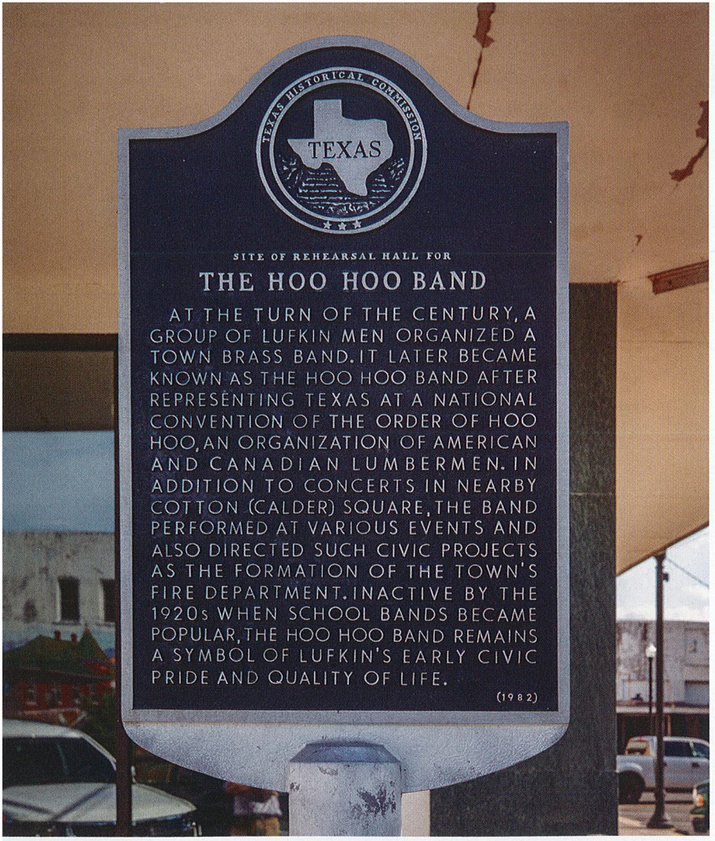

THE
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEDALLION
SUMMER 2018
FIND YOURSELF IN THE TEXAS FOREST TRAIL REGION
PLUS 50 Years of Texas Heritage Trails | Preservation Scholars | Fulton's Return





Top: This THC marker commemorates the Hoo Hoo Band's former rehearsal space in downtown Lufkin. Read more about Lufkin on page 9.

ON THE COVER: A wooded trail in Nacogdoches' Ruby Mize Azalea Garden. Photo by Patrick Hughey.

THE MEDALLION
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SUMMER 2018

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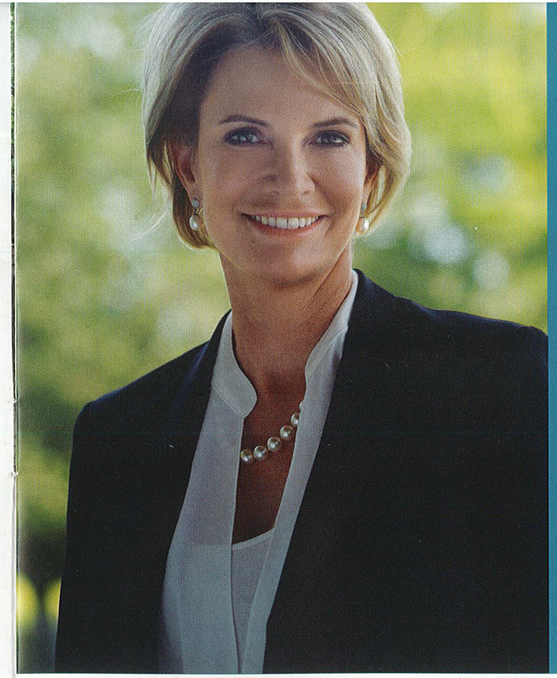
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Our Mission
To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

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TEXAS SENATOR DAWN BUCKINGHAM

LEADERSHIP LETTER

Our unique Texas history was sometimes written in or near today's major cities—the Alamo, the San Jacinto Battleground, and Dallas' Dealey Plaza come to mind. More often, though, you'll find the stories of our shared heritage in the small towns and rural areas.

This issue of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) *Medallion* features fascinating articles touching on the wonderful history of East Texas and many other destinations throughout the THC's Texas Heritage Trail Regions.

While my hometown of Lakeway is near Austin, I truly love representing a sprawling, predominantly rural Central Texas district with marvelous heritage to discover—from Abilene to Bandera and from Fredericksburg to Temple, with a few hundred other stories in between!

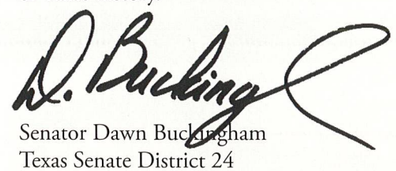
The Texas Heritage Trails Program, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, is the glue that bonds these stories and helps millions of traveling history lovers find nuggets small and large. As a member of the Sunset Advisory Commission, I've recently enjoyed learning more about the Heritage Trails and other THC programs.

My district touches on three of the 10 Texas Heritage Trail Regions—Brazos, Forts, and Hill Country—and you'll find several sites within the Forest Trail Region mentioned in this issue of *The Medallion*.

