

THE

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# MEDALLION

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**DALLAS: 60 YEARS AFTER TRAGEDY**

**SPECIAL ISSUE**



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ABOVE, TOP: John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza in downtown Dallas. THE COVER is loosely based off "A Time For Greatness" 1960 Kennedy campaign poster. The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.





SENATOR ROYCE WEST  
SENATE DISTRICT 23  
LEADERSHIP LETTER

Perceptions and realities of Dallas changed dramatically 60 years ago, on November 22, 1963. The tragic assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy regrettably became a defining moment.

Still the most visited tourist spot in my Senate district, Dealey Plaza and its Sixth Floor Museum share the seminal 1960s event with much of the city's earlier history.

Heritage travelers will find the magnificent 1892 Old Red County Courthouse, a history museum for decades, soon returning to its judicial roots as home to Texas' Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Old Red's history exhibits remain at Dealey Plaza, refreshed and rehosted in three recently restored historic county buildings. Dallas founder John Neely Bryan's 1840s cabin is a few steps east.

Two blocks south of Old Red sits the Beaux-arts Eddie Bernice Johnson Union Terminal which, in 1916, brought five railroads under one roof. Don't miss the Grand Hall. The station still supports Amtrak and commuter light rail.

Recently, downtown Dallas has seen nearly \$2 billion in state historic tax credit restorations, repurposing empty buildings for new uses including more than 3,000 personal residences helping to revitalize the city center.

Find more about Dallas—one of Texas' truly historic towns—in this issue of the Texas Historical Commission's *Medallion*. But don't just read about it, please come visit!

Sincerely,

Senator Royce West  
Senate District 23, Dallas

# READ ALL ABOUT IT

## TEXAN REPORTED JFK'S DEATH; ADVISED POLITICIANS, PRESERVATIONISTS

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

One of the key eyewitnesses of John F. Kennedy's assassination was Julian Read, a political insider who was in the presidential motorcade and delivered the first account of the tragic events on November 22, 1963. Read would go on to have an esteemed career in Texas public affairs and is known in the preservation community as "Mr. Anice Read," husband of the Texas Main Street Program (TMSP) founder.

Read, who passed away in 2021 at age 93, was the media representative for Texas Gov. John Connally in 1963. He was aboard the chartered White House press bus in downtown Dallas, just a few vehicles behind the presidential limousine as it passed through Dealey Plaza.

After hearing the shots ring out and seeing the devastating impact to Kennedy and Connally, Read raced to nearby Parkland Hospital, where the two men had been rushed to the emergency room. Immediately after hearing the official announcement of Kennedy's death, Read shared the tragic news with journalists, who reported the story worldwide.

In his 2013 book *JFK's Final Hours in Texas: An Eyewitness Remembers the Tragedy and Its Aftermath*, Read recalled that he experienced the events "from the perspective of a native Texan who was not only present for the body blows of that horrific day in Dallas, but also over the weekend that followed and throughout the traumatic months—truly years—of recovery in the aftermath."

He added, "It is difficult for today's generation to fully comprehend the trauma that gripped the nation and the world for days and weeks afterward. Grown men sobbed shamelessly in public. Streets were deserted. Schools and shops were shuttered. Terrified mothers lowered window shades. Businesses came to a standstill. Churches and synagogues were crowded as never before. Americans were fearful and uncertain as they remained glued to television screens, watching a nightmare that



would defy any screenwriter's imagination unfold before their eyes."

Read's high-profile political work would continue for nearly 50 years. According to his obituary, he assisted with presidential campaigns for Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, and George W. Bush. In Texas, he was well-known for his long association with Connally, who recruited Read in 1961 at Fort Worth's Hotel Texas to join his first campaign for governor. After two more successful Connally reelection campaigns, Read became the communications director for Connally's unsuccessful presidential campaign in 1980.

The Read-Poland Associates public relations firm that he created, owned, and operated for half a century ultimately attracted thousands of political and business clients, including Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, Southwest Airlines, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and illusionists Siegfried and Roy.

Read met his future wife Mary Anice Barber while writing a story about her experience as a golfer; they were later married in 1952. Anice went on to become an immensely influential



member of Texas' historic preservation community as a THC commissioner and founder/director of the TMSP. Julian helped by training new Main Street managers and assisting with First Lady's Main Street Tours over the course of several decades.

Former TMSP Coordinator Debra Drescher worked closely with Julian Read on these events for more than 15 years at the THC after meeting him during her previous tenure as director of the Texas Downtown Association (also founded by Anice).

"Whether he was with us at new manager training or a First Lady's event, I was always so impressed with Julian's humbleness and true desire to help others through imparting his own knowledge," Drescher recalls. "It never wavered."

