

THE

MEDALLION

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

FALL 2019

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TOP: Living historians reenact traditional farmstead activities at Barrington Plantation, one of the THC's new historic sites (page 6).

ON THE COVER: San Jacinto Monument and Battleground officially became a THC historic site on September 1, 2019.

THE MEDALLION
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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 HISTORICAL COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARK WOLFE

LEADERSHIP LETTER

Dear Friends,

As of September 1, our agency officially welcomed eight additional state historic sites to our existing sites family. This brings our number to 30, with another on the way January 1, 2020 (Star of the Republic Museum in Washington).

Over the past few months, I've had the opportunity to visit these remarkable sites and spend time with the wonderful men and women who help tell their stories. We're pleased that we'll be able to work with many of the same staff who have operated and maintained the transferring sites. Many former Texas Parks and Wildlife employees are now full-fledged THC staff—we share their excitement and enthusiasm for providing expertise and fascinating facts about each of our new properties.

To learn more about the new sites, turn to page 6 for a short overview of each: San Jacinto Monument and Battleground in Harris County; Washington-on-the-Brazos and Barrington Plantation in Washington County; Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill in Fayette County; Lipantitlán in Nueces County; Fanthorp Inn in Grimes County; and the Port Isabel Lighthouse in Cameron County.

We welcome this challenge to build on these sites' existing legacies and continue their preservation for new generations of visitors to enjoy. Our portfolio of sites now represents nearly every era of Texas' storied history—from the legends and culture of the original American Indian inhabitants of Texas, to the epic stories of the state's revolution and independence, to the humble birthplace of one of the nation's greatest leaders, President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

To learn more about these sites or to plan a trip during the upcoming holiday season, please continue reading this issue of *The Medallion* and visit StoriedSites.com.

Sincerely,

Mark Wolfe

Mark Wolfe
Executive Director

‘A STORY OF BEAUTY, CULTURE, AND TENACITY’

HOUSTON’S EMANCIPATION AVENUE JOINS TEXAS MAIN STREET PROGRAM

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor *The Medallion*

Dr. Assata Richards, the Emancipation Economic Development Council’s (EEDC) board president, truly represented the community at the recent First Lady’s Main Street Tour welcoming Houston’s Emancipation Avenue to the program.

After encouraging attendees to support surrounding Third Ward entrepreneurs and businesses, she noted she was literally backing the community by wearing a dress from area store Melodrama Boutique, glasses from local shop Smith’s Opticians, and accessories from Market Square.

“We all know that small businesses and entrepreneurship are key to revitalization,” Richards said. “My grandparents moved here in the 1950s with a hope in their heart. The Third Ward is a story of resilience, beauty, culture, and tenacity.”





She added, “Fifty years from now, we hope you’ll look back and say ‘You know what? We took a chance on an urban community, and now they’re the poster child for how to revitalize and preserve their neighborhood.’”

Emancipation Avenue Main Street (EAMS) officially entered the Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) this year with the communities of Granger and Mesquite. The First Lady’s Tour took place on May 16 at the neighborhood’s Emancipation Park, which dates back to 1872.

“Today is historic for many reasons,” First Lady Cecilia Abbott said at the event. “This park and this area remain important gathering places for African American residents. The triumphs and tragedies and the lessons of the past are the legacy for generations to come, and that is why Emancipation Avenue is so important. It is part of the story of Texas.”

During its mid-1900s heyday, the neighborhood boasted more than 2,300 unique businesses and residences along 17 city blocks, according to extensive research by former THC Preservation Scholar Calvin Blair. Today, the area is slowly recovering from population loss and neglected or demolished properties. State and local officials anticipate EAMS and EEDC will facilitate and expedite this process.

When Houston was first incorporated in 1837, it was divided into four quadrants or wards, with the southeast quadrant named Third Ward. In 1872, several influential African Americans, led by Rev. Jack Yates, raised $800 to purchase four acres of land in the ward.

This land would become Emancipation Park, marking the cultural home of African Americans in Houston. It has traditionally been the site of Juneteenth events, parades, concerts, and community meetings. The city was reportedly dismissive of this development, and renamed the neighborhood’s main thoroughfare to Dowling Street after Confederate hero Richard Dowling.

After World War I, Houston’s African American community increased dramatically, with a population jump from 22,929 to 66,357 in just 20 years. As a result, businesses sprouted up and down Dowling Street, and community landmarks such as Yates High School, Covington House, and Wesley Chapel opened.

