

THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# MEDALLION



WINTER 2020



**MAIN STREET IN  
THE METROPLEX**  
EXPERIENCE THE SPECTRUM  
OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWNS  
IN THE DALLAS AREA



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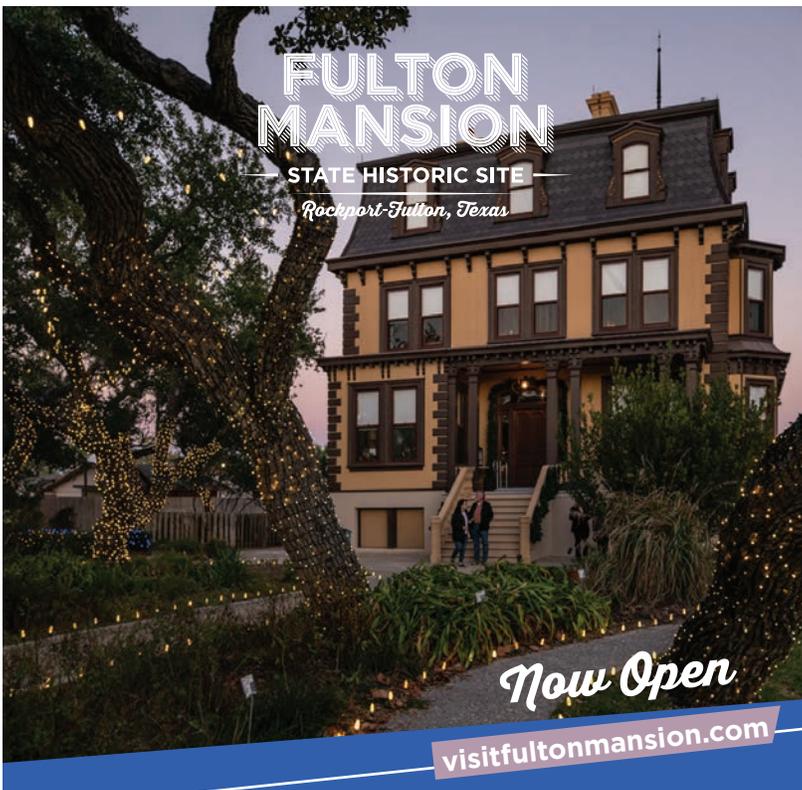
Our Mission

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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TOP: The "Old Red" courthouse anchors the west end of Dallas' historic Main Street (page 6).

ON THE COVER: The striking Wilson Building on Dallas' Main Street dates to 1903. Photos by Patrick Hughey.





## TEXAS REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS PADDIE LEADERSHIP LETTER

Friends,

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently made history when it welcomed nine new sites to the agency's family of State Historic Sites.

Now numbering 31, the sites represent a wide breadth of our state's great history, from Native American grounds to the homes of 20th-century political legends. As author of the THC's Sunset legislation, I look forward to seeing the new sites thrive under the THC's management.

In fact, I've already witnessed the agency's impressive oversight of historic sites at the Starr Family Home in Marshall, my home. As a former Marshall mayor, I know how seriously East Texas takes its heritage and I'm confident these new sites will be in good hands.

My district is also home to several cities in the THC's Texas Main Street Program. If you're going to Dallas for the Main Street Now national conference in May, you should also head east and visit these Main Street cities in District 9: Carthage, Linden, and Marshall.

Residents in my district have also been working with the THC on another exciting project: restoring the historic Marion County Courthouse in Jefferson. Thanks to a \$4.6 million grant from the agency's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, the exterior and interior public spaces of the building will be restored to their original 1913 appearance.

I look forward to seeing the continued success of the Texas Historical Commission's significant programs in my district and across the great state of Texas. The agency is an important partner with the Legislature and a considerable force in preserving the iconic heritage of the Lone Star State.

Sincerely,  
  
Chris Paddie  
Texas House District 9



# TRUST IN THE FUND

## THC GRANT PROGRAM HELPS PRESERVE HISTORIC PROPERTIES

By Lisa Harvell and Pam Opiela  
THC Architecture Division Staff

The two-story wood schoolhouse stands in a field of dry grass at the end of a narrow dead-end road in rural Wheelock, with paint peeling from its century-old wood siding and windows boarded up to keep out the weather and critters. How did the Texas Historical Commission (THC) discover and help fund rehabilitation of this remote historic building?

For starters, the Friends of the Wheelock School House in Robertson County knew where to look. The organization applied for and twice received a THC Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF) grant to repair the building's historic wood windows. Since TPTF funding is very limited, successful applicants often organize their rehabilitation work in several phases, tackling the most critical work first, then moving to other pressing needs.

