
THE

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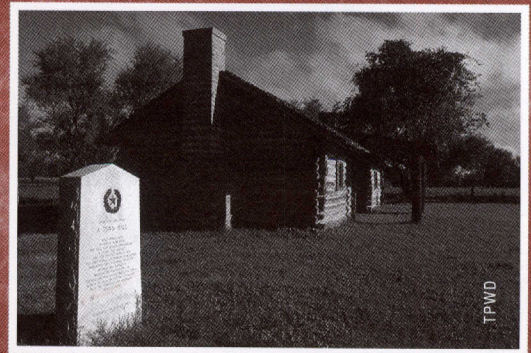
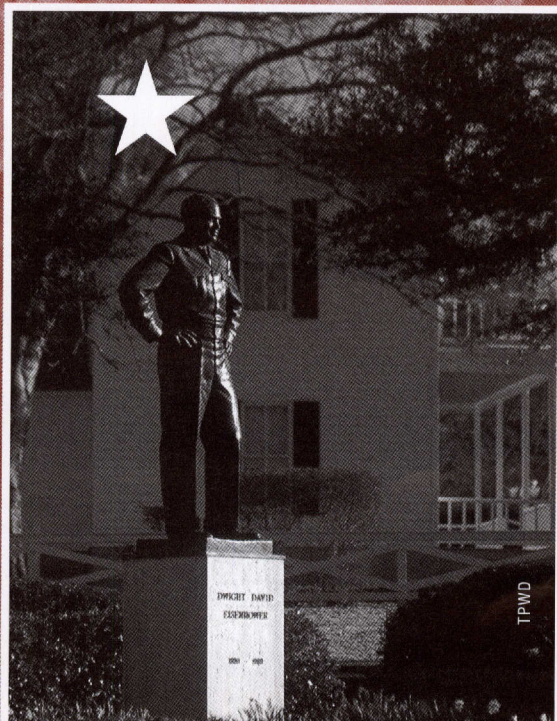
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SAVOR SAN ANTONIO

City's Enduring Heritage
Beckons Beyond Alamo Plaza

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) will celebrate the new year by officially receiving 18 historic sites from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The THC will devote 2008 and beyond to protecting, preserving and promoting these important historic landmarks, which will receive a much-needed increase in funds, resulting in longer operating hours and an increase in visitation. A sampling of the transferred properties appears on this page. For more information about the sites, visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

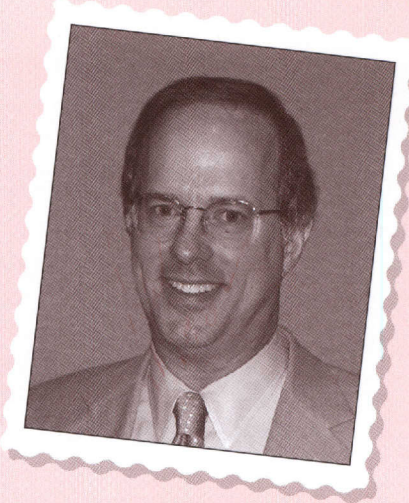
Historic Sites



Clockwise from left: Eisenhower Birthplace, Denison; Caddoan Mounds, Alto; San Felipe Historic Site, San Felipe. Inset: Ft. Griffin, Albany.



*It's Been
A Very Good
Year*



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As 2007 draws to a close, I am pleased to report on another wonderful year for the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission. Since the Friends' mission is to support the state agency for historic preservation, our goal is to engage thousands of Texans in building a strong financial foundation for programs that state funds do not support. We have received almost half a million dollars in gifts and grants this year, and we are grateful for the generosity of individuals, foundations and corporations across the state who have helped us to accomplish so much.

The Texas in World War II initiative fund-raising campaign came to a very successful end, with donations totaling \$432,085. This multi-year effort will allow present and future generations to benefit from new research, resources and archival materials documenting Texas' pivotal wartime role and honoring our state's very own "Greatest Generation." The Texas Land Title Company gave a boost to the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program by sponsoring a training workshop for maintaining these magnificent restored buildings.

In July the Texas Historical Commission welcomed Nedra Lee, the agency's first Preservation Fellow. This new internship program — created through private contributions — provides financial aid, employment and role models for outstanding students from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Dr. Kathleen Gilmore, a Dallas archeologist who established the Friends' first endowment, gave another major donation to sponsor archival research on the Spanish presidios of Texas. And the Texas Heroes, our special council of philanthropists, continue to provide support for a wide variety of preservation programs through donations of \$1,000 per year. There are now 64 Heroes and they have donated more than \$154,000 since the program's inception. I invite you to become a Texas Hero, too!

As we enter the annual season of giving and giving thanks, we hope you will consider a contribution to the Friends. Charitable donations offer you an opportunity to make an investment in preserving Texas history while receiving tax benefits. Private support is critical to our efforts, and we welcome your help in protecting and promoting our state's historic resources.

Sincerely yours,

Brian Shivers
 Chairman
 Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

Rededicated to Preservation

Courthouse Program Receives Support from Texas Legislature

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program will proceed with renewed energy thanks to the state's 80th Legislature. With a \$62 million appropriation approved by Texas lawmakers for this biennium, the THC is poised to offer Round V grant awards to Texas counties for the restoration of their historic county courthouses.

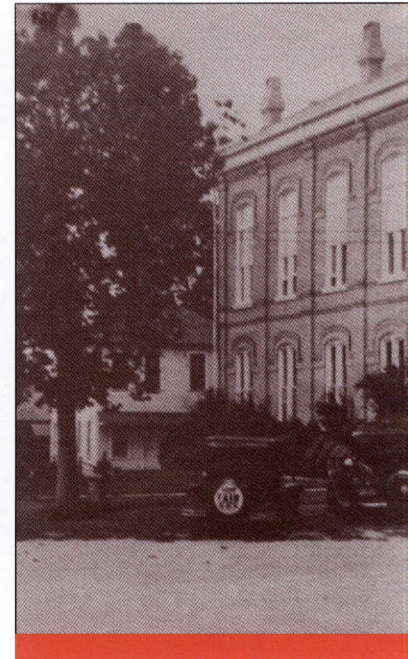
"We greatly appreciate the confidence and support the Texas Legislature has shown for our program," said Stan Graves, director of the courthouse program.

Since its inception in 1999, the program has helped nearly 70 counties bring back the glory of their temples of justice. There have been nearly 40 rededications in the past seven years, and several more took place this year. Nearly 70 counties are expected to participate in Round V.

This round of grants will be the first to be awarded in four years. Despite this lengthier-than-usual waiting period for new funding, several courthouse restoration projects have been completed.

On July 1, Leon County celebrated its courthouse rededication with patriotic flair. Built in 1885, this unique building was nearly vacant when the county received a construction grant to restore it in 2004. The THC restored the courthouse to its prior 1909 restoration date appearance since this was the final year to coincide with the original paint finish scheme and the earliest date for the arrival of electricity (the last candle order was made in 1905).

The courthouse has a distinctively attractive striped wainscot throughout



Recent courthouse restoration projects reveal the extent of work done by Texas counties and the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. Pictured above (from left) are: The Wharton County Courthouse during restoration; a historic photo of the Leon County Courthouse and Leon County's restored courtroom. Below: Wharton County Courthouse after restoration.

the building, and the simple floor plan and daylight-emitting restored windows accentuate the clean, high-ceilinged spaces.

