

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

THE **MEDALLION**



SUMMER 2012



*Head  
Home*

to Historic Sites  
in North Texas



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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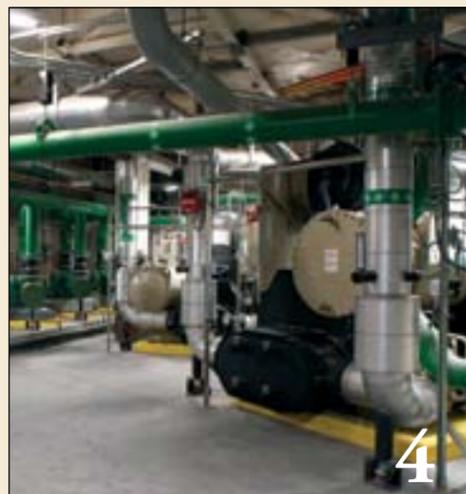
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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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ON THE COVER: The entrance to the THC's Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site in Denison (photo by Andy Rhodes).

FAST FACTS

The THC's preservation programs are significant economic catalysts throughout the state.

TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

Total Direct Travel Spending*	Heritage Traveler Spending*	Jobs Created*
\$63.4 BILLION	\$6.3 BILLION	53,200 *2011 Travel Facts

*The Medallion Is 50!*

THC Magazine Now Eligible for its Own Medallion

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, The Medallion



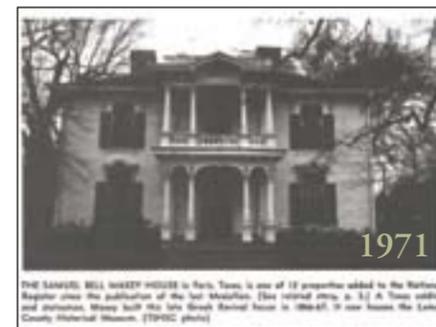
Take a stroll through *The Medallion's* archives across five decades (clockwise, from above).



1997  
Annie Reed (left), THC member Shirley Caldwell and THC Chairman John Nau are greeted by Texas First Lady Laura Bush at the Governor's Mansion.



1980  
MR. SAUVAGE, the famous Cadillac Fleetwood given to Sam Rayburn by Congressional Democrats in 1947, is again being the featured piece in Houston, Texas. It is a permanent part of the Sam Rayburn House Museum, the state recently spent some months in Dallas undergoing renovation. The car appeared in Southern Living magazine, Star Line, and preservationists were the first to see it. It was purchased by the state in 1980 and is now on display at the Sam Rayburn House Museum in Houston, Texas.



1971  
THE SANGRE DE LOS TOROS HOUSE in Paris, Texas, is one of 18 properties added to the National Register since the publication of the first Medallion. (See related story on p. 12) A Texas saddle and blanket, many built the late Great Western Hotel in 1864. It now houses the Lamar County Historical Museum. (THC photo)

Volume 1, Issue 1 of *The Medallion* is lost to history, but the first issue in the Texas Historical Commission's archives is likely representative. Dated November 1968, five years after the premiere issue, it boasts a mimeographed look on thin guacamole-colored paper. A subhead in the title block announces "A monthly newsletter for chairmen of county historical survey committees." Preservation news in Texas has evolved in the past 50 years, with a strong focus on design and reporting of information. A retrospective look through 50 years of *Medallion*

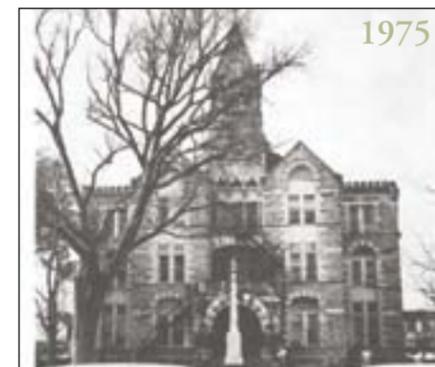


1986  
A Short Course on Historical Marker Types



1975  
NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSION OFFICERS and Executive Director Thurlil Lohman at the dedication of the Sam Rayburn House Museum April 11. Standing right to left are Thurlil Lohman, Matthew M. Broussard Jr., Matthew A.J. THC Chairman, from Austin; Martha W. Stewart (left), from Waco; THC Vice Chairman, from Austin; and Philip C. Brown, THC Secretary, from St. Paul.

archives inspires a sense of proud continuity. For five decades, *The Medallion* has showcased the Texans who have worked tirelessly to promote worthy projects representing the state's enduring cultural legacy.



1975  
COUNTY OFFICIALS are honoring the original windows in the 1880 Fannin County Courthouse in La Grange instead of installing new aluminum windows. The preservationists' efforts are cited in the National Register.