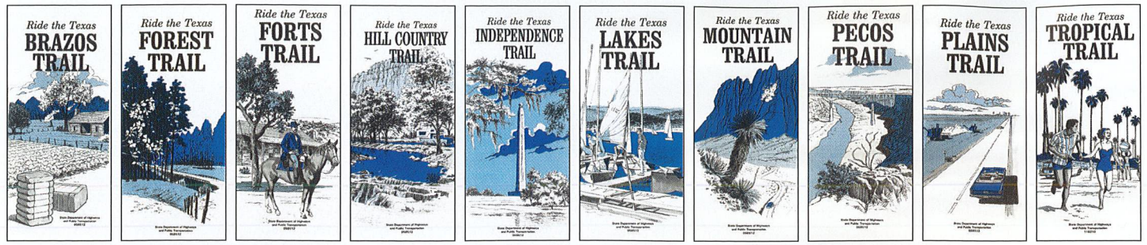
Texas law requires that the purpose and operation of each state agency be reviewed by the Sunset Commission. The Commission recently heartily endorsed continuation of the THC; suggested strengthened operation of the vital Texas Heritage Trails Program; and recommended a broadened agency role in planning, coordination, and operation of State Historic Sites.

Historic Sites managed by the state; by our cities, towns, and counties; or by a private owner offer a framework for telling the story of Texas to the public. Heritage tourism will continue to be a valuable economic development engine for cities and towns of all sizes.

Readers of the THC's *Medallion* are likely avid heritage travelers constantly seeking the next great story. Please share with family and friends your passion for Texas history and *finding* the real places that tell the real stories of Texas history.



Senator Dawn Buckingham
Texas Senate District 24



REGIONAL ROUNDUP

EXPLORE THC'S TRAIL REGIONS FOR PROGRAM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Text by Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

Throughout the year, you may have heard about the Texas Historical Commission's 50th anniversary celebration of the Texas Heritage Trails Program (THTP). As part of the commemoration, the agency is hosting a 10-month-long sweepstakes with prize packages offering travel getaways—one to each of the 10 trail regions. Enter at extradayintexas.com.

The Stay an Extra Day Sweepstakes encourages travelers to go beyond the higher-profile destinations and explore the state's diverse regions by staying an extra day and experiencing another aspect of an area's history and culture.

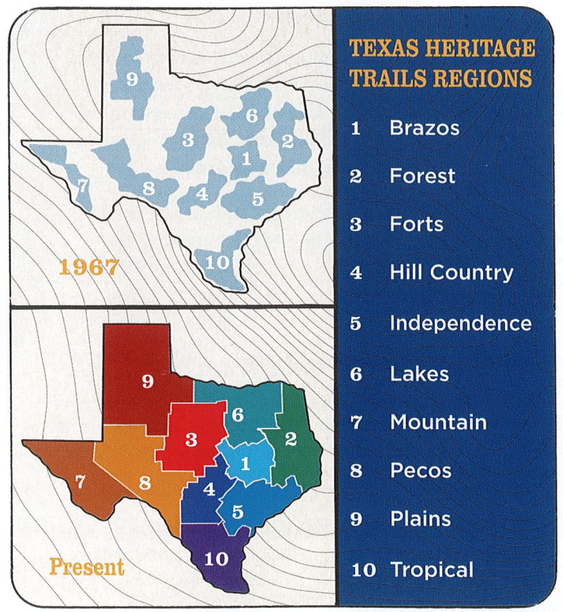
But where did this "extra day" idea originate?


GOV. JOHN CONNALLY

In the mid-1960s, Texas Gov. John Connally commissioned a Texas-image marketing survey, which revealed many Americans thought Texas merely contained deserts, oil, and cactus. Connally's efforts to improve the state's image included a May 1967 presentation in Austin, where he asked the audience to consider that if tourists could be persuaded to stay only one more day, it would bring an additional $188 million to the state's economy.

He added that a regional heritage trail campaign would "bring new economic hope to the door-step of small towns and out-of-the-way points all over the state." In a follow-up press memo he said, "What I see for the future is a series of what might be called Travel Trails of Texas."

In 1997, the Texas Legislature appointed the Texas Historical Commission, one of the original entities on Connally's Texas Travel Trails committee, to develop a heritage tourism program for the state. The THC took the original concept of the trails and expanded them to include the surrounding counties to create a regional statewide heritage tourism program.



"The Heritage Trails bring visitors to Texas sites and communities, increasing tourist dollars and hotel stays, and getting folks excited about historic preservation," says the THC's Teresa Caldwell, state coordinator of the THTP. "Increasing interest in visiting the past can yield an economic bonanza if we're diligent in preserving and promoting our authentic places and their stories."

Gov. John Connally: #1976/198-195, Courtesy of Texas State Library and Archives Commission.



With this in mind, we offer the following travel suggestions for each of the THTP's 10 regions. After you've visited a region's most-famous attraction or returned to your favorite restaurant, consider spending some additional time at one of these destinations or research your own ideas from among the thousands at texastimetravel.com.

Texas Brazos Trail Region
The Brazos Trail is an 18-county area of Central Texas. Visitors to the region may already be familiar with Waco's Magnolia Market or College Station's George H.W. Bush Presidential Library, but if you stay an extra day…

You can visit Clifton, 35 miles northwest of Waco, where off-the-beaten-path attractions include Art Alley, featuring bold murals on downtown buildings. Nestled in the alley is the Cell Block, a former jail cell from the 1930s now serving as single-occupancy upscale lodging. Those seeking fine dining in Clifton can walk to Sinclair, housed in a former 1922 gas station.

