

# Antiquities Advisory Board Committee

April 29, 2022



## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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### AGENDA ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING #108

Alamo Complex  
Alamo Hall  
300 Alamo Plaza  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
April 29, 2022  
8:30 a.m.

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*This meeting This meeting of the Antiquities Advisory Board has been properly posted with the Secretary of State's Office according to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code. The members may discuss and/or take action on any of the items listed in the agenda. Members of the public will be able to observe a livestream feed using the following link on April 29, 2022: <https://youtu.be/otHALsZXojY>. This livestream option will not allow for two-way communication between members of the public and the Commission.*

*NOTE: Alamo Hall is a separate building from the Alamo and can be found by following the path to the right of the Alamo.*

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**1. Call to Order – Chairman Bruseth**

- A. Board Introductions
- B. Establish a Quorum
- C. Recognize and/or excuse absences

**2. Approval of Minutes – Bruseth (advance handout)**

Antiquities Advisory Board Meeting # 107 (February 2, 2022)

**3. Reports – Division Reports/Presentations on recent and current permitted projects – Jones & Graham**

*(\*The Texas Historical Commission will convene and meet concurrently with the AAB for the presentation noted below)*

**4. Alamo Church and Long Barrack, Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, Bexar County**

- A. Update on Alamo master plan – Kate Rogers, ATI, Inc. and Patrick Gallagher, Gallagher & Associates
- B. Report on future permits and amendment requests – Jeff Kauffman, GLO & Pam Rosser, ATI, Inc.

**5. Battleship Texas (USS Texas), La Porte, Harris County**

- A. Presentation – Aldo Benavides, Valkor; Brad Currin, Valkor; Tony Gregory, Battleship Texas Foundation
- B. Discussion and possible action regarding Historic Buildings and Structures Antiquities Permit #1041 application for hull and blister rehabilitation (Item 3.2B) – Graham
- C. Discussion and possible action to amend Historic Buildings and Structures Antiquities Permit #1042 for the preparation, transportation, and temporary relocation at a Shipyard (Item 3.2C) – Graham

**6. Adjournment**

*NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE AT PUBLIC MEETINGS: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, large print or Braille, are requested to contact Esther Brickley at (512) 463-5768 at least four (4) business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.*

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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**ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
MEMBERS  
02/01/2022**

**THC Commissioner/AAB Chair**

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6806 Rio Bravo Lane  
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**Historian**

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**Historian**

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ITEM # 2

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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## ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING #107

### Minutes

Hilton Austin  
Room 400/402  
500 E 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701  
February 2, 2022  
8:30 A.M.

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*Note: For the full text of action items, please contact the Texas Historical Commission at P.O. Box 12276, Austin TX 78711 or call 512.463-1858*

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### 1. AAB Call to Order

Commissioner Jim Bruseth opened the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) meeting on February 2, 2022, at 08:30. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the AAB members to introduce themselves.

#### **Members Present**

Jim Bruseth  
Rick Lewis  
Laurie Limbacher  
Bob Ward  
Douglas Boyd  
Waldo Troell  
Todd Ahlman  
Lilia Garcia

#### **Members Absent**

Dan Utley  
Norman Alston

Bruseth announced the absence of Dan Utley and Norman Alston. A quorum was established, and a motion entertained to excuse Utley and Alston.

Laurie Limbacher moved on the motion.

Rick Lewis seconded.

Bruseth called for a vote, heard no opposition, and the motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Approval of AAB Minutes

Bruseth asked if changes or corrections were needed for the AAB #106 Minutes.

Bruseth heard no call for changes and entertained the motion to approve the AAB Minutes for meeting #106.

Douglas Boyd moved on the motion.

Bob Ward seconded.

Bruseth asked for objections, heard none, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Adoption and Amendments to the Texas Administrative Code**

Bruseth called on Archeology Division (AD) director, Brad Jones to present Item 3A.