Each successful completion of a phase helps spark new fundraising for the next. In fiscal year 2018, TPTF grants helped pay for repairing the school's first-floor windows. With that work completed, the THC awarded an additional grant in fiscal year 2020 to repair its second-floor windows.

"The THC is making such a difference in our community, and we'll be forever grateful for their help in restoring the Wheelock School House," said Kathy Hedrick of the Friends group.

The nonprofit organization was started by local residents who partnered with Texas A&M University, the Robertson County Historical Commission, and other county historical and preservation groups to save the old school, located about 20 miles north of Bryan-College Station. Over the years, it has evolved into an important community meeting place.

### BENEFITTING THE BORDERLANDS

Preservation partnerships similarly helped with restoration

work at the historically unique and nationally significant Rio Vista Farm Historic District in Socorro, near the Rio Grande just east of El Paso. The THC awarded a TPTF grant to the City of Socorro, which partnered with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to produce a plan to gradually restore all buildings in the Rio Vista Farm complex, some of which are in desperate need of repair.

The complex was used as part of the U.S. Bracero Program to bring Mexican agricultural workers into the U.S. to offset labor shortages after World War II. Now owned by the City of Socorro, the complex includes a senior center and will soon offer more community services.

Further east, the City of Roma has worked with the Noah Cox family's heirs for nearly a decade to secure TPTF funds





for the Noah Cox house, circa 1853. Cox was an early pioneer, attorney, and public servant in the area. The home's fort-like architecture represents the perils of early border settlements and the blend of Mexican, Spanish, and Anglo-American architectural traditions.

The home's first TPTF grant in 2009 funded the installation of a new roof. A planning grant awarded in 2015 allowed for the completion of construction documents and specifications addressing the complete interior and exterior restoration. The most recent grant was used to stabilize the building's exterior with limited interior stabilization of second-floor wood columns and beams.

The Noah Cox house is now owned by the City of Roma. The city leveraged additional financial support from the Roma Economic Development Corporation, which provided matching funds for the recent TPTF grant.

"The Cox family heirs were instrumental in placing the Noah Cox House into the ownership of the city for the best chance of restoring this significant and unique building in the Rio Grande Valley," said Roma City Manager Crisanto Salinas.

### HOW TO APPLY

For those interested in applying to the TPTF grant program, an application guide is available each year (typically in December) to public or private entities for eligible historic properties, sites, or archeological projects. Awards are in the \$10,000–\$30,000 range. Applicants eligible to receive grant assistance must provide a minimum of one dollar in matching cash to each state dollar for approved project costs.

There are two steps in the grant application process. First, applicants are required to submit brief forms for the THC to review prior to each year's deadline. The THC will select the highest-priority projects from the initial applications and invite those applicants to move forward to the second step.



Successful applicants continue the process by submitting detailed project proposals and budgets. At both steps, applications are scored in four areas: endangerment, significance, project viability, and special considerations. The THC encourages applications that address issues of ethnic diversity and other historically underserved subjects, groups, and property types. Grant awards are considered annually by the THC, typically in October.

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For additional information about the TPTF grant program, please visit [thc.texas.gov/tptf](http://thc.texas.gov/tptf) or contact the THC's Architecture Division at 512-463-6094.

TOP AND ABOVE: The Rio Vista Farm Historic District near El Paso received a TPTF grant to help produce a restoration plan. Photos: National Trust for Historic Preservation.

OPPOSITE: The Noah Cox house in Roma benefitted from several TPTF-funded projects.



DALLAS MUNICIPAL BUILDING



ORIGINAL NEIMAN MARCUS BUILDING



BUSCH-KIRBY BUILDING



THE ADOLPHUS

# METROPLEX MAIN STREETS

## DISCOVER COMMUNITY COMFORTS IN COLOSSAL CITIES AND TINY TOWNS

*When attendees gather in Dallas for the national Main Street Now conference May 18–20, they'll be surrounded by Main Street success stories. After getting their fill of inspiration from session speakers, visitors can experience the impressive spectrum of Metroplex Main Street communities—from urban neighborhoods to cities on sprawl's edge to traditional historic downtowns.*

Despite the size difference in the area's cities—Dallas has a population of nearly 2 million, while Royse City has 12,998 residents—there's something special about walking down Main Street. Notice all the flags—on lamp posts, in front of municipal buildings, and displayed in residents' windows—proudly representing America, Texas, and local schools. Also, regardless of the city's size, most businesses on Main Street are homespun enterprises, from dry cleaners to restaurants to multi-story bank towers. And you'll usually find pocket parks and benches for relaxing and absorbing the bustling scene.