1978  
Marine Archeologists Probe for Shipwrecks



Early Chairmen 1959-1985  
1960s  
1970s  
1980s  
Meet our new chairman @ www.thc.state.tx.us

# Invisible Sustainability

## Hidden Environmental Practices Benefit Texas' Historic Structures

By Bess Graham  
THC Architect

While sustainability has swept through the architectural community with much fanfare, many of these same principles have quietly crept into Texas' historic restoration and rehabilitation projects. In particular, two exemplary projects have received high marks, not only for painstaking preservation of public buildings, but also for meeting stringent sustainability goals in the process.

Both projects—San Antonio's 1937 downtown post office and Houston's 1926 central library—received extensive reviews by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. These standards outline the 10 principles that safeguard the character-defining features of historic buildings, encourage material repair rather than replacement, and discourage irreversible changes. These projects also conformed to the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system. This system scores projects using measurable goals for sustainable sites, water conservation, energy conservation, materials selection and reuse, indoor environmental quality, and innovation. Credits in these areas lead to rankings from Certified, Silver, Gold, and the highest level, Platinum.

The National Park Service's recently revised sustainability guidelines offer a fresh challenge to the assumption that only new buildings meet environmental standards. Ongoing scientific research by the Preservation Green Lab, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, proves that rehabilitating existing buildings is one of the



At right: San Antonio's 1937 post office building maintains its historical elements (above) while incorporating modern sustainable design.

most effective ways to reverse climate change, conserve resources, improve human health, and preserve natural ecosystems.

"Research shows that many building rehabilitations actually perform better than their similarly designed new counterparts when factors like demolition waste are taken into account," says Elizabeth Brummett, the THC's state coordinator for project review.

For example, Brummett cites the renewal of San Antonio's downtown 1937 post office, which began as a phased project in 2004 and is planned for completion this summer. Now known as the Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, this imposing 308,000-square-foot Beaux-Arts landmark received full review by THC staff. The review is required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act because the property is federally owned.

The building was originally designed by San Antonio architect Ralph Haywood Cameron in association with Philadelphia architect Paul Philippe Cret under the auspices of the U.S. Treasury Department. Conservators previously restored the stunning 16-panel mural by noted artist Howard Cook. The \$56 million project is on track to receive a LEED Gold rating.

"This project succeeded because the building was already green," says Steve Kline, regional historic preservation officer for the Greater Southwest Region of the General Services Administration.

Kline also points out the building's climate-responsive features were critical in gaining the LEED rating due to a thorough understanding of the building's inherent strengths by the architectural team (San Antonio-based Ford, Powell & Carson, and Trivers Associates of St. Louis, Mo.).

For example, Kline notes the original steel windows were encased with new interior storm windows to upgrade their performance, similar to modern double-pane glazing. Under frosted glass shades, historic light fixtures were retrofitted with fluorescent bulbs. The overall office configuration maximizes natural light, views, and ventilation.

The building also hosts many other green features with no visible impact on public areas, including a large photovoltaic array on the roof, solar hot-water heating, electric charging stations in the parking garage, condensate water recycling for irrigating drought-tolerant plants, and a vegetated roof system at the base of the existing light well.

Another example of effective restoration and sustainability is in downtown Houston, where the re-opening of the 1926 central library, now called the Julia Ideson Building, provided a unique architectural

opportunity. Plans for the opulent Spanish Renaissance structure, originally designed by Boston architect Ralph Adams Cram, included a multi-story wing that was never built.

Resurrecting this 21,500-square-foot wing as the new state-of-the-art archive became essential to the \$32 million restoration project by the architectural team at the Gensler firm. The combination of old and new construction allowed the team to fully restore more historic space, such as the reading room, which had previously been used for storage.

"I don't remember there ever being a clash between sustainability and preservation," Brummett says. "That's what happens when architects are familiar with both philosophies."

The project is currently on target to receive a LEED Silver rating, due in part to the intrinsic features of the building and its location, including cork flooring, daylight, views, and re-creation of an outdoor reading garden that had once been a neglected back-of-house space.

The THC has been involved with this project from the beginning, due to state



landmark designations placed on the site and federal funding through the Save America's Treasures program.

The joint efforts of environmentalists and preservationists are growing, not only on grand landmark buildings, but also more utilitarian buildings of recent vintage.

Mission Verde Center at Cooper, sponsored by the City of San Antonio, used a \$1 million federal energy conservation grant to enhance the former James Fenimore Cooper Middle School on the city's West Side. The school has become a multipurpose education, training, and research center for renewable and energy-efficient technologies. While retaining the school's exterior identity in the neighborhood, highly efficient geo-exchange mechanical systems were buried below ground, with a series of solar panels located at the rear of the property to augment the building's electrical system.

THC architects claim these projects show that sustainability and preservation not only exist together, but thrive from the synthesis of both philosophical worlds. When new design augments the inherent environmental strengths of historic buildings, projects perform as well as newly constructed, energy-efficient buildings. Advanced technical systems can be retrofitted to allow the historic appearance of buildings to take center stage, thus becoming invisible from public view.