Jones reminded the AAB that the amendments to Chapter 26.14 & 26.16 being proposed for final publication in the Texas Register were presented at the previous AAB meeting. He explained that the proposed amendments changed how the THC received and issued permit applications and final reports. Jones said that the commission received three public comments. Two of the comments were in favor of the amendment and one suggested an addition. The proposed addition called for the retention of more than one final report hard copy for permit closure and for further digital curation. Jones noted that the suggestion concerning additional hard copies was worthwhile, and that the THC had amended the language for final publication to include two hard copies. No changes were made to submission of digital copies.

Bruseth thanked Jones and read the motion for Item 3A.

Limbacher moved on the motion.

Boyd seconded the motion.

Bruseth called for further discussion, heard none, and the motion carried unanimously.

Bruseth called on Bess Graham for Item #3B.

Graham announced that the Division of Architecture (DOA) rule change addressed their move to a fully digital review and submission system. The system allowed for digital permit processing and online report submission. She shared that no comments were received from the public and that DOA was moving forward with the final publication of the amended rules.

Bruseth thanked Graham and read the motion for Item #3B.

Limbacher moved on the motion.

Lilia Garcia seconded.

Bruseth called for further discussion, heard none, and the motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Discussion and vote on SAL nominations**

Bruseth called on Drew Sitters to present Item #4A.

Sitters presented the State Antiquities Landmark (SAL) nominations for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Big Bend Ranch State Park (BBRSP).

Sitters explained that TPWD's archeological survey team revisited sites from 2014-2020. The site revisits identified these 9 sites in BBRSP as eligible for SAL nomination. Sitters mentioned that the ages of the sites dated from the Late Archaic to the historic period. He described the SALs as prehistoric camp sites and ranch steads. Sitters shared that the features of the sites included burned rock middens, hearths, mortars, rock art, rock corrals, circularly stacked rock structures, residential ruins, and a cemetery. He noted that the sites contained intact and well-preserved archeological deposits and held rare attributes.

Sitters supported the SAL applications and emphasized that the designations provided protection against looters, incidental disturbances, and park maintenance. Sitters concluded by thanking TPWD's staff for their work and their nominations.

Bruseth thanked Sitters and read the motion.

Boyd moved on the motion to approve the nominations.

Ward seconded.

Bruseth called for further discussion, heard none, and the motion carried unanimously.

Bruseth called on Sitters to present Item #4B.

Sitters presented the SAL nomination for site 41VV838. He explained that the site was located within the Devil's River State Natural Area and that the history spanned from the Middle Archaic to the historic period. Sitters explained that the pre-historic component was characterized by 2 middens, 5 hearths, 3 burned rock scatters, and a robust artifact assemblage. The site's historic component included a stock raising complex and 1970s fishing camp. Sitters stated that the site maintained high research potential and therefore an SAL nomination was warranted.

Bruseth thanked Sitters and read the motions.

Todd Ahlman moved to approve the nomination.

Ward seconded.

Bruseth asked for discussion, heard none, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bruseth called on Jeff Durst to present Item #4C.

Durst presented an addition to the existing 41HR982 SAL designation. He explained that the site was known as Frost Town and dated back to the early 1800s. The site was excavated by Prewitt and Associates (Cox McLain) on behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation. Durst shared that the archeologists did an excellent job with the excavations and that the site was located north of downtown Houston.

Durst mentioned that the site was both publicly and privately owned. He explained that his presentation covered the nominations of private parcels to the existing 41HR982 SAL. Durst provided photos of the residential features and recovered artifacts from site 41HR982. He concluded his presentation in support of the additions to the existing SAL.

Bruseth thanked Durst.

Boyd and Waldo Troell recused themselves from the vote.

Bruseth read the motions.

Ward moved to approve the nomination.

Ahlman seconded.

Bruseth asked for discussion.

Garcia asked Durst about the exact age of the Frost Town site. Durst deferred to AAB member Doug Boyd, the project archeologist, who answered that Frost Town was settled at the same time as Alan's Landing in 1836. He informed the meeting that Frost Town was the first residential community in Houston.

Garcia thanked Boyd.

Bruseth asked for further discussion, heard none, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bruseth called on Sitters to present Item #4D.