Nearly 20 communities in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area participate in the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Main Street Program. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to visit seven of them during mobile workshops or exploring on their own. The following pages highlight three cities—Dallas, Waxahachie, and Rockwall—representing different stages of Main Street's growth while maintaining a distinctive sense of place as the heart of the community.

While downtown Dallas is currently not part of the Main Street program, it's packed with historic and heritage-related destinations that make it the

perfect setting for Main Street Now. Several field sessions will focus on the city's unique architecture and history, including original land settlements in the West End, world-class collections in the Arts District, rehabilitation success stories on the tax credit tour, and the historic business district on the downtown architecture tour.

For conference attendees or those interested in visiting the city on their own, the following iconic buildings in the National Register-listed Dallas Downtown Historic District offer memorable places to sleep, eat, and explore.

An affordable and appropriate home-base for heritage travelers is the **Hilton Plaza Hotel** (ihg.com, 214-741-7700), now a Hotel Indigo. This National Register-listed property, built in 1925 for Conrad Hilton, was the first to carry the Hilton name. The 14-story building features elaborate terra cotta details and was Hilton's answer to the nearby Adolphus Hotel, offering comparatively modest accommodations for "the average man." A bonus for history buffs: across the street is the **Dallas Municipal Building**, where John F. Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was fatally shot by Jack Ruby in the basement garage.

Another historical option a block

away is the 19-story **Statler Dallas** (statlerdallas.com, 214-459-3930), which opened in 1956 as one of the largest hotels in the southwest. Its sleek mid-century modern aesthetic features an alluring angled shape. The Statler was named one of the National Trust's Most Endangered Places in 2008 but was ultimately saved and redeveloped with the help of the THC's Historic Preservation Tax Credits.

One of the most striking structures on Dallas' Main Street is the 1903 **Wilson Building** (wilsondallas.com). Listed in the National Register, this remarkable building was Texas' first eight-story structure and is considered a monument to the success of local rancher and investor J.B. Wilson. Its adaptation of the French Renaissance style was proclaimed an architectural masterpiece at the time. Its ground floor now houses **Porta Di Roma** (portadiroma restaurant.com, 214-752-0855), a cozy Italian restaurant.

Across the street stands the original **Neiman-Marcus** department store (neimanmarcus.com, 214-741-6911), a popular shopping destination since 1914. Its THC historical marker notes that many of the innovations instituted here had a profound influence on similar retail businesses throughout the country.



**ONE MAIN PLACE,  
DALLAS**

Just down the block is the **Busch-Kirby Building**, a THC Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Constructed in 1913 for beer magnate Adolphus Busch as a complementary facility for his Adolphus Hotel, the 17-story skyscraper features Gothic pinnacles and spires. **The Adolphus** (adolphus.com, 214-742-8200), a block south of Main Street, is a 1912 architectural gem featuring faces carved on the stone exterior and an opulent lobby area with elaborate French Renaissance detailing.

Next door, the magnificent **Magnolia Hotel** (magnoliahotels.com, 214-915-6500) is one of Dallas' most treasured buildings. The 1922 Renaissance Revival-style structure originally housed the Magnolia Oil Company (later known as Mobil), and became a focal point of Texas' oil industry. Note: visitors are welcome to explore any of these hotels' lobbies to marvel at the ornate historic details and have a drink or meal at their comfortably elegant bars and restaurants.

A block west on Main Street is a completely different kind of historic skyscraper, **One Main Place**

(onemainplacedallas.com, 214-744-9800). This massive 33-story mixed-use skyscraper was constructed in 1968 and exemplifies the practical and linear aesthetic of late Modern architecture. A participant in the THC's Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, the building features an eye-catching waffle-patterned concrete and granite exterior and is listed in the National Register.

At the western edge of the district stands another feature found on Main Streets across the state: a historic courthouse. Known as "Old Red," the 1892 Romanesque Revival building now serves as the **Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture** (oldred.org, 214-757-1914). Be sure to notice the rich red sandstone exterior and neon-red Magnolia Petroleum sign that welcomes lobby visitors to this stunning building, partially restored through the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP).

A block north of Main Street is one of Dallas' most-visited heritage attractions. **The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza** (jfk.org, 214-747-6660) places President John F. Kennedy's legacy in historical context. The museum's centerpiece is a Plexiglas-encased "sniper's perch," which recreates specific details (stacked book boxes, window

frames, and paint colors) of the scene surrounding Lee Harvey Oswald when he fired the fatal shots from this exact location.

