion*.

Another noteworthy heritage attraction outside downtown is the **El Paso Museum of Archeology** (915.755.4332, www.elpasotexas.gov/arch_museum), showcasing the intriguing history of Native American tribes from the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico

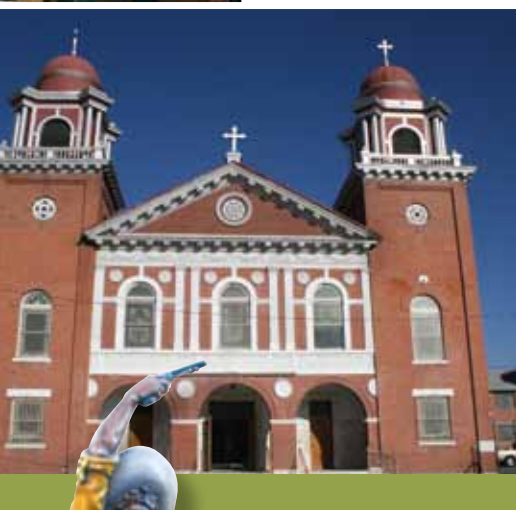
in dioramas, artifacts, and pottery. Exhibits trace the stories of these groups from their Paleoindian past to modern-day traditions. Surrounding the building is a 15-acre garden boasting more than 200 species representing the Chihuahuan Desert’s impressive biodiversity.

Next door, the **National Border Patrol Museum** (915.759.6060, www.borderpatrolmuseum.com) features vehicles, weapons, and equipment associated with this regionally significant federal agency. With artifacts and documents dating to the area’s Wild West, Prohibition,

and World War II eras, the museum proudly claims to be the only facility of its kind in the U.S.

“Our city may be far away from folks in other parts of the state, but there are some pretty remarkable things in El Paso that you won’t find anywhere else in Texas,” Hansen says. “It’s worth the drive just to experience the real stories of our unique history—it’s really a wonderful place to behold.”

For additional information about heritage tourism destinations in the area, order a free copy of the THC’s *Texas Mountain Trail Region* travel guide by calling 866.276.6219 or visiting www.texasimetravel.com.



Article and photos by Andy Rhodes, managing editor of The Medallion.



The Magoffin Home’s doors will be closed in 2011, though several visitor services remain available.



Mending Magoffin

The Magoffin Home, one of the THC’s 20 historic sites, is among El Paso’s most-visited heritage tourism attractions. However, visitors should note the Territorial-style adobe home is undergoing much-needed rehabilitations and will be closed until January 2012.

The project includes installing a new roof, repairing wood framing around the doors and windows, replacing shutters, and other building renovations. Additionally, sidewalk replacement and property re-grading are expected to eliminate the site’s drainage problems.

“This is a difficult yet necessary project that has to be done to preserve this significant adobe building, so we’re asking locals and visitors to bear with us during the restoration,” says Leslie Bergloff, site manager. “The Magoffin Home is a treasure worth investing in, and we’re glad to be able to devote efforts and resources to preserving it for the benefit of many future generations of El Pasoans.”

Bergloff adds that the site’s archives are still accessible for researchers, and she is available for off-site programs to school groups and community organizations. For more information, contact her at 915.533.5147 or leslie.bergloff@thc.state.tx.us.

Crafting Skills

THC's Courthouse Preservation Program Preserves More Than Historic Structures

During the past two centuries, handcrafted items and their related trades have steadily diminished in favor of the efficiency and low costs of machine-made products. Today, especially in societies where technology is admired for its precision and speed, it's often difficult to find craftspeople who have skills that were once relatively common.

Since its inception, the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program has helped revive countless crafts and trades. In the process, many highly skilled artists and craftspeople have emerged from across the state.

Due to their monumental nature, historic Texas courthouses comprise a larger quantity of unique architectural details, materials, and ornament types than most other buildings contain. Carved stone and wood, metal work, ornamental plaster and paint, flat-lime gypsum plaster, masonry, millwork, stained glass, and tower clocks comprise some of the more obvious elements, but there are other examples of more obscure crafts found throughout these buildings.

Artisans claim the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program has enhanced their businesses, allowing them to work entirely within the state. For many, the program provides the vast majority of their work.

