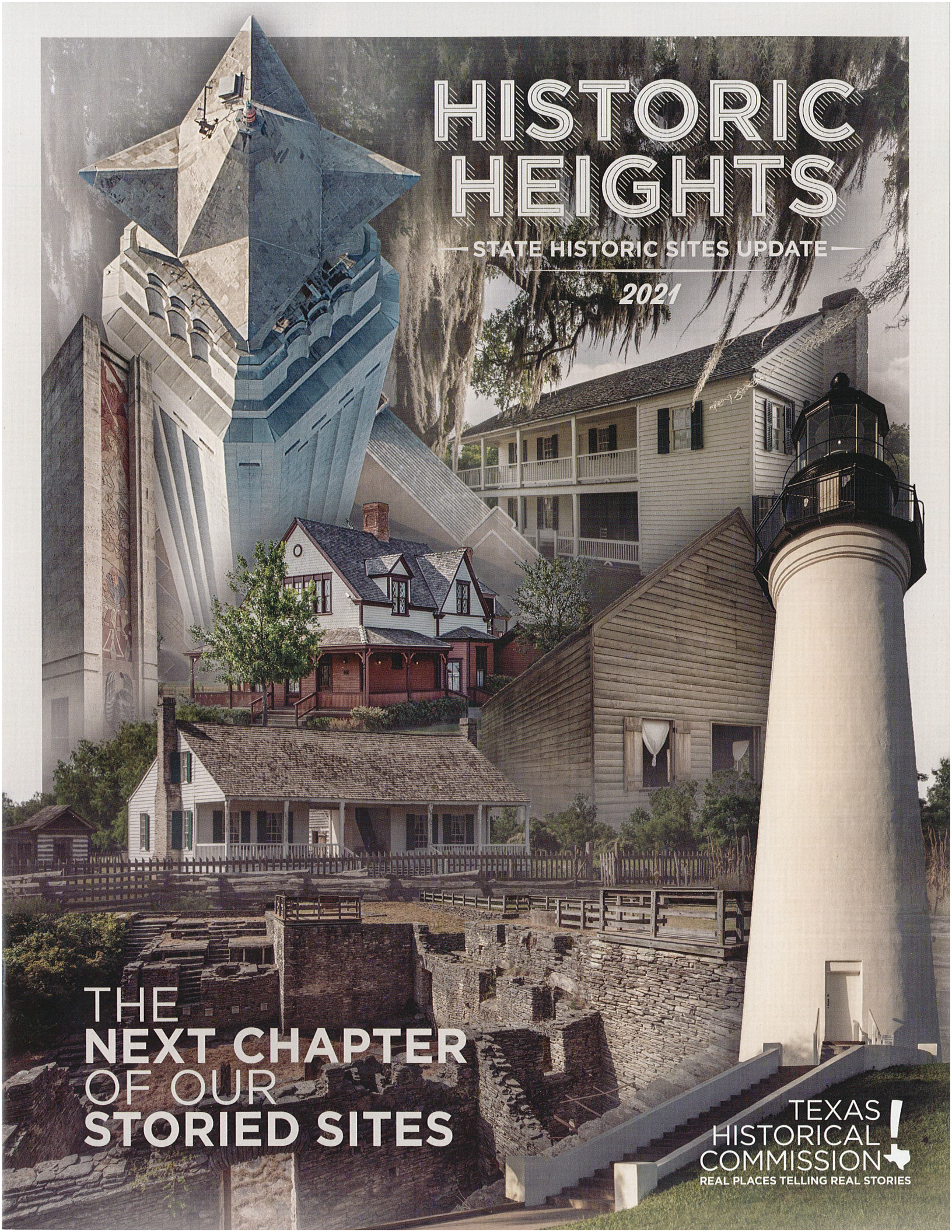
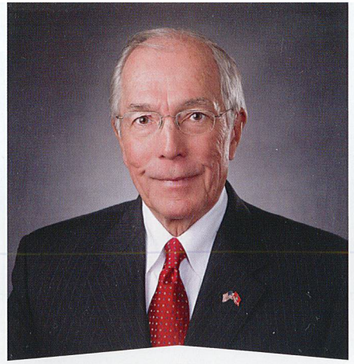

HISTORIC HEIGHTS
STATE HISTORIC SITES UPDATE
2021
THE NEXT CHAPTER OF OUR STORIED SITES
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES



THC CHAIRMAN **JOHN L. NAU, III** ON HISTORIC SITES

The past two years have been unique in the history of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Historic Sites Division—from the unprecedented opportunities and obstacles we faced, to the remarkable contributions we made to the Texas economy during these challenging times. In 2019, the THC welcomed six state historic sites transferred by the Texas Legislature from our partners at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and last year we welcomed the Star of the Republic Museum and the George and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch State Historic Site.