"These outstanding projects and recent research prove what preservationists have been saying for years—that one of the best ways to save the planet is to recycle historic buildings," says Stan Graves, director of the THC's Architecture Division. ★



For those interested in learning more about sustainability in preservation, the National Park Service recently issued *Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*. For example, the booklet includes tips on installing photovoltaic panels, cool roof systems, HVAC ducting, and retrofitting wood and steel window systems. It is available for download at [www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/sustainability-guidelines.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/rehabilitation/sustainability-guidelines.pdf).

The THC's Architecture Division also provides technical assistance and design guidance for work on historic properties. THC review is required for projects that make use of federal historic preservation tax incentives, involve federal funding or permits, or entail work to a building designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark or State Archeological Landmark.

Architectural reviewers can also advise on properties that do not currently have, but may be eligible for, historical designation. This free resource is especially valuable during early planning stages of design. For more information, call 512.463.6094 or email [architecture@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:architecture@thc.state.tx.us).

Top photo: Hidden energy-saving elements at the San Antonio federal building include original steel windows encased with new storm windows and (below) solar panels on the roof.

# Northern Hospitality

## Discover the Charming Historic Sites of North Texas

By Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor, The Medallion

A 60-mile stretch of rolling North Texas countryside has the distinction of housing three decidedly different federal politicians. A president, speaker of the house, and senator are now honored at the homes they once occupied: Eisenhower Birthplace, Sam Rayburn House Museum, and Sam Bell Maxey House.

Although these famous men—President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Speaker Sam Rayburn, and Senator Sam Bell Maxey—took divergent paths to Washington, D.C., their experiences in Texas left an indelible mark on their significant legacies.

“These three historic sites tell interesting stories of Texans who influenced national events. Stories of their personal challenges inspire visitors to learn more about them and their Texas roots,” said Donna Williams, director of the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Historic Sites Division. “The extensive preservation work the THC recently completed at the Eisenhower Birthplace, the Sam Rayburn House, and the Sam Bell Maxey House ensures we can continue to protect and share these real places with current and future Texans.”

### Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site

For heritage travelers in North Texas, the opportunity to stand in the room where Eisenhower entered the world is a major attraction.

“This is where the story began for a man who was vastly important in U.S. and international history—his impact on the world will be felt for a long, long time,” said Site Manager Robin Gilliam. “We have visitors who tell us they’ve spent their lives fascinated by Ike, and they want to experience the starting point of the man who won World War II.”

Gilliam adds that although the Eisenhowers’ time in Texas was brief (three years), it represents an intriguing slice of life in Denison and the family’s past.

Dwight’s parents, David and Ida, moved to Denison after a failed business venture in Hope, Kansas. David, who landed a job with the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway as an engineer wiper (steam locomotive cleaner), rented a house near the railroad tracks for \$8 a month in early 1889. Nearly a year after moving into the furnished home, Ida was attended by a local doctor as she gave birth to her third son, Dwight, in the southwest bedroom on October 14, 1890.

Dwight joined his brothers Arthur and Edgar in the home, though the family “probably didn’t have a very happy time here,” Gilliam said. David worked long, hard hours, and Ida scrambled to keep up with three young boys while cooking and cleaning. Their Kansas-based church did not have a congregation in Denison, so it was likely difficult for them to establish friendships.

In the spring of 1892, the family moved to Abilene, Kansas, where David accepted a job at Belle Springs Creamery, managed by his brother-in-law. However, it wouldn’t be the last time Dwight set foot in Texas. In 1915, he was a newly commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Army, and his first post assignment was in San Antonio at Fort Sam Houston. While there, he met 18-year-old Mamie Geneva Doud; nine months later, they were married.

“It’s interesting that Texas had such a significant impact on his life—he entered the world and met his future wife here,” Gilliam said.

She adds that the Eisenhower family’s presence in Denison was largely forgotten until the early 1940s. After “Ike” became a household name as a five-star General in World War II, Denison residents fondly recalled the quiet family with three young boys who lived near the railroad tracks.

“After the war, the citizens of Denison swelled with pride and chipped in \$3,000 to buy the house where he was born,” Gilliam said, adding that the State of Texas later purchased the home during Eisenhower’s second presidential term in 1958. “Dwight came back in 1946 for a victory parade, and he saw the home where he was born. He even met Sam Rayburn while he was here.”

### Sam Rayburn House Museum

Eisenhower and Rayburn would eventually become colleagues at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. during Eisenhower’s tenure as president. By most accounts, they had a good working relationship, though Rayburn’s influence is more closely associated with a different native Texan: Lyndon Johnson.

Rayburn’s home in Bonham, nearly 30 miles southeast of Denison, is notably different than the Eisenhower Birthplace. Constructed 40 years later (1916), the house played a significant role in Rayburn’s personal and political life and captures the actual environment of his home in the context of his everyday life.

According to site curator Anne Ruppert, the Sam Rayburn House Museum generally hosts two types of visitors: people who know Mr. Sam’s legacy, and people who want to learn more about him. For those familiar with Rayburn, site staff fill in the gaps by providing tidbits of information about his personal life. For others, Ruppert enjoys introducing them to Rayburn’s extensive political career and educating them about his significant accomplishments as the country’s longest-serving Speaker of the House.