Though Leon County's rededication was originally planned as an outdoor ceremony on the front lawn, rain suddenly forced guests and dignitaries inside to the beautiful district courtroom. The spacious room easily accommodated the larger than expected crowd, and the air conditioning system received its first passing test.

While the audience sat under the cooling breeze, the speakers, including THC Chairman John L. Nau, III, recounted tales of the events and people who are part of the building's history. The county gave special recognition to County Historical Commission (CHC) Chair Richard

L. King, a local kindergarten class led guests in the Pledge of Allegiance, and once the rain subsided, attendees enjoyed homemade treats and lemonade in the adjacent gazebo.

"People were talking about the long road this courthouse has taken to return to its place of prominence in the life of the county," Graves said. "The Leon County Courthouse, like so many others in our program, has come full circle."

In August, it was Wharton County's turn to bask in the rededication limelight. The 1889 courthouse experienced a spectacular transformation. During the Depression, the Works Progress Administration made several modifications to the Eugene T. Heiner building, including the removal of its clock tower, the

Courthouse Grant Application Deadline Fast Approaching

Applications for the next round of funding for the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program are due Nov. 16, 2007, and grants will be awarded in January 2008. Grants are available for planning, construction or emergency stabilization. Round V grant information is available at www.thc.state.tx.us.

The application format has changed slightly, and all counties will be required to resubmit an application this year. Previously, applications were allowed to carry over to subsequent rounds. Also, the new cap is \$6 million for total grant awards, up from \$4 million from previous rounds. This is in response to an increase in labor and material costs.



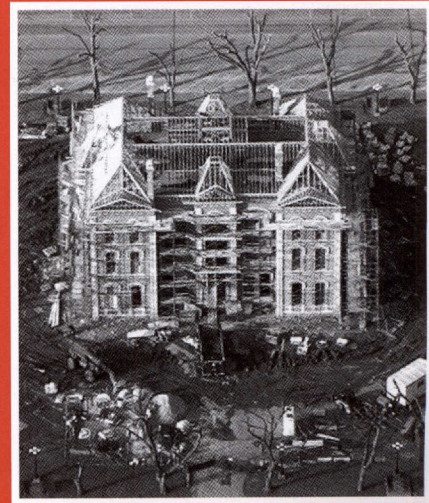
addition of four wings and the coating of its exterior in stucco. But at the rededication, its original 19th-century style was again on display, complete with children dressed as newsboys handing out commemorative papers with a hearty “Extra! Extra!”

Thanks to the vision of local officials, townspeople and the Wharton County Historical Commission, the courthouse regained its original appearance, to the pride of the entire county. The building now boasts its authentic roofline, including the clock tower. The original brick survived its encasement in stucco and is once again exposed. Through much on-site and photographic detective work, the project team successfully reconstructed several missing or previously demolished elements to the building, including four entire wings.

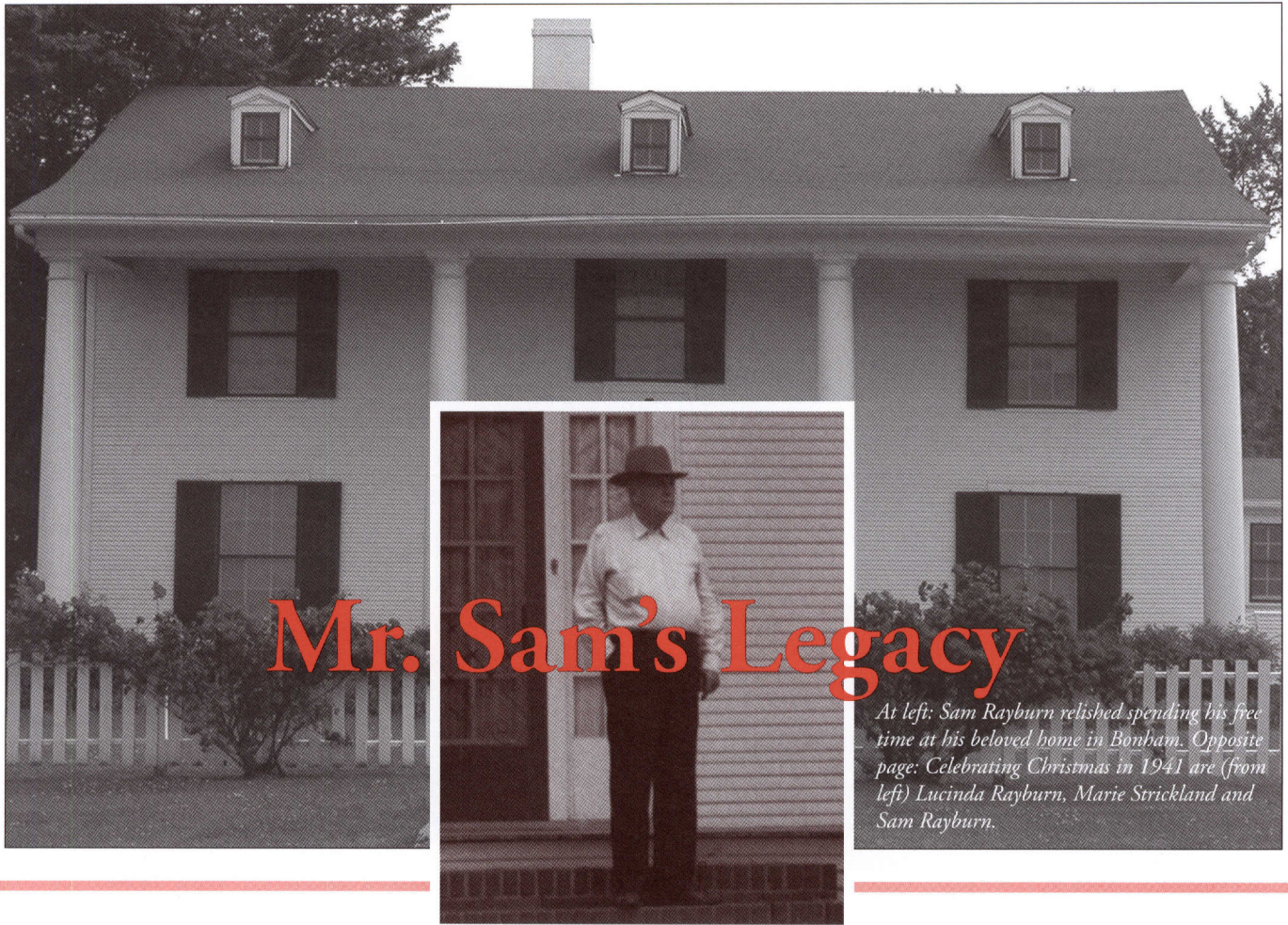
“Decisions like those at Wharton — a complete reversal of the building’s architectural style and integrity — can seem radical in the early discussions of restoration,”

Graves explained. “Interestingly enough, other counties that received the same treatment about 70 years ago are now considering similar bold moves. It’s an exciting trend for Texas courthouses.” ★

This article was written by Amy Lambert of the THC’s Architecture Division.



The Wharton County Courthouse received a dramatic upgrade to its original appearance as part of its recent restoration.



Mr. Sam's Legacy

At left: Sam Rayburn relished spending his free time at his beloved home in Bonham. Opposite page: Celebrating Christmas in 1941 are (from left) Lucinda Rayburn, Marie Strickland and Sam Rayburn.