By the late 1950s and early 1960s, Dowling Street became the center of the Houston blues scene, with clubs like the Eldorado Ballroom—known as the “Home of the Happy Feet”—hosting legendary musicians Ray Charles and B.B. King along with Houston natives Illinois Jacquet and Arnett Cobb. Dowling Street was a vibrant scene with hip nightclubs and venues drawing patrons from as far away as Galveston and East Texas for a night on the town. According to Blair, it was a place where they could enjoy a night of entertainment and walk out the front door with their heads held high.

Integration allowed wealthy and middle-class African Americans to purchase property in areas of Houston that were previously inaccessible. By the beginning of the 1970s, the Emancipation Avenue neighborhood was in decline, with businesses failing and population dramatically decreasing. Today, the rate of structural teardowns is reportedly one of the highest in the nation due to adjacent areas like Midtown and the Medical District being among Houston’s most desirable markets.

In 2013, over $33 million was raised to renovate and update Emancipation Park’s facilities, including a pool and community center. At a 2017 Juneteenth celebration and reopening event, it was announced that Dowling Street would officially be renamed Emancipation Avenue.

Added Richards, “We’re excited and poised for this opportunity to strengthen and deepen our community’s collective efforts to revitalize, preserve, and protect the historic Third Ward. Having Mrs. Abbott here shows us that we must find ways to work together for the things we all believe in.”

For more information about the Texas Main Street Program, visit thc.texas.gov/tmsp.

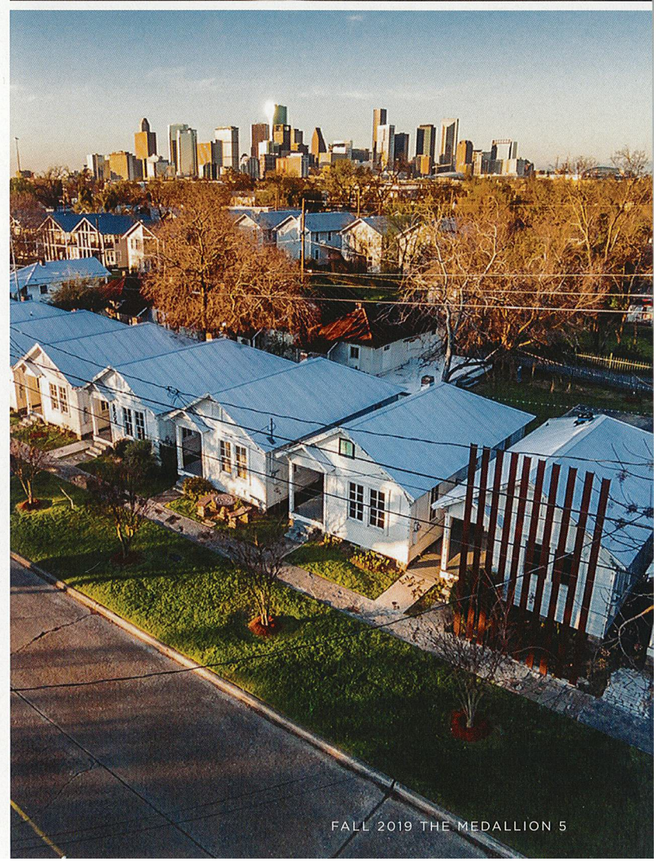
Opposite, top: The Dowling Theater during its prime in the mid-1900s. Opposite bottom and below: Representatives from Houston’s Buffalo Soldiers National Museum gathered with local community members and representatives of the Emancipation Economic Development Council at Emancipation Avenue Main Street’s First Lady Tour.

This page top: The Eldorado Ballroom hosted legendary musicians and was restored via the neighborhood’s Project Row Houses nonprofit. Right: The Third Ward’s project row houses are in the shadow of downtown Houston. Photo: Peter Molick.











INDEPENDENCE HALL,
WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS

By Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor *The Medallion*, Photos by Patrick Hughey

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

THC WELCOMES NINE HISTORIC SITES TELLING REPUBLIC-ERA STORIES

Texas' Republic-era past takes center stage with the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) recent acquisition of nine state historic sites. The sites' legislative transfer from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department became official on September 1, 2019, increasing the THC's operation of historic sites across the state from 22 to 31 (effective January 1, 2020).

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

"We're very excited to bring these new sites on board—they'll be a great complement to our existing historic sites family," said Mark Wolfe, the THC's executive director.

"We appreciate the stewardship provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife, and we're looking forward to taking these sites to the next level by telling their real stories to Texans and heritage travelers."