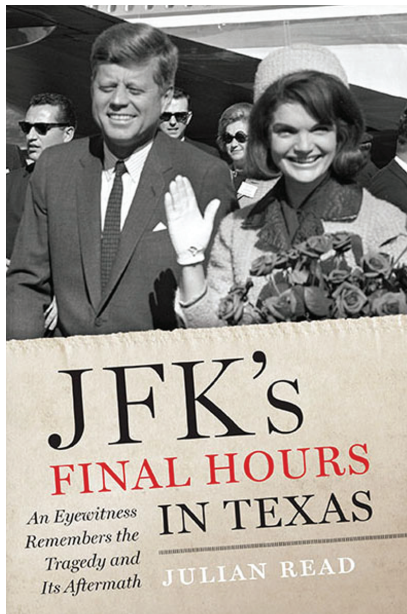
She adds that Read's contributions to the TMSP were especially endearing to him, since he and Anice were involved with the program from the beginning.

"He had a deep and true understanding that the revitalization of historic downtowns happened at the local level with the hard



work and support of the community," she says. "His job, as far as Main Street was concerned, was to help make that happen."

Read played an essential role helping new program managers start with a confident and informed



approach to their jobs. Drescher recalls that Read named his presentations "Promoting a Positive Image," which he delivered with the insight and expertise of his successful decades in Texas' public affairs industry. The trainings reached dozens of new Main Street managers annually, resulting in more than 500 receiving his guidance over 40 years.

"They knew in advance that he was at John Connally's side during his terms as governor, and that he was the eyewitness to Kennedy's assassination who provided the first press briefings on that fateful day," Drescher says. "He could have filled his training time with just those topics, but he

knew these new managers needed something else. They needed to understand how to get their communities to think about downtown again. They began by being intimidated by his presence, but by the end of the session, every hand in the room was raised to ask him questions."

Julian and Anice were interred at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin (view their obituaries at [cemetery.tspb.texas.gov](http://cemetery.tspb.texas.gov)). To learn more about the Texas Main Street Program, visit [thc.texas.gov/mainstreet](http://thc.texas.gov/mainstreet).

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Julian Read holding a press conference for Gov. John Connally at Parkland. *The Dallas Morning News* Collection/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. Donated by *The Dallas Morning News* in the interest of preserving history. Julian Read. The Sixth Floor Museum. Julian Read, Beeville. Julian Read's book.

By Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

# 60 YEARS OF SCRUTINY

## GENERATIONS OF TRAVELERS REMEMBER, GRIEVE, AND QUESTION IN DALLAS



Sixth Floor Museum

It wasn't long ago that most people had a ready answer for the notorious question, "Where were you on November 22, 1963?"

Now, 60 years later, there's only a portion of the population with a definitive response. In 1970s Dallas, however, the question was still on everyone's mind. And it certainly was a provocative query for the Dallas County Historical Foundation.

The county cautiously approached the imposing prospect of acquiring the former Texas School Book Depository Building at Dealey Plaza and opening a temporary exhibit about the shocking assassination of President John F. Kennedy that occurred there.

"I think it was done with great reluctance, but with the understanding that it was the right thing to do," says Nicola Longford, CEO of the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. "So many people were coming here, and there was no historical interpretation or any official tour or guidelines to help people understand what had happened."

After moving into the building and occupying the first five floors with administrative offices and a courtroom, the county spent nearly a decade carefully planning the permanent institution that became the **Sixth Floor Museum**. It officially opened on February 20, 1989—President's Day—and proved to be a nerve-wracking experience for everyone involved.

"Dallas had been in a difficult position for many years as it managed the aftermath of being the place where the president was killed. It was labeled the City of Hate, and it still carried all those stigmas," Longford says. "But Dallas rallied together, and moved onward. There may still be a little residual feeling here, but it's a great city and all the

pioneers who contributed to the founding of the museum should be recognized."

She adds that the museum has been following its original mission to present facts and allow visitors to decide for themselves about the motives and consequences of the events of November 1963. Although the museum acknowledges conspiracy theories "and other tangential parts of this very complicated story," administrators take pride in their extensive collection of oral histories, artifacts, documents, and photos that allow the public to form a deeper understanding of a very complex history.

"With the passage of time, a city, a community, a nation, and a world still come back and revisit the assassination—especially when another decade goes by," Longford says. "So, the 60th anniversary is really critical for us because it may be the last time that some of the key people who are still alive can come together and remember and reflect. Those are important connections to younger audiences today."

According to Longford, the museum draws both traditional visitors and an unconventional audience, including some who question facts with a determination that wasn't prevalent decades ago.

"Because it's a really polarizing topic, we try and stay in the middle by sticking to what we know about the assassination



and avoiding speculation," she says, adding that there are "people who don't approve or like or appreciate how we present the history" while others express gratitude for helping them find answers to long-burning questions.