"Ninety-nine percent of my historical work has come through the THC's courthouse preservation program," says metalworker Brad Oldham, who has recreated statuary and hardware for several courthouse projects. He recalls the complicated replication of custom glazes for hearth

tiles in the Donley County Courthouse. The original tile was created with leaded glazes (which can no longer be used), making replication of the historic colors a challenge.

Artisans throughout Texas have devoted much effort to mastering their crafts, and they are respected for their patience and commitment to otherwise-dying arts. Historically, training for these crafts was obtained through apprenticeships. Today, there are primarily two categories of craftspeople—those who learned from hands-on work with an older master (often a family member), and those who learned through a training program at a trade school, college, or university. Some individuals experience an unforeseen transition to artisanship from an unrelated career.

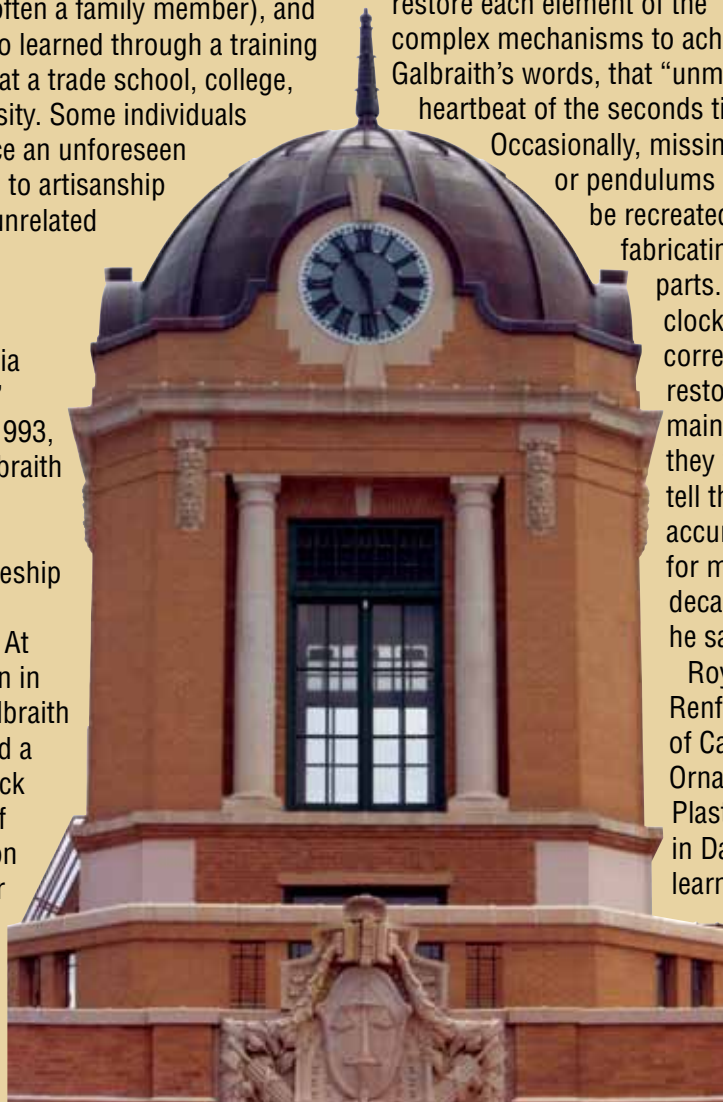
After receiving an Ansonia "General" clock in 1993, Gene Galbraith entered a six-year apprenticeship with Ray McGuire. At an auction in 1997, Galbraith purchased a tower clock in need of restoration and never turned back. He has since

been involved in the restoration of five historic Texas courthouse tower clocks, and in 2008 opened the Southwest Museum of Clocks and Watches in Lockhart where he trains apprentices interested in entering his field.

Through his work on courthouse projects, Galbraith expects 50 percent of his business to shift toward Texas courthouse tower clock restorations. He removes and transports grimy, lifeless courthouse tower clockworks to his studio in Lockhart, where he and his apprentices individually restore each element of the complex mechanisms to achieve, in Galbraith's words, that "unmistakable heartbeat of the seconds ticking."

Occasionally, missing gears or pendulums must be recreated by fabricating new parts. If these clocks are correctly restored and maintained, they will tell the time accurately for many decades, he said.