All the new sites have ties to the mid-19th-century Republic of Texas era, but two have direct connections with this illustrious period of the state's history: San Jacinto Battleground and Washington-on-the-Brazos.

SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND, COVER

After driving through miles of surrounding petroleum plants, visitors to San Jacinto Battleground encounter the welcoming beacon of Texas independence, represented by a remarkable 570-foot-tall monument. In true Texas style, the limestone edifice honoring the site of Texas' decisive victory over Mexico was deliberately designed 15 feet taller than the Washington Monument.

The 1,200-acre site preserves and interprets the legendary battleground where Texians defeated the Mexican Army in an 18-minute battle on April 21, 1836. The monument—topped by a 34-foot star symbolizing the Lone Star Republic—also features an elevator ride to the observation deck, a 490-foot-tall vantage point offering stunning views of the battlefield, reflecting pool, and nearby ship channel. The adjoining San Jacinto Museum of History contains nearly 45,000 artifacts and writings spanning 400 years of Texas history.



WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS

WASHINGTON-ON-THE BRAZOS, OPPOSITE AND ABOVE

The stately oak trees gracing the grounds of Washington-on-the-Brazos are a testament to the site's noble heritage. It's easy to imagine the fathers of Texas gathering beneath the shade of these outstretched trees while forging the principles and documents that would define the Republic of Texas.

These ideas were officially set in place at the site's Independence Hall, where 59 delegates signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836. A 1971 replica of the hall gives visitors a sense of the era's vernacular architecture and Texas' humble beginnings. The town of Washington, which hosted the last Congress of the Republic of Texas, grew to become a modest community of 1,700 with riverboat trading on the nearby Brazos River. It later declined in population, and its buildings were eventually dismantled and lost to a wildfire in 1912.


BARRINGTON PLANTATION

BARRINGTON PLANTATION

During Texas' 1936 centennial year, the state added acreage to Washington-on-the-Brazos and moved the home of final Republic of Texas President Anson Jones to the site. Now known as the Barrington Plantation, the property serves as a living history farmstead. Visitors can interact with historical interpreters in period costumes and witness daily life on the 1850s frontier by experiencing crop harvesting, meal preparation, and livestock care.

The plantation's well-preserved 1845 farmhouse features typical furnishings of the Republic era and showcases 19th-century ingenuity via a breeze-capturing porch design and surprisingly accurate historic weather barometer. Like most small Texas plantations, Barrington's labor force rarely exceeded 10 people. There are two replica cabins on site representing the homes of the property's enslaved workers.

KREISCHE BREWERY

Just outside the Main Street community of La Grange are the ruins of the once-prosperous Kreische Brewery. The site tells the story of German stonemason and brewmaster Heinrich Kreische, who purchased 172 acres on a bluff overlooking the Colorado River in 1849. Six years later, he was awarded the design and masonry work for the Fayette County Courthouse, giving him the financial means to construct the brewery.

At one time, Kreische Brewery was the third-largest operation in the state. Its gravity-based system used a natural spring, which moved downhill through a series of engineered stone filtration systems toward the brewhouse. When a new batch of lager was ready, Kreische would raise a flag high on the bluff to announce its availability.


KREISCHE BREWERY

THE STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM

In addition to the sites' transfer, the THC will also manage Washington-on-the-Brazos' Star of the Republic Museum, effective January 1, 2020. The star-shaped facility showcases the history of the Republic of Texas and social heritage of area inhabitants from American Indian tribes to settlers of the 1800s.

Highlights include a Lone Star flag that reportedly flew over the Republic, artifacts from French explorer La Salle's Fort St. Louis and *La Belle* expeditions, an enormous painting depicting the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence, and an entire second floor dedicated to the social and multicultural history of the Republic of Texas era.


MONUMENT HILL

MONUMENT HILL

The stunning view atop the bluff overlooking La Grange sets the stage for the historically significant stories commemorated at Monument Hill. Similarly captivating is the 48-foot-tall shellcrete monument erected by the Texas Centennial Commission in 1936, which honors dozens of men who died in two separate military events in the 1840s—the Dawson Massacre and Mier Expedition.

Both events are tied to disputes with Mexico over the area between the Rio Grande and Nueces rivers, which the Republic of Texas attempted to control following its independence. In 1933, a large crypt was placed at Monument Hill/Kreische Brewery containing the remains of victims from both incidents.


PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE

PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE

It's worth making the effort to climb 75 steps up Port Isabel Lighthouse's snug spiral staircase to experience the breathtaking views from the top, where you can gaze over the picturesque Laguna Madre and the remarkable view of historic downtown Port Isabel.

Constructed in 1852 at the request of sea captains frustrated by visibility issues along the Texas coast, the 72-foot-tall lighthouse was an important fixture in the region until the early 1900s, when more efficient and powerful towers were constructed. A museum inside a reconstructed lighthouse keeper's cottage also occupies the grounds.

LIPANTITLÁN

Located near Lake Corpus Christi State Park, this five-acre site (which contains no services) includes a THC Centennial Marker noting military skirmishes in the area circa 1840.


FANTHORP INN

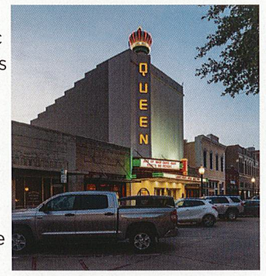
FANTHORP INN

Built in 1834 by English immigrant Henry Fanthorp, this historic structure once hosted Sam Houston and Zachary Taylor during the Republic of Texas 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 La Bahia trail passed by the inn, bringing visitors via stagecoach and horseback. Fanthorp was admired for his business acumen—charging $2 per guest and running a profitable agricultural enterprise with sheep and corn. The arrival of railroads caused stagecoach traffic to decline, prompting the inn to close in 1868.

BROWSING THROUGH THE BRAZOS VALLEY

The Brazos Valley area is home to several of the THC's new sites, including Washington-on-the-Brazos, Barrington Plantation, and Fanthorp Inn.



The region's cultural hub is Bryan-College Station. Heritage travelers can stroll Bryan's historic Main Street and experience remarkable buildings like the 1903 **Carnegie Public Library**, 1928 **La Salle Hotel**, and 1914 **Queen Theatre**, right.

While visiting Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill, be sure to stop by La Grange's historic downtown square, anchored by the stately 1891 **Fayette County Courthouse** (a participant in the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program). Commercial buildings on the square include two popular eateries that are recipients of the THC's Texas Treasure Business Award. Enjoy the perfectly prepared pork loin at **Prause Meat Market** and the tasty pastries at **Luka's Bakery**.

For more information about the THC's historic sites, visit storiedsites.com or call 512-463-7948. To learn about additional heritage tourism destinations in the Brazos and Independence Trail regions, go to texastimetravel.com.

UNDERWATER INTRIGUE

THC'S MARINE ARCHEOLOGY PROGRAM INVESTIGATES A NEW SHIPWRECK ON THE SOUTH TEXAS COAST

By Amy A. Borgens
THC State Marine Archeologist

In late 2018, a fisherman was casting a line off the South Texas coast when he noticed a distinctive shape emerging from the water at low tide. He immediately notified the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeology Division, which dispatched staff the next day to identify and document the discovery.

The object was a 20-foot-long dugout canoe made of pine. Radiocarbon dating indicated it could be more than a century old, likely built between 1805 and 1935. It is believed to be of Caucasian manufacture. Marine archeologists do not think it is a tribal canoe.

The physical location of the canoe had been known to the agency for years simply as a long spattering of pilings projecting out of the beach. It was only through the dramatic storm-caused removal of overlying beach sand that it was revealed this larger archeological site contained a buried canoe.



Over the past several years, the Archeology Division has amassed a small inventory of Texas canoes, largely based on examples displayed or curated at regional museums. The recently discovered South Texas canoe is the only one so far that has been observed *in situ* (within its original setting).

The archeological site itself is an enigma, as it seems to have attributes of a coastal settlement with a canoe resting within it. The THC hopes to continue documenting the site and working with neighboring land owners to examine archeological features that could be associated with the larger beach site. The THC recently designated the dugout site as a State Archeological Landmark, the most protective state designation awarded to an archeological site. The sensitivity of the dugout site is so great that even the identity of the specific region and participating volunteers and agencies are omitted in retelling this exciting discovery.

Archeology Division Director Pat Mercado-Allinger notes that ongoing fieldwork in maritime archeology has been focused on the South Texas coast, primarily via examining sites that have been eroding out of the beach in recent years. This includes the (presumed) 19th-century sailing ship known as Boca Chica No. 1.

The Boca Chica shipwreck was first examined by the THC in 1980, then again in 1988 when the agency was notified about its exposure on the beach. Volunteers with the THC's Texas Archeological Stewardship Network monitor the coastline for these vulnerable sites. After a storm in December 2017, the THC learned Boca Chica No. 1 was again visible.