Longford feels strongly that regardless of the motivation of visitors, the museum continues to encourage further research and discussion about Kennedy's death, an event that shaped history from a local to international level.

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OPPOSITE: The Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas. ABOVE: Presidential motorcade. The Sixth Floor Museum. Presidential Limousine in Dealey Plaza. The Sixth Floor Museum.



“It’s still relevant—Kennedy is quoted almost every day or referenced in some fashion,” she says. “Our visitors don’t have to personally like Kennedy, but this museum is about his presidency, his life, and his legacy. We want people to leave here knowing that it’s OK to have questions, but we are not deviating from the historical facts.”

### EXPERIENCE THE SIXTH

The Sixth Floor Museum is currently commemorating the 60th anniversary of Kennedy’s assassination with a temporary exhibit revisiting his November 1963 Texas trip. “Two Days in Texas” traces the president’s itinerary through each city on his last presidential tour, featuring original film footage, photographs, news articles, personal items, and new acquisitions. The exhibit is open through June 16, 2024.

Kennedy began his Texas visit on November 21 with appearances in San Antonio and Houston, followed by what



would be his final speech at a breakfast hosted by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce. After the assassination, two speeches planned for audiences in Dallas and Austin were left undelivered.

According to Longford, “Two Days in Texas” addresses the assassination’s impact on everyday Texans and how it still resonates with them 60 years later. The exhibit features artifacts and first-hand accounts from San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas, and Austin.

While there, visitors can also experience the museum’s permanent exhibit, which remains a compelling and fascinating chronological journey through Kennedy’s legacy.

Many people quickly flock to the spine-chilling sniper’s nest in the actual sixth-floor window where Lee Harvey Oswald fired his bolt-action rifle. But visitors should take time to view all the exhibits, featuring context-providing and insightful newspaper articles, grainy

black-and-white TV newsreels, and stunning large-scale photos.

To learn more about the museum and to access its impressive online collection of photos and videos, visit [jfk.org](http://jfk.org).

### JFK: DEALEY AND DOWNTOWN

After browsing through the Sixth Floor Museum, visitors usually head to **Dealey Plaza** and stroll among several infamous landmarks—the grassy knoll, triple underpass, and an x-marked spot on Elm Street where Kennedy was shot (the location is unofficial and reportedly placed by local vendors). A Texas Historical Commission (THC) Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) marker details the Book Depository’s history.

A block south is the handsome brick 1915 **Dallas County Criminal Courts Building** with terra cotta and Renaissance Revival detailing. Its RTHL marker notes it was the location of the trial for nightclub owner Jack Ruby, who killed Oswald on November 24, 1963.

Oswald was in the basement of the Dallas police headquarters (nine blocks east) when Ruby appeared from the shadows and shot him with a .38-caliber Colt revolver. The 1914 Beaux Arts structure, also an RTHL, is now the **Dallas Municipal Building**.

Back near Dealey Plaza, the somber yet impactful **John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza** consists of a massive concrete cenotaph—a roofless square room with 30-foot-tall stark walls designed by noted architect Philip Johnson. He claimed the monument was a quiet refuge symbolizing the freedom of Kennedy’s spirit.

A few miles away, Kennedy’s legacy is also honored at **Parkland Memorial Hospital**, where he was rushed to Trauma Room 1 after being shot



and officially pronounced dead by medical staff. A memorial park on campus honors Kennedy's legacy with a reflective and peaceful space.

## OSWALD'S ODYSSEY

For those interested in exploring beyond the traditional Kennedy-related travel destinations, the Oak Cliff area south of downtown offers several sites appealing to visitors intrigued by Oswald's provocative story.

A good place to start is the **Oswald Rooming House Museum** (1026 Beckley Ave.). The site is operated by Patricia Puckett-Hall, who lived in the home (her grandmother's) when Oswald rented a room there in November 1963. Her first-hand accounts of cohabitating with him at age 11 are admittedly surreal.

"I have very fond memories of him—he was always kind, sweet, and considerate," Puckett-Hall says. "I never saw him cooking, but that man loved his sandwiches. He ate more sandwiches than you could shake a stick at."

She adds that people from across the world visit the home in search of answers to specific questions about conspiracies or express curiosity about the man responsible for impacting the course of history. The interior of the house appears much as it did in 1963, with personal

touches like Puckett family photos, midcentury modern furnishings, and Kennedy-related documents.

"People want to know what Oswald was like as a person and what I think his motivations were. I'll talk to everyone, whatever their level of interest in his story," Puckett-Hall says, adding that she provides tours with advance notification ([oswaldroominghouse@yahoo.com](mailto:oswaldroominghouse@yahoo.com), 469-261-7806).