In 2019, we also re-opened two important historic sites impacted by natural disasters. Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in Alto was struck by a tornado that destroyed the visitors center and grass house, injuring many, and killing one person. Work immediately began to clear debris, salvage exhibit items, and open a temporary visitors center. Today staff works closely with Caddo tribe members to rebuild and preserve the stories of what was lost on that terrible day. We also re-opened the Fulton Mansion State Historic Site in Rockport in December. Federal FEMA funds and private donations from across the community and state ensured the site's recovery from Hurricane Harvey, and we are profoundly grateful for the support.

After the pandemic's arrival last winter, when many travel attractions and destinations closed across the nation, we were able to keep most of our sites safely open. The positive impact of providing stable services and outdoor attractions to host communities during the crisis cannot be underestimated. Nor can we underestimate the very real economic benefits the THC's state historic sites provide their communities, along with other statewide economic development initiatives the THC manages. Heritage travelers are attracted to historic sites, and in 2019 heritage travelers contributed $8.3 billion to the state's economy, supporting jobs for as many as 72,000 Texans.

One of our flagship sites, the National Museum of the Pacific War, generates almost $20 million in local impact. Our historic sites located throughout the state provide an economic boost to the small towns and regions where they are located, like Sabine Pass in Port Arthur, Fort Griffin in Albany, and the most recognizable attraction in Port Isabel—the lighthouse.

Our sites attracted nearly 850,000 visitors this past biennium, with nearly 160,000 visitors already in fiscal year 2021 despite the pandemic. Boosting our site attendance during this troubled time was the agency's unprecedented virtual outreach effort that enabled even non-visitors to stay connected with historic sites. This agency-wide effort continues today and reached more than 4 million people in 2020, generating record web traffic and improving the sites' already-impressive social media footprint.

We know one thing for certain about 2021—as Texas returns to normal, historic places will continue to drive visitation and economic activity across the Lone Star State. They are among the most popular destinations in the state, attracting more than 10% of Texas travelers who spend 20% more on average than other visitors.

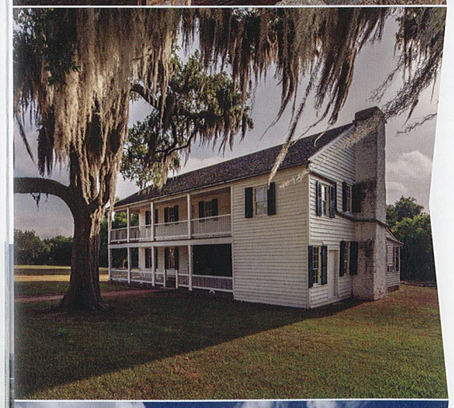
These places have faced innumerable crises over the years and continue to endure, just as Texas and our nation have endured. They prevail, because generations of Texans value this history and cherish the places and stories of the great Lone Star State. By working together, we can ensure that these sites continue to be major contributors to local and regional travel economies.

With the support of the Texas Legislature and our state's elected leaders, our historic sites will continue to serve as economic engines for our great state.

We hope the following pages will inspire you to join us in our efforts to preserve these Texas treasures for future generations to experience and enjoy.









Texas' Republic-era past took center stage when the Texas Historical Commission (THC) acquired state historic sites transferred from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) September 1, 2019.

Agency officials celebrated the new sites as a prominent way to educate residents and visitors about the Lone Star State's mid-1800s heritage. The sites included San Jacinto Monument and Battleground in La Porte, Washington-on-the-Brazos,

THE STORIED SITES *of* TEXAS HISTORY

Barrington Plantation, and The Star of the Republic Museum in Washington, Port Isabel Lighthouse in Port Isabel, Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill in La Grange, and Fanthorp Inn in Anderson.

The THC also welcomed the Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch State Historic Site on June 1, 2020. These properties added a wealth of talent, broadened the agency's interpretive focus on Texas history, and raised public interest in the THC's historic sites system.









SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND

This State Historic Site is one of the most significant historic sites in Texas. The Texian victory at San Jacinto gave rise to the Republic and State of Texas. Texas celebrated the centennial of this victory with the opening of the San Jacinto Memorial Monument in 1939. The THC partners with the San Jacinto Museum of History Association to build site operation and develop a stronger, more-robust business enterprise and world-class destination.