In November 2018, portions of the vessel once again projected out of the sand. It is anticipated that periodic uncovering of coastal archeological sites will occur with more frequency due to the heavy rate of coastal erosion in South Texas.

Mercado-Allinger asks the public to help the THC by reporting these unique sites and helping preserve Texas' shared history.

FURTHER READING

To learn more about the THC's Texas Archeological Stewards Program, visit thc.texas.gov/tasn. To learn more about the Marine Archeology program and the Boca Chica shipwrecks, read a recent blog post at thc.texas.gov/bocachica.

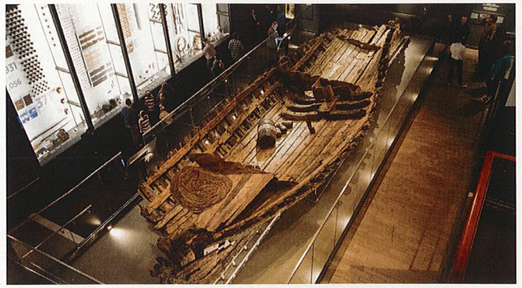
For more information, call 512-463-6096.



MARINE ARCHEOLOGY NEWS

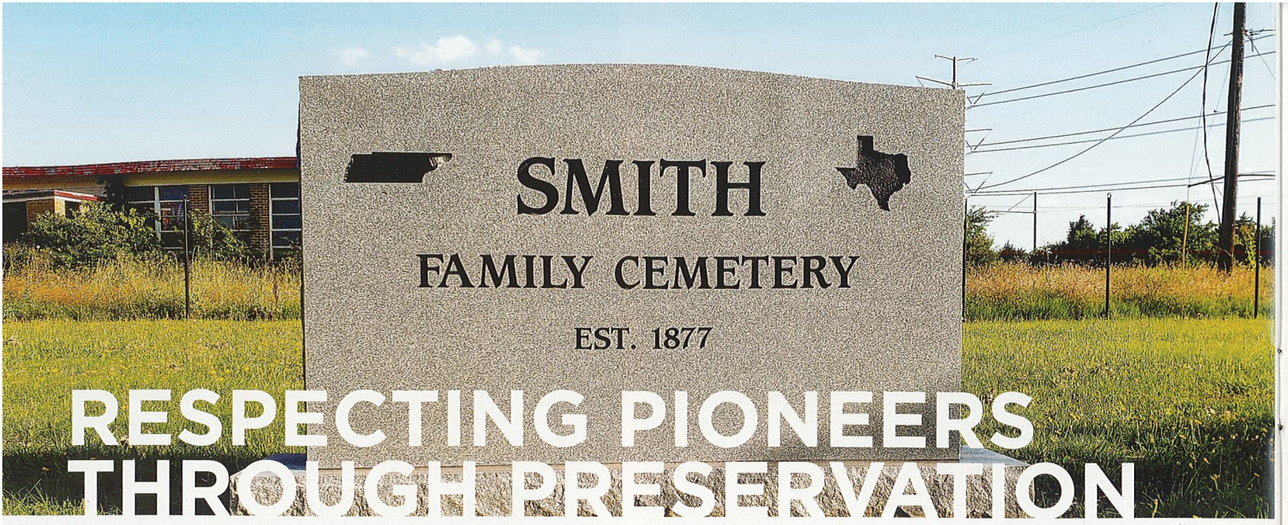
The THC's excavation of *La Belle* (1686) in Matagorda Bay concluded in 1997, and conservation of the nearly two million artifacts was recently completed. The grand opening of the Austin-based Bullock Texas State History Museum's redesigned first floor, known as the Becoming Texas exhibit space, occurred late last year. It features a sizable collection of representative *La Belle* artifacts and the preserved hull of the ship.

In addition, a technical publication detailing the investigation and artifact analysis, *La Belle: The Archaeology of a Seventeenth-Century Vessel of New World Colonization*, was published in 2017. Since this publication, continuing analytical studies promise to generate new insights about La Salle's tragic story.



Opposite: Additional timbers at the dugout canoe site are linked to the wreck's era. Top left: One of the three empty barrels found at the dugout canoe site. Right: This dugout canoe wreck was discovered last year off the South Texas coast. It's likely more than 100 years old. Inset: *La Belle's* preserved hull is featured at the Bullock Texas State History Museum's Becoming Texas exhibit.