Sitters explained that developer Alan Erickson donated four lots in Hudspeth County to the Archeological Conservancy. He listed the name of each site (Centipede, Cunningham, Jaguar, and Mullen Parcel) and presented photos of the sites. The sites included rock art and petroglyphs and their ages ranged from the Archaic to the Formative periods. Sitters shared that the art included depictions of animals and geometric designs. He thanked the Archeological Conservancy's commitment to the protection of the sites for generations to come. Sitters recommended support of the nominations.

Bruseth read the motions.

Ahlman moved to approve the motion.

Boyd seconded.

Bruseth asked for discussion, heard none, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Director Reports**

Bruseth called on Jones to present the AD quarterly report.

Jones provided an update on AD's permit issuance. He compared the last quarter of 2021 to the first part of 2022 and mentioned a drop off in permit issuance. Jones suspected that the slump stemmed from a seasonal decrease at the end of the 2021. He reported on the types of permits issued and concluded his presentation.

Bruseth called on Bess Graham to present the Division of Architecture's (DOA) quarterly report.

Graham announced that DOA issued 13 permits, closed 2 permits, and had 4 permits expire. She pointed to the variety of permits issued that included rehabilitation, new construction, preservation, architectural investigation, and demolition.

Graham highlighted a project review by DOA staff of the Douglas Chapter House of the Daughters of the American Revolution, located in Dallas's Fair Park State Antiquities Landmark district. Graham explained that a pipe had burst in the building during the freeze of February 2021 necessitating these repairs. Graham concluded her report.

Bruseth thanked Graham.

Commissioner McKnight convened the AAB with the THC.

## **6. Alamo Masterplan Update**

Kate Rogers provided an update on the Alamo masterplan. She began with the report on the ongoing moisture monitoring within the Alamo church and Long Barracks. The AAB was informed that the moisture monitoring allowed conservators to determine future preservation steps. Rogers noted that the final report would be completed in 2022.

Rogers presented on the Long Barrack's masonry repairs. She shared that Pam Rosser the conservator for the Alamo was present and ready to answer questions.

Rogers explained that the excavation exhibit preparation continued within the Long Barracks. She mentioned that each stone was individually marked and could easily be returned to its original location. Rogers said that the exhibit was on track to open on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 – Texas Independence Day.

Rogers shared that the temporary welcoming center was moved to face Alamo Street.

Rogers updated the AAB on the City of San Antonio's Phase 1 construction project taking place between the Menger Hotel and the Alamo. The project was time intensive and involved dozens of masons working around the clock to install pavers.

Rogers said that the construction surrounding the Alamo's Exhibition Hall and Collection's Building was on track for an opening at the end of 2022.

Rogers mentioned that the architectural team for the Museum and Visitor's Center were fully onboarded. She noted that the preservationist Marcel Quimby started historic building scans and worked to determine what parts of the Crockett Historic Building could be saved. It was shared that Patrick Gallagher and his team continued their work around the exhibit spaces.

Rogers spoke of the relocation of the Education Building into Alamo Hall. She explained that the building would be equipped with lecture space, classrooms, and a learning studio. Rogers mentioned that the Cenotaph investigations had been placed on hold. She concluded with the announcement of a future permit request for geotechnical boring.

Rogers thanked the AAB and THC for their continued support.

Bruseth asked for questions, heard none, and thanked Rogers.

## **7. Alamo Conservation Permit #1095 Amendment**

Bruseth called on Graham to present AAB Item #6.

Graham described a permit amendment requested for work at Excavation Unit (EU-9) at the Alamo's Long Barracks. The work centered around the installment of moisture monitors and the stabilization of the walls which were previously permitted at EU-12 on the opposite end of the building. She explained that the re-excavation of EU-9 for this purpose was necessary due to the installation of a public exhibit at EU-12 which made installation of moisture monitors difficult and unsightly. She presented a series of slides that helped AAB members understand the building layout, location of EUs, the appearance of the monitoring technology, and the overall scope of the amendment. Graham referred to John Mize (Architect- Ford, Powell & Carson) and Pam Rosser (Conservator – Alamo), who were present to answer any questions for the AAB.

Bruseth thanked Graham and presented the motion for Item #6.

Limbacher moved on the motion.

Rick Lewis seconded the motion.