Federal Grant Enhances Sam Rayburn House Museum Interpretation

Sam Rayburn's home near Bonham was a symbol of his constant presence in his North Texas congressional district. Citizens in the mid-20th century recognized Rayburn's love for his home and community and knew his house was a place where they were always welcome. Rayburn's desire for a presence in the district extended even beyond his death, with his will stipulating that the 1916 home serve as a place of learning. This was ultimately achieved in 1975, when the Texas Historical Commission (THC) began administering the house as a museum and historic site.

The museum's current interpretive programming portrays the home as Rayburn's refuge and focuses on the property as it was used in the day-to-day activities of "Mr. Sam" and his family members. However,

Rayburn's political activities at home typically receive less attention.

The Sam Rayburn House Museum recently received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for consultation on how to expand and enhance current interpretation. As part of the project, scholars specializing in U.S. history, government and Sam Rayburn met at the museum for a two-day roundtable workshop in September. During the workshop, the scholars and staff identified major themes and issues and set priorities for the next phase of interpretive enhancement.

"The new interpretive themes will enrich the visitor experience by offering audiences the chance to learn about Sam Rayburn by exploring the importance of the home as Rayburn's political headquarters,"

explained Carole Stanton, the museum's director. "They'll also reveal the connection between Rayburn's political activities at home and his efforts to pass legislation that made possible the establishment of farm-to-market roads, rural electrification and soil conservation programs that benefited his constituents and other rural communities across America."

Among the project participants are Dr. Anthony M. Champagne, professor of government and politics at the University of Texas at Dallas. Champagne has extensively researched Rayburn and has written two books and several articles about him in addition to conducting approximately 130 oral histories with Rayburn's friends and associates (the tapes and transcripts are now housed at the Center for American

History in Austin). Also involved with the interpretation project are Dr. Robert C. Hilderbrand, professor of history at the University of South Dakota and a specialist in 20th-century U.S. political and diplomatic history; H.G. Dulaney, director emeritus and consultant with the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum and Rayburn's aide and personal friend in Washington, D.C. and Bonham; and Dr. Clayton Brown, professor of history at Texas Christian University.

In preparation for the roundtable workshop, Sam Rayburn House Museum staff, along with the THC's museum services coordinator, Laura Casey, visited historic sites with interpretive and educational programs similar to the Sam Rayburn House Museum. The first-hand experience at these sites, along with feedback from museum professionals responsible for their programs, brought an innovative perspective to the workshop and the continuing development of the project.

The Eisenhower National Historic Site in Gettysburg, Pa., the home and farm of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, was foremost among the sites visited during the research phase of the project. President Eisenhower, like Rayburn, enjoyed his farm home as a haven for relaxation and recreation and entertained friends and family there, as well as dignitaries and world leaders.

Rayburn was raised on a farm in Flag Springs, a small community near Bonham, and developed a similar love for the country and rural lifestyle that stayed with him his entire life. In 1914, Rayburn and his brother Tom purchased 121 acres of land two miles west of Bonham and within two years, construction of their American Foursquare-style home was complete. It was the permanent home of Rayburn, his parents and his sister, Lucinda. Several members of his family lived in the home at various times until 1969.

The Sam Rayburn House Museum officially opened to the public on April 1, 1975. In Rayburn's will he asked that the home "be used by the Sam Rayburn Foundation for service to people, especially young people and those interested in agriculture." The Sam Rayburn Foundation did not have the resources to operate the house as a museum on its own, so in 1972 the foundation deeded the home to the THC. Preserved as it appeared in 1961 (the year of Rayburn's death), the home contains the family's original furnishings and personal belongings and is a window into Sam Rayburn's private life. It serves as a glimpse into the evolution of 20th-century rural Texas.

When Congress was in recess, Rayburn took a train to Bonham, which he always considered to be home. Rayburn once said, "When I get away from Washington, I don't want to go anywhere in the world but home."

Rayburn's home was where he relaxed with family and friends and did the things he most enjoyed: farming, ranching, horseback riding, gardening, hunting, fishing and politicking. It was a place for important political and social activity that in turn influenced his actions in Congress. A constant stream of visitors from his congressional district, in addition to politicians and influential people from across the country, called on him in Bonham.

"Sam Rayburn formed and strengthened political alliances, gathered important news and information, and welcomed constituents' opinions and suggestions at his home," Stanton said.

For more information about the Sam Rayburn House Museum, call 903/583-5558 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us. ★

This article was written by Sam Rayburn House Museum staff.

Experience "Sights, Smells and Sounds of the Season" at Holiday Open House

The Sam Rayburn House Museum will celebrate the holiday season with an open house on the evening of Dec. 13 and afternoon of Dec. 15. This year's holiday theme is "Sights, Smells and Sounds of the Season," inviting visitors to use their senses as they take an out-of-the-ordinary tour of the house museum.

The atmosphere of the home will replicate Christmas in 1960, the final year Mr. Sam celebrated the holidays at home. A costumed interpreter will take visitors back in time as they tour the home and learn about a traditional Rayburn Christmas.

Along with the annual tradition of bedecking the home in Christmas cheer, the Rayburn house will also include smells and sounds from a mid-20th-century home. Visitors will experience the smells of fresh pine wafting from the Christmas tree in the parlor, fruit pies baking in the kitchen and smoke from the fireplace in the sitting room.

As visitors tour the house, they will hear voices from the past, cheerfully celebrating the season. Christmas carols will emanate from the home's original radios along with sounds of the family members singing and reading *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*.

The Holiday Open House is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Please call 903/583-5558 for further details.





MORE THAN MISSIONS

Venture Beyond Alamo Plaza to Discover San Antonio's Enduring Heritage

The missions made San Antonio what it is today, but visitors often forget the city is made of much more.

The spectacular, nearly 300-year-old structures typically define San Antonio's heritage, leaving many deserving historic sites out of the limelight. Though many tourists wouldn't know it, San Antonio flourished between the construction of the Alamo and the Riverwalk. The ranching industry played a major role in the city's development, and the blending of cultures helped create modern-day San Antonio, a vibrant metropolis with a compelling history and diverse population that draws visitors from across the globe. If tourists venture beyond Alamo Plaza, they will discover what the city's residents and many Texans have known for centuries.

The town's origins are tied to the 1718 Presidio de Bexar and the Villa de San Fernando, chartered in 1731 by Canary Islanders. While Colonial America was growing restless on the East Coast, the downtown area of San

Antonio was quietly beginning to take shape. Significant structures on two of the city's major plazas — Military and Main — were constructed in the mid-1700s. Among them were the Spanish Governor's Palace, completed in 1749, and, nearly 10 years later, the San Fernando Church, built just around the corner.

Despite this relatively brief surge in Spanish activity, things slowed down in San Antonio by the late 1700s. At this point, the missions became secularized and the town — with its culturally diverse population of Europeans and mestizos (mixed Spanish and Indian blood) — was largely poor and desolate.

San Antonio became a focal point during the Texas Revolution and was the site of several notable clashes, including the Siege of Bexar (1835) and the memorable Battle of the Alamo (1836). Republic of Texas officials subsequently organized Bexar County and named San Antonio the seat of government, but the city once again entered a period of demise, with

the population dipping from several thousand to nearly 800 in 1846.

That changed once Texas entered the Union and people began arriving in droves from the eastern U.S. and Germany. Much of the new population was involved with the cattle industry, and since early trail drives went through San Antonio, aspects of city life soon revolved around the agriculture business.

"Most of the ranchers in South Texas came to San Antonio — it was a major hub for business dealings, events and parties," explains Albert "Boo" Hausser, a commissioner with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and an independent rancher in Frio County. "It was a way to stay connected with other ranchers and get the supplies they couldn't get in small towns."