“It’s fun to let people know more about Mr. Sam and see their expressions as they learn

about all the different things he did throughout his life,” Ruppert said.

For example, Ruppert notes many visitors’ eyebrows raise upon learning of Rayburn’s ascension to the powerful role of Speaker of the Texas House at the young age of 29. Guests are also surprised to learn of Rayburn’s 17 years as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives—where he served under eight presidents, from Woodrow Wilson to John F. Kennedy—and the fact that he had 10 siblings.

Ruppert adds that the Rayburn House provides a sense of familiarity unavailable at most historical house museums. Rayburn lived in the house from 1916 until his death in 1961, and the furniture and decorations are similar to many Texas homes from the era. Rayburn also had modest tastes, so his furnishings are more utilitarian than the elegant items featured in many house museums.

“This site feels like a home you may have been in,” Ruppert said. “In fact, many of our guests say, ‘This



Opposite: The statue at Denison’s Eisenhower Birthplace. Above: The Sam Rayburn House Museum showcases Mr. Sam’s personal items.



totally reminds me of my grandma's house!' or 'My grandparents had one of these!' People really develop a strong connection to this house."

Ruppert says visitors also connect with Mr. Sam's human nature when they see the chickens, vegetable garden, and cars in the backyard. Although Rayburn's restored Cadillac is housed in his garage with an environmentally controlled interior, his everyday vehicles, including a black pickup truck, are pockmarked with the dents of a distracted driver.

"People are surprised to learn he wasn't perfect—his cars were always beat up," Ruppert said. "Here was this great, powerful figure, but he couldn't drive worth a darn. It makes people feel a bit better when they realize they drive just like Mr. Sam did."

### Sam Bell Maxey House

Forty miles east of Bonham, the Sam Bell Maxey House in Paris sheds light on a federal politician during a drastically different era of Texas history. Though Maxey's time in Washington, D.C. (1875–1887) was nearly 70 years before Rayburn's and Eisenhower's, his sense of civic duty and dedication to worthy causes was equally respected.

Maxey's distinguished home, featuring a High Victorian Italianate exterior and Greek Revival interior, was completed in 1868, with many of the materials imported from New Orleans. Maxey and his wife Marilda lived in the house, along with their adopted daughter Dora.

In 1871, Maxey's 2-year old great-nephew Sam Bell Maxey Long moved into the home with his mother

Mary after his father died. Though the Maxeys never had biological children of their own, the four-bedroom home was regularly filled with relatives and guests.

"This was always a very busy place, with social gatherings, visitors, and constant activity—sometimes guests and family would stay for months or even years," said Site Manager Kaitlin Ammon. "Mr. Maxey was a prominent man, and this impressive home was a proper residence for someone of his status."

Maxey died in 1895, and Long and his wife Lala later inherited the home after Marilda's death in 1908. According to Ammon, the Longs' residence in the house was significant because they retained most



Above: Paris' elegant Sam Bell Maxey House was completed in 1868. Below, right: From left are Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower, Sam Rayburn, and Sam Bell Maxey.

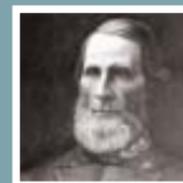
of the Maxeys' original furniture while incorporating their own distinctive decorative style.

For example, Ammon notes Lala was interested in slim and delicate materials that were much lighter than the more ornate elements Mrs. Maxey preferred. She adds that between the two families and 99 years of accumulated items, there are nearly 10,000 artifacts in the home's collection, which is one of the largest of the THC's 20 historic sites.

Since Maxey's achievements occurred more than a century ago, most visitors to the home are unfamiliar with his legacy. Many guests are impressed to learn that Maxey attended West Point and served in the U.S.-Mexico War and Civil War before becoming an esteemed politician. They also appreciate that his dedication to civic responsibility was a model for his great-nephew Long, who was active in the community and became president of the local Red Cross.

"Other house museums have historic items, but they're usually not original to the family. We're fortunate that the Maxeys and Longs were in this house for so long, and that they kept almost everything they owned," Ammon said. "We like to see how these items

positively impact our guests—it really helps get the word out there about this special place."



### IN WITH THE OLD

Over the past two years, THC staff and local construction crews have been busy restoring many of the agency's historic sites. The three homes featured on these pages benefitted from structural upgrades, fresh coats of paint, and new interpretive services. The following capsules detail the scope of their restoration projects.

### Eisenhower Birthplace

The Eisenhower Birthplace was recently repainted, restoring its exterior to pristine condition. Historic Sites Division staff members are currently working on an Interpretive Master Plan to make the site even more relevant and meaningful to the local community and visitors. The planning process will address improved educational programs and exhibits.

[www.visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com](http://www.visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com)  
903.465.8908

### Sam Rayburn House

The home was closed for almost a year until its official reopening in March 2012. Preservation activities included the repair and repainting of the exterior of the historic house, garage, and tractor shed and the upgrade of heating/air conditioning equipment. Historical accuracy was enhanced with the restoration of the front and back porches. The museum's visitor center was also improved. Planning for future interpretation improvements at the site will begin in late summer 2012.

