
THE

MEDALLION

THE

MOUNTAIN

★★★★★ TRAIL LESS TRAVELED

Explore the Outer Reaches
of Far West Texas

Exhibits Showcase Texas Governor's Mansion

Ever since a devastating fire ravaged the Texas Governor's Mansion in June 2008, Austin visitors have been unable to experience the iconic Greek Revival structure that has housed every state governor since 1856. Fortunately, this remarkable heritage remains accessible in three Austin exhibits developed by the State Preservation Board, with photos, artifacts and interactive displays bringing these real stories to life.

The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum's exhibit *Texas Treasure: Inside Our Governor's Mansion* will be held June 5–August 1. It will explore the mansion's many facets through the stories of people who have lived, worked and visited the structure. These stories will be told through dynamic kiosks, first-hand media pieces, original artifacts and documents from the mansion, all offering a behind-the-scenes look at Texas' most famous residence.

The exhibit chronicles 154 years at the state landmark with a long and lively history — from the time of Sam Houston to Miriam Ferguson's arrival to the 2008 fire. The exhibit reveals

that the Governor's Mansion is much more than a historic building; it is a home, workplace and destination for visitors from across the globe.

According to museum officials, *Inside Our Governor's Mansion* puts much of the attention on showcasing stories that offer an unseen glimpse inside "the people's house of Texas."

In addition to *Inside Our Governor's Mansion*, the State Preservation Board developed two companion displays at the Texas State Capitol and Capitol Visitors Center. The Capitol's *Front Porch of Texas* exhibit (through June 30) provides visitors a snapshot of the mansion's history through a compelling collection of photographs. At the Capitol Visitors Center, guests can discover the story of the home's first residents, Elisha M. and Lucadia Pease, in the exhibit *First Family* (through August 1).

To highlight the unique history of the mansion, the State Preservation Board has collaborated with a host of partners, including Friends of the Governor's Mansion, Texas State Library and Archives, Austin History Center, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History and the Texas Historical Commission. ★

Texas Governor's Mansion Exhibits in Austin

The Front Porch of Texas Through June 30

Texas State Capitol
Ground Floor Rotunda
1100 Congress Ave.
512.463.0063
www.tspb.state.tx.us

First Family Through August 1

Texas Capitol Visitors Center
112 E. 11th St.
512.305.8400
www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com

Texas Treasure: Inside Our Governor's Mansion

June 5–August 1
Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum
1800 Congress Ave.
512.936.4639
www.thestoryoftexas.com

The Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund continues to accept tax-deductible donations at www.texasgovernorsmansion.org or by calling 866.771.5829.

The Texas Governor's Mansion as it appeared before the 2008 fire



Make Plans to Attend Historic Sites Free Day

The annual Historic Sites Free Day will take place on May 16, 2010 at 19 of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) properties. The public will have an opportunity to experience the real stories of these real places for free admission all day Sunday.

Historic Sites Free Day will be held in conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Preservation Month (www.preservationnation.org/take-action/preservation-month) and the National and Texas Travel and Tourism Week (May 8–16). All sites will participate in the Historic Sites Free Day by offering regular services and tours free to the public.

The following list highlights special events the THC's sites will offer in conjunction with Historic Sites Free Day.

Caddo Mounds

Caddo Mounds State Historic Site will host Caddo Mounds' Archeology Studies of the Past. A significant number of photos documenting excavations and artifacts recovered at the site in 1929–1931 and 1960–1970 were recently digitized from archived 35mm slides.

These pictures will be on display throughout the museum on May 16. Additionally, guided site tours will be conducted at 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. For more information call 936.858.3218 or visit www.visitcaddomounds.com.

Fort Griffin

Fort Griffin State Historic Site will offer free guided tours with musket demonstrations by reenactors in 1870 period uniforms. For more information call 325.762.3592 or visit www.visitfortgriffin.com.



Visitors to Starr Family Home State Historic Site enjoy a guided tour of the grounds.

Fort McKavett

Fort McKavett State Historic Site along with The Friends of Fort McKavett will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 16. Fort staff and Friends members will be available to provide information, conduct guided tours upon request and visit with the public. For more information contact the site at 325.396.2358 or visit www.visitfortmckavett.com.

Fulton Mansion

Fulton Mansion State Historic Site will highlight George Fulton's 200th birthday during Historic Sites Free Day tours. For more information call 361.729.0386 or visit www.visitfultonmansion.com.

Sam Rayburn House Museum

Sam Rayburn House Museum will offer educational activities with a new exhibit titled Threaded Through Time, The Sam Rayburn Family Quilts. For more information call 903.583.5558 or visit www.visitsamrayburnhouse.com.

Starr Family Home

Starr Family Home State Historic Site will celebrate Stage Coach Days with the City of Marshall. Other local sites will join Starr Family Home in a garden tour on May 16. Guests are invited to enjoy refreshments and a performance by the Marshall ISD High School Strings Quartet on Saturday and Sunday. For more information call 903.935.3044 or visit www.visitstarrfamilyhome.com.

Varner-Hogg Plantation

Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site will offer guided walking tours on May 16 in addition to regular house tours. Walking tours will take place at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. For more information call 979.345.4656 or visit www.visitvhp.com.

For more information about the THC's Historic Sites and events for the Historic Sites Free Day visit www.texashistoricsites.com. ★

Securing Cemeteries

Guidelines Help Prevent Damage to Texas' Historic Burial Grounds

Several years ago, the Hopewell Middle School Junior Historians held a meeting at Union Hill Cemetery, where historic gravesites are scattered among the tall grass at the edge of Round Rock's suburban sprawl. En route to the meeting, student Hunter Lewin claimed the cemetery was just up the road on the left-hand side, but he ultimately had trouble determining its precise location.

"We drove past it," he recalls. "All we saw was a weed-filled, empty patch of land."

After making their way back to the cemetery, Lewin and his fellow students pushed back the overgrowth and discovered the gravemarkers. It was then they realized that a significant aspect of their community's heritage was being neglected.

"We decided to do whatever we could to save the cemetery," Lewin says.

The Junior Historians went on to record, investigate and protect Union Hill as part of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Historic Texas Cemetery designation process. Subsequently, they enrolled in the agency's RIP Guardian program, joining 57 other groups across the state in this network of cemetery preservation volunteers.

Once the official designation process is complete, volunteer groups such as the Union Hill RIP Guardians begin planning and identifying measures that will have a positive impact on the safety and security of the historic cemetery. Too often, cemetery preservation volunteers are forced into reactionary situations after vandalism, theft or natural disaster.

The following guidelines are designed to assist local organizations in efforts to prevent the damage



that may befall historic cemeteries. Although these actions won't guarantee against unfortunate or devastating events, they can establish a safety net for Texas' hallowed burial grounds.

Fencing

Adequate fencing of the cemetery site is a vital first step. Fencing comes in all shapes and sizes and is the visual representation of a cemetery's boundaries. For this reason, careful consideration must be made regarding the placement (or replacement) of fencing.

All burials should be inside the cemetery fence. If the cemetery is already fenced, determine if there are any unmarked burials outside the boundary. Unmarked burials need to be identified on a map of the site, and in the deed record.

Appropriate fencing for a cemetery varies by the location and surrounding land use. A cemetery in a rural area with livestock considerations will need a stronger fence, (such as post and wire or strong pipe), while standard chain

link fencing can adequately protect a historic cemetery in a suburban or urban area.