### WHEN IN WAXAHACHIE

Thirty miles south of Dallas is Waxahachie, a quintessential Main Street community of circa 35,000 residents anchored by a magnificent courthouse square. The city was one of the first to participate in the Texas Main Street Program (1983–1990, recertified in 2002).

Waxahachie will be featured as one of Main Street Now's field sessions, allowing visitors to experience a sampling of its nearly 300 structures listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It was named one of the Five Romantic Main Streets You'll Adore by the National Trust in 2017 and is also home to one of the most-photographed historic courthouses in Texas.

The 1897 **Ellis County Courthouse** (co.ellis.tx.us, 972-825-5000), restored through the THCPP, is certainly deserving of its acclaim. The nine-story, pink granite and red sandstone structure, designed in the Romanesque Revival style, is a true sight to behold—ornate nooks and crannies give way to massive architectural design features, and the entire castle-like element of the edifice



**ELLIS COUNTY MUSEUM,  
WAXAHACHIE**



FARM LUCK SODA FOUNTAIN,  
WAXAHACHIE

is awe-inspiring. Be sure to step inside to see the ornate woodwork, intricate detailing, and bathroom converted from a former vault.

Across the street from the courthouse is the **Ellis County Museum** ([rootsweb.com/~txecm](http://rootsweb.com/~txecm), 972-937-0681). Housed in a handsome 1889 Masonic temple, the museum contains exhibits depicting everyday life in the Waxahachie area from the mid-1880s to the early 1900s, including original wood signs from historic local businesses and an ancient metal optometrist’s chair that makes modern offices appear much more appealing.

Waxahachie is also known for its **Gingerbread Trail Tour of Homes** (972-937-0681), which celebrates the city’s architectural legacy each June by showcasing Victorian-era houses with rich exterior detailing. One of the featured attractions is the 1902 **Chautauqua Auditorium**, an octagonal, 2,500-seat pavilion built in conjunction with the late-1800s adult education movement from Chautauqua, New York.

These types of heritage attractions play a major role in making Waxahachie a successful Main Street program. According to Anita Simpson, Waxahachie’s Main Street manager, the historic downtown district has created a

robust environment of retail, restaurants, art, entertainment, and residences through collaboration and partnerships.

Among these groups are the Downtown Merchants Association, Historic Waxahachie, Inc., and other civic entities, including Ellis County. One of the most successful collaborations involved an agreement with the county to build a parking garage and shift government offices, resulting in a large area of downtown becoming available for new retail and restaurants—including the wonderful **Farm Luck Soda Fountain** ([farmlucksodafountain.com](http://farmlucksodafountain.com), 214-903-8021).

“So much of the success we’ve experienced as a destination for travelers and new residents is based on our foundation of the Main Street program,” Simpson says. “You can’t do effective downtown revitalization without it. It provides the template for all the important steps you have to take.”

### ROCKWALL ROCKS WELL

Twenty-five miles east of Dallas on the shores of Lake Ray Hubbard is the Main Street community of Rockwall, named for an underground geological formation discovered in the early 1850s.

Rockwall has the distinction of being the seat of Texas’ smallest county, at 147 square miles, and is now one of the state’s fastest-growing counties. Known for its lake-based recreation and rapid development, Rockwall also boasts a charming Main Street district with several heritage attractions.

Anchoring the modest historic downtown is the Art Deco-style 1940 **Rockwall County Courthouse**, a WPA project that stands in stark contrast to the behemoth 2011 facility on nearby Interstate 30. **The Rockwall County Historical Museum** ([rchfonline.org](http://rchfonline.org), 972-722-1507), located in the restored 1850 Manson-LaMoreaux-Hartman House, features artifacts and photos representing stories about area residents from the past 160 years.

Main Street Manager Bethany Browning says partnerships and community buy-in have been keys to the program’s success. The Friends of Downtown Rockwall helped start a popular farmers market that draws thousands weekly, and the Downtown Rockwall Association assists with organizing activities.

Rockwall Main Street’s signature event is a downtown live-music concert series, held Thursday–Saturday nights from May until October. With nearly 75 annual concerts drawing families and featuring local restaurants and breweries, the event elevates Main Street’s presence in the community.

“The program provides the framework for everything we do so we can just focus on moving forward,” Browning says. “It’s exciting to be a part of something like Main Street that affects so many people in such a positive way.”

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To learn more about the Texas Main Street Program, visit [thc.texas.gov/tmsp](http://thc.texas.gov/tmsp). For more information about the Main Street Now conference, go to [mainstreet.org](http://mainstreet.org).