Bruseth asked for discussion, heard none, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **8. Adjournment**

Bruseth called for a motion to adjourn the AAB meeting.

Ward made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

ITEM # 3

# Permits Issued Report

Active Permits Issued between 1/1/2022 and 3/31/2022

Permit	SAL	Type	Project	Issued	Expires	Period Effect
1133	Fayette County Courthouse & Jail	New Construction	Texas Veterans Memorial	1/24/2022	3/31/2023	14 months
1140	Harris County Courthouse	Architectural Investigation	Geotechnical Test and Report. Plan to do four (4) borings of 4" - 6" diameter on the first floor of the courthouse.	1/26/2022	2/1/2023	1 year
1138	Fair Park	Restoration	Replace worn, non-original vinyl shutters on front(south facing) side of house with custom Spanish Cedar shutters (16 total shutters)	2/2/2022	3/1/2023	1 year
1141	Magoffin Home State Historic Site	Architectural Investigation	Moisture monitoring Program for the Historic Magoffin Home	2/3/2022	2/29/2024	2 years
1136	Fort Worth Stock Yards Sign	Preservation	Preservation and repair of entry sign including parged concrete columns, steel truss, metal sign, electrical and lighting	2/17/2022	3/1/2023	1 year
1139	Goliad County Courthouse	Rehabilitation	HVAC Replacement and Upgrade	3/3/2022	8/31/2022	6 months
1145	Lee County Courthouse	Rehabilitation	Structural Stabilization	3/4/2022	4/1/2025	3 Years
1144	Comal County Courthouse	Rehabilitation	Replacement of courthouse bell tower lighting fixtures	3/7/2022	3/1/2023	1 year
1146	Brackenridge Park	Rehabilitation	Carnahan Canal and Curiosity Lane Bridge Restoration and Reconstruction	3/21/2022	9/1/2022	6 months

Permit	SAL	Type	Project	Issued	Expires	Period Effect
1150	Harris County Courthouse	New Construction	Add control access security door to first floor. This will be a glass door with security card access similar to existing on same floor	3/29/2022	4/3/2023	1 Year
1149	Coryell County Courthouse	Preservation	Install Irrigation System to Lawn	3/30/2022	4/1/2023	1 Year

# Completion Report

Between 1/1/2022 and 3/31/2022

Permit	SAL	Permit Type	Project	Report Approved
1117	Admiral Nimitz State Historical Park	Restoration	Nimitz Ballroom Renovation(Bring back to 1930's era)	1/10/2022
1002	Pease District Park	Rehabilitation	Kingsbury Commons	1/31/2022
1105	Governor's Mansion, The	Rehabilitation	Install gas connections in four downstairs fireplaces in 1865 mansion	2/2/2022
1017	DeWitt County Courthouse	Rehabilitation	Drainage and Basement Envelope Waterproofing	2/8/2022
1010	Goliad County Courthouse	Rehabilitation	Structural and Architectural Repairs	2/24/2022
1147	Leon County Courthouse and Jail	Rehabilitation	Replace unoriginal door that was broken into	3/24/2022

ITEM # 5

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Item 5B  
Texas Historical Commission  
Antiquities Advisory Board Meeting  
April 29, 2022

## Discussion and possible action regarding Historic Buildings and Structures Permit #1041 for Hull and Blister Rehabilitation, USS *Texas*, La Porte, Harris County

### Background

The Battleship Texas (USS *Texas*) is the last remaining battleship that participated in both World War I and World War II. The ship was commissioned on March 12, 1914 by the U.S. Navy. In 1916, it became the first battleship to mount anti-aircraft guns and the first to control gunfire with range-keepers and directors. In World War I, USS *Texas* was part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battle Squadron of the British Grand Fleet. Later in the war, the ship was converted to run on fuel instead of coal. In World War II, the ship was involved in firing on Nazi defenses in Normandy on D-Day. USS *Texas* was decommissioned on April 21, 1948 to serve as a museum located along the Houston Ship Channel and adjacent to the San Jacinto battleground and monument. The USS *Texas* is a National Historic Landmark, a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark, and a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL).