Much of the activity centered on the city's plazas, especially at mercantile stores, banks, saloons and grand hotels like the Menger, St. Anthony and Gunter. Several ranchers had homes in the tony King



At left: The magnificent back patio at the Spanish Governor's Palace transports visitors to 18th-century San Antonio. Above: The palace's front doors. Below: The city's Hispanic heritage is an integral part of its culture.

William District just south of downtown, and their children often attended school at the West Texas Military Academy or St. Mary's Institute.

The Union Stock Yards were also a major hub of ranching activity. William Corner's 1890 book, *San Antonio de Bexar: A Guide and History*,

includes the following description of the scene: "Here may be seen the true and only Cowboy, and with

little difficulty in the matter of introductions, the tourist may make the acquaintance of stockmen whose flocks and herds browse upon a thousand hills."

These cowboys appropriately represented San Antonio, since their skills and equipment were largely based on the *vaqueros* who worked the ranches and rustled cattle throughout Mexico before the arrival of Anglos in Texas. From roping to spurs to branding, the Mexican

influence on ranching in Texas was profound, and in San Antonio, the impact reached far beyond the barbed wire.

"We've been part of Mexico much longer than we've been part of the U.S., and people here realize that. We're very proud of our Hispanic culture," Hausser says.

“We’ve been part of Mexico much longer than we’ve been part of the U.S., and people here realize that. We’re very proud of our Hispanic culture.”

— Albert “Boo” Hausser, commissioner
Texas Historical Commission

“Visitors say people here are the most friendly they’ve ever met, and I think a lot of that is from the open and welcoming Hispanic culture. In fact, I think our city’s many different cultures have blended together quite beautifully.”

On the cover: The Guenther House and Pioneer Flour Mills factory.



TxDOT

Si San Antonio

Once visitors venture beyond the confines of the Riverwalk area, they'll find a remarkable range of heritage tourism sites. From historic districts to cultural museums, San Antonio boasts an impressive selection of attractions, and most are located downtown within walking distance of each other.

One of the city's premier heritage areas is the **King William Historic District**, just south of downtown on the east side of the San Antonio River. Ornate and stately Greek Revival, Victorian and Italianate homes stand on pleasant tree-lined streets in this 25-square-block area, one of the first Texas districts (residential or otherwise) to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors can take a walking tour of the neighborhood, guided by a handy brochure available at the **San Antonio Conservation Society's** headquarters (107 King William St., 210/227-8030).

Although most of the district's homes are privately owned or refurbished as bed-and-breakfasts, two significant sites are open to the public for tours. The 1859 **Guenther House** (205 E. Guenther St.) is the remarkable home of the family that founded Pioneer Flour Mills. The house contains a museum of milling history, a gift shop and restaurant, and features elaborate Arts and

Crafts style woodwork from a 1915 restoration. A block up the street is **Steves Homestead** (509 King William St.), a stunning three-story mansion constructed in 1876. Guided tours of the house museum showcase its ornate furnishings and the estate's carriage house, servants' quarters and the city's first indoor swimming pool. Also worth a visit is the opulent 1882 **Oge House** (209 Washington St.), an impressive Greek Revival mansion now serving as a bed-and-breakfast on the banks of the San Antonio River.

Two of San Antonio's oldest and most impressive buildings are located on the city's major plazas just west of the hustle, bustle and office towers on Commerce Street.

The circa 1749 **Spanish Governor's Palace** (105 Military Plaza) served as the headquarters and residence of the presidio of San Antonio de Bexar's captain, the ranking representative of the king of Spain in the absence of the governor. Particularly striking are the palace's three-foot-thick stone walls, and its eclectic mix of historic furniture and artifacts. The building's highlight is the magnificent courtyard, a natural patio with a canopy of live oaks stretching over lush tropical plants. Gentle breezes, chirping birds and a

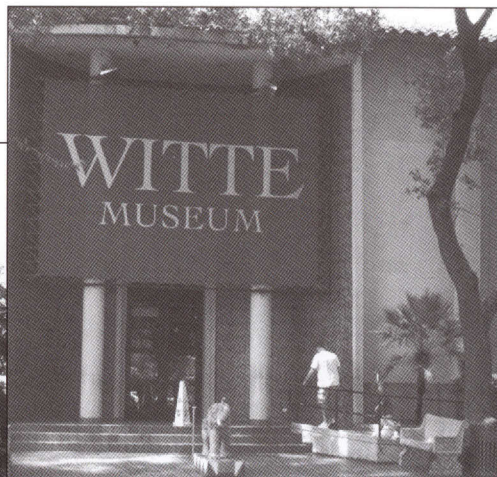
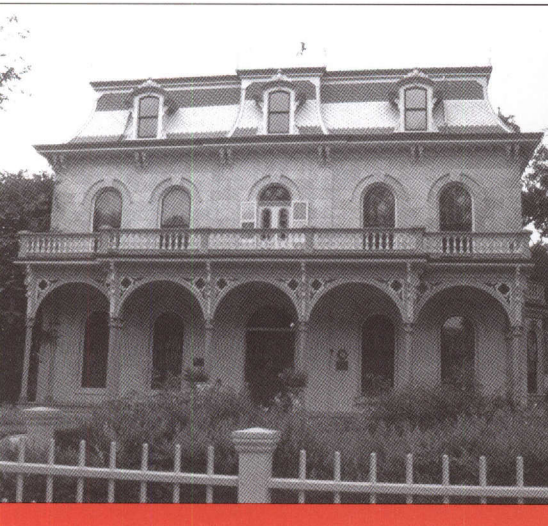
soothing fountain transport visitors to an oasis seemingly far away from the surrounding urban environment.

Just around the corner, the **San Fernando Cathedral** (115 Main Plaza) offers a different kind of respite from the city. The church was organized in 1731 by a group of Canary Islanders, and the building went through several incarnations before major construction on its current Gothic Revival visage was consecrated in 1873. The massive cathedral has a distinctive European feel, with towering Gothic arches, gilded 24-foot-tall altar and enormous stained-glass windows. People gather at the church throughout the day for tours, to light candles, pray in the pews or simply sit in wonder as they gaze upon the serene surroundings.

Other noteworthy historic San Antonio churches include the 1875 **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** (315 E. Pecan St.), another Gothic Revival structure with hallmark features such as buttresses, window tracery and a castellated tower, and the majestic **St. Joseph's Catholic Church** (623 E. Commerce St.), built for the city's German community in 1876 and known for its stunningly colorful stained-glass windows.

The downtown **La Villita Historic District** reflects the Spanish, European and American influences that shaped San Antonio's history. Once the site of a Coahuiltecan Indian village, La Villita subsequently thrived as a residential area filled with Mexican houses of stucco-covered brick or caliche block and German vernacular structures before the neighborhood deteriorated in the early 1900s. In 1939, La Villita was restored by the city, and it now houses shops, small businesses and restaurants.