ROCKWALL MAIN STREET

# MODERN MASTERPIECES

## UNDERAPPRECIATED MID-20TH CENTURY COURTHOUSES REPRESENT A BOLD POST-WAR TEXAS

By Sharon Fleming  
Director, Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program

In the late 1800s, Texas courthouses were powerful symbols of prosperity in their communities. County government leaders aspired to build the most appealing public image with the grandiose and bold architecture of Victorian-era courthouses. Stylistically, these stately buildings reflected the historical eras of the past, representing the county's enduring significance in Texas.

By the early 20th century, the success of industrialization impacted the dependence on historical precedents. The world was changing rapidly, with population shifts to urban areas and advances in science, agriculture, and business. The architecture that began to evolve with World War I and continued after World War II celebrated the pragmatism of a new era, and a new optimism came along with it.

Many Texas counties reinvented themselves in the mid-1900s by drawing inspiration from older courthouses while boldly using modern materials and systems. More than a quarter of the state's historic courthouses date to between 1930 and 1960. The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) strives to raise awareness of these Modern architectural achievements and promote their recognition within the context of their own distinct place and time. THCPP staff members believe these mid-20th-century courthouses merit the same preservation ethic as older 19th-century structures while recognizing they have been historically and architecturally underappreciated.

Many of the state's residents and visitors may be unaware of the practical reasons for architectural style shifts over decades. The imposing towers and domes of 19th-century Texas courthouses addressed the functional intention of being clearly visible on the landscape, while the tall central

### AUSTIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, BELLVILLE, 1960

Fort Worth-based architect Wyatt Hedrick's firm was once the third largest in the country and designed several high-profile Texas buildings, including Fort Worth's Will Rogers Memorial Center and Mineral Wells' Baker Hotel.

The Austin County Courthouse is often criticized due to its monolithic appearance and its setting, isolated from the surrounding historic downtown streetscape. However, its admirers value the massive slabs of black granite anchoring the ground floor, thin crystal quartz stone panels, and slim steel columns.

The Modern character of the courthouse is complemented by four highly stylized metal clocks and letters announcing the county name. Also of interest is the lack of windows, deliberately designed because studies at the time indicated large expanses of glass burdened the air conditioning system and impaired the efficiency of workers due to fluctuations in light intensity.



space facilitated ventilation and air movement. By the 1920s, the advent of modern air conditioning methods made the vertical architectural elements obsolete.

As the world transitioned into the moderation of Depression-era 1930s, new courthouses were conceived as more functionally straightforward, with simple rectilinear forms that celebrated the promise of a brighter future. Some, built with federal assistance programs, took their aesthetic cues from abstracted geometric forms and patterns. Known as Moderne or Streamline Moderne, these designs drew inspiration from the transformational imagery of the time—ocean liners, diesel locomotives, automobiles, and airplanes—while asserting a strong monumental public presence on the town square.

During World War II, Texas engineering and architecture firms were hired by the U.S. government to design sprawling campuses of buildings, training grounds, artillery

ranges, and airfields. By the 1950s, young architects were graduating from universities eager to put their design philosophies and knowledge into practice. Most found their clients were eager to reject the traditional styles and embrace the optimism of the new Modern architecture that employed contemporary materials and a rationalist aesthetic.

THCPP staff believe that fostering an appreciation for courthouses of the mid-20th century requires a new mind-set. They point out that materials like drywall and metal wall cladding are now associated with inexpensive buildings. However, 75 years ago, the invention and use of these prefabricated materials dramatically changed long-standing construction practices and design. They were part of an important shift in mid-century thinking that can be challenging to appreciate today.

## KAUFMAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, KAUFMAN, 1956

Architect A. Warren Morey is perhaps best known for designing Texas Stadium for the Dallas Cowboys. His u-shaped design for the Kaufman County Courthouse articulated the ethereal quality, transparency, and lightness of a metal and glass curtain wall juxtaposed against the stoic quality of a windowless brick facade.

Notable interior highlights include a green marble wall featuring several black porcelain-style water fountains. The second floor houses the main courtroom.



The architecture of post-war Texas was innovative, daring, and drew on the International style of architecture growing popular in Europe. Driven by new technologies like reinforced concrete, steel, and glass that allowed for thin and expansive walls, these new courthouses took on an entirely new look from the imposing old buildings of the past.

One preservation challenge many Modern courthouses face is their “crisp and clean” appearance, which can be demanding from a preservation standpoint regardless of the building’s age. This can be intensified when combined with experimental technologies such as prefabricated components and the need for funding to support them, resulting in preservation efforts becoming more urgent by the day.