Just down the street is a THC marker chronicling the location where Oswald allegedly murdered police officer J.D. Tippit shortly after Kennedy's assassination. He then fled several blocks west to Jefferson Avenue and the **Texas Theatre**, where an employee called police. Oswald was soon apprehended in the theater's auditorium. The theater is still active.

Nearby is a more obscure location appealing to visitors interested in the finer details of Oswald's background. **The Neely Street Boarding House** (214 Neely St.) is where he reportedly lived in 1963 with his wife Marina, who snapped a now-infamous photo of her husband in the backyard holding the bolt-action rifle.

Head northwest to Irving for a more-sanctioned historic site—the **Ruth Paine House**. Now serving as a city-operated museum, the home is where Oswald spent the night on November 21, 1963. Marina



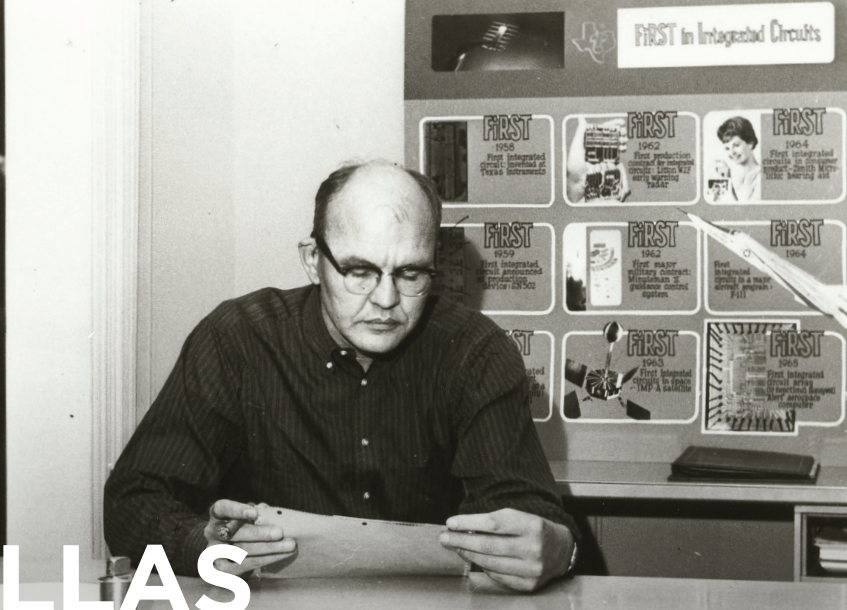
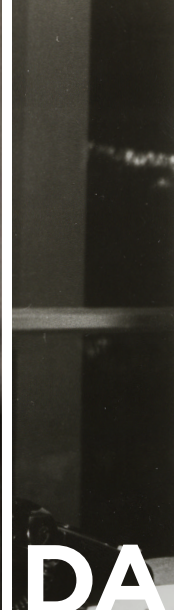
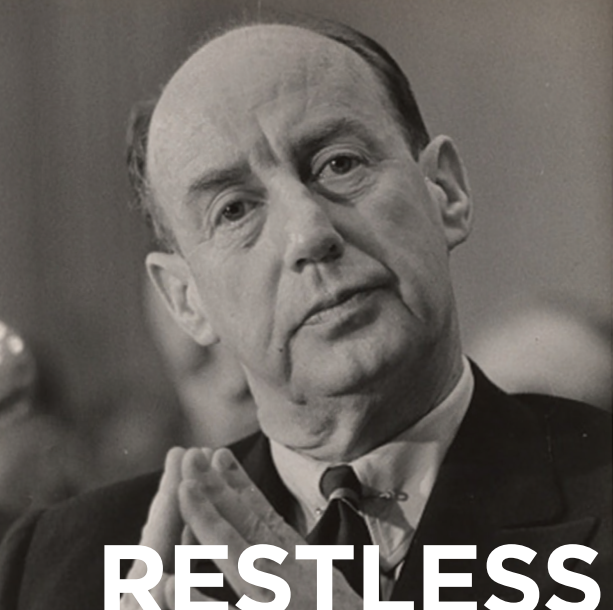
was staying here after recently separating from Oswald, and the rifle he used was reportedly stored in the garage. The museum is meticulously rehabilitated to the home's 1963 appearance, and features artifacts and projected vignettes. The site's address is kept secret, but visitors can arrange tours via [irvingarchivesandmuseum.org](http://irvingarchivesandmuseum.org) or calling 972-721-3700.

To learn about other heritage tourism destinations in the Dallas area, visit [texastimetravel.com](http://texastimetravel.com).