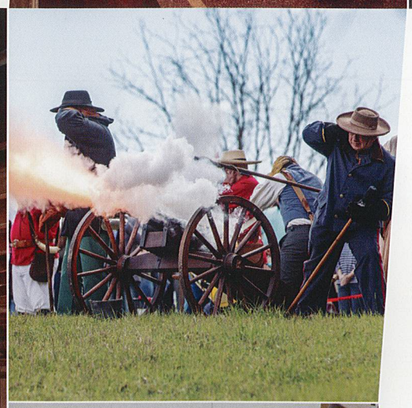
San Jacinto Battleround
is located in the
Texas Independence Trail Region.
visitsanjacinto.com













WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS

Most notable as the site of the creation of the Republic of Texas, the historic townsite of Washington was the seat of the Convention of 1836 that declared independence from Mexico and framed a constitution to govern the new nation. Washington also served the Republic as the national capital from 1842 to 1845. Washington-on-the-Brazos has a strong strategic partnership with Texas A&M University and Blinn College. A draft business plan will strengthen site operations and align it to better serve the public.



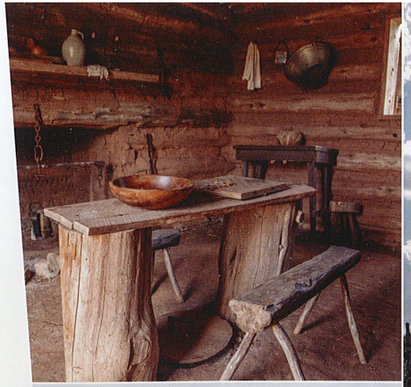
Washington-on-the-Brazos
is located in the
Texas Independence Trail Region.
visitwashtingtononthebrazos.com

BARRINGTON PLANTATION

The well-preserved 1845 farmhouse of Texas President Anson Jones features a collection of typical furnishings from the Republic era and an ingenious breeze-capturing porch design. Replica buildings based on Jones' original home site include two cabins representing enslaved workers' quarters. The site provides opportunities for immersive living history experiences for the visiting public.



Barrington Plantation
is located in the
Texas Independence Trail Region.
visitbarringtonplantation.com













FANTHORP INN

Built in 1834 by English immigrant Henry Fanthorp, this historic structure hosted Sam Houston, Robert E. Lee and Zachary Taylor during the pre-Civil War era. It remains a charming historic building with solid timber craftsmanship and furnished rooms offering a glimpse into life on the Texas frontier 170 years ago. The inn is part of Washington-on-the-Brazos' operations, management, and staffing.



Fanthorp Inn
is located in the
Texas Brazos Trail Region.
visitfanthorpinn.com

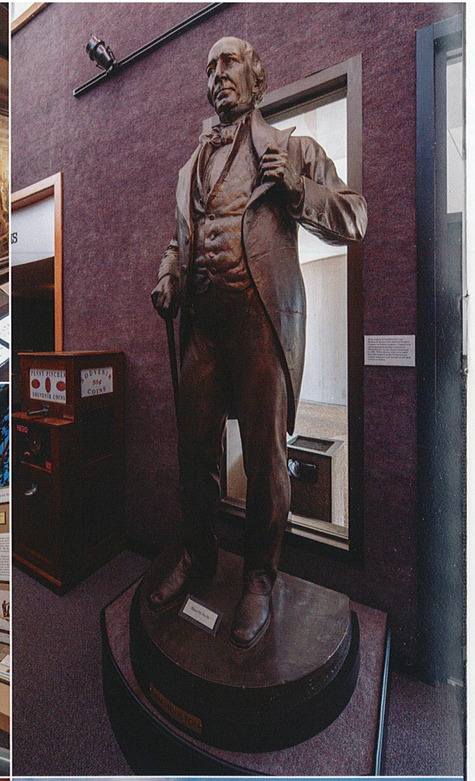
THE STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM

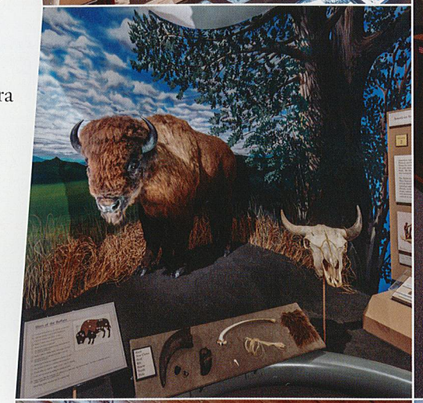
The star-shaped facility showcases the history and culture of the Republic of Texas' area inhabitants from Native American tribes to settlers of the 1800s. A capital improvement project funded by the legislature will address all the facilities on site to present a compelling and understandable interpretation of Texas history from colonization through the Republic era and into statehood.