San Antonio also has several noteworthy museums dedicated to the city and state's cultural heritage. **The Institute of Texan Cultures** (801 S. Bowie) is a massive facility highlighting the dozens of ethnic



At left: The King William Historic District's opulent Steves Homestead. Above: The Witte Museum.

groups who contributed to the history of the Lone Star State. The Institute also hosts the renowned Texas Folklife Festival each June, educational programs, a comprehensive archive, a research library, a dome theater and an outdoor area with living history demonstrations. **The Witte Museum** (3801 Broadway St.) focuses on Texas history and science, and features impressive galleries and hands-on exhibits. Especially intriguing is the second-floor Ancient Texans exhibit, focusing on the 4,000-year-old rock art of the Lower Pecos region, and showcasing archeological artifacts such as weapons, tools and pottery. Also worth visiting is the **Museo Alameda** (101 S. Santa Rosa) for its dedication to showcasing Latino art and heritage. Traveling and permanent exhibits highlight Latino culture through captivating photos, fascinating artifacts and local artwork.

Other notable San Antonio heritage-related museums include **Fort Sam Houston's** main museum (210/221-1886) and nearby **U.S. Army Medical Department Museum** (210/221-6358); the **Texas Air Museum**, (210/977-9885); and the **Texas Ranger Museum**, (210/247-4000).

San Antonio spans two of the THC's heritage trail regions (Independence and Hill Country). Additional information about cultural attractions in the city is available via the agency's *Texas Independence Trail Region* brochure (for a free copy call 866/276-6219) and the Hill Country Trail Region web site (www.txhillcountrytrail.com). ★

This article was written by Andy Rhodes, managing editor of The Medallion.



Su Casa es Casa Navarro

Outside, the smooth whitewash stucco blanketing Casa Navarro appears incompatible with its blocky urban surroundings. Once inside, however, the home of the celebrated Tejano patriot José Antonio Navarro radiates warmth and energy not found in the cold concrete beyond the house's thick adobe walls.

The original home, constructed circa 1848, and its collection of outbuildings was recently acquired by the Texas Historical Commission as part of an official transfer of 18 historic sites from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The site's manager, José Zapata, hopes the new arrangement will raise the profile of the deservedly significant complex.

"When people come here after visiting the Alamo, it really changes their perspective on what life was like in San Antonio back in the day," he says. "This site gives people a better idea of how Navarro and this neighborhood fit into the history of this city."

Navarro served in the Legislature under Mexico, the Republic of Texas and the state of Texas, and he signed the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836 representing San Antonio. He is widely considered the first Tejano to write about Texas history and was known as a defender of human rights during tumultuous times in Texas.

Navarro's home reflects the simple yet refined environment he likely experienced, including period furnishings and interpretive panels offering insight about his family and city during the mid-to-late 1800s. Bookshelves with Texas law books, a rustic desk with an inkwell, and the pleasant sound of wind rustling through the trees on the patio provide a fascinating slice of life of one of Texas' greatest statesmen.

Casa Navarro, located at 228 S. Laredo St. just two blocks from San Antonio's Main Plaza, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information call 210/226-4801.

Test Your National Register Knowledge: Program Staff Respond to Frequently Asked Questions

Chances are, you've seen plenty of metal plaques and references throughout Texas with the words "Listed in the National Register of Historic Places." But beyond designating a property as historically significant, do you have a firm grasp on the impact of a National Register listing? Not all preservationists do, so here are commonly asked questions and answers regularly processed by the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) National Register staff:

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places is a federal program administered in our state by the THC in coordination with the National Park Service (NPS). Listing in the National Register provides recognition of a property's historical or architectural significance and helps promote preservation.

What makes a property eligible for listing in the National Register?

Buildings, sites, objects, structures and districts are eligible for this designation if they retain a good degree of historic integrity and meet at least one of the following four criteria at the local, state or national levels of significance:

- The property is associated with significant historical trends or events.
- The property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
- The property represents distinctive design or construction.
- The property has potential to reveal important archeological data.



The Eagle Lake Historic District was recently listed in the National Register. Communities must initially submit photos, maps and historical information to determine eligibility.

Certain property types may be considered for listing in the National Register only under special circumstances. These include cemeteries, birthplaces or graves of historical figures, buildings or structures moved from their original locations, reconstructed buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years.

What is the first step in nominating a property to the National Register?

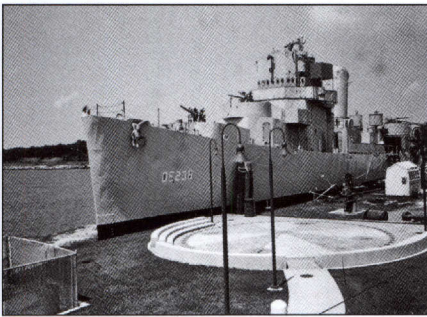
Applicants must first submit preliminary information — including a brief history, photographs, maps, plans and construction dates — to the THC for a determination of eligibility. Hard copies of all materials are preferred. If THC staff determines the property eligible, the applicant will receive nomination forms and instructions. This preliminary review

is not binding, but it facilitates requests and discourages the investment of time and money in properties that fall short of the federal criteria. For districts or multiple property nominations, THC staff will make a site visit once the preliminary application has been reviewed.

How do I list my property in the National Register?

The process of listing a property in the National Register is coordinated between the applicant and/or a professional consultant, the THC and the NPS. Information and documentation required by NPS is very specific, and includes:

- The National Register form
- A written description of the property
- A statement of significance that includes a chronological history of the property and the reasons



Two recently listed National Register properties are (top) the Limerick-Frazier House in Austin, and the USS Stewart in Galveston.

why it meets the criteria

- Black and white photographic prints (digital images may be submitted only after approval by THC staff, to ensure that NPS guidelines for archival stability are met)

- Current and historic maps and plans

- Copies of historic photos

- For districts, the preliminary documentation should include photos of representative properties

Who decides if my property's nomination to the National Register is successful?

The Keeper of the National Register at the NPS approves all nominations, but the State Board of Review addresses nominations in Texas before submission to the NPS. The board is an advisory committee of experts in

the fields of Texas architecture, history, archeology and related disciplines, and it reviews all nominations and provides comment to the State Historic Preservation Officer (in Texas, the executive director of the THC). The board assesses each nomination and determines if the property meets the criteria and whether or not the documentation supports listing. The board may recommend forwarding the nomination to the NPS or request additional information.

Why should I list my property in the National Register? What are the benefits?

Listing in the National Register helps identify properties in Texas that deserve protection from federal activities, and it can be used to assist government and private groups planning new development. National Register designation is also integral in the development of local heritage tourism and education initiatives. Rehabilitation of historic properties for commercial use may qualify for grant funding or tax incentives once a property has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register. Owners of properties listed in the National Register also receive priority access to technical assistance from THC staff about maintenance and restoration issues. Owners of individually listed properties, or properties that contribute to listed districts, may purchase a National Register plaque from the THC.

What are the differences between the federal National Register designation and the

state historic designations administered by the THC?

- The Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation is part of the Official Texas Historical Marker program and requires the purchase of a marker. Eligible buildings must retain a good degree of integrity and be historically and architecturally significant. The designation also provides for THC review of proposed changes to the structure.

- State Archeological Landmarks (SAL) are designated by the THC and receive legal protection under the Antiquities Code of Texas.

Listing in the National Register and owner approval is a prerequisite for SAL designation of a building.

- The Historic Texas Cemetery designation is an official recognition of family and community graveyards and encourages preservation of historic cemeteries.

For more information about these designations visit www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madefault.html

What are local designations?