RESPECTING PIONEERS THROUGH PRESERVATION

PERSISTENCE AND THE THC'S CEMETERY PROGRAM HELP SAVE FAMILY CEMETERY NEAR DALLAS

By Jason Rivas
THC Preservation Scholar

Remembering deceased loved ones is a key cornerstone in Texas society. From elaborate memorials that celebrate an individual to simple yet solemn markers of remembrance, distinguishable headstones and a secure place of burial are often the final acts of respect.

Such was the case in 1866, when Thomas M. Smith Sr. was laid to rest in his family's plot on a homestead south of Dallas (east of the current Oak Cliff neighborhood). Smith's will divided his estate among his offspring. They dedicated 0.22 acres surrounding three generations of the family as a cemetery.

As time passed, other deceased members of the Smith clan reunited with their kin below ground. Though their new home may have developed as a final place of remembrance for the family, time would not be so accommodating.

The land was further divided through changes of ownership, and references to the cemetery were omitted on subsequent deeds. The elder Smiths' homestead eventually belonged to new parties, far removed from the familial bonds that once watched over the cemetery.

During the mid-20th century the former Smith homestead was developed into Linfield Elementary School of Wilmer-Hutchins ISD. The school cared for the deteriorating grave markers until it closed decades later. Neglect led to the disappearance of all but three headstones, and the cemetery itself was mostly forgotten.

That was until 2013, when area resident Donna Spears eagerly reported to relatives, "It's Grandpa Thomas…We found him."

Interested in her family history, Spears and her husband Joe found the abandoned cemetery through genealogical research. However, they soon learned the tranquil atmosphere surrounding her discovery would be threatened once again; in this case, under the guise of property development.

The former school property was sold to a private business, leaving the graves vulnerable again. The enterprise planned to develop a portion of the forgotten cemetery into a parking lot and properly fence the area with the three headstones.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Above: A modern headstone honors the Smith family pioneers who were buried on a plot near the Trinity River. Right: Headstones honoring patriarch Thomas Smith and two family members are the only visible historic remnants of the cemetery.

The company did not believe there were additional burials, so they proceeded with developing the parking lot plans. Spears needed help to save the cemetery, so she began searching for people and organizations dedicated to preserving history. She contacted the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Jenny McWilliams for help. McWilliams, the THC's Historic Cemetery Preservation Coordinator, provided insightful resources pertaining to cemeteries. Texas law strongly supports property rights along with their interpretation of cemeteries.

"Plainly put, once a grave has been established in a site, it's considered a cemetery," McWilliams said. "As such, development is not allowed."

McWilliams also advised Spears to seek a lawyer who could provide legal advice on the matter going forward.

As momentum built, Spears contacted the *Dallas Morning News*, which took interest in the story and met with Spears for a profile piece. The additional newspaper coverage led to support from former schoolchildren as well as groups interested in preserving local history.

Spears visited the Dallas County Clerk and unearthed deed records dating to 1851. There in cursive, Spears' claims were legitimized. Thomas Smith's final resting place was deeded and platted as a family cemetery in 1877.

With her relationship to Smith verified, Spears' lawyer presented her findings and a subsequent court ruling sided with Spears and the deed that established the 0.22 acres surrounding the three headstones as the cemetery. A surveyor determined the original boundaries of the cemetery site, and a ground-penetrating radar investigation located the probable graves of seven more family members near the headstones.

The THC designated the Smith Family Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery on August 16, 2016. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit was also established to fund its maintenance and care.