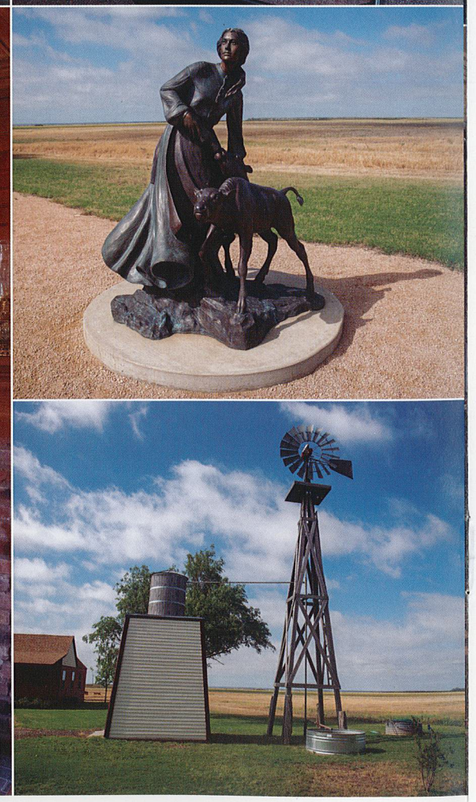


Star of the Republic Museum
is located in the
Texas Independence Trail Region.
visitstaroftherepublic.com









CHARLES AND MARY ANN GOODNIGHT RANCH

The Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch includes the 1880s ranch house and the J. Evetts Haley Visitor and Education Center, which offers exhibits about the Goodnights, southern plains bison, and settlement of the area. The Goodnight home is restored on its original site. A Quanah Parker Trail giant arrow marker on the grounds serves to commemorate the friendship between Charles Goodnight and Quanah Parker, last chief of the Comanche. Permanent wayfinding signage and billboards have been updated to guide visitors to the site.



Goodnight Ranch
is located in the
Texas Plains Trail Region.
visitgoodnightranch.com



KREISCHE BREWERY AND MONUMENT HILL

These sites in La Grange are now advertised as two properties to highlight each unique history. THC partnered with TPWD to reroof the Kreische House. An architectural team assessed the brewery ruins, and plans are in development to restore and improve access to them. Security upgrades will soon provide improved oversight of the monument. Twisted X Brewing Company in Dripping Springs formulated Kreische Bluff Bock beer, which they believe is close to the original beer brewed on site after a study of organic remains and native yeasts from the brewery's ruins.



Kreische Brewery
and Moument Hill
is located in the
Texas Independence Trail Region.
visitkreischebrewery.com
visitmonumenthill.com







PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE

A new operating agreement is in place with the City of Port Isabel. The THC's Historic Sites Division staff has coordinated with city staff on the site's maintenance and interpretive needs. They are also addressing outstanding maintenance issues. Efforts are underway to work with the city to raise funds for a lighthouse lens reproduction. Also, THC staff members are working to coordinate signage, marketing, branding and training with onsite staff.



Port Isabel Lighthouse
is located in the
Texas Tropical Trail Region.
visitportisabellighthouse.com





LIPANTITLAN

Located near Lake Corpus Christi State Park, this five-acre property has been surveyed, and a maintenance contract is in place to care for the property. Staff will be assessing the property to determine next steps.



Lipantitlan
is located in the
Texas Tropical Trail Region.
visitlipantitlan.com







CADDO MOUNDS TORNADO

April 13, 2019, should have been a day of celebration at Caddo Mounds. Site staff and local volunteers had worked hard to prepare for the annual Caddo Culture Day celebration that welcomes members of the Caddo Nation and other visitors to learn and appreciate Caddo culture. Instead, the festive event turned into a tragedy.

A devastating EF3 tornado hit the site, killing one visitor and injuring dozens, some severely. Many attendees and staff required medical attention, with some transported to hospitals by helicopter.

Among the injured were many members of the Caddo Nation, descendants of the same Caddo who constructed the namesake features of the site 900 years ago. In addition to inflicting death, injury, and trauma, the tornado destroyed the site's visitor center and unique grass house, which was built in accordance with Caddo tradition by tribe members and volunteers in 2016.

Today, Caddo Mounds staff members are working closely with Caddo tribe representatives to determine what can be rebuilt and preserve the stories of what was lost. A temporary visitor center opened, and Richter Architects from Corpus Christi was hired to design a new visitor center. Caddo Mounds staff extend their sincerest gratitude to the City of Alto, Cherokee County, Caddo Nation, site employees, and volunteers. Without their perseverance and dedication, recovery would not be possible.