In addition, entry gates should be secure, yet allow for pedestrian visitation during appropriate hours. Lock the gate at night, if possible.

Law enforcement

Surveillance by local law enforcement or the sheriff's office makes a statement to potential vandals. When officers and deputies drive by the cemetery on their routes, it is clear that the people with the authority to dispense fines and make arrests are monitoring the site. Contact your municipal police department if inappropriate activity is observed in a historic cemetery within the city limits; if it is outside the city limits, contact the sheriff's office.

A partnership between law enforcement officials and cemetery preservation volunteers can have a long-term positive impact on a site. But the responsibilities are not one-sided — volunteers should also regularly monitor the cemetery and report any vandalism or theft.

1,300... and counting



Far left: RIP Guardians at Union Hill Cemetery in Williamson County. Left: Uvalde City Cemetery.

Community awareness

The community's awareness of a historic cemetery plays a key role in keeping the site safe. Frequent pedestrian traffic and continued use of the site for educational events and heritage tours sends the message that illegal activity will not be tolerated.

Start a cemetery watch group comprised of surrounding homeowners and neighborhood groups. Invite law enforcement representatives to community meetings and include everyone in the process. The cemetery watch group should be on the lookout for suspicious activity on a regular basis, so be sure to provide local emergency contact numbers if unwanted actions occur.

Signage

Signage is essential in helping the community connect with the historic cemetery and its volunteers. Quality signs should be easy to read with a clear message. Signage raises awareness of local efforts and promotes the significance of a historic cemetery.

A simple sign should include the name of the cemetery and a phone number for visitor information. An additional sign with appropriate visitation hours gives warning that

inappropriate nighttime activity will not be tolerated (sample signs are available to RIP Guardian program participants).

Lighting

Appropriate lighting in municipal areas can discourage illegal activities and unwanted recreation. Sensitive lighting works best in urban environments, but is not typically a solution for historic cemeteries outside the city limits.

Plan ahead

A theft recovery plan (sample plans are available to RIP Guardian program participants) allows cemetery volunteers to act quickly and reclaim historic cemetery features. Share emergency contact information with everyone involved and record items both visually and in writing that might be desirable to vandals or thieves.

Photograph or number and mark pieces so they can be identified if recovered. You can only protect what you know is there, so be certain to update individual gravemarkers, historic fencing and feature surveys on a scheduled basis. ★

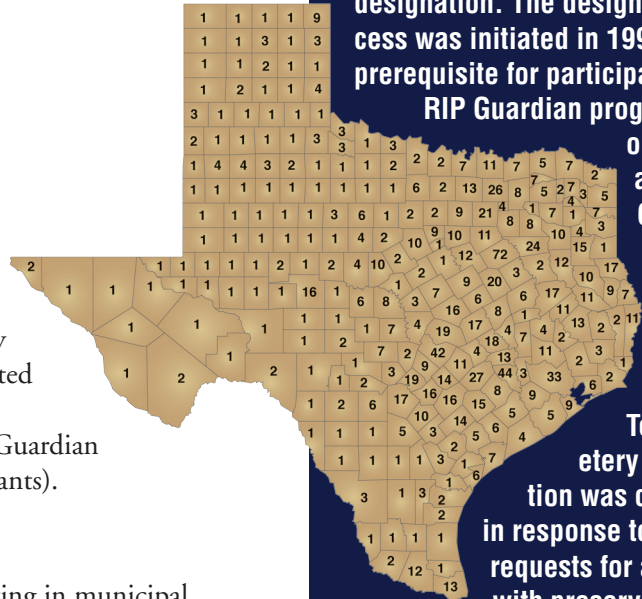
This article was written by Anne Shelton of the THC's History Programs Division

More than 1,300 sites have received the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Historic Texas Cemetery designation. The designation process was initiated in 1998 and is a prerequisite for participation in the RIP Guardian program and for

obtaining a THC Official Texas Historical Marker. The Historic Texas Cemetery designation was created

in response to public requests for assistance with preservation of

historic cemeteries and adds a layer of protection by requiring site information to be included in county deed records. In 2007 there were approximately 900 sites designated primarily across the northern, eastern and southern parts of the state. A partnership with county historical commissions in West Texas and the Panhandle, along with generous donations from the Permian Basin Area Foundation, the Dodge Jones Foundation of Abilene, and Shirley and Clifton Caldwell of Albany, has resulted in the designation of at least one Historic Texas Cemetery in each of Texas' 254 counties. Cemeteries at least 50 years old are eligible for designation. While visible and well-maintained sites may be the first thought, give special consideration to endangered cemeteries, including single graves, that may easily become lost over time. Applications for the Historic Texas Cemetery designation are accepted throughout the year.



THC Presents Annual Awards at Preservation Conference

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) honored many accomplished preservationists at the agency's Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Houston last month. Representing a diverse range of communities and regions across Texas, the recipients were:

Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award

Alecya Gallaway, Galveston



Alecya Gallaway has dedicated her life and career to the social and natural history of

southeastern Texas. Serving as chair of the Galveston County Historical Commission (CHC) since 1999, she has published many articles and book chapters on the region's history and has been a driving force in preservation efforts to revitalize Galveston County following Hurricane Ike. In 2006, she wrote and managed the History Channel grant project "Save Our Settlement," designed to protect the history of an African American freedmen's community.

Leon Metz, El Paso



Leon Metz has an enthusiasm and passion for telling the tales of the Old West. An author and

historian who has received local and national attention, Metz is dedicated to preserving history's future by keeping it in the present through his books, lectures, media appearances and other efforts. Since 1995, Metz has hosted a show on KTSM radio and for more than 10 years has written a column for the *El Paso Times*. As a commentator on the History Channel, Discovery Channel

and PBS, Metz has shown his dedication to the history of El Paso and the Southwest.

Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology

Elton Prewitt, Austin



Elton Prewitt's involvement in Texas archeology began in 1963. During a distinguished

professional career, Prewitt has been employed by the THC's Office of the State Archeologist, the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin and the Texas Department of Transportation. Prewitt worked with Curtis Tunnell, for whom this award is named, documenting collections for the Smithsonian Institution that resulted from site investigations in Texas' Trans-Pecos region.

John Ben Shepperd County Historical Commission Leadership Award

Kate Johnson, Hays County



Kate Johnson is a longtime member of the Hays CHC and has served as chair for three terms.

With a laudable record of vision, research and support of a wide range of historical preservation activities in her home county, Johnson's recent accomplishments include the

production of a DVD documentary of Captain Jack Hays, a legendary Texas Ranger and the county's namesake.

George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award

J. Travis Roberts, Jr., Marathon

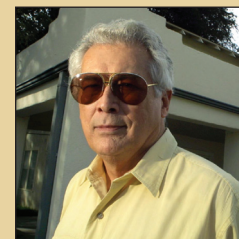


J. Travis Roberts, Jr. has served for 20 years with the Brewster CHC and has committed

much of his time to volunteer efforts. Assuming the role of chairman in 1999, Roberts utilized his devotion as a preservationist to spearhead involvement in the THC's Visionaries in Preservation program. He also organizes field trips to historic sites in the area. His leadership helped secure the THC's Distinguished Service Award in recognition of the Brewster CHC for six of the past seven years.