Texas Forest Trail Region
Spanning 35 counties from the Oklahoma-Arkansas border to the Gulf of Mexico, the Forest Trail Region is known as the "Gateway to Texas" for the many cultural groups who entered Texas from the east.

Travelers with a day to spare can go to Kilgore, 26 miles east of Tyler. Nearly a century ago, the community boasted 1,200 oil derricks within its modest city limits. The Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation reconstructed nearly 50 to recreate the town's sense of place, with many erected downtown on the original site of the "World's Richest Acre." Across town, the East Texas Oil Museum chronicles the extraordinary impact of the East Texas Oil Field on the region.

Texas Forts Trail Region
The Forts Trail is comprised of 29 counties in Central West Texas, with highlights including a Spanish presidio and eight historic frontier forts.

In Sweetwater, 40 miles west of Abilene, the U.S. Army Air Forces turned the local airport into Avenger Field; during World War II, it served as the only all-female air base in history. More than 1,000 Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) served stateside, and their legacy is honored at the National WASP WWII Museum in the airfield's 1929 Hangar One.

Texas Hill Country Trail Region
The Hill Country Trail is a geographically diverse 19-county area in Central Texas that abounds with natural resources—from tranquil lakes and rivers to canyons, and roadways hewn from the natural limestone.

Located about 90 miles southwest of Fredericksburg is the small community of Concan—for decades, it's drawn visitors seeking respite from the daily grind and summer heat. Spend a day or weekend at Neal's Lodges on the cool, clear Frio River, where you can rent cabins and tubes, or explore dramatic cliffs and river trails on foot. Neal's Lodges was founded in 1926 and features a historic dining hall and dozens of cabins, camping sites, and lodges overlooking the Frio Canyon.

Texas Independence Trail Region
Covering 28 southeast Texas counties, the Texas Independence Trail Region reaches from Houston to San Antonio, and Washington and Bastrop counties.

The bustling city of Victoria offers vibrant options for heritage travelers, including the 1892 Victoria County Courthouse, a towering Romanesque Revival structure designed by renowned Texas architect J. Riely Gordon. Other downtown sites of note include the 1904 neo-Gothic St. Mary's Catholic Church. Just around the corner, a THC marker adorns the 1882 Fosatti's Delicatessen, which claims to be the oldest deli in Texas.

Continued on page 13


FOSATTI'S DELICATESSEN

Above: If you stay an extra day in the Texas Brazos Trail Region, be sure to check out Clifton's Art Alley. At right: Victoria's Fossati's Delicatessen is a lesser-known dining destination in the Independence Trail Region.

Text by Andy Rhodes, photos by Patrick Hughey

Forest Trail Region Offers Heritage Travelers a Natural Getaway

A natural escape in Texas can mean many different things, but it's a distinctive sensation in the Forest Trail Region. Instead of mountains, beaches, or canyons, there are trees. Lots of trees.

"The forest country has a natural rhythm. Things are a little slower, you breathe a little deeper, and connecting with family and friends is just a little bit easier," says Marty Prince, executive director for the Texas Forest Trail Region. "Our woods are a sanctuary, an escape from billboards and traffic jams. Schedules and spreadsheets don't matter much under a cathedral of eight-story pines. It's a wonderful getaway."

This year, the Forest Trail is joining the THC's other nine statewide regions in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Texas Heritage Trails Program (THTP). Prince is enthusiastic about the THTP's birthday and its Stay an Extra Day Sweepstakes (extradayintexas.com).

"Some unlucky souls still imagine Texas as all desert and cactus—breaking the tumbleweed stereotype is a point of pride for us," Prince says. "From the world's largest cypress grove, to the state's last wild river, East Texas is one of nature's best secrets. Stay an extra day in the Forest Region—you're never more than an hour away from something incredible."

Prince is based in Nacogdoches, which has long billed itself as the oldest town in Texas, based on Caddo Indian and colonial settlements in the area. The Camino Real de los Tejas traverses the community, allowing locals to claim they've been welcoming travelers to the region for more than 1,200 years. These days, visitors can choose from many heritage tourism destinations that help tell the stories of the area's multi-faceted history.

State Rep. Travis Clardy, a Nacogdoches resident, proudly touts the community's newest downtown restoration project, the stunning **Fredonia Hotel** (thefredonia.com, 936-564-1234), as an example of its historic vibrancy. The 1955 mid-century modern masterpiece offers travelers a home base in the Main Street district within walking distance of increasingly expanding destinations like restaurants, coffee shops, and bars.



NACOGDOCHES MAIN STREET: DOLLI'S DINER

"I think we're going to see an emergence of history-based travel around here—this is the most beautiful and historic part of the state," Clardy says. "We're preaching the gospel of Nacogdoches and East Texas, but I'm just a minor prophet."

Nacogdoches Main Street's (ci.nacogdoches.tx.us, 936-559-2573) Amy Mehaffey notes the Fredonia's recent re-opening has been a catalyst for several new businesses to open in the historic downtown area. Additionally, existing businesses have extended their hours to accommodate guests and locals who stroll the streets after dinner.

"We're starting to see the footprint of downtown expand, which is wonderful. It used to be defined as just the areas with red brick streets, but now businesses and services are moving beyond those traditional borders," Mehaffey says.