Caddo Mounds
is located in the
Texas Forest Trail Region.
visitcaddomounds.com

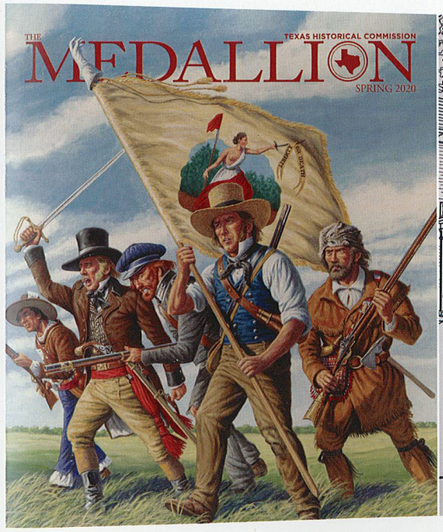
DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

To address online programming needs, the following K-12 educational virtual field trip initiatives have been developed utilizing the historic sites.

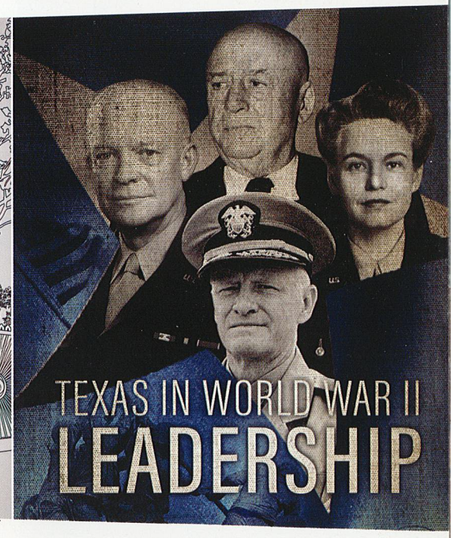
- Indigenous Texas and European Exploration
- Texas Revolution
- Republic of Texas
- The Civil War and Reconstruction
- Entrepreneurial Texas
- World War II and The World It Made

The agency-wide History at Home initiative supported online learning during the pandemic, providing fun at-home learning activities, lesson plans and craft ideas all pertaining to state historic sites.

Seven sites have TEKS-tied curriculum posted on their websites and THC Education Resources page. All curriculum sets have been designed to contain activities and materials to be used for distance learning as well as on-site. Additional site curriculums are in development.







ONLINE EDUCATION OUTREACH RESULTS

The Historic Sites Division's educational outreach materials are promoted online through the agency's digital marketing channels. More than 250,000 people follow 56 social media accounts representing the agency and participating state historic sites. Since January 2020, educational posts on social media reached 40 million people. Nearly 400 educational videos have been published and viewed over 2.3 million times.

On April 21, the THC partnered with the Alamo Trust to co-host an educational video discussing the Battle of San Jacinto. The video was viewed over 100,000 times and was shared on the THC's and the Alamo's social media channels.

In the past year, educational blog posts have been viewed over 80,000 times. Our Learning Resources portal has more than 5,000 pageviews. The Texas History at Home educational activities pages have been viewed over 7,000 times since launching in March.

The agency uses email marketing outreach to notify more than 177,000 email subscribers of upcoming news and online education events. Several of our state historic sites have hosted educational webinars with lessons unique to the history at their sites.

A planned 2020 San Jacinto Day event was not possible due to pandemic conditions. Instead, the THC, the Alamo, and Presidio La Bahia partnered to craft an online broadcast,"San Jacinto Day, Texas Remembers." The program livestreamed on San Jacinto Day and included several Texas Revolution sites, reaching more than 130,000 viewers statewide.

COLLECTIONS ACQUISITION AND ACTIVITY

THC's Curatorial Facility for Artifact Research (CFAR) has received several objects and archival resources with the transfer of sites from TPWD that deepen our understanding of Texas history. Staff at CFAR are now working to stabilize and conserve the collection.



18TH-CENTURY SPANISH FIREARMS

These Spanish firearms were acquired in 2018 and conserved at Texas A&M's Conservation Research Lab in 2019 for the Mission Dolores State Historic Site collection. Both the pistols and the short escopeda (marked 1796) have Spanish miquelet flintlocks and are typical of the items that would have been used by the soldiers at Mission Dolores. The rifle and the pistols both are enhanced by skillfully engraved and cut silver applied decorations. The firearms will be incorporated into the new exhibit at the upgraded visitor center.