Anice B. Read Award of Excellence in Community Heritage Development

Kenneth Sloan Gunter, San Angelo



Kenneth Sloan Gunter has been active in historic preservation efforts in San Angelo for

more than 35 years. Concerned with urban blight that threatened some of the city's most significant structures,

Gunter became an active proponent of preserving historic landmarks, helping to restore nearly a dozen historic buildings in downtown, including the city's original Block One. A strong advocate of the Texas Main Street Program, Gunter's efforts sparked investment in the historic commercial assets of the community.

Malinda Veldman, Corsicana



As one of the original Main Street managers from the Texas Main Street Program's

conception in the 1980s, Malinda Veldman is dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of Corsicana's historic commercial core. By chairing the restoration of the Palace Theater, Veldman helped create the city's heritage preservation commission and raised funds for a historic resource survey. Veldman's contributions to Corsicana are evident as the city celebrates its 25th year with the Texas Main Street Program.

**John L. Nau, III
Award of Excellence
in Museums**

Sharon Chamblee, Mineola



Sharon Chamblee was the driving force behind the establishment and development

of the Mineola Historical Museum. Working with the Mineola landmark commission and following years of fund raising, Chamblee helped ensure the purchase of the 1936 post office building to promote and contain local history. Under Chamblee's direction, the museum features exhibits on local schools, a replica Works Progress Administration mural and a piece of Mineola's Select Theater.

**Texas Historical
Commission
Award of Excellence
in Preserving History
Port Aransas Preservation and
Historical Association, Port Aransas**



The Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association (PAHPA) promotes, preserves and develops awareness of Port Aransas' unique history. The organization's efforts helped save the Mercer House, one of the first island homes, from demolition by moving and restoring the structure into a fully functioning museum. The PAHPA organizes the annual Old Town Festival, which celebrates the history of Port Aransas.

**Texas Historical
Commission
Award of Excellence
in Media Achievement
"Postcards from Texas" series
on KTBU-TV Channel 55, Houston**



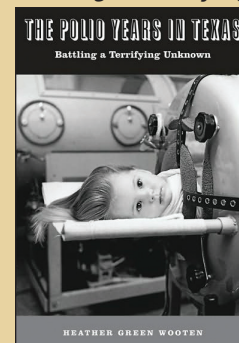
This weekly half-hour television series explores and promotes the history of Houston and its surrounding counties in southeastern Texas. With episodes utilizing historic photographs, interviews with historians and current footage, the series conveys the human experience in the region. Topics have focused on the history and contributions made by African Americans, women and children.

**Texas Historical
Commission
Award of Excellence
in Historic Architecture
Barry Wagner and Stan Klein,
Fredericksburg**



The principal architects of Wagner and Klein Architects and Preservation Consultants have made significant contributions to historic preservation through their work on Texas' historic county courthouses, which are being restored through the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. The firm was instrumental in the restoration of the Menard and Bandera county courthouses and has been working on the recently completed Kendall County courthouse.

**T.R. Fehrenbach
Book Award
Heather Green Wooten,
*The Polio Years in Texas:
Battling a Terrifying Unknown***



Numerous accounts have been written on the horrific impact of paralytic poliomyelitis (polio), but Wooten's *The Polio Years in*

Texas takes an innovative approach by focusing on the disease at the local level. Wooten utilizes extensive archival research and interviews with Texas polio survivors and their families to produce a detailed and intensely human account of the epidemic's effect on Texas and its aftermath. ★

HIGH ON HISTORY



Travelers Discover Heritage, Natural Wonders in Texas Mountain Trail Region

In the Texas Mountain Trail Region, encountering the past doesn't take much time, distance or imagination. History is always close at hand. Sun-baked adobe structures appear much as they did a hundred years ago; frontier forts remain enduring rugged outposts; and mountain trails lead to magnificent untouched vistas.

The area's remote nature enhances its preservation. Since urban sprawl and redevelopment are not major factors, century-old buildings and their environs often receive the same consideration residents bestow upon each other in this region: live and let live.

"Out here, stories about Texans being on the frontier and living off the land aren't too far removed from history," says Beth Nobles, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Mountain Trail Region.

"You'll often find that the only man-made thing around you is the road that got you there. It gives you a real sense of how this corner of the state has always appeared."

Nobles prefers to experience much of the region by bike, allowing her to absorb the elements that make this landscape so appealing. Stretches of Highway 54 between Van Horn and Guadalupe Mountains National Park are unobstructed with power lines, litter is virtually nowhere to be found and the air contains an unmatched purity.

"It's amazing when you're not in your car, because you really start noticing the lack of human-generated sights and sounds," she says. "You also get a true sense of what distance meant to the people who lived off the land here and what it was like to be exposed to the elements for hours at a time. There aren't too

many other places in Texas, or even the entire country, where you can experience that."

Also distinctive to the Texas Mountain Trail Region are adobe structures, constructed with sun-dried bricks made of earth, grass and water. The thick walls are often covered with a plaster-based material to help insulate against extreme weather conditions. Though some adobe structures in Far West Texas are in danger of eroding due to the intense sun and wind, many are being restored.

"Adobe structures are so beautiful — there's something viscerally appealing about the sun-washed gray, the intricacies of light and shadow and the way everything is framed by the wonderful soft shapes and subtlety of texture," Nobles says.

From adobe buildings to breathtaking views to cultural legacies,



Left: Adobe buildings in Valentine; right: Marfa's Hotel Paisano; far right: a mural in Marfa's Building 98. Background: Chinati Mountains. On the cover: the road to Ruidosa.

Nobles encourages Texans to make the effort to experience the Texas Mountain Trail Region. Though it may take extra time and planning to schedule a visit from other parts of the state, she believes the effort will be duly rewarded.

“Even if you just come out to marvel at the sky from your car, you won’t regret it,” she says. “I constantly stop, look at the sky, notice how pure and vast it is and think, ‘Wow — this is a sight to behold. This is a great-to-be-alive sky!’ ”

The Mountain Trail Less Traveled

Texas Mountain Trail Region travelers are occasionally overwhelmed by the area’s sheer immensity, with maps depicting long drives between communities and seemingly isolated locations. After experiencing these conditions, however, visitors find the remote aspects are a major part of Far West Texas’ appeal. Lengthy drives are highlighted by calming mountain views, refreshingly sparse traffic and enlightening historical markers.

For those who haven’t visited the region, Marfa is a good starting point. Consider setting a home base at the historic Hotel Paisano, a beautifully restored 1930 Spanish Colonial hotel that hosted cattlemen in the 1930s and the cast of the movie “Giant” in the 1950s.

The nearby Presidio County Courthouse, restored through the THC’s Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, is a must-see for new and seasoned visitors, as is the innovative adapted reuse of Fort D.A. Russell — a former army base that’s now home to the art-filled Building 98 (see sidebar at right) and Chinati Foundation. Other well-known attractions offering noteworthy historical perspectives of the region include Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis (21 miles north of Marfa) and the Museum of the Big Bend in Alpine (26 miles east).

However, it’s the historical destinations at the far reaches of this region that offer deeper perspective and fascinating insight, bringing the real stories of Far West Texas’ mystique to life. Since it can be challenging to gauge the amount of time needed to explore these remote locales, the following itineraries provide an overview of the often-overlooked yet compelling attractions heritage travelers can reasonably expect to discover in a day.



Art in Place

From the outside, Building 98 in Marfa appears rather unassuming, with neutral styling and small wooden letters proclaiming its institutional name. Step inside, however, and the building’s multi-faceted history is unavoidable.