In addition to these federal and state designations, some municipalities allow designations of local historic landmarks or districts. These may convey certain restrictions upon property owners to maintain the integrity of the community's historic areas and significant properties. The THC does not administer local designations; check with your city planning office for more information. ★

Celebrating a Century with the Texas Department of Agriculture

The dynamic and varying Texas landscape paints a colorful tapestry that brings specific images to mind — vivid wildflowers dancing through the Hill Country, stoic pines dominating the landscape of East Texas, tropical shrubs swaying in the humid air of South Texas and noble longhorns meandering through the gentle grasses of the plains. These areas and resources are guarded, protected and monitored by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). For 100 years the TDA has been the state agency dedicated to promoting and improving Texas agriculture and rural economic development through its services.

This year marks the centennial of the TDA, which celebrated this significant milestone at the famous Fort Worth Stockyards on Sept. 14–15. Highlighting the event was the debut of the TDA's centennial documentary video and festivities such as a 5k run and a concert featuring Clay Walker.

Various Texas businesses and associations participated with booths and interactive demonstrations showcasing the importance of agriculture in everyday life. Prominently featured was the TDA's GO TEXAN initiative, with its distinctive logo signifying products sold around the world that are purely Texan. The two-day event celebrated the agricultural industry's diverse influence on the global economy and showcased its contribution of more than \$85 billion to the state's economy.

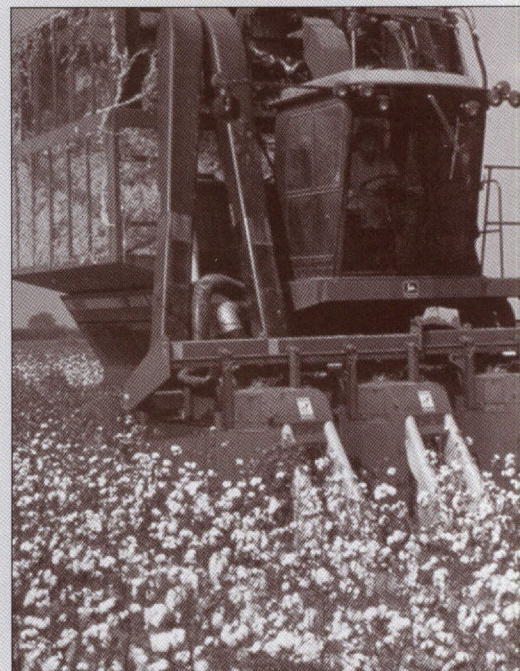
"The Texas Department of Agriculture has experienced a great deal of change over the past 100 years," said Agricultural

Commissioner Todd Staples. "As an agency we started with humble beginnings, but we've grown and thrived and continue to seek out the limitless opportunities available to Texas' agricultural industry."

The 30th Texas Legislature established the TDA in 1907 with a staff of four. The agency began in part as a response to the neglect shown by the Bureau of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics and History for the collection of information and statistics on crops and livestock. Robert Teague Milner was appointed as the first commissioner of the agency, where he remained until 1908, when he became president of Texas A&M University. The founding departmental duties of the TDA included gathering statistics, publishing agricultural information and holding farmers' institutes to promote advanced farming methods and practices.

Other early efforts for the TDA included improving the plight of cotton farmers, expansion of the state's youthful citrus industry and the inspection of nursery and floral items to prevent the introduction of foreign diseases and insects into the state when growing, shipping and selling nursery products.

Throughout its first 100 years, the TDA has initiated several unique agricultural and economic development programs and continues to build and plan for other future projects. One such recent program that has had widespread success is the GO TEXAN marketing program launched in 1999, adding a new dimension to the promotion of Texas agriculture. The campaign serves to promote all Texas agricultural



The Texas Department of Agriculture has been assisting Texans with all things natural, including farming and livestock, for the past 100 years. The agency continues to oversee agricultural and economic development programs throughout the state.



products under one easily recognizable trademark — a brand in the shape of the state with the simple phrase GO TEXAN underneath. The attempt of this logo is to help shoppers pick Texas products at a glance, and the program represents Texas loyalty and pride, working to persuade 22 million Texas consumers to choose the state's agricultural bounty when shopping.

One grower that has seen the benefits of the program is Crockett Farms of Harlingen, which specializes in citrus and other fruit produce.



“We’ve been involved with the program since it began,” said Terrie Crockett, owner of Crockett Farms. “Using the logo allows us to get the word out that we sell the original Texas Ruby Red grapefruit, not just some other citrus from Florida or California. That’s really important to us, because this is where the Ruby Reds began in the U.S. — in Texas.”

Throughout its 100-year history, the TDA has also helped improve the economic status of rural communities across the state. Several of the agency's programs foster and stimulate economic development in downtown areas, including the Texas Capital Fund Main Street Improvements Program. By providing financial assistance to non-entitlement cities for public infrastructure improvements, this program serves in aiding the elimination of blighted areas.

The Texas Capital Fund Main Street Improvements Program partners with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to assist designated official Texas Main Street communities. The Texas Main Street Program is administered by the THC and helps designated cities revitalize their historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts through preservation and economic development strategies. The TDA offers these Main Street cities the opportunity to make public infrastructure improvements from sidewalk construction to road repair by utilizing grants that range from \$50,000 to a maximum award of \$150,000.

According to Kay Harvey-Mosley, director of the THC's Community Heritage Development

Division, which oversees the Texas Main Street Program, the \$8.1 million in funds allocated through the Texas Capital Fund Main Street Improvements Program has leveraged \$19.5 million in projects to 43 Main Street communities since 1992.

“These grants are instrumental in assisting our communities in their downtown revitalization efforts,” Harvey-Mosley explained. “In many cases, they're the catalyst for projects that may not have happened otherwise.”

The TDA has seen the face of Texas agriculture change and progress dramatically over its first 100 years, and the agency continues to search for new opportunities to improve the state's agricultural industry and develop the economy of rural areas.

“Texas agriculture has a grand heritage,” said Commissioner Staples. “We are dedicated to the future and will continue to look ahead as the industry evolves by creating food, fiber and jobs for the people of Texas and the world.”

To learn more about the TDA, its programs and its recent centennial celebration, visit www.agr.state.tx.us. For more information on the THC's involvement with the Texas Capital Fund, contact the Community Heritage Development Division at 512/463-6092 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us. ★

This article was written by Adriane Reams of the THC's Marketing Communications Division.

Creating a Legacy: New Initiative Enhances Visionaries in Preservation Planning

During the past year, the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Visionaries in Preservation (VIP) program incorporated a significant follow-up phase to its established programming. Dubbed VIP Legacy, this new portion of the THC's popular initiative is available to all established VIP communities and picks up where the visioning program leaves off, with staff and community members collaborating to maintain progress on goals already outlined in their Preservation Action Plans.

"This new initiative responds to standard and specific challenges that Legacy communities face when carrying out their plans," explains

Kay Harvey-Mosley, director of the THC's Community Heritage Development Division, which oversees the VIP program.

Thanks to a grant from the Houston Endowment, VIP Legacy recently collaborated with Preservation Texas, the Austin-based statewide preservation organization, to engage expert consultants to enhance community efforts. These experts include architects, planners, attorneys and leading preservationists who practice in areas of land use, historic preservation law and Texas land trust conservation. Other consultants include branding and promotional professionals and city staff with strong backgrounds in city and

“The overarching goal of the VIP program is to get Texas communities to use preservation as a strategy that contributes to their economic development and increased quality of life.”

— *Kay Harvey-Mosley*
director of THC's Community Heritage
Development Division

county preservation.

These professionals not only address specific challenges as part of their presentations, but remain accessible to Visionaries communities as resources and mentors. VIP Legacy also brings participating communities together to mentor each other. According to Harvey-Mosley, recent mentorship meetings have been powerfully constructive by offering a platform for VIP volunteers to share ideas and successes.