In accordance with a 99-year lease stipulated in Texas Senate Bill 1511, 83d Leg., R.S. (2019), the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department applied for a Historic Buildings and Structures Permit on behalf of the Battleship Texas Foundation with Valkor as the project professional. When this item was first presented at the Joint Meeting of the Antiquities Advisory Board and the Texas Historical Commission on July 18, 2019, the motion granted authority to the Executive Director and the Executive Committee of the Texas Historical Commission to issue a permit consistent with the conceptual treatment plan presented during that meeting. Permit 1041 was approved in March 2020, but was placed on hold by mutual agreement until design details were finalized.

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### Other Recent Historic Structure (HS) Permits on the Battleship

- *HS1042 Hull and Blister Rehabilitation* (issued 6/7/2020)
    - This permit covers preparation and transit to a shipyard
  - *HS1043 Macro-Objects* (issued 4/13/2020):
    - This permit covers restoration of the large, fixed objects, primarily from the ship decks.
  - *HS1062 Equipment Reproduction* (issued 11/13/2020):
    - This scope addressed reproduction of missing equipment and features.
  - *HS1081 Repairs to the Aft Fire Control Tower* (issued 8/1/2021):
    - This scope corrects severe deficiencies in the superstructure, including the Aft Fire Control Tower, mainmast, smokestack, superstructure deck, and foremast.
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## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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### Permit HS 1041 Scope of Work – approved 3/24/2020, but not issued

Since many details of the hull and blister rehabilitation plan changed following the July 18, 2019 Commission meeting, a new permit application was required with a more limited scope which was approved at an Executive Committee meeting on March 24, 2020.

The approved permit application scope covered the rehabilitation of the ship at a shipyard, including:

- Hull replacement **below the wind/water line**
- **Structural frame repairs** of the ship
- **Repair of the blister tanks**
- Applying a marine-grade coating
- Installing a cathodic protection system
- Repairing other structural deterioration discovered during the project.

### Permit HS 1041 Scope of Work – Requested Revisions (under consideration)

Over two years has elapsed since permit 1041 was approved as the design was refined. The Battleship Texas Foundation requests the following revisions to the permit scope before issuance:

- Rehabilitate the hull by **double plating the hull from approximately four feet above the waterline** down
- **Rebuild the blister tanks** from the waterline down to eight feet above the keel
- Repair framing in the inner bottom of the ship, **adding stiffeners as necessary**

### Staff Recommendation

THC staff has reviewed the revisions to the Historic Buildings and Structures Permit #1041 application provided by the Battleship Texas Foundation on behalf of TPWD and Valkor and finds the submitted revised documentation to be sufficiently complete for issuance of a permit to rehabilitate the hull and blister.

### Suggested Motion

- Move that the Antiquities Advisory Board send forward to the Commission and recommend approval to authorize the Executive Director to issue State Antiquities Landmark Historic Buildings and Structures Permit #1041 for the rehabilitation of the hull and blister of the USS *Texas*, La Porte, Harris County, as described in the permit application with the submitted scope revisions, contingent on the work adhering to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Vessel Preservation Projects and Guidelines for Applying the Standards*.

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Item 5C  
Texas Historical Commission  
Antiquities Advisory Board Meeting  
April 29, 2022

## Discussion and possible action to amend Historic Buildings and Structures permit #1042 for preparation, transportation, and temporary relocation at a Shipyard, Battleship Texas, La Porte, Harris County

### Background

The Battleship Texas (USS *Texas*) is the last remaining battleship that participated in both World War I and World War II. The ship was commissioned on March 12, 1914 by the U.S. Navy. In 1916, it became the first battleship to mount anti-aircraft guns and the first to control gunfire with range-keepers and directors. In World War I, USS *Texas* was part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battle Squadron of the British Grand Fleet. Later in the war, the ship was converted to run on fuel instead of coal. In World War II, the ship was involved in firing on Nazi defenses in Normandy on D-Day. USS *Texas* was decommissioned on April 21, 1948 to serve as a museum located along the Houston Ship Channel and adjacent to the San Jacinto battleground and monument. The USS *Texas* is a National Historic Landmark, a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark, and a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL).