According to THCPP staff, an important shift in public opinion is beginning to take place: courthouse preservation in Texas is becoming more Modern. A courthouse preservation master plan is currently pending approval

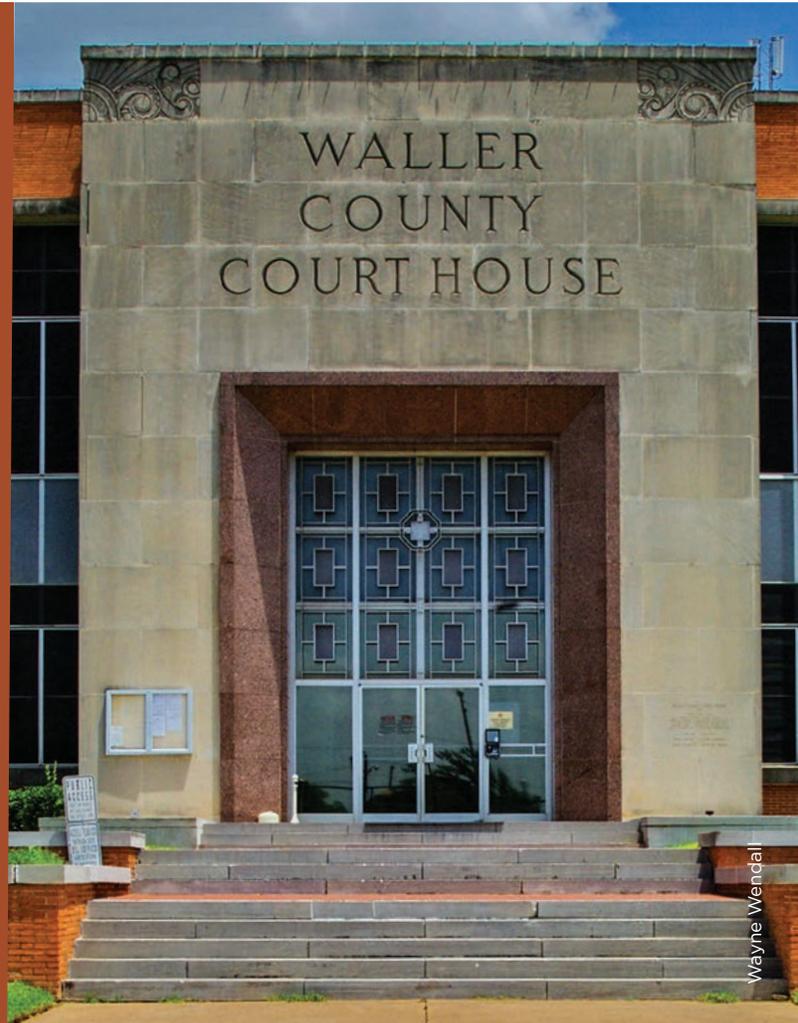
for the 1956 Kaufman County Courthouse, and discussions are ongoing with Waller County representatives about preserving their 1955 courthouse. In addition, the 1960 Austin County Courthouse recently received funding assistance from the National Park Service’s Hurricane Harvey grant program for roof replacement.

More than three dozen post-war Modern courthouses were built across Texas, yet they remain the most threatened—ironically, because they are so new. Having already passed the 50-year threshold to be considered officially historic, it’s likely that with the help of nonprofit organizations like Docomomo (dedicated to preserving modern-era resources), a little more time, and a new generation of admirers, they too will endure.

## WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE HEMPSTEAD, 1955

Architect Herbert Voelcker attended Texas A&M University in 1909 and later founded a firm that designed 11 Texas courthouses. Voelcker’s refined eclectic but traditional approach gave way to the Modern mode by the 1930s, when he began to produce designs for numerous North Texas county courthouses built with federal funding during the Great Depression.

The Waller County Courthouse represents a significant departure from the traditional Texas cross-axial plan in favor of a monumentally scaled entrance. With its monolithic brick massing and strong symmetry, the building clearly expresses its civic function.





# BIG BEGINNINGS

## WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS REPRESENTS TEXAS' 'INCREDIBLE DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE'

By Bailey Curwick  
THC Communications Division

To an average tourist, Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site could appear to be ordinary countryside northeast of Brenham. But to the Texas history enthusiast, it represents the start of an incredibly unique story.

The site is one of eight transferred in 2019 to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The state's Sunset Advisory Committee recommended the transfer to ensure that each agency would be able to best resource the sites and their special requirements as historic properties.

The Washington-on-the-Brazos complex—containing a replica of Independence Hall, Barrington Plantation living history site, and the Star of the Republic Museum—tells the origin story of the Republic of Texas and early statehood. In September 2019, the site hosted a welcome event with state and local officials celebrating the site's newest chapter.

“We believe in liberty because of what happened on these grounds and other places across this great state,” said Texas Sen. Lois Kolkhorst. “People were willing to die for a notion—for an idea—called Texas.”