Constructed in 1920, the adobe structure housed the officers club and bachelor officers quarters for the Army’s Fort D.A. Russell. It is more renowned, however, for its occupants during World War II — particularly the German prisoners of war (POW), who painted colorful panoramic murals on many interior walls.

“This is the largest collection of POW art in the entire country,” explains Mona Blocker Garcia, the building’s owner and president of the art-based International Woman’s Foundation, headquartered in the facility.

The colorful murals are compelling, especially considering they were created with house paint by war prisoners from Field Marshall Erwin Rommel’s Afrika Korps. The POWs, inspired by their time in Marfa, devoted most of their murals to capturing the surrounding wide-open landscapes. The artists were later identified as R. Hampel and Hans Jurgen Press; notably, Press would become a famous illustrator and author of children’s books in post-war Europe.

“We have visitors and artists coming here from all over the world,” Garcia says. “People are absolutely flabbergasted when they come in here.”

To schedule a tour of Building 98, contact Mona Garcia at 432.729.4826.





Day 1

From Marfa, take Highway 67 south to Presidio. This route features stunning views of the Chinati Mountains and two THC historical markers related to legendary rancher Milton Faver and his extensive cattle operations.

Presidio

Twenty miles south of Shafter lies Presidio, a border community of nearly 4,100 residents. The Handbook of Texas Online claims Presidio is the oldest continually cultivated area in the U.S., noting that farmers have lived there since 1500 B.C.

The community's premier heritage tourism attraction is Fort Leaton State Historic Site, a one-acre adobe fortified compound. In 1848, trader Ben Leaton purchased the property and developed it into a 40-room structure that served as his home and a trading post along the Chihuahua Trail.

The massive building, which has undergone several restorations in the past century, is a remarkable example of regional adobe architecture. The dozens of intact rooms showcase the style's distinctive earthen texture, softly curved angles and hand-hewn cottonwood ceiling joists. Several exhibits and THC markers highlight the fort's history, including Leaton's controversial and violent dealings as a regional trader.

Ruidosa

Located 36 miles west of Presidio, Ruidosa is a virtual ghost town with a substantial occupant. The Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church (circa 1914) is recognized as one of the most significant adobe structures in the state, with three large arches considered the largest existing round-structural adobe arches in Texas.

Though the church lies in partial ruins, its architectural and historic importance have prompted historians to organize considerable restoration

If You Go...

To learn more about the heritage tourism destinations featured in this article, contact:

Clark Hotel Museum

Van Horn
432.283.8028

Fort Leaton State Historic Site

Presidio
432.229.3613
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/parks

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

915.828.3251
www.nps.gov/gumo/

Hotel El Capitan

Van Horn
877.283.1220
www.hotelcapitan.net

Hotel Paisano

Marfa
432.729.3669
www.hotelpaisano.com

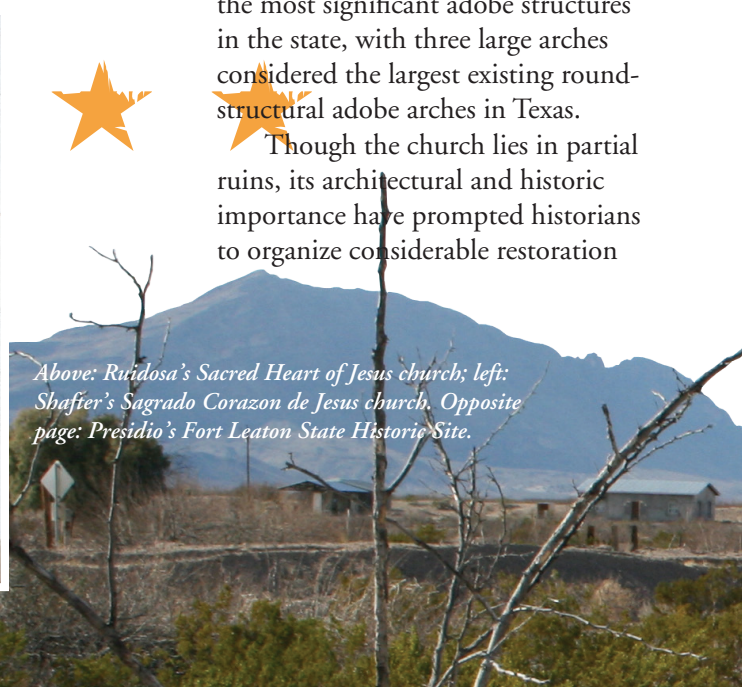
Texas Mountain Trail Region

432.284.0002
www.texasmountaintrail.com

Shafter

Identified by highway signs as a ghost town, Shafter is located 40 miles south of Marfa. This once-thriving mining community is now virtually empty, except for the noteworthy Sagrado Corazon de Jesus adobe church (1890) and several buildings related to the Presidio Mining Company, intermittently active from 1882–1942.

According to the National Register listing for Shafter Historic Mining District, large volumes of silver and lead were discovered, leading to the construction of nearly 100 miles of tunnels, 300 employed miners and a company town with homes and a hospital. Visitors can learn more about the community at Brooks Cemetery (1904), which includes a museum, interpretive plaques and a THC marker.



Above: Ruidosa's Sacred Heart of Jesus church; left: Shafter's Sagrado Corazon de Jesus church. Opposite page: Presidio's Fort Leaton State Historic Site.

efforts. In 2005, the THC awarded an emergency Texas Preservation Trust Fund grant to the Ruidosa Mission Project to help stabilize the structure by replacing the roof, fortifying the foundation and grading the site for drainage. Though a complete restoration may be prohibitively expensive, organizers continue to promote awareness and fund-raising efforts for the endangered church. Contact Marge Hughes with the Ruidosa Mission Project at 432.729.4452 for more information.

To return from Ruidosa to Marfa, there are two options. One is to retrace the lengthy yet scenic trek through Presidio and Shafter. The other — more adventurous yet ultimately worthwhile — is Pinto Canyon Road, which leads from Ruidosa to Marfa. A 4x4 vehicle is needed to navigate the rocky terrain, but the effort is rewarded with exceptional views from within the Chinati mountain range. The nearly two-hour trek provides a connection to the region's rugged natural beauty through rare bird and plant sightings and astonishing vistas of purely untouched landscapes.

Day 2

Departing from Marfa, head west on Highway 90 toward Van Horn. After soaking up the mountain scenery for nearly 30 miles, be on the lookout for a small yet significant cultural attraction: Prada Marfa. A notable work of installation art, the “store” is considered a playful commentary on the dichotomy between commercialism and the structure's stark location.