Royce Renfro of Casci Ornamental Plaster in Dallas learned about



his craft from Giovanni Casci, who emigrated from Italy through Ellis Island in 1921 at age 15. After training in Chicago with his uncle, Casci opened his own plaster business in Dallas. Renfro, an air traffic controller, eventually purchased the business and asked Casci if he would stay on for one year to train him. Today, Renfro can count among his many accomplishments recreating the highly decorative plaster missing from the Harrison County district courtroom.

Jhonny Langer of Galveston's paint conservation studio "Source" has worked on several THC courthouse projects. Langer learned his craft through formal education in fine art at the San Francisco Art Institute, and he later trained in museology at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy. Langer held apprenticeships with a master gilder and mask maker during his time away from the museum.

One of the more ubiquitous crafts found in nearly every historic courthouse is ornamental painting. Painted decoration revealed in historic Texas courthouses comes in the forms of stenciling and free-form decorative and faux painting on plaster, metal, and wood. This painting is also found on vault doors (finished in the factory with hand-painted pastoral scenes), graphic designs, and gold lettering.

The three main steps in paint conservation are: uncover the original paint and designs, determine whether the existing paint can be preserved, and recreate what's missing. Paint finishes on steel vault doors pose a unique challenge to paint conservators. According to Michael Van Enter of Van Enter Studios in Dallas, the behavior of paint on metal is quite different from paint



Texas artisans provide needed skills for courthouse restoration projects, including the ornamental paint, glass, and ironwork conservation work at the 1901 Harrison County Courthouse (at left and above), and the 1912 Cooke County Courthouse tower clock (opposite page).

on other substrates. This is due to the relatively volatile nature of metal surfaces, which can make historic paint preservation more complex. While preserving and restoring the decorative paint finishes on vault doors in courthouses across the state, Van Enter has used his experiences of restoring motorcycles and metal sculpture conservation to fully comprehend how paint reacts with metal and how metals react with one another.

Preservation of historic craftwork often poses unique challenges that only masters of specialized trades can tackle. After salvaging glass from a church in Floresville more than 20 years ago, Cavallini Studios provided a perfect match for green glass replacement in the Cameron County Courthouse. Adrian Cavallini and his father, who emigrated from Italy in 1949, were especially careful when removing, transporting, and reinstalling the stained glass panels.

Due to their proportion and length, the panels required the construction of custom crates.

"Preserving historic architecture and restoring its ornamental elements requires highly skilled artisans with specific expertise to analyze and restore or recreate these elements," says Stan Graves, director of the THC's Architecture Division. "As a result, their work supports many trades that would otherwise decline and eventually disappear." Graves adds that when the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program assisted its first courthouse restorations in 1999, THC staff and project consultants struggled to find the craftspeople needed to perform the work on these projects.

"Today, experts can be found in every trade right here in Texas," he says. ★

This article was written by Susan Gammage of the THC's Architecture Division.

Texas Archeology Month Draws More Than 47,000 Participants

Interest in Texas' cultural heritage is thriving throughout the state, as evidenced in October 2010, when more than 47,000 people in 70 cities and 60 counties participated in Texas Archeology Month (TAM) events and related activities.

According to TAM hosts who responded to a recent survey administered by the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the final attendance count for 2010 was 47,253. Despite a few last-minute cancellations caused by unforeseen problems and postponements by groups who moved their archeology salutes to the spring, this is a much higher figure than numbers reported in 2009 (24,487) and 2008 (31,842). In addition, a number of TAM hosts did not respond to the survey, leaving the attendance at a number of TAM activities and exhibits that appeared in the 2010 TAM Calendar unaccounted for in this year's tally.

According to the survey, about half (52.6 percent) of the respondents hosted and/or sponsored a TAM event without a partner; 35.4 percent of the events were hosted by two or three groups; and the rest were hosted by more than three groups. One group listed more than 12 hosts or cosponsors and three listed six, showing the level of community involvement required to organize some of these events.

Rolando Garza, who serves as the integrated resource manager at the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in Brownsville, wrote, "This event (the Fourth Annual

International Rio Grande Delta Archeology Fair) is cosponsored by the Historic Brownsville Museum and Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park. We have up to a dozen archeologists, museums, and other entities from South Texas and northeastern Mexico that participate in the event by providing displays and demonstrations designed to enlighten the visitor about the science of archeology, regional archeological resources, and the need for resource preservation."