Not historic but drawing a large number of heritage travelers is the **Fredonia Brewery** (fredoniabrewery.com, 936-305-5125), just a block north of downtown. Founders Vince Beard and Paul Murray are Nacogdoches natives who opened the 15-barrel brewhouse in March 2017. Their shared love of beer and local history is evident in the traditionally constructed pine taproom and the beers, including Pine Cove Porter and Nine Flags Amber Ale. Even the brewery's name and tagline reference the local Fredonia Republic of 1826–27: "Brewed with the independent spirit that created Texas."

Opposite: The recently restored Fredonia Hotel has served as a catalyst for new projects in downtown Nacogdoches.

"We love our hometown and all the great stories about its important role in Texas history," Murray says. "It's really cool to think that Sam Houston and Davey Crockett once walked where our taproom now stands."

Beyond downtown, visitors are drawn to heritage attractions like the 1830 **Sterne-Hoya House** (ci.nacogdoches.tx.us, 936-560-5426), the oldest home in Nacogdoches remaining on its original site. The home was built for Adolphus Sterne, a prominent leader of the Texas Revolution, and hosted many high-profile guests, including Houston, who was baptized into the Catholic faith here as an adult.

A couple miles away on the eastern edge of Stephen F. Austin University's campus is the lush **Ruby Mize Azalea Garden** (sfagardens.sfasu.edu, 936-468-4343). Eight acres of lofty loblolly pines encompass a pleasant 1.25-mile walking trail featuring 50 benches, dozens of planting beds, and hundreds of floral varieties. A popular spot on the 25-mile Nacogdoches Azalea Trail, the garden also includes whimsical artwork—from metal sculptures to floral canopies.

Into the Woods

After exploring Nacogdoches, venture further into the Texas Forest Trail Region to learn more about its namesake piney woods. One of the best ways to experience this intersection of history and timber is at the Aldridge Sawmill ruins in **Angelina National Forest** (fs.fed.us, 936-897-1068), roughly 50 miles southeast of Nacogdoches.


HISTORY CENTER

Like other regional lumber towns, Aldridge was once abuzz with activity, with hundreds of homes, several churches and schools, a commissary, and saloons. During its brief heyday (roughly 1905–20), Aldridge produced nearly 100,000 board feet of yellow pine lumber daily. Aldridge's only remnants are the enormous and stark concrete walls of former mill facilities, now offering an eerie juxtaposition to the surrounding natural beauty of this enchanting forest. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Aldridge is a surreal and compelling destination, with trees growing in and alongside graffiti-covered walls that are slowly being reclaimed by a forest they once helped decimate.


ALDRIDGE SAWMILL RUINS, ANGELINA NATIONAL FOREST

To continue learning about sawmills and the lumber industry, head to Diboll's **History Center** (thehistorycenteronline.com, 936-829-3543), an impressive 12,000-square-foot facility featuring remarkable cypress and pine woodwork.

Drawing the most attention is a 68-ton Baldwin 10-wheel locomotive built in 1920. Visitors of all ages will feel an intrinsic thrill while pulling the engine's steam-whistle rope and hearing the resulting full-throated sonic blast. The History Center also contains an extensive archive and research facility with more than a million photos and more than 2,000 cubic feet of manuscripts and records.

"What sets us apart is that we're not as interested in what was on the walls of a historic building—we want to focus on what was in the desk drawers," says Museum Director Jonathan Gerland.

East Texas' natural resources are also on display just up the road at Lufkin's **Texas Forestry Museum** (treetexas.com, 936-632-9535). According to Museum Director Kendall Gay, the facility traces its origins to the century-old Texas Forestry Association; it now offers dozens of exhibits and hundreds of artifacts dedicated to the region's lumber industry. Highlights include vintage sawmill equipment, a historic Forest Service truck, and an outdoor exhibit including a 100-foot-tall fire lookout tower from 1936.

Just a couple miles away is **historic downtown Lufkin** (cityoflufkin.com), one of the longest-serving participants in the THC's Texas Main Street Program. Heritage travelers are drawn to downtown's mix of restaurants, civic buildings, and antiques stores. A walking tour reveals the city's distinctive history—maps are available at Lufkin City Hall. Highlights include the 1925 Pines Theater, the first Brookshire Brothers grocery store, and colorful local artwork at Cotton Square Park.

While in the Forest Trail Region, be sure to stop by one of the THC's historic sites—Alto's **Caddo Mounds** (visitcaddomounds.com, 936-858-3218) and San Augustine's **Mission Dolores** (visitmissiondolores.com, 936-275-3815). To discover more heritage travel destinations, download a free copy of the *Texas Forest Trail Region* travel guide at texastimetravel.com.

For more stories, photographs, and videos or information about the Texas Forest Trail Region, please visit texasforesttrail.com.

NAC'S NIFTY PAD

Towering over downtown Nacogdoches is the stunning six-story Fredonia Hotel. Deemed "as modern as an atomic submarine" when it opened in 1955, the Fredonia offered contemporary architectural style with French Creole accents in its decorative ironwork.

The hotel recently received an extensive renovation, thanks to the efforts of the local DeWitt family and assistance from the THC's Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program, which provided 25 percent of eligible rehabilitation costs.

"Working with the THC was essential for this project," says Bud DeWitt, the hotel's assistant general manager. "The THC helped us keep the historic integrity of the building. This is a community project, but we needed help to do it correctly and the THC stepped up to make that happen."