AMBROTYPE CASED-PHOTO OF A. E. BAKER (DONATED BY CHARLOTTE DUKE AND FAMILY, 2019)



Donated from family members descended from the "Old 300," this cased photograph is one of the few extant images of Amaziah Eugene Baker who ran a shop at San Felipe de Austin during the colonial period. His shop was burned in the Texas Revolution during the Runaway Scrape.

1776 TWO-REAL COIN FROM SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN (EXCAVATED 2019)

A two-real coin dating to 1776 was discovered during on-site archeological activity at San Felipe de Austin. Bearing the image of Charles III and a mint mark indicating that it was produced in Mexico City, this coin was in good condition and is planned for use in the exhibit.



AMERICAN BREWING ASSOCIATION KEG SPIGOT



This brass spigot was found during archeological investigations at Kreische Brewery in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Manufactured for the American Brewing Company, this spigot would have been used to control the flow of liquid from a tapped keg. This item was conserved following the legislative transfer of Kreische Brewery and its collections in 2019.





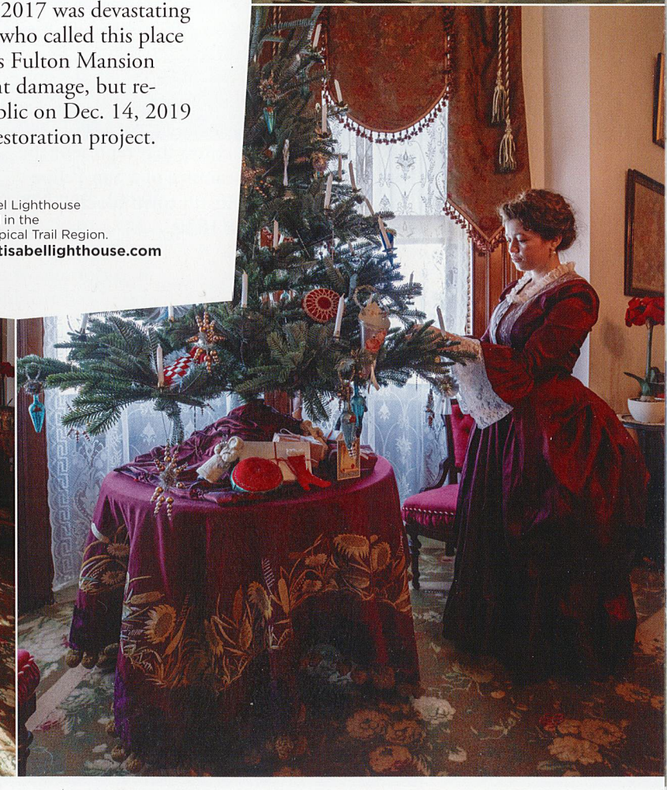


FULTON MANSION REOPENING

The catastrophic destruction Hurricane Harvey left in Rockport-Fulton in August 2017 was devastating for all the people who called this place home. The THC's Fulton Mansion suffered significant damage, but re-opened to the public on Dec. 14, 2019 after a two-year restoration project.



Port Isabel Lighthouse is located in the Texas Tropical Trail Region.
visitportisabellighthouse.com





Updates from around the state

Levi Jordan's Learning Center is in the first stages of construction in preparation for a 2021 public opening. The project includes an archeological lab with a visitor center (utilizing existing bond funds), and the preservation/restoration of the main plantation house.

The Levi Jordan Plantation site and the story it tells are worthy of substantially larger development. The site speaks to the significant role African Americans played in Texas' economic and cultural growth.

The THC is planning an improved visitor center with museum galleries and enhanced site interpretation that will fully capture the site's potential.

The Historic Sites Division is working with Richter Architects and Gallagher & Associates, two highly-respected firms with international portfolios, to design the buildings and exhibits for the site. An academic advisory committee is assisting the agency as it designs the larger visitors center, museum, and exhibits to address the rich heritage of African Americans in Texas.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site's The Villa de Austin townsite evocation is a new addition to the site, complementing the visitor center's exhibits that tell the story of this pre-1836 village through artifacts, facsimile documents, films and interactive technology.

Based on site-specific archival and archeological evidence and historic local precedent, the THC's architects developed plans for several log and frame structures that represent the appearance of a San Felipe de Austin town block circa 1830.





The National Museum of the Pacific War's updated Admiral Nimitz Gallery opened to the public February 21, 2020. The gallery was reconfigured and completely redesigned.

USA Today ranked the National Museum of the Pacific War fifth on its list of top 10 history museums in the nation. The museum is now a Smithsonian Affiliation organization and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, after THC partnered with the Admiral Nimitz Foundation to gain this recognition.

The French Legation The French Legation has been restored and re-opened in February 2021. An expansion and enhancement of the visitor center provides additional space to serve the site's business needs and offer public amenities.