VIP Legacy also sustains its Visionaries communities by helping them seek grant assistance. Communities are encouraged to apply for grants available through the THC's Certified Local Government program and the Texas Preservation Trust Fund. These opportunities are particularly suited to support Legacy goals such as architectural surveys, design standards, architectural planning and development projects. VIP staff ensures THC regional reviewers and THC staff are matched

with Legacy communities to guide membership toward drafting effective grant applications.

While targeted expertise, community dialogue and funding guidance are valuable to Legacy communities, these services are only part of the formula for successful implementation of VIP Preservation Action Plans. VIP membership must also be prepared for the potentially thorny and complex arena of local politics and public policy. VIP plan initiatives can occasionally encounter difficulties because they are misinterpreted

by citizens fearful of the effects of preservation, and volunteers must also be prepared to publicly defend initiatives that may be made into law. As VIP Legacy wraps up its inaugural year, it is developing a portfolio entitled "Legacy Fact Sheets" that includes the following topics: effective local public relations strategies, building local political partnerships, procedural basics for historic preservation commissions, aesthetics as a basis for regulation and economic development.

"The overarching goal of the VIP program is to get Texas communities to use preservation as a strategy that contributes to their economic development and increased quality of life," Harvey-Mosley says. "The portfolio of services VIP Legacy now provides furthers this goal of establishing preservation as routine practice throughout Texas." ★

This article was written by Laura DeNormandie-Bass of the Visionaries in Preservation program.

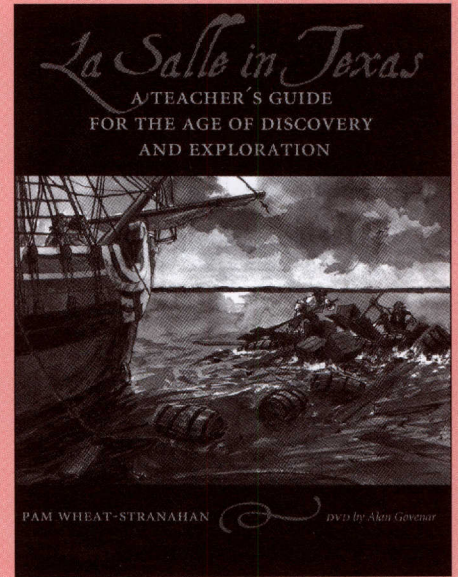
Now YOU Know!

Shipwrecks are fascinating. The excitement of finding buried treasure is the first thing most people think of, but they may not realize the true value of the discovery. It's not the mythical chest full of gold coins and jewels, but the knowledge the ship's artifacts contribute to our understanding of the past that is priceless.

One of the most important shipwreck discoveries in American history was *La Belle*, the vessel of French explorer Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle. Located and excavated on the Texas Gulf Coast (Matagorda Bay) by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in 1996–97, the shipwreck yielded nearly a million artifacts representing a kit for building a 17th-century European colony in the New World. Among the amazing array of

finds were the hull of the ship, three bronze cannons, thousands of glass beads, bronze hawk bells, pottery and even the skeleton of a crew member.

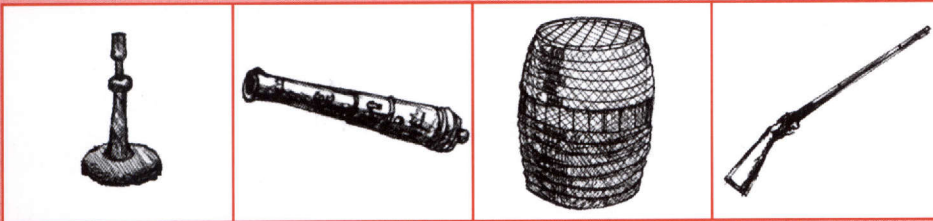
Efforts to preserve the findings of *La Belle* shipwreck are ongoing. Most of the work is being done at Texas A&M's Conservation Research Laboratory, where the hull of the ship is being treated and preserved and artifacts are analyzed. One of the most interesting finds, the human skeleton, presented a particularly unique challenge. Laboratory workers treated the remains — including muscle and brain tissue — and even made a model of what they determined the sailor's face looked like. To see photos and learn more about the process, check out



the La Salle Shipwreck Project section at <http://nautarch.tamu.edu/napcrl.htm>.

An especially productive project resulting from the excavation is the newly released book *La Salle in Texas: A Teacher's Guide for the Age of Discovery and Exploration* by Pam Wheat-Stranahan, executive director of the Texas Archeological Society. The book is accompanied by a DVD containing two documentaries about La Salle by filmmaker Alan Govenar. The book and DVD are ideal for grades 4–8 and are designed for use with the award-winning book *From a Watery Grave: The Discovery and Excavation of La Salle's Shipwreck La Belle*, by the THC's James Bruseth and Toni Turner. For more information about these books contact www.tamu.edu/upress or 800/826-8911.

Illustrations by Dylan Huntsman



Texas Scramble *La Belle* Artifacts

skmetu



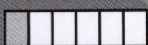
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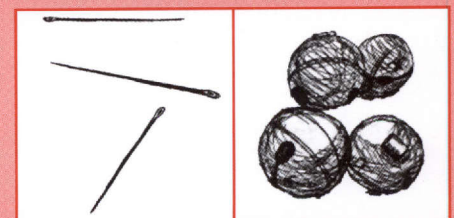
lenesde



Unscramble the letters in the shaded boxes to see if you can ring up this homonymic *La Belle* artifact.



Answers are on page 19.



New Marker Applications Due in January

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) began accepting applications for 2008 Official Texas Historical Markers Nov. 1, 2007 in anticipation of the Jan. 15, 2008 deadline. Under the new program instituted last year, applications will now be submitted electronically for review.

Potential sponsors interested in applying for a marker should first meet with their county historical commission (CHC) for assistance compiling their application and for guidance on local procedures and reviews. Application forms and guidelines are now available on the THC web site at www.thc.state.tx.us. For more information, contact your local CHC or the THC's History Programs Division at 512/463-5853 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

Neglected Cemeteries Benefit from New THC Brochure

Citizens concerned about the condition of historic cemeteries across Texas have a new resource. The THC's recently published brochure, *Rescuing a Neglected Cemetery*, outlines the first three steps of a successful preservation course for these historic sites and invites volunteers to gain the benefits of joining the RIP Guardian program.

Important initial steps for volunteers to undertake include researching, surveying and receiving designation as a Historic Texas Cemetery. Groups using these three tools and participating in the RIP Guardian program, the statewide historic cemetery volunteer network of the THC, have the opportunity to make a long-term, positive impact on preservation in their communities.

The brochure is available online at www.thc.state.tx.us under Cemeteries/RIP Guardian.

Authors Seek Texas Furniture Information

Lonn Taylor and David B. Warren are releasing a new edition of their popular 1975 book *Texas Furniture: The Cabinetmakers and Their Work, 1840-1880*, to be published under the sponsorship of the Winedale Division of the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. The authors plan to include examples of documented Texas furniture that have come to light since the publication of the first edition 32 years ago.

Taylor and Warren are seeking information and photographs about furniture made in Texas that bears a signature or cabinetmaker's label, or is associated with an oral tradition concerning the maker. Taylor can be reached at P.O. Box 1738, Fort Davis, TX 79734 or taylorw@fortdavis.net. Contact Warren at 3711 San Felipe Rd., Apt. 4E, Houston, TX 77027 or at dbwtex@aol.com. ★



Texas First Lady Anita Perry presents a commemorative Preserve America certificate to (from left) Ella Jez and Jean Johnson from Taylor.