FREDONIA HOTEL

Adds Nacogdoches-based State Rep. Travis Clardy, "I think the THC's tax credit program was integral in the decision to buy and restore this historic property. I get chills and goosebumps just thinking about what a fabulous venture this has become."

Indeed, a stroll into the pristine lobby transports guests to another era: think Jetsons meets Mad Men. Bold aquamarine greens and gilded furnishings are snazzy accompaniments for the '50s lounge music wafting overhead. The centerpiece is a kidney-shaped pool surrounded by cabana rooms and lounge furniture—perfect for an early-evening cocktail or upscale dinner. Guest rooms exude period details like traditional white alarm clocks, cosmopolitan art, and plush robes.

"Guests step back in time when they stay here—it's like hanging out with Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack," says John McLaren, general manager. "People come here and end up staying an extra day because it's within walking distance of so many other destinations in our historic downtown."

Clardy concurs, noting that the Fredonia restoration project resulted in nearly 100 jobs for the community and served as a catalyst for new businesses in town. He adds that the hotel has been an "economic driver" for Nacogdoches.

PHOTOGRAPHERS Capture Aldridge Sawmill's eerie graffiti-covered ruins in Angelina National Forest.

OUTDOORS Lufkin's 5-mile Lost Arrow Biking and Hiking Trail is an ideal natural getaway.

LOCAL EATS After brisket, leave room for the amazing fried rolls at Stringer's Lufkin Bar-B-Q.

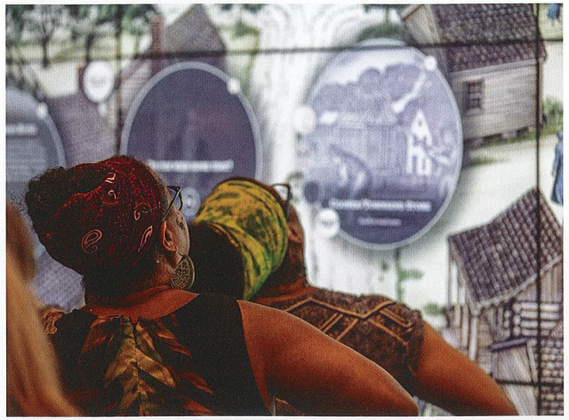
HAPPY HOUR The Fredonia Brewing Company in downtown Nacogdoches offers fresh seasonal ales.

A GRAND OPENING

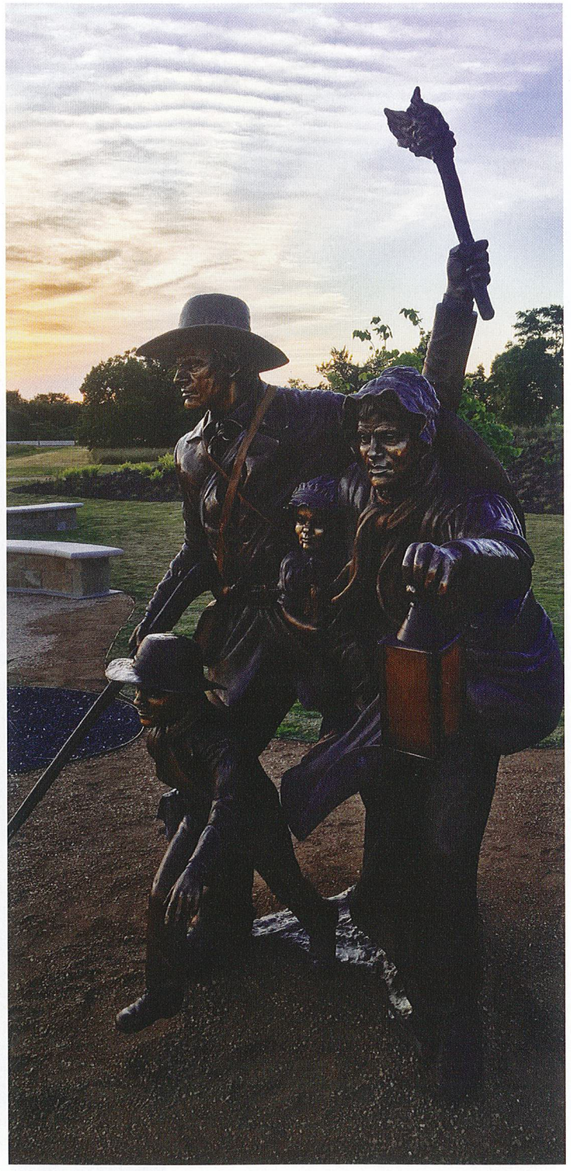
Hundreds Gather for Unveiling of THC's San Felipe de Austin Museum

Photos by Leah Brown and Patrick Hughey

The Texas Historical Commission officially opened a new 10,000 square-foot museum on April 27 at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. State Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar, THC Chairman John L. Nau, III, THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe, and Friends of the Texas Historical Commission Chair Lareatha Clay welcomed hundreds of visitors on the sunny spring afternoon. The state-of-the-art educational facility showcases undertold stories of the birth of Texas and Stephen F. Austin's early settlers in Mexican Texas.