[www.visitsamrayburnhouse.com](http://www.visitsamrayburnhouse.com)  
903.583.5558

### Sam Bell Maxey House

The home was closed for restoration for most of last year. The exterior preservation work included extensive repainting; repairs to framing, wood siding, doors, and windows; stabilization of the pier-and-beam foundation; roof replacement; and installation of a new central heating and air conditioning system. A new Interpretive Master Plan is currently underway that will identify additional improvements to help engage the community and area visitors in the Maxeys' stories.

[www.visitsambellmaxeyhouse.com](http://www.visitsambellmaxeyhouse.com)  
903.785.5716

### ON THE ROAD

While traveling across North Texas to the THC's historic sites, consider visiting these regional heritage tourism attractions.



### Denison

**The Red River Railroad Museum** ([www.redriverrailmuseum.org](http://www.redriverrailmuseum.org), 903.463.5289) features vintage railroad equipment—

including a caboose and gondola car—along with historic artifacts and photos. This successful Main Street city also offers an impressive collection of shops and restaurants in the historic downtown commercial district. Just down the road, the **Grayson County Frontier Village** (903.463.2487) offers an archive center and relocated buildings from the 1800s in a park developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

### Bonham

Visitors who wish to delve deeper into the historical background of Sam Rayburn should visit the recently renamed **Sam Rayburn Museum** (903.583.2455), which contains archives, memorabilia, and photographs in a stately Neo-Classical building. The 1960s **Fannin County Courthouse** anchors an active downtown square.



### Paris

For those interested in exploring Sam Bell Maxey's legacy to the end, his gravesite is in the historic, tree-laden **Evergreen Cemetery**. Downtown, the immaculately preserved historic square of this prestigious Main Street city surrounds an elaborately cascading 1927 fountain, with bustling nearby businesses. Other popular attractions include the **Lamar County Historical Museum** ([www.lchsparistx.org](http://www.lchsparistx.org), 903.785.0626), **Paris Union Station Railroad Depot** (903.784.6964), and the cowboy hat-topped **Eiffel Tower**.

For information about other heritage tourism opportunities in North Texas, order a free copy of the THC's *Texas Lakes Trail Region* travel guide by calling 866.276.6219 or visiting [www.texastimetravel.com](http://www.texastimetravel.com).

# Summer School

## THC's Diversity Interns Continue Preservation Education

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, The Medallion

For many Texas students, summer vacation involves a trip to the beach or traveling with family members to a cooler climate. Others choose to relinquish this educational break through internships like the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Diversity Interns program.

Two University of Texas students—Cindy Brzostowski and Jannie Scott—recently accepted the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission's invitation to participate in the summer program (previously known as the Preservation Fellows). They will spend several months

learning real-world lessons about jobs and projects in the field of preservation.

Both interns agreed to answer a series of questions about their interest in Texas history for their plans for the future.

### JANNIE SCOTT

**Why did you decide to pursue this internship opportunity with the THC?** I wanted to gain more professional experience and training in the field of archeology so I could become a competent and competitive professional archeologist. Because I plan to conduct dissertation fieldwork at an African American site in Central Texas, I also need to become more familiar with the many resources that the THC's Archeology Division provides, and make valuable contacts with agency employees who can provide advice in the future.

In addition, my research interest is the material culture and lifeways of African Americans who lived in Texas during the 19th- to early-20th centuries. I have a personal interest in increasing the representation and interpretation of archeological sites that pertain to the African Diaspora. The THC has demonstrated a continued commitment to highlight the histories and contributions of underrepresented minorities to Texas.

**How have your past experiences prepared you for interning with the agency?** As a third-year graduate student, I have enrolled in and completed a number of classes that shaped my understanding of archeological methods and theory, as well as increase my understanding of African American history and



culture. I have also participated in various archeological field schools and archeological field surveys, where I aided in creating an artifact type collection. Through a University of Arkansas fellowship program in 2011, I was able to gain experience integrating GPS and geographic information systems to archeological fieldwork, and I became familiar with using ground-penetrating radars and magnetometers for archeological survey work.

**What are you looking forward to accomplishing this summer?** I'm looking forward to working alongside a professional archeologist, and the prospect of gaining more training and becoming more familiar with the resources and programs the THC offers.

### Why is Texas an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field?

With regards to African Diaspora archeology as practiced within academia, Texas has been largely left out of the discussion of African American history and material culture in the United States. Because of the little research carried out by academic institutions, it's difficult to compare the life experiences of enslaved and emancipated African Americans residing in Texas to what is known about the experiences of other enslaved and emancipated Afro-descendants throughout the African Diaspora. However, this means there are a lot of research opportunities and growth for the field within the state.

**How do you anticipate using your experience at the THC in the future?** One of the tasks I anticipate my internship will involve is analyzing and cataloging historic period ceramics. This will be useful because it will allow me to become more familiar with the types of historic ceramics commonly found in Texas. I also anticipate doing some sort of public outreach, which will prove useful as public archeology is becoming more standard practice within historical archeological research projects in the United States.