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OPPOSITE FROM LEFT: Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963, reportedly at Neely Street. The Sixth Floor Museum. The Sixth Floor Museum's sniper's nest. LEFT: The front room of the Oswald Rooming House Museum. ABOVE: The Texas Theatre today.





# RESTLESS DALLAS

## CITY WAS HOME TO CONTRASTING VIEWPOINTS IN 1963

By Mike Marchio  
THC Communications Division

“We’re heading into nut country today,” John F. Kennedy remarked to his wife Jackie and his staff in a Fort Worth hotel suite on the morning of November 22, 1963. The president was about to make the short flight to Dallas and, from Love Field, begin that fateful motorcade winding through the city.

Cutting though it was, the president’s assessment of Dallas was becoming more widely shared across the country. A series of incidents preceding Kennedy’s 1963 visit had earned Dallas the reputation as a hotbed for far-right extremism, according to the 2013 book *Dallas 1963* by Bill Minutaglio and Steven L. Davis.

Four days before the 1960 election that brought Kennedy to office, Dallas’ local congressman Bruce Alger led a group of extravagantly dressed Dallas women in a demonstration against Kennedy’s running mate, Texas’ then-Senator Lyndon Johnson. The congressman himself carried a sign that said “LBJ Sold Out to Yankee Socialists.”

During the protest, which later became known as the “Mink Coat Mob,” members of Dallas’ high society accosted the Johnsons, tore Lady Bird’s gloves off, and threw them in the gutter. Other protestors spat at the Johnsons. While Richard Nixon still carried Dallas, Kennedy carried Texas overall, and many (including Nixon himself) attributed Kennedy’s victory in the state to the widespread backlash against the Johnsons’ treatment at the hands of the Dallas mob.

After the election, this reputation continued to grow as a result of hostility toward the Kennedy administration by several high-profile Dallas residents.

These included H.L. Hunt, the oilman who was then among the richest people in the world and used his fortune to sponsor radio programs and newsletters accusing the Kennedy administration of being soft on communism. Another was Ted Dealey, the *Dallas Morning News* publisher whose father was the namesake for Dealey Plaza, and whose newspaper reliably attacked Kennedy and his administration’s policies.

This reputation also drew new, like-minded residents to town, including Edwin Walker, a major general in the U.S. Army who was removed from command by the Kennedy administration for using his position to proselytize his political views to his subordinates. Walker later became a figurehead in the resistance to racial integration in the South, but is perhaps best known to history as the first assassination target of Lee Harvey Oswald, who allegedly fired a shot at Walker through the window of the general’s home in April 1963. (He missed.) Walker is also tied to the infamous “Wanted for Treason” flyers distributed in Dallas before Kennedy’s visit.

And just a few weeks before the assassination, U.N. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson was attacked while visiting Dallas during an anti-United Nations demonstration. As documented in *Dallas 1963*, it felt to many as if a fever was overtaking the city. People familiar with the political climate cautioned Kennedy against making a stop in Dallas during his Texas trip due to concerns for his safety.

### DALLAS: MIDCENTURY MODERN

Given the history-shaking events of November 22, 1963, it’s easy to see how this roiling environment earned Dallas the unenviable nickname as the “City of Hate.” But that nickname was never fair to the city, which already had been and would continue to be much more than the views of some of its loudest citizens.



In 1958, Jack Kilby, an engineer for Dallas-based Texas Instruments, invented the integrated circuit, garnering a Nobel prize and ushering the world into a new era. Complex electronics could be miniaturized from room-sized behemoths into pocket-sized devices such as the calculator and, eventually, the smartphone. Today, the semiconductor technology that originated in Dallas now employs around 45,000 people in Texas and underpins the modern information economy.

Also during this time, Juanita Craft's modest home in Dallas' Wheatley Place neighborhood became a destination for African American celebrities and community members. Craft was a pivotal civil rights organizer, despite the city's reputation for right-leaning political movements. A prominent children's advocate, public servant, and humanitarian, Craft hosted nationally known politicians and musicians visiting Jim Crow Dallas, including Thurgood Marshall and Duke Ellington.

While mid-century Texas was also rightly famous for its steers and oil, the state's homegrown touches of sophistication were beginning to receive their due share of renown during this period. Neiman Marcus, a luxury department store based far from the traditional centers of fashion in Europe or New York, began its first expansion outside of Dallas, opening a store in Houston on its way to a nationwide expansion. Under the leadership of Stanley Marcus, son of the company's founder, Neiman Marcus offered unusually high-quality goods at commensurately high prices to Texans flush from the state's booming oil business.

The Dallas Trade Mart was another symbol of the modern, efficient southern city that Dallas was on its way to becoming. Located on the edge of downtown, the four-story complex opened in 1959 and hosted hundreds of showrooms for furniture, clothing, and other retail goods. The Trade Mart presaged the mammoth wholesale retail approach that is now ubiquitous.