Van Horn

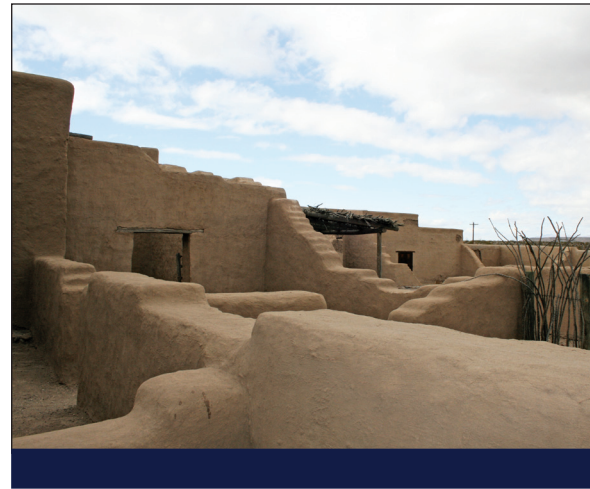
Forty miles past the tiny community of Valentine lies Van Horn, which traces its origins to the 1881 arrival of the Texas and Pacific Railway. Currently serving as home base for the Texas Mountain Trail Region, Van Horn (population circa 2,500) hosts many cross-country travelers due to its location on Interstate 10 and proximity to Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

The community has two historic hotels, one repurposed as a heritage center (Clark Hotel Museum) and one recently refurbished to its 1930 grandeur (Hotel El Capitan). The Capitan was designed by noted El Paso architect Henry Trost and served as a cattleman's hotel for 40 years before becoming the Van Horn State Bank. Its extensive renovation captures the detail and spirit of Van Horn's proud Western legacy.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park

State Highway 54, a 55-mile-long road between Van Horn and Guadalupe Mountains National Park, has been described as one of the state's most beautiful stretches of scenery. It's easy to see why. The drive north from Van Horn offers breathtaking views of the Sierra Diablo Mountains and Guadalupe Peak, Texas' highest point (8,749 feet).

The park offers 85 miles of trails, several campsites and historical attractions across more than 86,000 acres. Day visitors can explore the region's heritage at the park's Frijole Ranch History Museum, Pinery stagecoach ruins and secluded Williams Ranch (accessible via a seven-mile-long road requiring a 4x4 vehicle).



Day 3

By now, travelers may want to consider shifting operations from Marfa to another part of the region. Big Bend National Park, 90 miles to the southeast, offers many heritage-related opportunities, including several National Register districts, exhibits and hikes to historical sites.

Nearly 200 miles west is El Paso, the region's largest city. Though some travelers may be familiar with popular destinations like the THC's Magoffin Home State Historic Site, the Mission Trail, Fort Bliss and El Paso Museum of Archaeology, lesser-known historical attractions beckon with captivating cultural charm, including Concordia Cemetery, Mercado Mayapan and Keystone Heritage Park.

“Regardless of your destination, this region really provides an incredible escape,” Nobles says. “You can experience Texas history and culture in a way that can't be duplicated anywhere else.” ★

Article and photos by Andy Rhodes, managing editor of The Medallion.

Experiencing Architecture

Styles, Materials and the Creative Process

While taking in Texas' diverse collection of historic downtowns, residents and visitors often marvel at the surrounding buildings and distinctive architectural styles. They may boldly proclaim an edifice to be representative of the Art Deco style, or proudly declare a courthouse as Romanesque Revival. They may be making an educated identification, or stating an opinion based on their recollection from an Architecture 101 class years ago.

Regardless, architecture in Texas and throughout the world can be experienced in a variety of ways at a variety of levels. You may be interested in determining a building's architectural style, exploring the different materials comprising a building or understanding how an architect conceived a particular design. If so, the following overview will offer a useful introduction to experiencing architecture.

Style

The more you look at buildings, the more you realize how often they share visual characteristics with other buildings. These similar qualities are referred to as an architectural style.

If you can't clearly identify a particular building's style, don't be frustrated. Many buildings simply refuse to fit into one particular category — they are likely a hybrid of two or more styles. Though sometimes curious, hybrids can be quite fascinating for their uniqueness.

You should also know that the beauty of architectural styles is more than skin deep; they have a serious side. When used correctly, these styles often serve the same purpose

as grammar does for the written word. The elements of a building — such as the classical columns of a late-1800s bank (Neo-Classical Revival) or the sleek horizontal windows of an early 1900s museum (International Style) — need an architectural style as a frame of reference and a system of organization (see sidebar for recommended resources). It's equally as important, however, not to take architectural styles too seriously. Thinking about old buildings strictly in terms of style can be quite limiting and ultimately unsatisfying.

While style identification is essential for placing buildings within their historic context, it doesn't explain how the design was conceived. Styles are a framework for the creative process; they don't represent the process itself.

Building Materials and Elements

Historic buildings made use of a wide variety of materials and elements, including pigmented structural glass panels, cast iron storefront components, ceramic tile flooring, tin ceilings, terra cotta façades, steel windows, painted signs, pre-neon electric signs, neon signs, post-war plastic signs and ornamental woodwork. Each of these materials and elements played an important role in defining the character of the building and reinforcing the tone set by the architectural style.



There is an abundance of useful information available on the history, maintenance and restoration of these elements and materials. The National Park Service's Preservation Briefs are one of the best places to start your investigation (www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm).

Just as with styles, it is limiting to think about building materials and elements as the genesis of building form. Building parts and materials do not magically fit together to create architecture. Something else is required to make a particular material or a certain style meaningful: the establishment of an architectural concept or "parti." Let's have a closer look at the creative process that leads to the parti.



“Architecture is the learned game, correct and magnificent, of forms assembled in the light.”

– *Le Corbusier (1887–1965), pioneering architect*

The Creative Process in Architecture

Architects choose a style and building materials after embarking upon a rigorous intellectual process that combines information gathering and creative exploration.

The data accumulation includes items such as determining the number of rooms, how budgetary limits may affect the building’s complexity, and the city’s zoning and code constraints.

The creative aspect includes considering people’s experience when they arrive at the building; what they see as they turn a corner, ascend a staircase or enter a light-filled room; what the dimensions of a particular space should be; and what relationship the building should have with its landscape and neighboring

buildings. Of particular significance is what image (apart from style) the building is intended to convey, i.e. should it be monumental, fade into the background, establish a new focal point for the downtown or even suggest its building type.

As these decisions are being made, the building form starts to take shape. The process continues by distilling the best ideas to their essence, making the design as efficient as functionally possible without losing its most interesting aspects and, finally, determining what the building should ultimately look like.

At this point, “style” is integrated into the creative process. This assimilation leads to the subtle refinements that turn an ordinary design into a piece of architecture. One could conceivably explore the permutations of the creative process endlessly, but this exercise is perhaps best captured by the following quotation:

“Explaining a joke is like dissecting a frog; you understand it better, but the frog dies in the process.”

– *Mark Twain*

In other words, you can analyze the creative process to the point where you understand it better, but the essence of the creative spirit itself is lost.

Ideally, the preceding information has whetted your appetite, allowing you to look at buildings in a new way to truly experience architecture. ★

This article was written by Howard Langner of the THC’s Community Heritage Development Division.

Texas hosts a broad spectrum of architectural styles and experiences, including (clockwise), the Socorro Mission in El Paso, the Donley County Courthouse in Clarendon and the Zidell House in Taylor.

Examples of significant architectural styles are available from the following resources:

Books:

A Field Guide to American Architecture, Carole Rifkind

A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia and Lee McAlester

A History of Architecture, Sir Bannister Fletcher

American Architecture since 1780, Marcus Whiffen

Architecture: Form, Space, and Order, Francis Ching

Body, Memory, and Architecture, Kent Bloomer and Charles Moore

Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, John J.G. Blumenson

Experiencing Architecture, Steen Eiler Rasmussen

What Style Is It? John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers Jr.