The construction of an addition to the 1974 Carriage House was funded through grants received from the City of Austin. The Legation house was originally constructed in 1841 as a French diplomatic outpost in the Republic of Texas. The property became a private home after Texas' annexation to the United States and played an important role in the development of East Austin.

The historic structure, landscape, and new visitors center provide a cultural destination where people from the surrounding neighborhoods can gather. Outdoor interpretive panels explore the development of the French Legation property and the site's role in the development of East Austin. The historic Legation building will feature changing exhibitions and programs in collaboration with community partners.







Mission Dolores' visitor center structural repair and remodeling are complete. The exhibit design is underway based on a completed master plan and will focus on the Spanish mission system, mercantile trade between the Spanish and French, relationships with the Caddo tribe, and the importance of El Camino Real de los Tejas in the early development of Texas.

Fort McKavett received new period-appropriate wood shingle roofs at five of the historic structures: the schoolhouse, officers' quarters 6, 8 and 12, and the old fort headquarters. All of these buildings were in need of new roofs and had been identified for replacement by the site manager as part of ongoing prioritized maintenance and repair. The project was completed on schedule and on budget.









COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

There are 16 active Friends groups that provide operational, promotional, and programming support through their volunteer boards and general membership. Twelve of those groups operate as private nonprofit organizations, while four are fiscally sponsored under the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission. In the last biennium, Friends Group organizations supported projects such as living history and military history re-enactment programs, holiday events, funding support for maintenance and restoration projects, and docent and volunteer activities. Friends group members also are instrumental in promoting historic sites to their local community leaders and elected officials.

CURRENT ACTIVE HISTORIC SITES FRIENDS GROUPS

- Casa Magoffin Compañeros
- Fort Lancaster Company
- Friends of Caddo Mounds
- Friends of Casa Navarro
- Friends of the Confederate Reunion Grounds
- Friends of Fort Griffin
- Friends of Fort McKavett
- Friends of Fulton Mansion
- Friends of Kreische Brewery-Monument Hill
- Friends of Landmark Inn
- Friends of Mission Dolores
- Friends of Sam Bell Maxey House
- Friends of San Felipe de Austin
- Friends of Starr Family Home
- Varner-Hogg Volunteers
- Washington-on-the-Brazos Historical Foundation