The impressive Trade Mart was, in fact, the next stop on Kennedy's Dallas tour. After passing through Dealey Plaza, past the Texas School Book Depository, and under the triple underpass, the president's motorcade was to make its final stop there for a luncheon attended by hundreds. He never arrived.




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ABOVE FROM LEFT: Adlai Stevenson, 1952. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of Frances O. Tames. Jack Kilby with billboard, 1965. DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University. Juanita Craft (center) with other leaders of the NAACP, 1948. From the Juanita Craft Collection MA81.05, Dallas History & Archives Division, Dallas Public Library. Dallas Police officers standing guard at the Dallas Trade Mart, November 22, 1963. The Sixth Floor Museum. LEFT: Stanley Marcus Receiving the 1962 National Retail Merchants Association Ambassador's award Gold Medal from Princess Margaret. DeGolyer Library,

# EMERGING PRESERVATIONISTS

THC'S SUMMER INTERNS INSPIRED BY EXPERIENCES ACROSS THE AGENCY

By Isabel Ray  
THC Preservation Scholars Committee Member

For 10 weeks this summer, emerging professionals in history, anthropology, and more gained experience at the Texas Historical Commission (THC) as Preservation Scholars. Their projects included digitizing the THC's oral history collection, documenting the stories of legacy business owners, mapping archeological sites, and much more.

**MIRIAM CHEN, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

**What sparked your interest in the history/preservation fields?** I see history as a way for people to access and understand their heritage, which has been motivated by my own experiences and identity as an Asian American with Chinese immigrant parents. I think it's important for people to understand history because it enriches our lives and informs the way we understand communities and society.

**What have been the highlights of the Preservation Scholars program?** The highlights of the program have been the Brown Bag events, where we get to speak with professionals in the field. They have really interesting careers, and it's nice to be able to hear from them and ask questions.

**When you're not working or studying, what do you enjoy doing with your time?** In my free time, I enjoy crocheting, reading, and playing video games.

**LOGAN DOVALINA,  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS**

**What have been the highlights of the Preservation**

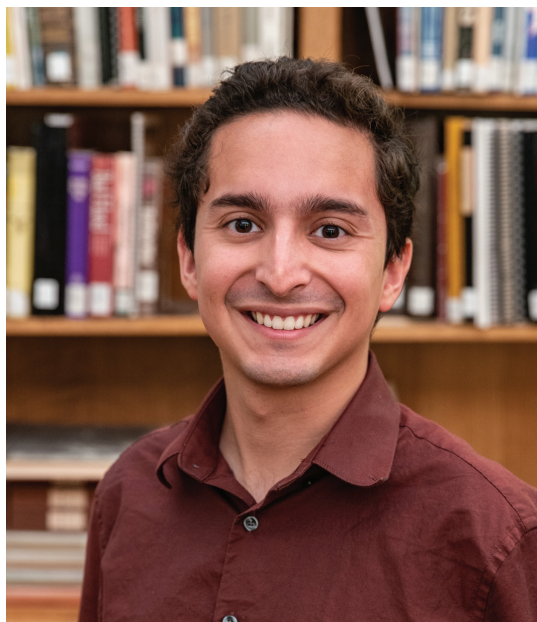
**Scholars program? Of your project?** It's wonderful meeting fascinating people and hearing more about our diverse historical sites and stories. In my project, I love reading untold Texan stories. Working with the THC's Oral History Collection is a privilege within itself. Through my project, I'm able to preserve, catalog, and work through tedious details to ensure that future generations can enjoy these fascinating 20th-century Texan stories.

**When you're not working or studying, what do you enjoy doing with your time?** I'm an avid choral singer, a Texas Master Naturalist, and a private pilot in training! Being active, whether in a choir, out in a state park, or up in the sky, is a big part of who I am.

**Do you have a favorite historic place in Texas?** I love visiting Quinta Mazatlan, a 1920s adobe mansion surrounded by native flora in McAllen. It combines historic preservation with urban environmentalism. It's one of my favorite places to visit in the state.

**ALGAE GUZMAN,  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-CHICAGO**

**What sparked your interest in the history/preservation fields?** I think I was always interested in history, but I hated history classes while I was in school. I never felt like I related to it. As a person from the Rio Grande Valley, I didn't see how U.S. history or even Texas history related to my region. "South Texas" history stopped at San Antonio, four and a half hours north of my hometown of Roma. Throughout my undergraduate years at Texas A&M, I found out about the events that occurred in our historic downtown area,



which made me want to rehabilitate them to some extent. Transforming them into community spaces, reviving the bustling economic sector of the city. That dream fuels me.