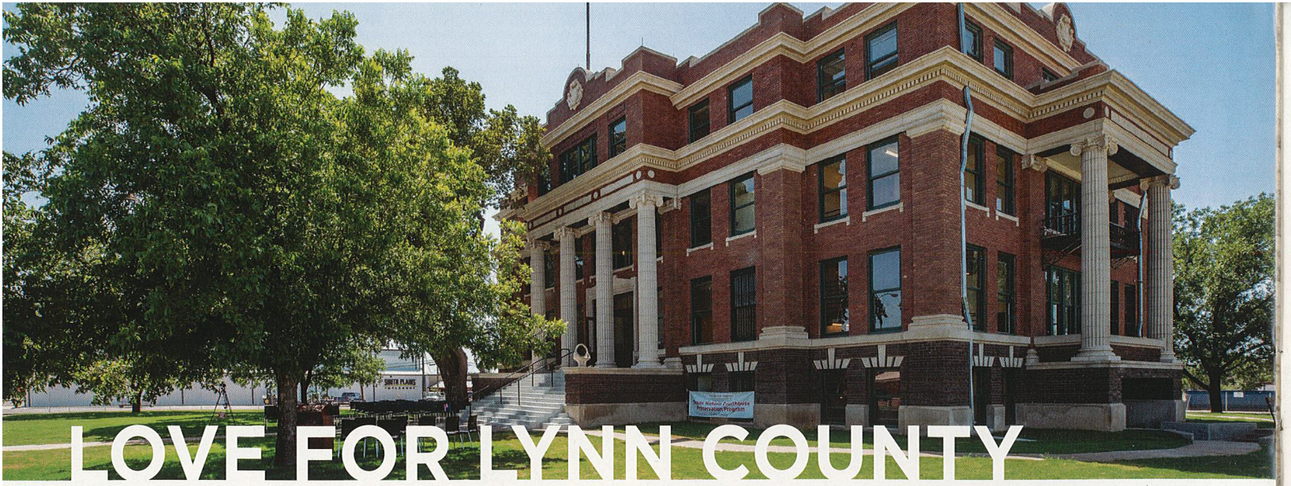
"Helping to preserve history and respecting the pioneers needed to be done or the cemetery would have been lost to asphalt," Spears said.

She believes everyone has a role to play in preserving history and is thankful for the support from McWilliams and the THC.

"Even through the dark days, the THC was supportive and helpful in providing the information needed to understand the laws and resources available for those interested in historical preservation," Spears said.

For more information about saving Texas' historic cemeteries, visit thc.texas.gov/cemeteries.





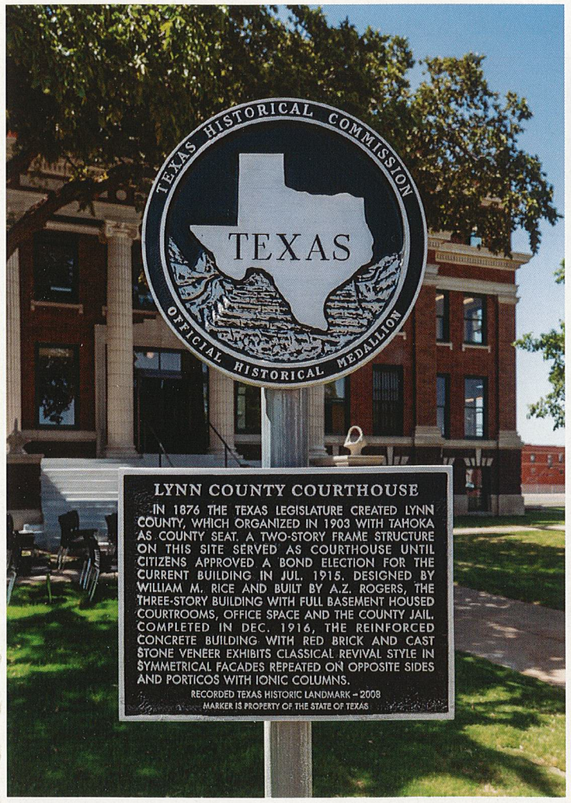
LOVE FOR LYNN COUNTY

RESTORED COURTHOUSE CELEBRATED AT REDEDICATION CEREMONY

Photos by Patrick Hughey

On July 20, state and local officials gathered in tiny Tahoka to celebrate the reopening of the 1916 Lynn County Courthouse. Restored via the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation program, the building is an excellent example of Classical Revival-style architecture commonly found on the Texas Plains at the turn of the 20th century.







NEWS BRIEFS

THC MARKER APPLICATIONS ON TEMPORARY HIATUS DURING NEW FOUNDRY SEARCH

Earlier this year, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) received the unexpected news that the owners of Southwell Company, the business that has produced the agency's historical markers for more than 50 years, sold its firm.

The THC is currently searching for a vendor that can accept the volume of markers ordered annually, develop a quality product, and create and deliver markers in a reasonable amount of time. The agency must follow state guidelines and processes in selecting a new vendor. In August, the THC posted an official request for proposal, and the agency accepted bids from potential vendors until September 30.

The THC will post the new marker application dates as well as new applications for 2020 markers as soon as production costs and schedules are available. Please monitor updates at thc.texas.gov/markers.

In the meantime, applicants can gather the additional documents that are required with the marker application, including owner's permissions. Once collected, these documents may be submitted to a local County Historical Commission (CHC) for a pre-review of the application materials. Please note that all marker applications must be approved and submitted by the CHC chair or marker chair. For additional information, email markers@thc.texas.gov.