In accordance with a 99-year lease stipulated in Texas Senate Bill 1511, 83d Leg., R.S. (2019), the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department applied for a Historic Buildings and Structures Permit on behalf of the Battleship Texas Foundation with Valkor as the project professional. When this item was first presented at the Joint Meeting of the Antiquities Advisory Board and the Texas Historical Commission on July 18, 2019, the motion granted authority to the Executive Director and the Executive Committee of the Texas Historical Commission to issue a permit consistent with the conceptual treatment plan presented during that meeting. Following that action, this permit and three amendments were approved over the past 33 months.

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### Other Recent Historic Structure (HS) Permits on the Battleship

- *HS1041 Hull and Blister Rehabilitation* (approved by Commission, currently on hold)
  - This permit covers work at the shipyard, including inner framing repair/stiffening and plating of hull and blister tanks
- *HS1043 Macro-Objects* (issued 4/13/2020):
  - This permit covers restoration of the large, fixed objects, primarily from the ship decks.
- *HS1062 Equipment Reproduction* (issued 11/13/2020):
  - This scope addressed reproduction of missing equipment and features.
- *HS1081 Repairs to the Aft Fire Control Tower* (issued 8/1/2021):
  - This scope corrects severe deficiencies in the superstructure, including the Aft Fire Control Tower, mainmast, smokestack, superstructure deck, and foremast.

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### Permit HS 1042 Scope of Work - issued 6/7/2020, expires 12/31/2025

This scope covers the transport of the ship to the shipyard, including advance preparations using marine salvage techniques to mitigate and minimize flooding and water communication inside the vessel and ballasting the ship to relieve structural strain. It also includes dredging the existing slip to

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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remove the ship, which was previously permitted by the United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Three previous amendments were made to Antiquities Permit #1042 at the staff level as follows:

- Amendment 1 (*June 2020*) – Changing the location of a 2ft by 4 ft temporary hole from tank C-852-I-V to blister tank C-45-P-I-V
- Amendment 2 (*July 2020*) - Cut access holes in the tops of all blister tank tops, 22 port side and 22 starboard side, for ventilation and temporary staging of equipment to enable safe and efficient entry and work within the blister tanks for the installation of closed-cell foam. Cut into side of the blisters A-94-I-V, A-95-I-V, D-95-2-V, and D-96-2-V to facilitate foaming. Temporarily weld tabs to the blister tank tops and sides to attach temporary structural supports to facilitate safe lowering and extracting of personnel and equipment into the blister tanks. Add foam to an additional number of blister tanks.
- Amendment 3 (*November 2020*) - Cut two approximately 18” x 24” holes in tanks D-94-F and D-93-F and weld a temporary hatch over the holes to allow safe access.

### Permit HS 1042 Scope of Work –Amendment 4 (under consideration)

Nearly two years has elapsed since permit 1042 was issued. The Battleship Texas Foundation requests the following amendments to update and clarify open issues in the original permit scope:

- Submission and validation of the tow preparations and dead ship tow plan to the U S Coast Guard (USCG) Salvage Engineering Response Team (SERT) **may not be required**, as previously specified for Permit 1042 to become effective
- Battleship will be **wet-towed** from the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site through the Houston Ship Canal to Galveston
- **Gulf Copper in Galveston** has been selected as the shipyard qualified to make repairs
- At the shipyard, Battleship will be **dry docked** for repairs

### Staff Recommendation

THC staff has reviewed the amendments to the Historic Buildings and Structures Permit #1042 provided by the Battleship Texas Foundation on behalf of TPWD and Valkor and finds the submitted documentation to be sufficiently complete to amend the permit to prepare and transport the ship to Gulf Copper shipyard in Galveston. Gulf Copper qualifications to repair historic vessels have been evidenced by similar repairs to historic vessels including the USS *Orleck* (Jacksonville, FL), the USS *Stewart* (Seawolf Park, Galveston), the *Ocean Star* (Offshore Energy Center), and the tall ship *Elissa* (Galveston Historical Seaport).