**What have been the highlights of your project?** At the forefront, I am researching historic taquerias and tortillerías across Texas and nominating them for the Texas Treasure Business Award (TTBA), an honorary recognition of thriving businesses over 50 years in operation. Since taquerias and tortillerías are largely owned by Latinos, I took initiative in translating TTBA's brochure and nomination application into Spanish to be more accessible to folks who may not be English-dominant.

**Do you have a favorite historic place in Texas?** The downtown section of Roma is actually a National Historic Landmark, but my favorite building there is the Manuel Guerra building. It used to be a general store and it still stands on the same corner, painted its signature pale pink. I'm fascinated by the local legends of the building. The building itself is said to be haunted by one of Guerra's daughters who died after being crushed and impaled by a falling mirror, although I haven't found any proof of that occurring.

**LAUREN HUFFMASTER,  
RICE UNIVERSITY**

**What sparked your interest in the history/preservation fields?** It was my first college history course that really made me fall in love with history. The class was History 101: Early Modern Europe and our first assigned reading was a translation of Joan of Arc's trial. Reading about Joan from a primary-source document breathed life into her, as the words on the page were transcribed from the mouth of Joan herself. For the first time, the fact that Joan was a real person and not just a legendary figure became incredibly apparent. So often the stories of women are told from the perspective of men, a statement especially potent for medieval women such as Joan. This experience not only sparked my love for history, but also my interest in untold stories and perspectives.

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FROM LEFT: Miriam Chen, Logan Dovalina, Algae Guzman, Lauren Huffmaster, and Gilbert Martinez.

**What have been the highlights of the Preservation Scholars program? Of your project?** The highlight of my project has been the ability to do primary source research on a topic that interested me—Hispanic education in Texas. I was given a huge amount of freedom for the Beyond the Markers project and enjoyed every minute of research. Scouring old newspapers led me to interesting and untold stories; it felt akin to reconstructing a lost history. Each day I came into work excited to learn more, and as a result the internship has truly flown by.

**When you're not working or studying, what do you enjoy doing with your time?** In my free time, I enjoy reading, drawing, and spending time with my dogs.

**GILBERT MARTINEZ, THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**

**What sparked your interest in the history/preservation fields?** From ancient Mediterranean civilizations like the Romans and Greeks, to more recent times like the Civil Rights Movement, I have always loved learning about the past.

**What have been the highlights of the Preservation Scholars program?** The most notable highlight during my internship has been the processing and organization of over 500 artifacts from the Old Socorro Mission ceramics collection. I consider this my biggest accomplishment while here, due to having to juggle many side projects while at the same time maintaining a steady pace with the ceramics in order to get the collection into an organized datasheet.



**Do you have a favorite historic place in Texas?** My favorite historic sites would have to be the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and the Alamo. I find it very interesting and fun to walk the grounds of the missions and see what remains of them.

**CHRISTINE SANCHEZ,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**What sparked your interest in the history/preservation fields?** I have always been interested in history, but as I grew older and entered college, I found how important historical preservation is through my undergraduate courses, field work, and research. I would find myself impressed with how well conserved some parts of history are, but then find that other materials, places, spaces, and intangible artifacts—usually from BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, people of color] Texas history—are not preserved as well as other Texas history topics people tend to prioritize.

**What have been the highlights of the Preservation Scholars program?** An early highlight that happened through this internship was attending the Aya Symposium, where some interns traveled to UNT Dallas to learn more about the Texas Freedom Colonies Project. Another traveling highlight was when my supervisor for my project, Amy Borgens, took me to Texas A&M's RELLIS campus, where we visited the Conservation Research Laboratory to pick up artifacts, and also learn about what goes into preserving artifacts.

**Tell us about your career goals.** As a first-generation student and having recently graduated from my undergrad, I had always been a bit uneasy about my future, as I am the only one in my family to pursue graduate school and an academic career. I did not know where I could go career-wise prior to the internship; since this internship and meeting with other historic preservation professionals, I have started to feel a bit better about not having the most “linear” career path or still not having a concrete idea of what to do. The kind of work I would find appealing is working with a museum

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FROM LEFT: Christine Sanchez and Dzifa Tse. Photos by Patrick Hughey.

or university as I continue to conduct research regarding underrepresented groups or topics.

**DZIFA TSE, SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

**What sparked your interest in the history/preservation fields?** It's one of those things my family has been doing forever, where I didn't realize until I was older that was what was happening. When I started studying history in school, I realized that I really liked learning about individuals and the smaller parts of the puzzle.

**What have been the highlights of the Preservation Scholars program?** I've really enjoyed doing the research because my project is specifically about Black Texan history, which is one of my passions.