When broken down into categories, this year's TAM observance included lectures, speakers, presentations, or workshops (44.7 percent); archeology fairs, festivals, or thematic events (35.5 percent); special TAM-related displays (22.3 percent); special activities such as mock digs (22.3 percent); daylong or weeklong archeology celebrations (21 percent); permanent exhibits (13.1 percent); open-house events (3.9 percent); and conferences or annual meetings (1.3 percent). This particular survey question, which allowed respondents to select more than one category,



Above: During Fort Griffin's Living History Days, Sharon Baird shucks corn while providing an overview of the work involved in producing a meal in the 1870s. Left: The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon conducted a walking tour of the site of the Second Battle of Adobe Walls, the catalyst for the Red River War.

provided an open-ended portion that gave interesting insights. Activities listed here included school tours at various venues, presentations at schools, archeology site tours, cemetery walking tours, extended

Stewardship Network as well as THC archeologists and other staff members participated in the 2010 TAM celebration. They helped organize events, gave presentations, consulted with event hosts, and provided hands-on

“(Thanks to THC staff) for all the effort invested in this important activity. It is resulting in increased awareness and increased preservation efforts.”

— *Linda Pelon*

Anthropology and History Instructor, McLennan Community College

museum hours, and the premiere of a film on Alibates flint.

In addition to the hundreds of volunteers around the state who helped organize TAM events in their individual communities, members of the THC's Texas Archeological

assistance on the day of the event. Also in 2010, nine of the 20 THC historic sites hosted or organized a TAM event. This included 13 events and three permanent exhibits as well as several lectures given by THC historic site staff at other groups' events.

In thanking THC staff members “for all the effort invested in this important activity,” Linda Pelon, McLennan Community College anthropology and history instructor, added that this work “is resulting in increased awareness and increased preservation efforts” in her area (Waco).

Marilyn Guida, curator of education at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, added her own kudos. “Congratulations on a successful year culminating in a fabulous month of archeology,” she said.

TAM is coordinated by the THC in association with the Texas Archeological Society, the Council of Texas Archeologists, and numerous groups and organizations across the state. ★

This article was written by María de la Luz Martínez of the THC's Archeology Division.



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Preservation Texas Announces 2011 Most Endangered Historic Places

Preservation Texas (PT) officials announced 10 sites as this year's Most Endangered Historic Places. The February 9 announcement at the State Capitol in Austin revealed a unique collection reflecting Texas' cultural heritage, geography, history, and architecture.

The following 10 places were selected because they represent the most eminent needs and highest probability for positive action:

- Blas Herrera Ranch, Bexar County
- Noah Cox House, 101 Main St. in Roma, Starr County
- Duval County Courthouse, 400 E. Gravis Ave. in San Diego, Duval County
- Lodge Building, 441 E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd. in Waxahachie, Ellis County
- Lubbock Post Office and Federal Building, 800 Broadway St. in Lubbock, Lubbock County
- Mulkey Theatre, 108 S. Kearney St. in Clarendon, Donley County
- Olivewood Cemetery, 1300 Court St. in Houston, Harris County
- Piano Bridge in Schulenburg, Fayette County
- Roma-Cuidad Miguel Aleman International Suspension Bridge in Roma, Starr County
- Santa Fe Railway Depot, 954 College Ave. in Snyder, Scurry County

For more information, visit www.preservationtexas.org or call 512.472.0102.

THC Updates Cemetery Designation Form

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Historic Texas Cemetery Request for Designation form has been updated and is now available at www.thc.state.tx.us/cemeteries/cemhtc.shtml. The form is offered in the following formats: a PDF document that can

be printed and completed manually, and a Microsoft Word document that can be completed electronically.

Additional enhancements include elimination of duplicate information, addition of veteran categories, and clarification of requested information. Beginning March 1, the new form will be required for all Historic Texas Cemetery designation requests (applications currently in process will continue to be accepted).

One of the most significant enhancements is the option of electronic submission. Forms, photos, and other documentation may now be emailed or submitted via CD.

"We believe these upgrades will encourage more cemetery designations and make the process clearer, faster, and more user-friendly," says Anne Shelton, the THC's cemetery preservation coordinator.