First Lady Honors Texas' Preserve America Communities

Representatives from several of the designated Preserve America Communities in Texas recently gathered at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum to celebrate their heritage-related accomplishments. The event was headlined by Texas First Lady Anita Perry and John L. Nau, III, chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Texas Historical Commission.

The Preserve America communities honored were: Bastrop, Calvert, Celina, Clarksville, Crosbyton, Fredericksburg, Georgetown, Gonzales, Llano, Matagorda County, McAllen,

McKinney, Mineola, New Braunfels, Palestine, Pilot Point, Taylor and Wimberley. The communities were those not previously recognized in Washington, D.C.

The celebration was highlighted by a presentation by Mrs. Perry of the certificate of designation to each represented Preserve America community. The certificates had been signed by First Lady Laura Bush, honorary chair of Preserve America. Becoming a Preserve America community helps generate economic opportunity through heritage tourism.

For more information about Preserve America, including a list of communities, neighborhoods and grants, visit www.preserveamerica.gov. For more information about Preserve America communities in Texas visit www.thc.state.tx.us.



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The Medallion is available online at www.thc.state.tx.us/medallionmag/mddefault.html. If you would prefer to receive *The Medallion* electronically instead of through the mail, please send your name and address to thc@thc.state.tx.us. You will be notified by email when each new issue is available on the THC web site and will no longer receive a printed copy.

Texas Scramble *La Belle* Answers:

- Musket
- Cannon
- Candlestick
- Barrel
- Needles

Bonus Scramble word: Bell

Ona Lea Pierce

Matagorda County Historical Commission

How long have you been serving with your CHC?

I've been involved with the Matagorda County Historical Commission for 35 years.

What are your group's most meaningful projects?

We've had several. One was receiving recognition for Matagorda County as a Preserve America community, which involved total community effort in making it a success. We also worked in partnership with the historic town of Matagorda in bringing quality lecturers for its annual Matagorda Heritage Day. In addition, our marker guide program is mailed to every subscriber of the local newspaper and made available to museums and chambers of commerce throughout the county.

What interesting projects are your CHC members currently undertaking?

We're making historical information available to the public about every contributing house in Bay City's Southside Historic District in the National Register. This is in partnership with the Bay City Landmark Commission. We're also bringing the 2002 historic resource survey of Palacios up to date in anticipation of obtaining National Register listing for the Luther Hotel and the Price-Farewell house.

CORRECTION: On page 3 of the September/October issue of *The Medallion*, the Haass-Quintle Grist Mill should have been designated as one of a few historic grist mill operations in the state.



How are you addressing outreach efforts to include diverse cultural groups?

We're doing this by working with the African American Historical Society. We have had tours and met with them at special celebrations to

make their history known to not only Matagorda County but throughout the nation.

What THC programs have been most effective in your county?

The marker program and the Certified Local Government program are the heart and soul of our entire CHC, as are the nearly 100 Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks and subject markers and our four new National Register listings (plus three more in the process). These have all brought renewed interest in preservation throughout Matagorda County.

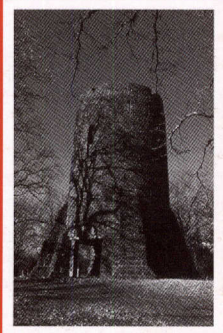
What have you found is the most effective way of working with your county officials and county residents to keep them interested and active in historic preservation?

We try to keep in touch with email reminders of meetings and special events and by attending county commissioner meetings often. Also, the *Bay City Tribune* has devoted a half-page every Sunday since 1999 to Matagorda County history. Members of the commission work with the editor to gather information and submit articles for this special page. Now citizens throughout the county comment favorably on this popular history page. It's a winner! ★

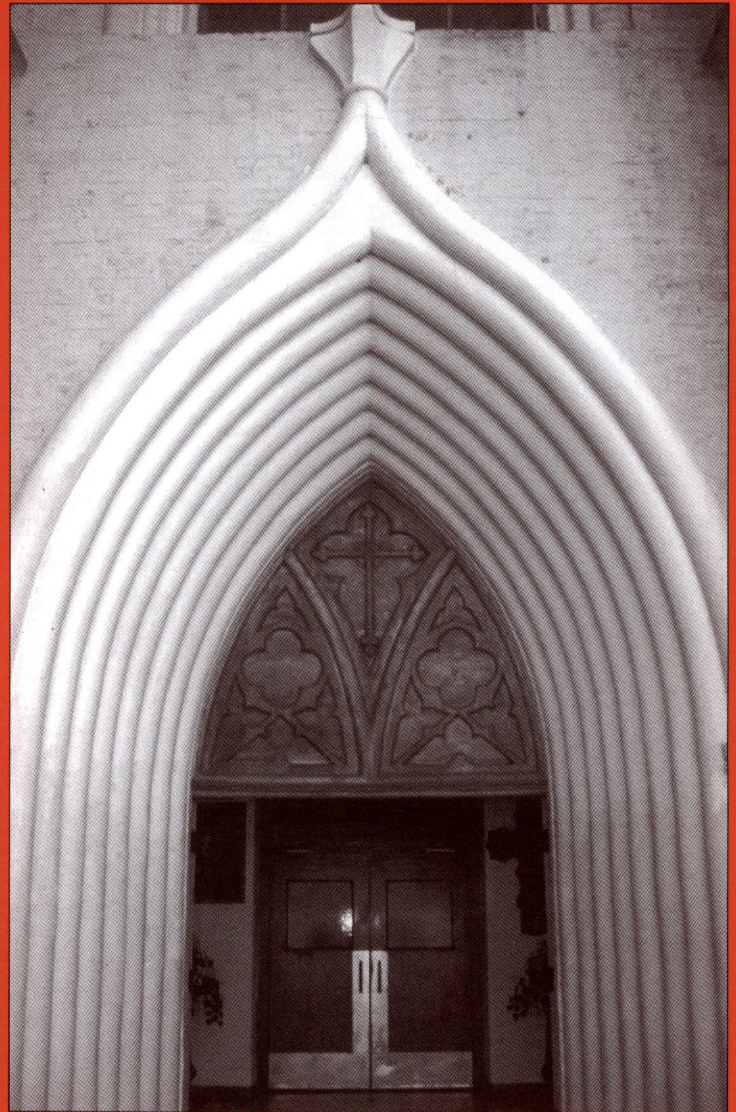
Where on Earth? You tell us! Write to the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276. You also may fax your answer to 512/463-6374 or email it to medallion@thc.state.tx.us. The first three people who correctly guess the site will be named with the answer in the January/February 2008 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? These doors open to a magnificent South Texas Gothic Revival structure completed in 1859.

Answer to the photo from the last issue: The structure pictured at left is a stone tower located in Loy Lake Park in Denison. The tower was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934-35, and, according to Clyde L. Hall of nearby Sherman, the stone is from the Woodbine Sand geological formation, quarried in the far northwest corner of the park.



Congratulations to the many readers who submitted correct answers. Those first to respond were Marcus Hubbard, Paulette Hyatt and Laura Weisberg, all of Denison. Winners will receive prizes from our Texas Heritage Trails Program, the Texas Historical Commission's regional tourism initiative, as tokens of our appreciation for taking part in the fun. Thanks to all participants! ★



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**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

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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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