Web sites:

www.greatbuildings.com/types/styles/baroque.html

www.lib.utexas.edu/exhibits/txarch/timeline.html

Inquiries Arise

Gulf Coast Shipwreck Investigation Brings Up Identity Questions

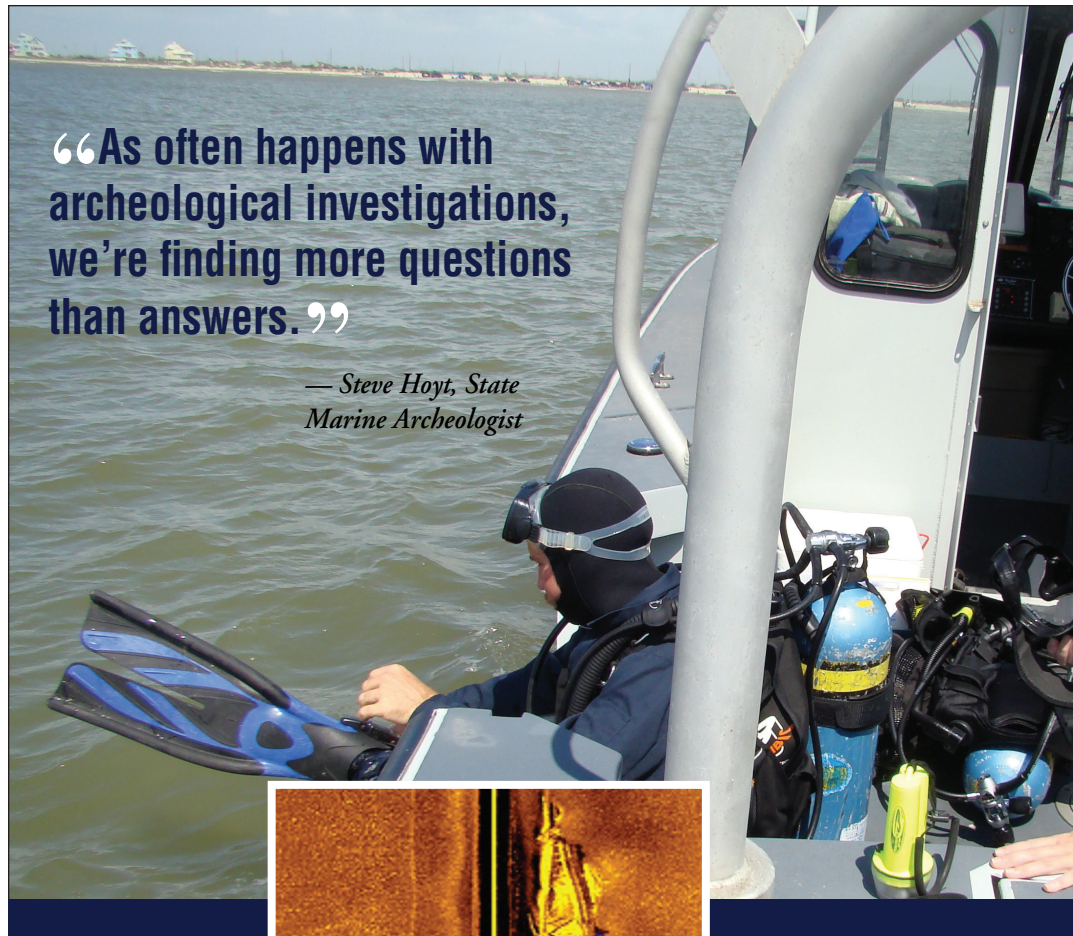
When Hurricane Ike came ashore in September 2008, the storm threw thousands of objects into the waters of the Texas Gulf Coast and bays. These items ranged from household appliances, such as refrigerators, to entire houses. Cars, SUVs and sunken boats also littered the waterways.

Shortly after Ike passed, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) launched a massive campaign to locate and remove this debris. A side-scan sonar was used to detect these objects, which were submerged in the murky, brown water.

This sonar uses sound to compile a detailed picture of items lying on the gulf floor. The sensor is towed behind a boat and records images as the boat travels along survey lines guided by GPS positioning. Sonar software can calculate exact locations of the items found below the surface.

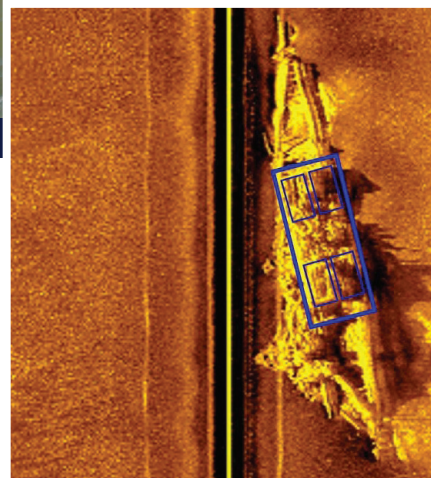
The sonar survey found not only general debris, but archeological sites as well. The first phase of the survey located three wrecks off the coast between Galveston and Freeport. Sonar operators contracted by the GLO recognized these “targets” as shipwrecks, and the THC was contacted to establish a protocol on how to proceed.

State Marine Archeologist Steve Hoyt reviewed the initial data provided by the GLO and recommended that the GLO contract with an experienced marine archeology consulting firm to review the remaining data. The archeological consultant provided guidance to avoid possible submerged historic resources as the storm debris was removed from the water.



“As often happens with archeological investigations, we’re finding more questions than answers.”

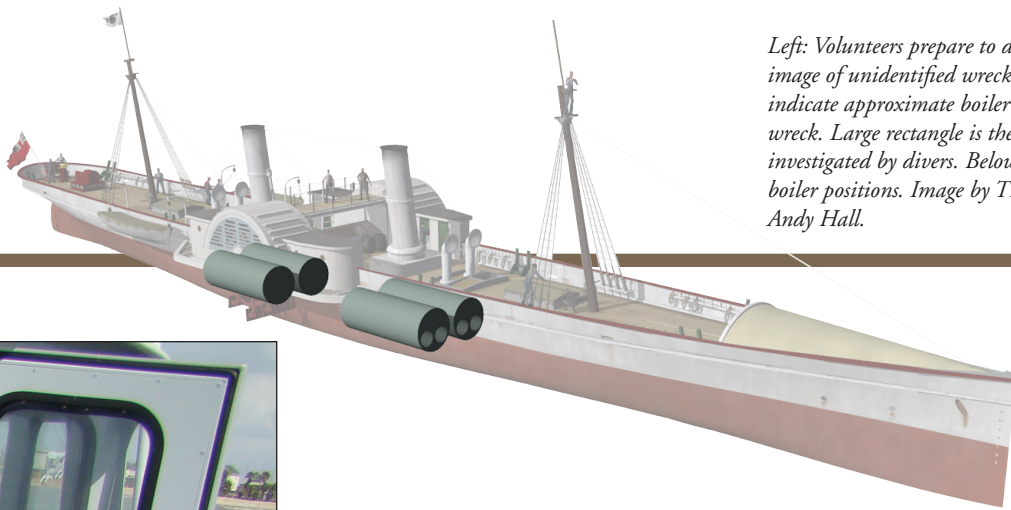
— Steve Hoyt, State Marine Archeologist



Of the three wrecks located during the initial survey, two are previously recorded shipwrecks. One is identified as the *Acadia*, a Civil War blockade runner that sank north of the Brazos River mouth on February 6, 1865. The other is the blockade runner *Will-O-The-Wisp*, which sank near Galveston on February 9, 1865. The third wreck was previously unknown. Archival research indicated that it might be the *Caroline*, another

blockade runner that sank on July 8, 1864, which has not yet been located.