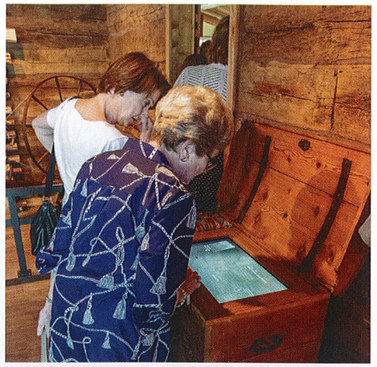
















Photos: State and local officials cut the ribbon and welcomed visitors to the grand opening of the San Felipe de Austin Museum. Local community members and visitors from Houston and the surrounding area admired the state-of-the-art interactive exhibits and historical displays at the new facility.

The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission is overseeing a $12.5 million capital campaign to help fund the museum. You can be a part of history by supporting the completion of this important project. For more information, contact the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission at 512-936-2189 or info@thcfriends.org.

To learn more about the site, go to visitsanfelipedeaustin.com.

PRESERVATION EDUCATION

Meet the THC's Preservation Scholars

Text by Andy Rhodes, photo by Leah Brown

Earlier this year, the Texas Historical Commission welcomed two interns to Austin for nearly two months of summer school through the agency's Preservation Scholars program.

Calvin Blair and Halee Robinson accepted the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission's invitation to participate. They spent much of the summer working with the THC on projects related to their fields of study.

Both interns agreed to answer a series of questions about their interest in Texas history and plans for the future. Extended versions of the interviews are at thc.texas.gov/blog.

CALVIN BLAIR

Why did you decide to pursue this internship opportunity with the THC? I am extremely passionate about history. I transferred to the University of Houston last fall and it afforded me lots of opportunities and resources I did not know previously existed. When one of my professors, Dr. Harwell, passed along the internship application to me, I just knew in my heart it was something I wanted to do. I always assumed academia was the only path for history majors, and I was very comfortable with that path going forward, but learning about a whole new potential career path is invigorating and extremely validating.



HALEE ROBINSON AND CALVIN BLAIR

What factors did you consider when choosing your major? Simple. I wanted to do something that would make me happy. I wanted to do something where I could leave my own little mark. When I realized that, there was no choice other than history.

Why is Texas an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field? It's the best place in the world—the perfect example of how the past can correlate with the future. The history of Texas is a smaller case study of the history of America. Not only does Texas have a deep and rich history, but it has a diverse population that will make for some great stories in the future.

How do you like to spend your free time? During the school year, I work 40–50 hours a week, and these last two semesters I've been taking 17 hours at the University of Houston. When I do have free time, you can usually catch me watching sports. I'm a Houston Dynamo season ticket holder with my girlfriend of three years and it's a great way to unwind after a busy week.

HALEE ROBINSON

Why did you decide to pursue this internship opportunity with the THC? The THC's commitment to diversity and inclusion really resonated with me, so I decided to apply. Throughout my experiences as a history major, I have come to value diversity and inclusion in my approach to history. So when I found that the THC's values were very similar to mine, I was ecstatic.

How have your past experiences prepared you for interning with the agency? Over the past year, I have done historical research on 19th century black women in the South. This research has made me passionate about uncovering and sharing the diverse history of the United States. Because of my passion, I'm dedicated, self-motivated, and hard-working. I'm excited about applying these qualities to my work with the THC.

Why is Texas an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field? Texas has always been my home (besides going to college in Tennessee). I love Texas, and I think its history is fascinating. Sometimes, however, it's hard to connect with your home when you struggle to see yourself in its history. My current and future field of study focuses on the lives of Southern black people in the antebellum era (1820-60). Despite Texas' active role in slavery and the Confederacy, there has been little research published about Texas' black people in slavery and post-emancipation. I believe that all fields of history—from historical research to preservation—are moving toward developing and constructing a more diverse, accurate, and inclusive history.

The THC's Diversity Internship program is funded solely by private gifts. **To make a donation, please visit thcfriends.org.**

EXPLORE THC'S TRAIL REGIONS FOR PROGRAM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Continued from page 5

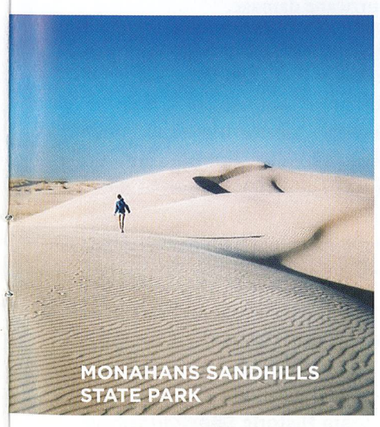
Texas Lakes Trail Region
The Texas Lakes Trail is a 31-county region in North Central Texas that features world renowned museums, historic downtowns, and western culture.

Often overlooked is the unassuming city of Wichita Falls. In the late 1800s, its Wild West exploits earned it the nickname "Whiskeytaw Falls." While there, visit the unexpectedly charming Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum. Located on the ground floor of the 1919 First Wichita National Bank building—now known as Big Blue due to its mid-century modern façade—the museum showcases dozens of wrestling greats from across the country.

Texas Mountain Trail Region
Adventure in nature awaits in the Texas Mountain Trail Region of Far West Texas where visitors can see land as the American Indians and ranching pioneers saw it.

About 90 miles east of El Paso lies the community of Sierra Blanca, historically known as the site where one of the first southern transcontinental railroad lines was completed in 1881. The community boasts the only adobe courthouse in Texas—the 1922 Hudspeth County Courthouse—with 18-inch thick walls insulating the building from the harsh desert environment. Just south of the courthouse is El Paso Street, the local name for the Bankhead Highway, which still offers a remarkable reflection of highway travel during the 1930s–50s.