**Tell us about your career goals.** I'm still figuring out what I want to do, but I know that I would like to go into historic preservation work and this internship has certainly cemented that for me.

**When you're not working or studying, what do you enjoy doing with your time?** I really enjoy doing fiber crafts in my free time like sewing, embroidery and wool spinning, and I enjoy baking as well.

**Do you have a favorite historic place in Texas?** I got to visit the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in Alto about a year ago and I really loved the experience.

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The Preservation Scholars program, an initiative of the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, aims to increase the diversity of those working in the field of historic preservation. To learn more or support the program, visit [thcfriends.org/programs](http://thcfriends.org/programs).



# NEWS BRIEFS



## LORDY, LORDY, PERINI'S IS 40!

Texas Historical Commission (THC) Commissioner Tom Perini recently gathered with several other THC commissioners and their families as part of Perini Ranch Steakhouse's 40th anniversary celebration this year.

Located in Buffalo Gap and known internationally for its authentic cowboy cuisine, the steakhouse was established by Perini in 1983. He began working as a chuckwagon cook and has ascended to the title of Cowboy Chef, serving global leaders, celebrities, and anyone in search of a perfectly prepared steak.

Perini is one of the THC's longest-serving commissioners.

To learn more about his steakhouse and how his family is celebrating its 40th anniversary, visit [periniranch.com](http://periniranch.com).

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ABOVE: Tom and Lisa Perini (third and fourth from right) celebrate the 40th anniversary of their Buffalo Gap steakhouse with THC commissioners, family, and friends.

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## APPLICATIONS OPEN SOON FOR THC'S COURTHOUSE PROGRAM

The THC's award-winning Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program (THCPP) will open its next grant cycle in February—but now is the time for county and city governments to confirm their grant program eligibility and take note of important deadlines leading up to the grant application deadline.

Counties or cities that own a building that is over 49 years old and functions or previously functioned as the primary seat of county government are eligible to participate.

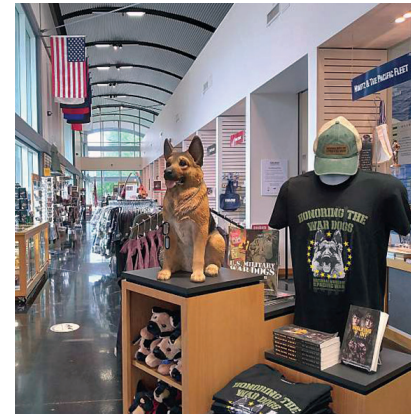
## SHOP FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS AT THC HISTORIC SITES

Searching for the perfect holiday gift that supports the preservation of historic places in Texas? Plan your visit to any of the THC's state historic sites and explore museum stores to get inspiration.

Texas is a state rich in history and culture, and the THC offers a treasure trove of products that make perfect gifts.

For those who appreciate Texas-inspired art, the Mayfair Coover Scarf offers timeless elegance with a design inspired by Texas' state historic sites. Enhance your workspace with the San Jacinto glass paperweight, an exquisite piece that captures the spirit of

Texas' history. If you appreciate special, one-of-a-kind items, the Goodnight Ranch Knife, inspired by the Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch, is a unique and practical gift that holds a piece of Texan history.



When you shop at the THC's state historic sites, you not only find unique and meaningful gifts, but you also support the preservation of Texas' rich heritage. Make your holiday season special and historically significant by choosing gifts that tell a story.

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Visit [texashistoricsites.com](http://texashistoricsites.com) for holiday hours of operation and a guide to the sites throughout Texas.

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To be eligible to apply, counties or cities must have a THCPP-approved master plan filed with the THC before April 5, 2024. Please note that master plan preparation requires hiring a professional preservation consultant, typically an architect, and takes about four to six months to prepare.

An outline of master plan requirements along with the THCPP Round XIII timeline for submitting applications, construction plans and specifications, and new preservation master plans is available.

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To see the requirements and other details, visit [thc.texas.gov/thcpp](http://thc.texas.gov/thcpp).

## WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

KNOW YOUR TEXAS HISTORY? Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Email your answer and preferred mailing address to [medallion@thc.texas.gov](mailto:medallion@thc.texas.gov) or send it to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711. Limit one prize annually per contestant.



### NEED A CLUE?

This mural in the Texas Forest Trail Region celebrates the area's agricultural heritage in a 1939 building.

### ANSWER TO PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE:

The site pictured at left is the glass dome in the tower of the 1912 Johnson County Courthouse in Cleburne. It was built by Dallas architects

Lang and Witchell with Charles E. Bargebaugh, who were seen as progressive architects in their time, shying away from the traditional and "safe" Beaux-Arts and Late Victorian styles.

There were no correct answers submitted to the previous issue's photo. We look forward to receiving the next round of submissions!