“Not much is known about the *Caroline*, except that it started out as a tugboat called the *Union* and was then converted to use as a blockade runner,” Hoyt says. “While operating as a blockade runner, it was captured twice, sold at auction each time, renamed by the new owners and resumed service as a blockade runner. The last name associated with it was the *Caroline*.”



Left: Volunteers prepare to dive. Inset: Side-scan sonar image of unidentified wreck. Small blue rectangles indicate approximate boiler locations on unidentified wreck. Large rectangle is the approximate exposed area investigated by divers. Below: Will-O-The-Wisp steam boiler positions. Image by THC Marine Steward Andy Hall.



With the vital assistance of marine stewards and other volunteers, Hoyt organized a diving expedition to investigate the as-yet-unidentified wreck in July 2009. The wreck — located near the beach in water about 10 feet deep — was under such shallow water, even low swells created enough surge to push divers around on the jagged metal wreckage.

“Everyone came away with a few scars from the experience,” Hoyt says.

Regardless, the diving was considered a success, with participants gathering considerable construction detail of the wreck even though the sand was rapidly reburying the

remains after the initial Ike exposure. Only the area of the boiler/engine room was exposed to investigators.

A mental picture of the boiler/engine room space was possible only after gathering much data and comparing notes from several dives. The wreck is largely fragmentary: no single boiler is complete, the engines are missing, the paddlewheel shaft is separated in the middle and the paddlewheels were not found. Still, working with experienced divers and stewards made it possible to decipher the evidence and paint a basic picture of the ship.

Surprisingly, the emerging image of the third wreck was not that of a tugboat, as was previously suspected, but was much more consistent with the *Will-O-The-Wisp*. Divers recorded the remains of an iron-hulled, side-wheel steamer with four boilers to create steam for the engines. The boilers were laid out similarly to the arrangement of the *Will-O-The-Wisp* engine room.

“The construction details of this ship are exactly what we’d expect for a purpose-built blockade runner like the *Will-O-The-Wisp*, and we have considerable information from historic records about that vessel,” Hoyt says, adding that the boiler found on the new third wreck is known as a “gunboat boiler” because its low profile is consistent with vessels attempting to minimize visibility and

target size. “Unfortunately, we haven’t been able to locate these kinds of details for the *Caroline*.”

Looking back in *Will-O-The-Wisp* records from the 1980s (when the wreck was discovered and investigated by a volunteer group in Galveston), it appears no information was recorded by divers on features of the wreck. Two permits were issued for the investigations, but no reports were submitted. Hoyt believes that wreck may have been misidentified.

“It now appears that the wreck most recently discovered could be the *Will-O-The-Wisp*, and the older wreck may be something else — perhaps the *Caroline*,” says Hoyt. “The only way to sort this out is through additional research, both archival and diving.”

Diving investigations are scheduled for this summer to examine the site, previously identified as the *Will-O-The-Wisp*. The goal is to collect sufficient information to support or contradict the previous assessment of the vessel’s identity.

“It’s certainly possible that its features will be more consistent with a steam tug like the *Caroline* and the record will need to be amended,” Hoyt says. “As often happens with archeological investigations, we’re finding more questions than answers.” ★

This article was written by THC Archeology Division staff.



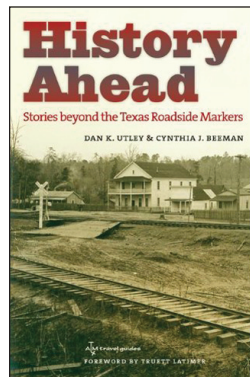
Workshop participants collaborate on a planning activity designed for small museums.

Museum Planning Workshops Begin in May

Invest in your museum's future by learning how to navigate the strategic planning process. The workshop *Small Museum GPS: Finding a Quick Way Through the Strategic Planning Wilderness* is designed to help museums realistically assess their current position, identify a vision and formulate a strategy for reaching this vision. The full-day workshop will be offered in 12 locations across the state beginning in May. Exact dates and locations will be available soon on the THC web site.

The instruction emphasizes developing a simple plan that follows reasonable steps and is especially well suited for smaller museums. The workshops are the third installment in the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Training for Texas Museums initiative, which is coordinated in partnership with the Texas Association of Museums and supported in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information, contact Carlyn Hammons at carlyn.hammons@thc.state.tx.us or 512.463.5756.

Former THC Employees Author Historical Marker Book



Two former THC employees have compiled their collective decades' worth of experiences with the agency's historical marker program into a new book, *History Ahead: Stories Beyond the Texas Roadside Markers*. Dan K. Utley and Cynthia J. Beeman, who worked in the THC's History Programs Division, offer an insightful and entertaining look at stories chronicling Texas' notable figures, from the famous (Charles Lindbergh, Will Rogers, The Big Bopper) to the not-so-famous (Elmer "Lumpy" Kleb, Don Pedro Jaramillo, Carl Morene, the "music man of Schulenburg").

Utley and Beeman's book documents cotton gins, abandoned airfields, forgotten cemeteries and former World War II alien detention

camp, highlighting the little-known and unsuspected narratives behind the text on the markers they helped develop. Their book also includes dozens of sidebars, many never-before-published historical and contemporary photographs, and maps and directions to the marker sites.

The authors were recently featured on Texas State Historian Light Cummings' blog (www.historianoftexas.blogspot.com). Cummings wrote, "Utley and Beeman, who probably each know as much about Texas historical markers as anyone else in the Lone Star State, have gone behind the scenes and told the full stories associated with some 19 or so of the more interesting, colorful markers. (They) highlight the humor, pathos, joy, sorrow and very human stories behind the roadside history of Texas."

To order a copy of the book, visit Texas A&M University Press' web site (www.tamupress.com) or call 800.826.8911.

Texas Land Title Association Renews Commitment to Historic Texas Courthouses

The Texas Land Title Association (TLTA) will continue its support of Texas' historic county courthouses for the fourth year through a public/private partnership with the THC. This collaboration — the only one of its kind in the U.S. — supports the highly successful Texas Courthouse Stewardship Workshop program.

Grant money provided by TLTA helps to provide training and technical assistance to maintain historic county courthouses restored through the THC's award-winning Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. Funds provided by TLTA also support Courthouse Stewardship Awards, recognizing counties that have

National Register News

The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of cultural resources deemed worthy of preservation, including more than 3,000 listings in Texas. Listing affords properties a measure of protection from the impact of federally funded projects, as well as access to technical expertise, tax credits and grant funds to facilitate preservation. The following recently listed historic properties represent the real stories reflecting Texas' dynamic cultural heritage.

Alden Dow Office — Lake Jackson, Brazoria County

The Alden B. Dow Office and Lake Jackson City Hall is a single-story, wood-frame building in downtown Lake Jackson, a company town designed by Dow for his family's business, the Dow Chemical Company. Constructed in 1943, the building is a prime example of Dow's philosophy of architectural design, and it incorporates many of the design principles Dow would employ in Lake Jackson's other commercial and residential structures: a light frame for quick and easy construction, deeply overhanging eaves for relief from the southeast Texas sun, and open trellises, long porches, and breezeways to allow the indoors and outdoors to meld. The building housed several private businesses, including a beauty parlor and barber shop, as well as the Lake Jackson City Hall, the city's telephone service and the post office, while Dow's architectural practice occupied the prominent northern end, with its outwardly slanting walls.