Please contact Annette Bethke at annette.bethke@thc.state.tx.us or 512.463.1305 with questions about the new form or the designation process.

Utley Honored by Texas Oral History Association

The Texas Oral History Association (TOHA) recently awarded Dan K. Utley with its prestigious Thomas L. Charlton Lifetime Achievement Award.

Utley joined the TOHA in 1986 and has served as the organization's president, vice president, and on the editorial board of the TOHA journal *Sound Historian*. Utley's work has been honored by the Texas State Historical Association, which named him a Fellow in 2008, and by the East Texas Historical Association, with its Best of East Texas Award in 2008 and its Ralph W. Steen Award in 2009.

Utley spent many years as a historian with the THC, and, along with former colleague Cynthia Beeman, released a book in 2010 based on his experience with the historical marker program titled *History Ahead: Stories beyond the Texas Roadside Markers*.



Celebrate San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment

The annual San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment will be held April 16 from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site in La Porte, 20 miles east of downtown Houston. The event is free to the public.

This year's festival will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the iconic battle that won Texas' independence by offering living history camps, period demonstrations, family entertainment, and children's activities. In the afternoon, historical reenactors will gather at the San Jacinto Battleground to stage the state's largest battle reenactment. Attendees are also encouraged to visit the San Jacinto Museum of History's exhibits, take the 489-foot ride to the top of the monument, and view the digital presentation "Texas Forever!!"

For more information about this event or the San Jacinto Museum of History, call 281.479.2421 or visit www.sanjacinto-museum.org. ★

National Register News

The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of cultural resources deemed worthy of preservation, including more than 3,000 listings in Texas. The following recently listed historic properties represent the real stories reflecting Texas' cultural heritage.



*Photograph by Nicky Defreese for Quimby McCoy
Preservation Architecture*

Nash Farm—Grapevine, Tarrant County

The Thomas J. and Elizabeth Nash Farm is one of the last remaining agrarian properties in Grapevine, and includes a restored circa-1867 I-plan house, a barn, and a family cemetery on a five-acre site. The Nash Family settled in Tarrant County in 1859 and continued to own and farm this acreage until the late 1920s. The house underwent a combined restoration and interpretation program beginning in 2006 and is now operated as a historic site by the City of Grapevine and Grapevine Heritage Foundation.

Nicolas Street School—Uvalde, Uvalde County

The 1938 Nicolas Street School is the only standing property directly associated with segregated African American education in Uvalde. The simple two-classroom brick building made a significant contribution to the education of African American children in Uvalde through 1955, when the Uvalde school district integrated its schools.



Photograph by Susan Anderson

Other recent National Register listings include Bee County's **Lott-Canada School** (Beeville), Harris County's **Near Northside Historic District** (Houston), Hays County's **Donalson House** (Kyle) and **Lane House** (Wimberley), Hunt County's **Washington Hotel** (Greenville), Nueces County's **Sherman Building** (Corpus Christi), Potter County's **Triangle Motel** (Amarillo), and Tarrant County's **Miller Manufacturing Co.** (Fort Worth).

THC's Historic Sites Journey to New Heights

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has accomplished significant milestones at each of the historic sites under its direction since the 81st Legislature transferred 18 sites to the agency in January 2008. The agency's Historic Sites Division has addressed pressing issues identified by the Legislature, including preserving historic resources, improving the visitor experience, and connecting with local and statewide audiences through enhanced communication and outreach programs.

Caring for the physical needs of its historic resources has been a primary concern for the THC. Many of the sites, including the Sam Bell Maxey House, Magoffin Home, and Starr Family Home, have major re-stabilization and restoration projects underway to preserve these historic buildings. The Eisenhower Birthplace was also

repainted in 2010, restoring its exterior to pristine condition. In addition, more than 800 boxes of material from associated archeological research at the historic sites were transferred to the THC, which has undertaken a long-term project to evaluate, stabilize, repack, and catalog the thousands of artifacts contained in each box.

In order to increase public accessibility to the sites, the THC increased operating hours, receiving a significant boost in visitation since the transfer. With added maintenance and operations staff, the sites have facilitated more than 200 repair and improvement projects, including building renovations, new restroom facilities, dead tree and underbrush removal, and fencing replacements.