Texas Pecos Trail Region
Experience the legendary Wild West of classic books and movies, and the real-life landscape of the Texas Pecos Trail Region.


MONAHANS SANDHILLS STATE PARK

About 30 miles west of Odessa, Monahans Sandhills State Park consists of 3,840 acres of sand dunes, some up to 70 feet high. Buy or rent a sled for some low-key sand surfing. A couple hours to the south, Iraan offers Alley Oop Fantasy Land with several large reproductions of the legendary comic strip's characters, including Alley Oop and his pet dinosaur Dinny.

Texas Plains Trail Region
Rugged beauty and shimmering sunsets are natural highlights of the 52-county Texas Plains Trail Region.



TEX RANDALL STATUE, CANYON

Many people visit Palo Duro Canyon State Park without stopping by the nearby community of Canyon. One of the region's premier photo ops is the Tex Randall statue, constructed in 1959 to advertise a Western store. This 47-foot-tall cowboy was restored in 2016 by Canyon Main Street volunteers. Fuel up or wind down from a canyon hike at nearby Imperial Taproom, where you can order a local beer and a hearty burger or sandwich in the historic downtown.

Texas Tropical Trail Region
Located in the state's southernmost region, the Texas Tropical Trail Region covers 20 counties, 23,000 square miles, and is home to 1.7 million residents.

Although Corpus Christi and South Padre are well-known, it's worth making an effort to visit the border community of Rio Grande City. Take a historical trolley tour organized by the city's Main Street program showcasing former military post Fort Ringgold, Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, and the 1886 De la Peña building. Spend the night at La Borde House, an 1898 National Register property built by French immigrant Francois LaBorde.

To plan your own topic-based itinerary and discover off-the-beaten-path destinations, visit texastimetravel.com.

Left: Many Texas travelers may not know about the Pecos Trail Region's surreal Monahans Sandhills State Park. Above: A young Texas traveler at the Tex Randall statue in Canyon.

FULTON'S RETURN

Iconic Coastal Mansion Back on Track After Hurricane Damage

Text by Heather McBride,
THC Senior Communications Specialist

The catastrophic destruction Hurricane Harvey left in Rockport-Fulton on August 25, 2017 was devastating for the people who called this place home.

The town's Fulton Mansion State Historic Site—one of the Texas Historical Commission's 22 historic sites and rated first on the list of things to see in Rockport-Fulton—suffered significant damage. The hurricane completely destroyed the flat metal roof and chimneys and caused major water damage to interior collections, carpets, and plaster walls.



The site's Education and History Center sustained minor damage, and those repairs have been completed. The grounds have been cleaned up, new fencing installed, oak trees trimmed, and the dead palm trees removed. With help from the Friends of Fulton Mansion, the Education and History Center reopened on November 2, 2017.

Mansion staff and volunteers have been active in the community by participating in local events to provide fun activities for Aransas County youth, like holiday-themed parties on the beach. Additionally, the Aransas County Education Foundation selected the mansion grounds to host a high-profile benefit event—the Symphony by the Sea Concert with the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra and the Rockport-Fulton High School choir—after the RFHS music department suffered damage to its performance hall, instruments, and sheet music.

The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission (FTHC) is currently raising funds to repair the damage caused by the hurricane to the Fulton Mansion collections. The FTHC recently received a $30,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities through its Chairman's Emergency Grant Fund. This grant, the maximum amount for any single award through this program, was made to restore the damaged portraits, books and encyclopedia collections, and textile collections in the house.

Additionally, Humanities Texas awarded a grant of $6,000 to support the collections restoration, and the San Antonio Conservation Society made a gift of $5,000 to assist with the storage of the collections once restored. The FTHC also received a $10,000 donation from the Margaret Sue Rust Foundation and $5,000 donation from a neighbor to help with the recovery.

Thanks to these generous donations, restoration of the iconic home continues to progress. There is still a lot of work to be done. On March 10, the Fulton Mansion re-opened for self-guided hard hat tours. The home is now open for regular visiting hours six days a week. Visitors can view posters with information about each room and a photo of what the room would look like with the furnishings. The posters also point out some of the hurricane damage.

Because many visitors want to know about the hurricane, volunteers and staff share their hurricane stories. Large collection pieces and office furniture are covered in plastic in some of the rooms but, in several others, visitors can walk through rooms usually only seen from doorways, allowing them to experience fireplaces up close, look out windows, and admire the cypress wood floors.

To learn about ongoing fundraising efforts, go to thcfriends.org.

Fulton Mansion State Historic Site
317 S. Fulton Beach Rd.
Rockport, TX 78382
361-729-0386
visitfultonmansion.com

The Fulton Mansion is still recovering from Hurricane Harvey damage. Interior restoration work was conducted late last year (pictured) and is ongoing.



NEWS BRIEFS

THC ACCEPTING EVENTS FOR ARCHEOLOGY MONTH CALENDAR

Every October, Texas Archeology Month (TAM) celebrates the spirit of discovery and promotes awareness of archeological programs throughout the state. The Texas Historical Commission is accepting event submissions from the public for the annual TAM Calendar of Events. The THC invites anyone hosting an archeology or history-related event in conjunction with TAM to submit information online at thc.texas.gov/tam. The deadline for submissions is September 15.