THC Chair John L. Nau, III added, “I’ve tried to explain to people around the country that this is Texas’ Philadelphia... it is a sacred historical park, and it helps tell the story of that incredible desire for independence.”

Visitors to the site can explore a replica of the modest frame building where the General Convention took place in 1836

and walk the same ground as those who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. While Texians fought against the Mexican army on battlefields, delegates gathered at Independence Hall to decide the fate of the future republic.

Across the property, visitors can see the 19th century come to life. Barrington Plantation provides a firsthand depiction of the post-presidential life of Anson Jones, the last president of the republic. Guests can watch as interpreters harvest crops and care for livestock. They can even get in on the action themselves—visitors are encouraged to help around the plantation and learn what it took to operate the farm.

The 10,000-square-foot Star of the Republic Museum was created in 1969 to collect the material culture and history of the Republic of Texas period. The Pioneer Playroom allows children to dress up and participate in traditional tasks of the time. There are several surprises in the room, like a (plush) pig whose (plush) internal organs can be removed and replaced, offering a fun way for children to see where dinner often originated in early Texas.

While closing her speech at the ceremony, Sen. Kolkhorst expanded on the THC's optimism by saying, “May we impact all 28 million Texans to once again understand that you cannot have a great future without understanding and celebrating your past.”

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For more information about the THC's 31 historic sites, visit [storiedsites.com](http://storiedsites.com).

ABOVE: The Washington-on-the-Brazos welcoming event.



# BIG BATTLEGROUND ACTION

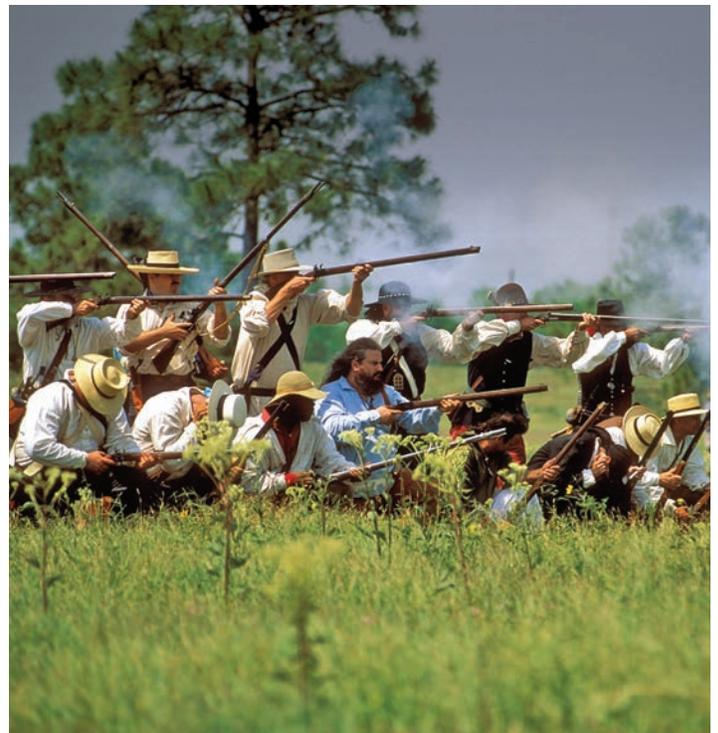
## SAN JACINTO DAY FESTIVAL EXPANDS TO INCLUDE STUDENTS, LIVING HISTORY

Each year, the San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment draws people from across the state to celebrate one of Texas' most significant military victories. This year's event, scheduled for April 17–18, will commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto in an even bigger way.

The ceremony, held at the Texas Historical Commission's San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, commemorates the April 21, 1836 battle that resulted in Texas' independence from Mexico. This year's event is expanding to two days, allowing area students and guests to experience the Texas Revolution via demonstrations and hands-on activities. The event is free; parking is \$10.

A living-history encampment will be set up exclusively for the festival, where guests can interact with reenactors and historians as they walk through a chronological recounting of the Texas Revolution. The major Texas Revolution sites will be represented at the start of the encampment, followed by a reenactment of the battle.

For information about the event, go to [thc.texas.gov/sjday](http://thc.texas.gov/sjday).



# NEWS BRIEFS

## TWO TEXAS CITIES JOIN MAIN STREET PROGRAM

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently designated Mineral Wells and Hamilton as incoming 2020 Texas Main Street communities. The cities officially entered the program January 1, bringing the number of fully designated Main Street communities in Texas up to 90.