**How do you like to spend your free time?** In the little free time that I do have, I enjoy taking road trips and reading.

### CINDY BRZOSTOWSKI

**Why did you decide to pursue this internship opportunity with the THC?** After taking a class at UT Austin called Cultural Heritage on Display, I became very interested in museum studies. When I heard about the THC's diversity internship through the Department of Anthropology, I felt like it was the perfect opportunity for me to get my foot in the door with museum and cultural preservation/conservation work.

**How have your past experiences prepared you for interning with the agency?** I am an English and anthropology major, so I feel like both will be of value during my internship as they show my interest in cultural studies and my ability to write and analyze. Additionally, I participated in an archeology dig through UT last summer, so I have dabbled a little bit with artifacts. Now I'm looking forward to seeing the other side of working with them as a curatorial assistant.

This summer, the THC is also hosting Anna Lumbroso, an intern from France attending the prestigious École du Louvre. Anna's work at the THC is sponsored by the French Heritage Society in partnership with the Friends of the THC as part of the Society's cultural exchange program. Anna will assist the THC's Historic Sites Division with collection conservation assessments and related work. In addition to the Diversity Internship and sponsored internships such as the French Heritage Society, the THC offers a number of unpaid internship

**What are you looking forward to accomplishing this summer?** I'm really looking forward to seeing how my degrees and interests translate into actual careers. I know what I like to learn about, so I'm happy to finally get to see what that can mean for my future. There

are a lot of things about preservation and conservation and the jobs that go on behind the scenes that I don't know about, and I feel like this is the best way to learn what they are.

**Why is Texas an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field?** Texas has quite an interesting past, and is very unique due to the amount and kinds of people that have lived here. In addition, the size itself has allowed for a lot of diversity and different histories that need to be uncovered and preserved.

**How do you anticipate using your experience at the THC in the future?** I'm hoping I'll have a better idea of what I want to do after college,

whether that be focusing on museum studies or archeology or whatever else I might learn about this summer. This internship is perfect for me because it'll expose me to many different fields and jobs that I may one day want to pursue. The important thing is that I learn what the opportunities and possibilities are, and that's exactly what the THC will offer me this summer!

**How do you like to spend your free time?** As can be expected, I love to read! Besides that, my other main passion is exploring and going on adventures. Austin has so many great places to see and experience, and I try my hardest to go to as many as I can. ★



opportunities. For more information, contact Sara Allen at [sara.allen@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:sara.allen@thc.state.tx.us) or 512.936.0845.

The THC's Diversity Internship program was created specifically to build interest in and awareness of historic preservation, economic development, and related fields among students from underrepresented ethnic groups. Stipends for internships are funded by the Friends of the THC with private donations. To learn more about how you can help, visit [www.thc.state.tx.us/awards/awdfellows.shtml](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/awards/awdfellows.shtml).

# Texas Treasure

## San Angelo Receives First Lady's Award

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, The Medallion

When preservationists describe San Angelo's historical appeal, the word "multi-faceted" is inevitably used. Distinctively different aspects of the community's heritage are reflected in local gems such as historic Fort Concho, Miss Hattie's Bordello Museum, and even the uniquely homegrown Concho Pearl.

These resources, along with the city's many preservation-oriented programs affiliated with the Texas Historical Commission (THC), resulted in San Angelo recently receiving the 2012 First Lady's Texas Treasures Award.

First Lady Anita Perry officially presented the award during a visit earlier this year. Initiated in 2009, the award recognizes communities that showcase their dedication to community preservation efforts through participation in THC initiatives and other state and local programs. The Office of the First Lady and the THC sponsor the award.

"Texas Treasures are communities that go the extra mile to discover their roots, teach living history lessons, and create a lasting legacy for future generations," Perry said. "This award recognizes visionary communities that put in the hard work required to ensure that their hometown is different from the next.

### Apply Now to Become a Treasured Community



Photo: Curtis Craven

The THC is currently accepting applications for the 2013 First Lady's Texas Treasures Award. Community representatives can apply or be nominated based on criteria listed on the nomination form, available at [www.thc.state.tx.us/awards/awdFrstLdyTxTrs.shtml](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/awards/awdFrstLdyTxTrs.shtml). A completed form and supporting documentation are due by August 31, 2012.

Through the award, Texas First Lady Anita Perry, acting as honorary chair in partnership with the THC, honors communities that have shown a high level of creativity and ingenuity in

recognizing and preserving their authentic Texas sense of place. These communities use the resources and preservation tools available from the THC and others to realize significant economic benefits as a result of their strong cultural and historic preservation stewardship.

Designated communities receive special signage and a DVD promoting their cultural resources. To see video clips of the award-winning communities since 2009, visit [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us).

It spotlights communities that lovingly maintain their monuments from the past in order to create a stronger future."