Oakhurst Historic District — Fort Worth, Tarrant County

Oakhurst was listed in the National Register as an excellent example of an early- to mid-20th-century suburban middle class residential district, the development of which coincided with Fort Worth's growth as a regional industrial and transportation hub in North Texas. Prior to World War II, the houses built in the Oakhurst district typically were modest Craftsman bungalows or Period Revival style homes, especially Tudor Revival. During and after the war, houses were derivatives of the Ranch style, contemporary interpretations of the Colonial Revival style, Minimal Traditional and late examples of National Folk style houses.



shown exemplary care and commitment to their newly restored historic county courthouses.

For more information on the stewardship workshops and the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, contact the THC's Architecture Division at 512.463.6094 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

National Trust Names Bastrop a Distinctive Destination

The National Trust for Historic Preservation named the Central Texas

community of Bastrop as one of its Dozen Distinctive Destinations for 2010. Nominated by the Bastrop Main Street program, the city was selected for its distinctive heritage connections, well-preserved and vibrant downtown, varied calendar of annual events and proximity to the Lost Pines natural region.

"The city of Bastrop is remarkable for its vibrant, walkable downtown, distinguished architecture, celebrated cultural diversity and a population devoted to protecting its character," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Bastrop

embodies everything that a distinctive destination should be, and I hope many will take the opportunity to visit when our annual National Preservation Conference takes place in Austin in October 2010."

The National Trust has annually selected communities across America for 10 years that offer cultural and recreational experiences different from those found at the typical vacation destination. For more information about the program and the National Trust, visit www.preservationnation.org. ★

Fort McKavett: One of Texas' Best-Preserved Frontier Posts



Described in 1871 as the prettiest post in Texas by General William T. Sherman, Fort McKavett State Historic Site continues to captivate visitors with a grand landscape of well-established oak trees, pooling springs and one of the best-preserved frontier forts in Texas. The property's 19 restored buildings offer interpretive exhibits highlighting the history of the site, and a quarter-mile, self-guided nature trail features a lime kiln, rock quarry and spectacular Hill Country vistas.

Established in 1852 as part of a line of forts tasked with protecting the upper San Antonio-El Paso road, the garrison of 350 to 500 men consisted of half a regiment of infantry and a minimum of two mounted companies (either dragoon or mounted infantry in the antebellum years or cavalry, post-bellum). For a six-month period during the Civil War, Fort McKavett acted as a prisoner of war camp and housed the Federal soldiers that attempted to evacuate the state prior to the outbreak of hostilities.

"During the years following the Civil War, elements of all four regiments of Buffalo Soldiers were stationed on post," explains Brett Cruse, sites supervisor with the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Historic Sites Division. "Throughout its existence as a military installation, Fort McKavett acted as a supply sub-depot for redistribution of supplies

sent from the San Antonio military stores. It was also a testing ground for new weaponry and equipment."

Offering more than just rich military history, Fort McKavett also boasts a diverse cultural heritage detailed in its programming and outreach efforts. The annual West Texas Heritage Days celebration in March includes living history demonstrations depicting the frontier experiences of soldiers, families, Native Americans and Buffalo Soldiers.

Women played a vital role at the fort by supporting the military and promoting conventional community activities such as dances and plays, which contributed to fewer disciplinary problems amongst soldiers. The resilient spirit and strength of these frontier women is attributed to their abilities to provide a sense of domestic stability while struggling with harsh environmental conditions and a lack of resources.

Fort McKavett State Historic Site
7066 FM 864, Fort McKavett, TX
325.396.2358
www.visitfortmckavett.com
Open daily 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

The pioneer courage and resolve is part of the fort's mystique and the wholesome experience it offers adults and children. Last summer, multicultural students participated in the Old Stories, New Voices program, providing educational experiences via a wagon train, heritage hike and drill ceremony. Fort McKavett continues to present varied education programs, including the recent trail ride and hike hosted by the Texas Equestrian Trail Ride Association.

This year's schedule of events at Fort McKavett continues to expand its far-reaching appeal. May 16 will mark the second annual Historic Sites Free Day, where visitors will enjoy complimentary entry, reenactors in period costume, refreshments and wildflowers abound. An October 9 Fall Star Party capitalizes on the fort's secluded location, allowing observers to experience the full effect of the wide night sky with its big and bright stars. ★

This article was written by Sarah Tober of the THC's Marketing Communications Division.



County Historical Commission TIPS & TOOLS

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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.



THC award winner and Galveston CHC Chair Alecyia Gallaway (standing, in white) helped reorganize the commission, which is now comprised of 46 appointees.

In addition to earning Distinguished Service Awards at last month's Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Houston, the leadership of three County Historical Commissions (CHC) was acknowledged through THC awards. The following examples highlight the substantial preservation work that can be produced when effective leadership is in place.

Brewster CHC Chair Travis Roberts received the George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award. Under Roberts' oversight, all Brewster CHC appointees have taken open government training, their work plan is regularly updated and their commissioners court is kept abreast of CHC projects. The Brewster CHC supports the Junior Historian History Fair conducted at Sul Ross State University, and partnered with the Brewster County Tourism Council to create informational signs for more than 30 historic sites along county highways.

Hays CHC Chair Kate Johnson received the John Ben Shepperd County Historical Commission Leadership Award. In 2009, the

CHC distributed reprints of its Hays County brochure to each chamber of commerce in the county and opened the courthouse to provide tours throughout the year for locals and visitors. The CHC raised money for and produced a documentary about Captain Jack Hays using university students and reenactors from around the state. The CHC also created a teachers' guide for the county's school districts.

Galveston CHC Chair Alecyia Gallaway received the Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award. Having reorganized during Gallaway's tenure, the Galveston CHC is now comprised of 46 appointees that have completed open government training and have contributed a combined 37,000 hours of service in 2009. The Galveston CHC continues to participate in hurricane recovery work that includes clean-up, repair and fund raising. The CHC, in partnership with Texas City, also established a heritage tourism program that created six kiosks for the 1867 Settlement Historic District, a community recently nominated by the CHC to the National Register of Historic Places. ★

SECOND NOTICE

Texas law requires state newsletters to notify recipients in three consecutive issues that to continue receiving the publication, they must request it once each year. To maintain your free subscription to *The Medallion*, please mail or fax this portion of the page (including the mailing label) to:

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WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

Where on Earth? You tell us! Write to the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276. You also may fax your answer to 512.463.6374 or email it to medallion@thc.state.tx.us. The first three people who correctly guess the site will be named with the answer in the July/August issue of *The Medallion*. The first correct mail answer will be counted, even if correct emails and faxes arrive first. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

Want a clue? The origins of this small structure in the Texas Tropical Trail Region date to 1865; since then, it has been rebuilt or restored at least twice.



Answer to the photo from the last issue: The building pictured at left is the Uvalde Grand Opera House in Uvalde, which was recently renamed to honor former first lady Janey Slaughter Briscoe. Congratulations to the first

three readers who submitted the correct answer: Susan Anderson and Barbara Blair of Uvalde, and Jim White of Henderson. Special mention also goes to Alaina Henderson's Texas history class at Pearland Junior High West, who submitted the correct answer (slightly tardy). They will receive prizes from our Texas Heritage Trails Program, the THC's regional tourism initiative, for taking part in the fun. Thanks to all participants! ★