With a current estimated population of approximately 3,200, Hamilton joins 18 other Texas communities under 5,000 that maintain Main Street designations. Mineral Wells, with a population of 15,341, joins a similar peer group of mid-sized communities in the program. Communities in any population category are eligible to apply for Main Street designation.

“Historic preservation isn’t about the past—it’s about developing new economic opportunities for the future,” said THC Chair John L. Nau, III. “We are excited to see how Mineral Wells’ and Hamilton’s downtown districts grow through the program.”

Every year, the THC may select up to five cities for official Main Street designation. Local Main Street programs receive a wide range of services and technical expertise from the THC, including design and historic preservation planning, economic development, organizational management, and training. Since 1981, the Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) has been helping revitalize historic downtowns across the state, drawing in billions of dollars of reinvestment while preserving the character of each participating community.

The application process for becoming designated as an official Texas Main Street community will soon be open. The application and timelines are available at [thc.texas.gov/becoming-main-street-community](http://thc.texas.gov/becoming-main-street-community). The application includes complete information about the process, optional Intent to Apply notification, selection criteria, and sample budgets. The Intent to Apply notification is due April 27.

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

## PRESERVATION SCHOLARS INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Applications are open now through March 27 for the THC’s Preservation Scholars Program, supported by funding from the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission (FTHC).

The Preservation Scholars Program builds interest and awareness in historic preservation, specifically among students from underrepresented cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. THC Preservation Scholars will work with THC staff and programs, gaining valuable professional experience related to

historic preservation, historic sites, community development programs, heritage tourism, and communications.

Preservation Scholars will complete a rotation among all divisions headquartered in Austin and then complete a special project in a division of their choice. Interns will receive a \$5,000 stipend provided by the FTHC for a full-time, eight-week internship.

Undergraduate and graduate students interested in history, preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, archeology, downtown revitalization, and heritage tourism can apply. The only requirements are U.S. citizenship, current enrollment in junior year or higher (in a Texas college or university or a Texas resident attending an out-of-state school), and 3.0 or higher-grade point average. Preference may be given to a candidate from a disadvantaged socioeconomic background. Prior recipients are ineligible.

For more information or to apply for an internship, visit [thcfriends.org/scholars](http://thcfriends.org/scholars).

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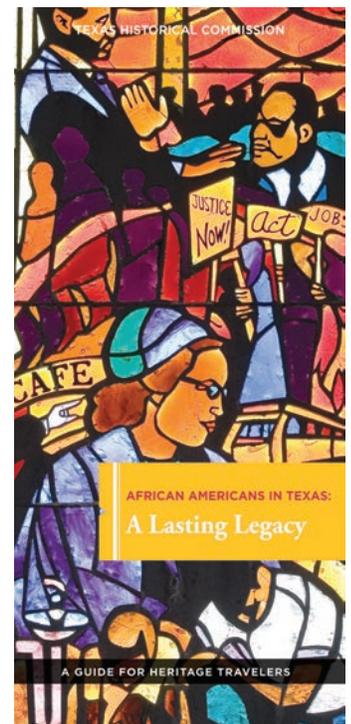
## CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE WITH FREE TRAVEL GUIDE

February is African American History Month, and the THC offers numerous travel resources to help Texans journey and discover these untold stories, including the African American heritage travel guide.

*African Americans in Texas: A Lasting Legacy* features dozens of sites that are significant to the African American experience in Texas. More than a travel guide, the publication also offers the stories of these key sites.

The full-color travel guide includes nine new site entries and is lavishly illustrated with photos, timelines, and maps. A mobile app version of the guide is also available to download for free. Part of the Texas Time Travel Tours app, the mobile tour offers a rich blend of images, videos, first-person interviews, maps, and other useful visitor information for exploring African American culture and heritage in Texas.

Download the *African Americans in Texas* travel guide at [texastimetravel.com](http://texastimetravel.com).



## WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

**KNOW YOUR TEXAS HISTORY?** Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Send your answer to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 or email to [medallion@thc.texas.gov](mailto:medallion@thc.texas.gov). Limit one prize annually per contestant.

**NEED A CLUE?** After hiding beneath 1950s vinyl, the mosaic tile floor of this 1910 building was uncovered during a 2011 restoration.



### ANSWER TO THE PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE:

The photo at left is the SPJST Lodge in Fayetteville, the first chartered chapter of the Czech fraternal organization founded in 1896. The acronym stands for Slovanska Podporujici Jednota Statu Texas.

Congratulations and prizes go to the first readers who correctly identified the site: Wanda Kusy-Carpenter of Schulenburg,

Syrissa Dominguez of Granger, Connie Krause of New Braunfels, and Pete Jamison of Dayton. Thanks to all who participated!