New, consistent wayfinding signs at each site will effectively identify the THC's role and provide clear directions

and information for visitors. Existing buildings at Varner-Hogg Plantation and San Felipe de Austin were renovated as visitors centers to provide additional guest services and informative exhibits.

From the prehistory of the Caddo people to Sam Rayburn's tenure as a congressional leader, the THC's historic sites contain an impressive array

of real stories. The interpretation and presentation of their histories requires research, planning, and creativity to communicate their importance in Texas. An energetic program to develop new exhibits, including the installation of new visitors center exhibits and exterior signage at Fort Griffin, has been underway since 2008. These planning initiatives involve members of the local communities, scholars, and THC staff to identify specific stories for public education and programs.

Communications efforts at the historic sites have transformed public outreach and offered information through a variety of mediums. A suite of 19 websites was launched in 2009, offering extensive visitor and educational information. Additionally, a quarterly e-newsletter promotes the sites' annual events and the See the Sites blog (seethesites.blogspot.com) is dedicated to telling the real stories behind these real places. New printed materials, including visitors guides and maps, are also currently available at most sites.

"Much has been accomplished at the historic sites over the past three years, but a great deal more remains to be done," says Historic Sites Division Director Donna Williams. She noted that major restoration projects for eight properties are in design, and new visitors centers and expansion of existing facilities are planned for five sites in the next biennium. "We've come a long way in a short amount of time, and we plan to continue preserving and promoting these 20 historic sites well into the future." ★

This article was written by THC staff.



Major re-stabilization projects are underway at several of the THC's historic sites, including the Magoffin Home in El Paso (above). Although the popular site is currently closed for restoration work, it is expected to reopen in early 2012.



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County Historical Commission TIPS & TOOLS

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) hosts workshops across the state each year, and many County Historical Commissions (CHC) supplement these regional educational opportunities with their own preservation training. These activities often feature the expertise of CHC members or from an experienced outside source.

CHC Outreach staff members have fielded several inquiries about providing local preservation events and would like to share the following tips to assist CHC members in this worthy pursuit:

- Determine if your proposed subject matter is needed or if it interests your CHC or community; consider providing material that is beneficial to a broad audience.
- Check with THC staff and the agency's web calendar to see if educational opportunities already exist in your county or region.
- Coordinate the timing of your training with other local or regional events; this allows you to support your partners' events and for them to support yours.
- Attend regional events when possible. THC marker workshops are held annually across the state; if an

event is offered in a nearby county this year, the following year's workshops may be farther away.

- Use the CHC listserv and speak with other CHCs to find out about preservation expertise in your region.

- When using a non-THC speaker, supplement the presentation with THC information. Visit our agency's website

or contact a THC staffer to secure the latest flyers and handouts that relate to the topics.

- Remember that policies and procedures regarding program and grant applications change annually; make sure you are working with current application documents and that your speaker has an

effective and current track record with using these documents.

- When using a non-THC speaker be sure to check his or her qualifications; longevity with a particular resource or topic does not ensure a quality speaker.

- Check references for people, projects, and products before recommending them to others.

Please remember to contact CHC Outreach with any of your questions and concerns. Our program exists to help you empower your CHC and provide preservation education to your community.



Houston CHC members worked with the THC on an archeology survey to locate the site of Trinidad de Salcedo. The THC is among the Houston CHC's many partners offering education and training for their appointees and county.

CORRECTION: An article about a proposed historic highways program in the Jan/Feb 2011 issue of *The Medallion* erroneously referred to a portion of road between Terrell and Dallas as eventually becoming part of the Bankhead Highway (instead of the Dixie Overland Highway). It also incorrectly attributed this information to Jerry Flook, a historical researcher.



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Want a clue? Located in the Texas Forest Trail Region, this 1940s downtown structure is currently being restored as a live music venue.

Answer to the photo from the last issue: The 1884 Red River County Courthouse in

Clarksville—restored through the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program—is located in a residential area several blocks away from the downtown business center.

Congratulations to the first three readers who submitted the correct answer: Mayme Brown of Woodville, Jim Clark of Clarksville, and Carolyn Waters of Hereford. They will receive prizes from our Texas Heritage Trails Program, the THC's regional tourism initiative, as a token of our appreciation for taking part in the fun. Thanks to all participants! ★