Perry cited several examples of San Angelo's commitment to preservation, including the recent restoration of the downtown 1929 Cactus Hotel, participation as a Texas Main Street city since 2005, designation as a Preserve America community, and involvement with the THC's Texas Forts Trail Region.

According to April Garner of the THC's heritage tourism program, San Angelo's dedication is also evident through the work of many individuals and organizations, including Downtown San Angelo, Inc., the Tom Green County Historical Commission, the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, the

San Angelo Old Town Conservancy, Historic City Center Project, Inc., and Angelo State University. Together with the City of San Angelo, they are active participants in projects ranging from the restoration of the city's Works Progress Administration pool house (now part of a modern swimming complex), historic resources surveys, reinvestment in the historic downtown district, the preservation of City Hall, and the restoration of an entire block of abandoned historic buildings in the

shadow of the Museum of Fine Arts.

San Angelo was chosen from a group of highly qualified candidates by a committee comprised of staff members from the Office of the Governor and the THC.

"I want to thank the First Lady for sponsoring this truly deserved award," said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. "Texas Treasures communities represent a strong commitment to enriching the lives of visitors through the preservation of their real places telling the real stories of Texas. The efforts of the citizens of San Angelo should encourage other communities to follow on their own preservation journey." ★

# Master of Plaster

## Larry Limon's Adobe Skills Vital to Magoffin Home's Successful Restoration

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, The Medallion

The first thing most visitors notice when they approach the newly restored Magoffin Home in El Paso is the stark, crisp white of the exterior plaster.

"Wow—it looks so clean!"

"I've never seen such a bright shade of white before."

"How'd they do that?"

The last question can be answered by Larry Limon, a fourth-generation plasterer from nearby southern New Mexico, who oversaw all aspects of the plaster work during the site's recent restoration project. The circa-1875 adobe Magoffin Home, one of 20 historic sites operated by the Texas Historical Commission (THC), was closed nearly 16 months for preservation work before reopening to the public in May.

Limon, 53, has been working with plaster since he was 12 years old. Through his family's guidance, he learned the art of working with the sun-dried adobe bricks, composed of earthen materials and often covered with a distinctive whitewashed plaster. Over the years, Limon witnessed several trends in his line of work that would ultimately prove to be problematic, including the use of cement and acrylics in an attempt to strengthen and extend the life of the materials.

"When you use cement, it traps moisture inside the adobe and can really damage the mortar and plaster," Limon said. "I've always been more partial to the older materials like lime and mud, which are much more permeable. They allow the adobe to breathe. You can still find houses and buildings made with

natural materials that are hundreds of years old, and they're holding up well."

Limon incorporated this approach in his Magoffin Home work, where he admits he encountered a few challenges. For example, he notes the adobe walls extended more than two feet into the ground, making it



**“You can still find houses and buildings made with natural materials that are hundreds of years old, and they're holding up well.”**

—Larry Limon



Fourth-generation plasterer Larry Limon applied his expertise to the Magoffin Home restoration.

Limon also humbly expressed pride in his work on plastering the fireplace and the home's exterior walls. He

credited the experience to the memory of his father Johnny, who passed away just before the project began.

"The Magoffin Home is such a special place, and it was the last job that he and I talked about," Limon said. "He was always so proud of his plaster work. He was my hero—I learned so much from him."

He adds, "My dad and I worked with these materials most of my life, so it's very comfortable to get on a project like this and be in familiar situations. You have to get a good feel for how all these materials work together. My heart and soul are part of my plasters."

Magoffin Home Site Manager Leslie Bergloff praised Limon's work, saying, "I'm thrilled with the outcome of this project. With Larry's help, we have secured the

preservation of this building and we're welcoming visitors to experience this magnificently restored treasure."

To learn more about the Magoffin Home and the THC's other historic properties, visit [www.visitmagoffinhome.com](http://www.visitmagoffinhome.com) and [www.texashistoricsites.com](http://www.texashistoricsites.com). ★

## Wildfire Fighting Teams Accept Governor's Award



Gov. Perry presents the THC's Governor's Award, spending countless hours on the front lines.

"It is an honor to present our brave firefighters with this award," said Gov. Perry. "Members of the Wildland Firefighting Teams saved both lives and part of our history while risking their own lives and comfort in unimaginable conditions. Historic CCC buildings in some of our most cherished landscapes are still standing because of the determination and dedication of these brave men and women."

For more information about the award, contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512.463.5853.

### HISTORIC TEXAS COURTHOUSES AGAIN NAMED TO NATION'S MOST ENDANGERED LIST

Texas' historic courthouses have been named for the second time to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list.

More than 70 historic county courthouses across the state remain in need of rehabilitation. Fortunately, 83 successful courthouse projects have taken place across the state since the landmarks were first placed on the country's 11 Most Endangered List in 1998.

"Since the courthouse program's inception, nearly \$247 million has been awarded to more than 83 counties for the preservation of their county courthouses," said Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program Director Stan Graves. "Courthouse restorations have generated more than 8,579 jobs throughout Texas, and more than \$19 million in local taxes. We're grateful the Texas Legislature has supported us through challenging economic times, providing a strong foundation on which to build an even stronger program."

