

THE

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# MEDALLION

SPRING 2024



## CLUES TO THE PAST

NEW FINDINGS SPUR  
UPGRADE PROJECTS  
AT THC HISTORIC SITES







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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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*Save the Date*

**REAL PLACES**  
**April 22-25,**  
**2025**

This year's Real Places conference was a big success, and the THC is already planning next year's event! It's not too early to mark your calendars for the 2025 conference, guaranteed to feature dynamic sessions dedicated to Texas' proud heritage.

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

ABOVE, TOP: Spring wildflowers cover the grounds at Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site. ON THE COVER: Fanthorp Inn in Anderson dates to 1834.





ANJALI KAUL ZUTSHI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
FRIENDS OF THE THC  
LEADERSHIP LETTER

The dust has settled from our agency's Real Places 2024 conference in Austin, and I'm proud to say we experienced another successful event that drew positive feedback from preservationists all across Texas and beyond.

As host of the conference, the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission takes a lot of pride in knowing the event was so well-received. The response from attendees was especially impressive this year, with almost 80 percent saying they'll definitely return next year.

When the Texas Historical Commission first created this conference in 2016, it drew modest crowds and had a steep learning curve. Now, eight years later, the event has become efficient and productive, incorporating new resources like virtual attendance, world-renowned keynote speakers, and workshops featuring national experts. That first year, there were only 268 attendees—this year, more than 800 people joined us.

The conference focused on preservation successes, challenges, and lessons learned at the national, state, and local levels. We brought an enlightening and diverse showcase of voices who represent the future of historic preservation, archeology, heritage tourism, and history education. Our organizers, speakers, and staff worked hard to ensure attendees discovered the tools and resources they'd need to learn best-practice historic preservation techniques and strategies for the betterment of their communities.

Real Places brought together passionate community members, industry experts, accomplished scholars, business owners, and nonprofits. Networking among all these groups offered dynamic opportunities for everyone in the field of preservation.

I want to thank all the dedicated agency staff who contributed in many ways to the successful conference. I would also like to thank our generous title partner, Phoenix I Restoration and Construction, LLC, a benefactor of this conference for eight years and counting. We couldn't have done this without their generosity and the support of all our sponsors, volunteers, and partners.

We're already planning for next year's Real Places conference, so please mark your calendars for April 22–25, 2025. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Anjali Kaul Zutshi

Executive Director, Friends of the Texas Historical Commission



# BURSTING IN AIR

## SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STAFF FIRED UP FOR CANNON PROGRAM

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

Boom!

Everybody knows what a cannon sounds like. But have you ever wondered what it feels like to fire one?

Pamela Kouame, the lead educator/interpreter at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, recently learned this distinctive skill at a cannon training with several colleagues.

“The thrill of firing a cannon is like being a kid at Christmas who just opened a gift but has only one thing on their mind—the next gift,” she says, adding that the most exciting part “is the explosion, of course!”

Kouame explains that just as a child must wait their turn to open the next gift, a cannon crew has to proceed safely through drill steps to clear the cannon before loading and firing the next charge. As a crew moves through each step of the drill, they must be alert to any possible sign of danger, since one misstep can have dangerous consequences.

“Then, just before you fire the cannon, you feel a mixture of anticipation with a slight fear of a potential misfire and the possible dangers involved,” she says. “But it’s a fear that quickly vanishes with the cannon’s next flash!”

She adds, “It’s pretty amazing to experience all the sensations involved in firing a cannon, from smelling the sulfur in the gunpowder smoke, to feeling the grain of the gunpowder as you prick and prime the charge, to hearing the sounds of various artillery commands.”

Kouame notes that San Jacinto’s education team recently grew from two to four members, allowing them to expand program offerings like monthly cannon demonstrations, which began in January 2024. Their recent training was conducted by James Glover with members of the Brazoria Militia and the U.S. Field Artillery Association. Topics included a basic overview of cannons, safety precautions for setting up and conducting artillery drills, making gunpowder charges, and running artillery drills to gain hands-on practice for each crew position.

During the training, Kouame and her team fired a replica French Canon de 6 système An XI—a six-pound field cannon developed and used extensively by Napoleon Bonaparte. She notes that Glover and his team named their cannon Rainmaker because their demonstrations often coincide with unfavorable weather conditions.

“Luckily the rain held out for our cannon school day,” she says.