Submitted information will be added to the TAM Calendar of Events on the THC website. The calendar will be posted in August and updated biweekly through late September. TAM is a collaboration between the THC, the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, the Texas Archeological Society, the Council of Texas Archeologists, and statewide County Historical Commissions.

For more information, contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-5915.

APPLICATIONS FOR 2018 OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS BEING ACCEPTED

The THC is accepting historical marker applications for subject markers, designated Historic Texas Cemeteries (HTC), and Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHL).

Applications must be submitted to the appropriate County Historical Commission (CHC), and the deadline for CHCs to forward applications to the THC is November 15, via email, to markerapplication@thc.texas.gov. The THC will approve up to 170 new applications; up to 15 additional markers will be approved through the Undertold Stories marker program.

One of the most visible programs of the THC, historical markers commemorate diverse topics from the history and architecture of houses and commercial buildings to religious congregations and individuals that have made lasting contributions to state and local history. With more than 16,000 to date, historical markers can be found in all 254 Texas counties.

Applications for historical markers are available, along with a marker toolkit—a one-stop shop providing the basic steps of applying for a marker— on the THC website at thc.texas.gov/MarkerToolkit. To learn more about the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, visit thc.texas.gov/markers or contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512-463-5853.

FREE ADMISSION CONTINUES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AT THC STATE HISTORIC SITES

This summer, the THC's state historic sites are participating in the Blue Star Museums program that gives active military personnel and their families free admission to museums and historic sites. The program, coordinated by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), lasts through Labor Day (September 3, 2018).

More than 1,800 museums in all 50 states are taking part in the initiative, the eighth consecutive year of the program. The program is a collaboration of the NEA, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums and state agencies such as the THC. A number of the THC's historic sites are dedicated to preserving the memory of military service in Texas, such as the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg and Fannin Battleground in Fannin.

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect, and empower military families. For more information, and to learn which museums are participating, visit arts.gov/bluestarmuseums. For more information about the THC's Historic Sites program, visit texashistoricsites.com or contact 512-463-7948.

Above: Archeological events are held throughout October as part of Texas Archeology Month.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories

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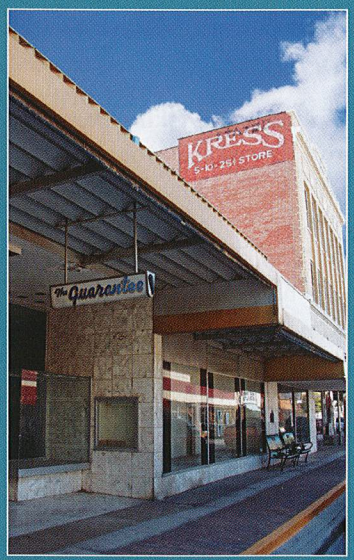
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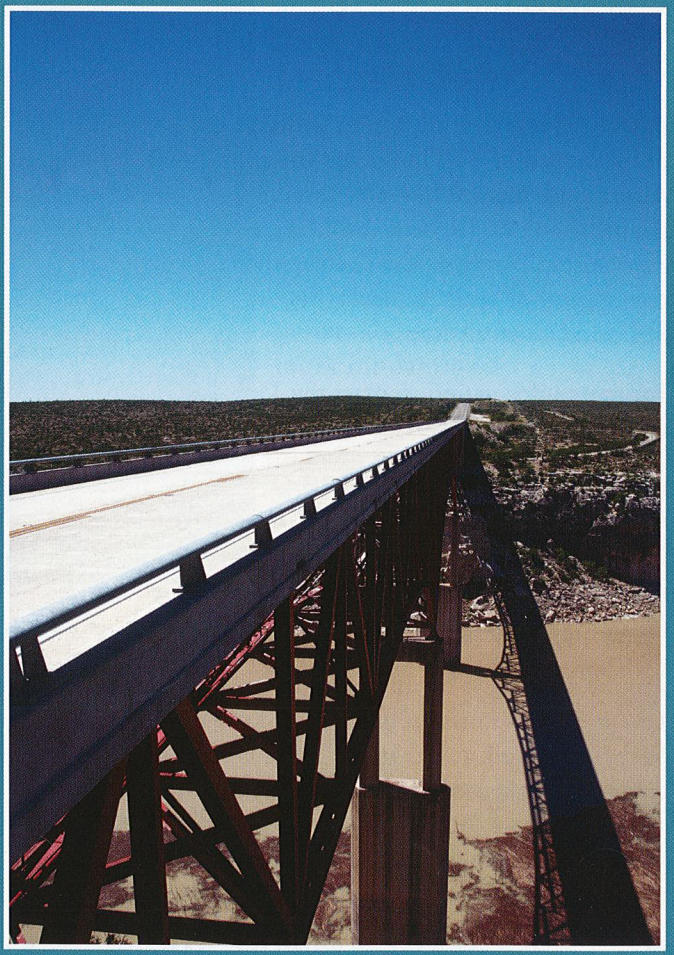
WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

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

Need a clue? This 1,300-foot-long bridge was completed in 1957 and boasts an official THC historical marker.



Answer to the photo from the last issue: The photo at left is downtown Del Rio, including the now-closed Guarantee department store and the Kress store, now an event venue. Congratulations and prizes go to the first three readers who correctly identified the site: Tina DeLong of San Angelo, Cynthia Kyle of Del Rio, and Fred Jamison of Abilene. Thanks to all who participated!



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