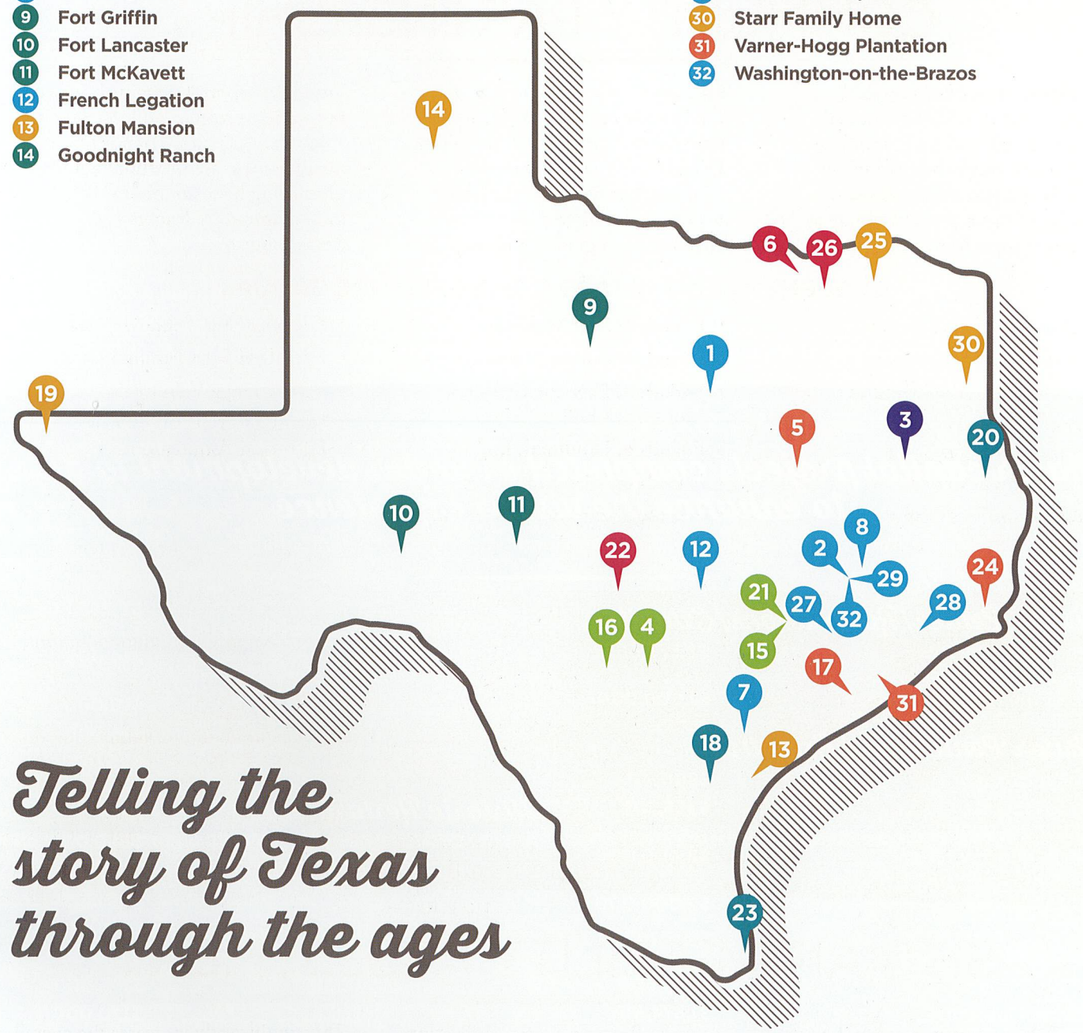


SITE AND FACILITY ASSESSMENT

The THC architectural team has assessed the needs at each property. The deferred maintenance costs at the transferred sites are estimated at over $60 million. This includes the Kreische Brewery ruins stabilization and accessibility, San Jacinto restoration, San Jacinto Monument Museum system upgrades and repairs, and several other smaller projects. This significantly increases the overall cost for the properties within the network, which is estimated to be $92.8 million.

OUR 32 STATE HISTORIC SITES

1. Acton
2. Barrington Plantation
3. Caddo Mounds
4. Casa Navarro
5. Confederate Reunion Grounds
6. Eisenhower Birthplace
7. Fannin Battleground
8. Fanthorp Inn
9. Fort Griffin
10. Fort Lancaster
11. Fort McKavett
12. French Legation
13. Fulton Mansion
14. Goodnight Ranch
15. Kreische Brewery
16. Landmark Inn
17. Levi Jordan Plantation
18. Lipantitlan
19. Magoffin Home
20. Mission Dolores
21. Monument HIll
22. National Museum of the Pacific War
23. Port Isabel Lighthouse
24. Sabine Pass Battleground
25. Sam Bell Maxey
26. Sam Rayburn House
27. San Felipe de Austin
28. San Jacinto Battleground and Monument
29. Star of the Republic Museum
30. Starr Family Home
31. Varner-Hogg Plantation
32. Washington-on-the-Brazos



Telling the story of Texas through the ages

PREHISTORY → COLONIAL TEXAS → TEXAS REVOLUTION → EARLY STATEHOOD → CIVIL WAR → FRONTIER → RECONSTRUCTION AND PROSPERITY → 20TH CENTURY

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276
512-463-6100
thc.texas.gov

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT NO. 1938

Major capital projects completed or under development to date to enhance the visitor experience

Totals below include privately raised funds and other state appropriations.

Visitor Center/Restorations/Exhibits

French Legation	**$2,573,605**
Washington-on-the-Brazos, Star of the Republic Museum	**$7,600,000**

Visitor Centers and Exhibits

Mission Dolores	**$860,770**
Caddo Mounds (temporary quarters)	**$355,709**
Levi Jordan Plantation Learning Center Complex	**$2,400,000**
Caddo Mounds	**$2,000,000**

Exhibits

Mission Dolores	**$438,500**
National Museum of the Pacific War	**$1,574,619**
Fort McKavett	**$58,700**
Eisenhower Birthplace	**$176,576**
San Felipe de Austin, Villa de Austin (townsite exhibit)	**$2,252,995**
San Felipe de Austin (changing exhibits)	**$14,000**
San Jacinto Battleground	**$10,000**
Landmark Inn	**$16,000**
Fulton Mansion	**$25,000**

Historic Restorations

Fulton Mansion	**$850,000**
Levi Jordan Plantation House (porch)	**$90,000**
Star Family Home (interior)	**$201,100**
Sam Bell Maxey (interior)	**$75,000**
Fort McKavett	**$200,000**
Forts Ruin stabilization	**$185,000**
Casa Navarro (roof)	**$120,000**
Magoffin Home	**$390,000**
Landmark Inn (dam)	**$750,000**

Visit us at **texashistoricsites.com** and on social media.