According to Kouame, a successful cannon drill involves the execution of several tasks, from pricking the gunpowder charge to the laborious task of ramming the charge or sponging the cannon bore. She found the most challenging aspect was keeping track of all the tasks and performing them in order.

“As a student in cannon training, you learn every position of the cannon crew and there is certainly a learning curve,” she says. “Luckily, Glover and his team were very patient with us and made sure we were all safe as we stumbled through





several drills. As difficult as it could be at times, it was so much fun to learn this new skill and to do it together.”

According to San Jacinto Battleground Site Manager Andy Smith, cannon firing was a significant part of the San Jacinto Day celebration on April 21, although ceremonial duties were deferred to the traditional handlers in the Sons of the Republic of Texas. The group fired their cannon, Rolling Thunder, during the National Anthem (“the bombs bursting in air”) and at the end of the ceremony in coordination with members of the Texas Army as they fired musket salutes. Smith explains that there are typically three sets of these salutes—one for the Texans who fought and died at the Battle of San Jacinto, one for Sam Houston and the Texas Army members who have since passed, and one for current military and first responders.

“Usually, the cannon firing and musket firing is the high point of the ceremony, eliciting the most applause,” he says.

Kouame adds that the staff members who participated in cannon safety training will run regular demonstrations at the site and help inform educators and staff about the important responsibility of making the Battle of San Jacinto’s history more relatable to visitors. Further down the road, she hopes site staff can procure a replica of the Mexican cannon El Volcán for their demonstrations. She explains that they are

currently using a howitzer cannon that is slightly outside of the site’s period of interpretation, although it’s very similar to the technology available at the time of the Battle of San Jacinto.

“We look forward to hopefully adding the Volcán cannon, since it’ll provide greater historical accuracy to our interpretive programming,” she says.

In the meantime, visitors interested in experiencing the cannons can see and hear them (but not fire them) at the site’s cannon demonstrations, held on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Cannons are fired every half hour from 10–11:30 a.m. during the summer; in October, the timing shifts to 1–2:30 p.m.

“I hope everyone interested in this topic will come to the battleground to learn more about the cannons at the Battle of San Jacinto,” Kouame says. “I love being part of this unparalleled experience unique to historic sites, where history’s names and dates become visceral, and the visitor makes personal connections with the past.”

To learn more about San Jacinto Battleground, go to [visitsanjacinto.com](http://visitsanjacinto.com).

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OPPOSITE AND BELOW: Cannon aficionados of all ages visit San Jacinto Battleground to experience the sights, sounds, and even the smells of artillery-firing events held regularly at the site.





Story and Photos by Andy Rhodes, Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

# CLUES TO THE PAST

## NEW FINDINGS SPUR UPGRADE PROJECTS AT THC SITES





As they step onto the 190-year-old porch of the recently restored Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site, visitors encounter an atypical time capsule. Hidden beneath a hinged piece of siding is a wooden clapboard with faded writing. The elongated loopy curves are unmistakably cursive, but the words are elusive.

“It’s still a mystery—some people think it’s a name, others think it’s German words. I love that it’s making so many people curious about who could have been standing here in the 1800s,” says Jonathan Failor, site manager of the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) property in Anderson. “So many folks passed through here over the years on their way to new beginnings or defending their country. And some of them literally left their mark with writing on the walls. It’s pretty fascinating.”

This intriguing feature is part of the site’s recent \$900,000 exterior restoration, which included much-needed upgrades to the rotting and deteriorating roof, walls, windows, and shutters. A fresh coat of white paint makes the site pop against the rolling green prairie of eastern Texas. Interior restorations are underway and are expected to be completed in time for summer travelers. (Please check in advance.)

The site dates to 1834, when English immigrant Henry Fanthorp constructed a two-room cedar log dogtrot cabin on the busy La Bahía Road. Over time, he would add more than a dozen rooms and host high-profile guests and

community members at his namesake inn and restaurant.

“You’re standing in a room that has been in existence under four of the six flags of Texas,” says Chandler Wahrmund, the site’s educator/interpreter, adding that Fanthorp Inn is one of the oldest extant Anglo structures in Texas.

Wahrmund notes that several well-known guests stayed at the inn, most famously Sam Houston, who visited 13

times. In addition, the property boasts several pieces of original furniture, including two armoires that have never left the property. Fanthorp was a crafty entrepreneur who continually found new ways to expand sources of income, and by 1854 his inn could accommodate more than 100 guests in 36 rooms.