Gov. Rick Perry and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently recognized Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Wildland Firefighting Teams with the prestigious Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. Perry presented the award to six TPWD representatives of three different regions in Texas that comprise the Wildland Firefighting Teams.

Last year, Texas suffered the most severe drought in the state's history. In April and September, wildfires spread across three state parks, including Possum Kingdom, Bastrop, and the Davis Mountains. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) developed these parks during the Great Depression in the 1930s. Firefighting Team members were able to save most of the historic CCC buildings in these parks,

For more information about the courthouse program, contact the THC's Architecture Division at 512.463.6094.

### PRESERVATION TEXAS PRESENTS ANNUAL HONOR AWARDS

Preservation Texas recently announced 10 Honor Awards recognizing accomplishments in historic preservation that inspire Texans and encourage them in their efforts to protect the irreplaceable resources of the state. The following recipients were selected.

Clara Driscoll Award—Clovis and Maryann Heimsath; Heritage Education Award—The San Juan Economic Development Corporation; Texas Media Award—Hotel Galvez Centennial; Historic Rehabilitation Award—Dallas Area Rapid Transit Police Headquarters at Illinois Station (Monroe Shops), Austin's McGarrath Jesse Building, and La Grange's Texas Quilt Museum; Historic Restoration Award—Houston's Harris County Courthouse, San Antonio's Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña and Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, and Austin's University United Methodist Church. Preservation Texas also presented a special

commendation to Cuero's Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum.

For more information about the awards, visit [www.preservationtexas.org](http://www.preservationtexas.org) or call 512.472.0102.

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRODUCES NEW PUBLICATION

As part of the commemoration of the Civil War's 150th anniversary, the National Park Service (NPS) recently released the booklet *Hispanics and the Civil War: From Battlefield to Homefront* about the significant roles played by Hispanics on both sides of the conflict.

"The nationwide multiyear observance of the Civil War is an opportunity to remind millions of Americans of all backgrounds of their ancestors' participation in the Civil War," said the NPS' Southeast Regional Director David Vela. "Hispanic citizens and immigrants alike fought on land and sea in every theater of the war."

*Hispanics and the Civil War: From Battlefield to Homefront* explores the lives of the 20,000 Hispanics, many of them Texans, who chose to fight in the war. The full-color publication is available for \$4.95 at [www.eparks.com](http://www.eparks.com).

## Community Connections

### THC Regional Workshops Link Texas Preservationists

By Amy Hammons  
County Historical Commission Outreach Coordinator

For the past decade, the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Annual Historic Preservation Conference has been the primary source for CHCs to educate, train, and network. Although the conference has been suspended as a result of last year's legislative budget cuts, a series of five regional workshops in May provided preservationists throughout Texas opportunities previously offered through the conference.

To celebrate Preservation Month, Certified Local Government (CLG) Coordinator Matt Synatschk and I offered these workshops to give back to the individuals and organizations that work to preserve and protect the real places of Texas. Synatschk had also provided information and one-on-one meetings for his statewide contacts at the THC's annual conference, so the regional workshops allowed us to reach many partners who were previously unable to

attend the three-day conference.

With the recent update of Texas' Statewide Preservation Plan, our goal was to focus on priorities identified within the plan while providing content reflecting specific needs identified by each region. We worked with CHCs, CLGs, and other local partners to develop workshop discussions and identify speakers that would make each workshop informative, engaging, and affordable.

The workshops included elements of the eight Statewide Plan goals, with

an emphasis on Goal 8: Build Capacity of Preservation Community. The workshop attendees, successful in their own pursuits, shared their experiences, which also made the workshops educational for us.

The workshop locations provided a wide range of inspirational historic downtowns and buildings for our meeting spaces and tours. We are so grateful to our attendees, our speakers, and our local hosts for contributing their time and energy to make this workshop series successful.

For more information about the workshops, please visit the Statewide Preservation Plan for Texas website at [www.preservationconnection.com](http://www.preservationconnection.com). ★

The THC recently hosted regional workshops at Eastland's historic Connellee Hotel (left) and Kingsville's King Ranch Museum and Visitor Center, a rehabilitated ice factory (right).



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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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## 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; via fax to 512.463.6374; or email to [medallion@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:medallion@thc.state.tx.us). Limit one prize annually per contestant.

Need a clue? This cemetery, established circa 1854 on the outskirts of a Central Texas German community, was designated by the THC as a Historic Texas Cemetery in 2008.



Answer to the photo from the last issue: Fort Leaton (at left) in Presidio was constructed in the 1840s as a circa 25-room adobe compound by trader Ben Leaton. It was renovated by the CCC in the 1930s, and acquired by the Texas Parks

and Wildlife Department in 1967. Congratulations to the first three readers who submitted the correct answer: Denis Kistner of Magnolia, Pastor Mike Laverde of El Paso, and Bob Trescott of Kingsville. Thanks to all participants! ★