### Suggested Motion

Move that the Antiquities Advisory Board send forward to the Commission and recommend approval to authorize the Executive Director to amend State Antiquities Landmark Historic Buildings and Structures Permit #1042 for the preparation, transportation, and temporary relocation of Battleship Texas, La Porte, Harris County, to Gulf Copper shipyard in Galveston as stated in the permit amendment scope, contingent upon adherence to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Vessel Preservation Projects and Guidelines for Applying the Standards* and effective upon the issuance of the Dead Ship Tow plan letter by the USCG Captain of the Port and final approval by the Marine Warranty Surveyor.

March 31, 2022

Valkor Energy Services  
21732 Provincial Blvd  
Ste. 160  
Katy, TX. 77450

Attn: Brad Currin  
Email: brad.currin@valkor.com  
Phone: 832-493-5100  
Phone:

Subj: Battleship Texas Availability  
Scope: Statement of Qualifications

Dear Brad,

Gulf Copper has been involved in the preservation and restoration of several Maritime Historical Artifacts.

Gulf Copper was instrumental in the preservation and make ready for the USS Orleck, DD-886 for its debut as the latest museum ship. The Orleck was drydocked on behalf of the Jacksonville Fl Historic Naval Ship Association for repairs prior to the opening of the Museum in June of 2022.

Gulf Copper installed doubler plates on the riveted portion of the hull located midships similar to what the plan is for repairs the Battleship Texas. Additionally, the overboard openings in the side shell were covered and closed using 1/4"plate.

Prior to beginning any work, paint was tested and determined to contain lead. Normal Containment, testing and some abatement was accomplished to minimize the exposure and risk of lead paint.

Gulf Copper installed approximately 1,880 square feet of plate on the ORLECK due to wastage or damage. Approximately 10% of welds were tested using MT.

We removed the remaining shafts which were protruding thru the stern tubes and sealed the tubes using plate. All welds were tested using MT.

A new platform was created with a stairway and installed as an emergency egress leafing from oft of the flight deck to the main deck. A hatch leading to the aft quarters was replaced with an owner furnished period specific hatch. Various handrails in need of repair were repaired or replaced in preparation for opening to the public.

After all repairs were completed, the ship was blasted, and painted using Jotan paint. This includes the UW Hull, Freeboard, Main Deck, Guns and other appendages, the mast, super structure and applied non-skid on the decks.

While working on the USS Orleck, Gulf Copper saw the historical significance of the asset and worked extremely diligent to maintain the period authenticity as much as possible.

Recently we have completed repairs on the USS Stewart, DE-235, located at Seawolf Park for the Cavalla Historic Society. We removed the upper mast, brought it to the shop, rebuilt it to resemble the original configuration, galvanized it for longevity, and reinstalled it on the Stewart.

Additionally, we removed, procured, and installed 4 watertight doors representative of period authenticity.

We removed, designed, and fabricated a mock antenna resembling the original configuration and reinstalled it on the mast.

Along the way, we have also removed and replaced several beams on the gun mount foundations that have rotted due to age.

Gulf Copper accomplished a successful drydocking of the Tall Ship Elissa for a routine and periodic docking. Work we performed was to remove, inspect, clean, and reinstall the tail shaft and prop. We repaired the rudder at various eroded points by clad weld and inserts. Gulf Copper worked with the Texas Seaport Museum and regulatory agencies to retain as much of the historical significant structures and original iron while maintaining the overall integrity of the hull and structure.

Prior to undocking, Gulf Copper did a blast and paint with a standard marine coat system the entire UW Hull, Freeboard and topside surfaces.

Gulf Copper has accomplished repairs to the Ocean Star, an historic asset of the Offshore Energy Center. We have repaired leaking roofs on the doghouse and the walkway. There has been steel replacement accomplished on the superstructure, doghouse, and lower skirt as well as the drill floor substructure.

Additionally, Gulf Copper has accomplished the repairs to various electrical systems and the exhibits. We also replaced the Half Pipe scuppers.

All work was done to keep the original look and configuration of the vessels while recognizing the historical significance of all of these assets.

Respectfully,

*Robert Harris*

Robert Harris  
Estimating & Planning Manager  
Gulf Copper Drydock & Rig Repair.