For more information, contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512-463-5853.

A LITTLE HELP FOR OUR FRIENDS

Did you know the THC's Historic Sites Division provides a Community Partnerships Program to support state historic sites' Friends groups? There are currently 15 nonprofit Friends group organizations whose mission is to provide fundraising, organize events and programs, and promote community networks for their partner sites.



Friends of Caddo Mounds is one of 15 nonprofit Friends group organizations that support THC state historic sites.

Each group is led by a volunteer board of directors, and the groups vary widely regarding resources available to them, their organizational styles, and nonprofit experience. The THC's community partnerships coordinator works with Friends group board members, along with THC site staff assigned to work with each Friends group. The coordinator offers nonprofit consultation, assisting the groups with strategic plans, navigating agency agreements, facilitating the formation of new Friends groups when requested, and communicating agency initiatives and opportunities.

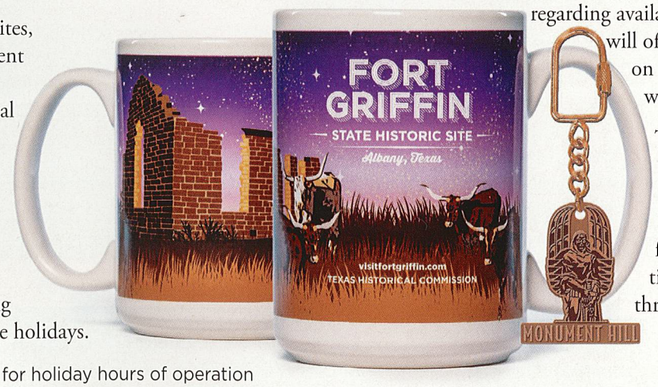
In coordination with the agency's nonprofit partner, the Friends of the THC, the program offers annual Friends Alliance Awards for Friends groups. The program coordinator also assists with a development workshop at the Real Places conference and development seminars held at historic sites across the state.

To learn more, contact Angela Reed at 512-463-5925 or angela.reed@thc.texas.gov.

FIND UNIQUE HOLIDAY GIFTS AT STATE HISTORIC SITES IN TEXAS

This holiday season, get away from the crowds and take a step back in time while shopping. For those seeking unique and creative gifts for a Texas history buff, look no further than one of the THC's state historic sites.

At one of the THC's new sites, Kreische Brewery/Monument Hill in La Grange, the updated store offers a special selection of items related to the site, including beer mugs and coasters, along with an angel ornament and keychain. Another new site, Washington-on-the-Brazos, will be featuring merchandise in time for the holidays.



Visit texashistoricsites.com for holiday hours of operation and a guide to the sites throughout Texas.

Sip hot chocolate in style this holiday season with wraparound mugs—each uniquely designed with artistic renderings of its corresponding state historic site—or order T-shirts, a heritage tourist favorite, at many locations (contact individual sites regarding availability). Each of the stores will offer up to a 20% discount on selected merchandise—site websites will include details.

These gifts and more timeless treasures are available at a state historic site near you. Visit texashistoricsites.com for holiday hours of operation and a guide to the sites throughout Texas.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

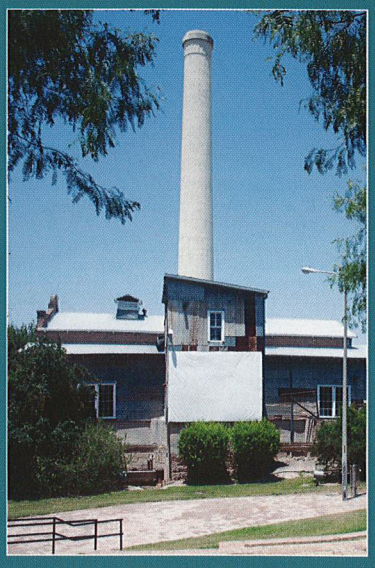
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WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

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 site in the Texas Independence Trail Region dates to 1910 and is tied to a cultural organization's first chapter in Texas.



ANSWER TO THE PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE:

The photo at left is the Old Hidalgo Pumphouse in Hidalgo. In 1909, a steam pump was built to channel Rio Grande water to irrigate nearly 40,000 acres of land; the plant continued in operation until 1983. It is now a museum with the World Birding Center. Congratulations and prizes go to the first three readers who correctly identified the site: Bianca Kelley of Edinburg, Norman Rozeff of Harlingen, and Deborah Tarsiewicz of Abilene. Thanks to all participants!



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