“He was very opportunistic,” Wahrmund adds. “In many ways, he was the embodiment of the American dream



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AT RIGHT: Site Manager Jonathan Failor holds a board with messages from the 1980s restoration; Failor examines porch wallboard writing; the site’s new cedar shake roof.



Fanthorp Inn faced La Bahía Road

at the time, finding as many ways as possible to make the most of his resources. This wasn't just a hotel back then, it was a restaurant, a place to buy special food, and socialize. It was like the 1850s version of Buc-ees."

According to Failor, enslaved individuals also lived on the property, and archeological investigations unearthed crystals associated with spiritual practices tied to traditional African ceremonies. By 1860, Fanthorp had 37 enslaved people at the site, half of them children. Most of the enslaved people worked in the fields, where they mainly harvested corn, vegetables, and potatoes to supply the inn's restaurant.

By the late 1800s, the inn's fortunes diminished after railroads bypassed Anderson. The Fanthorp family continued to own and occupy the property until 1977, when they transferred it to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD). It became a THC property in 2019.

In the mid-1980s, TPWD staff undertook a restoration project to replace ex-

terior siding; in the process, they added their own legacy by writing names and messages on the underside of wooden boards, which were discovered during the THC's recent restoration. Included among the writings were references to the Challenger Space Shuttle explosion and lyrics from the 1969 song "In the Year 2525" ("If man is still alive...").

"They left us another time capsule," Failor says with a smile. "I love this kind of history."

### WASHINGTON RISING

Failor is also site manager for nearby Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, which is undertaking an extensive project that will utterly transform the property. Several buildings from the original 1830s townsite will be reconstructed and reimaged as interactive living-history experiences for visitors.

Archeological work began in April 2023 with a geophysical survey, coupled with research by historian Michael Moore, who led historical development for a similar project at the THC's San Felipe

de Austin State Historic Site. According to Failor, Moore discovered gaps in existing research and helped close them by providing updated information.

One example was Lott's Tavern, which was traditionally assumed to be in a different location. The tavern, built in 1835, hosted many of the delegates who came to Washington during the convention of 1836.

"People like Davy Crockett stayed there on his way to the Alamo, which, as we all know, is a place he never left," Failor says. "Lott's Tavern has so many connections to the story of Texas' history—it's a really important structure."

The site is located where a maintenance facility was built in the 1920s, resulting in an archeological puzzle that Failor and his staff were excited to tackle. In the process, they discovered remains of a brick fireplace, a likely corner foundation, pottery shards, pipe fragments, and even a couple surprise artifacts.

"We found a beautiful solid gold pocket-watch key and two historic coins—one was an 1820 Spanish silver dollar, and the other was an 1831 U.S. dime," Failor explains. "You think to yourself, 'Wow—was this spent at this tavern? Did they fall out of someone's pocket? It really puts you back in this exact place at the time.'"

Failor acknowledges the reconstructions present a unique challenge for preservationists, who can have differing views on the approach and scale of reimagining history. As a result, he, his staff, and consultants are taking a layered approach to the project based on THC leadership and results of a visitor survey conducted by Texas A&M University.



Respondents were asked to provide feedback about four interpretation options: Fully recreated buildings, ghost structures (structural framing/outlining), virtual reality, and exposed archeology.

“The results showed that the most impactful was full-blown recreations,” he says. “Archeology also received very high marks, which was something that also intrigued us.”

### RECONSTRUCTION PLANS

Failor points to the proposed Rutgers Drug Store as an example of a hybrid approach. The 1830s building is one of the few included in a rare 1850s photo of Washington, allowing staff to accurately recreate the building’s exterior over an exposed archeological area to provide a multi-layered view of the site’s historical eras.

“When you go inside, there’ll be some sort of catwalk allowing visitors to look down at the brick ruins and learn how the town developed over the years,” he says. “I’m very excited about that as a means of dramatic and immersive storytelling.”

Another reconstruction Failor is anticipating is Hatfield’s Exchange, a two-story building with historical significance. In fact, Washington-on-

the-Brazos staff determined it was their most-preferred structure to revisit. Originally constructed in the late 1830s for riverboat captain Basil Hatfield, the building housed a saloon on the first floor and a pool hall upstairs.

“What makes it a significant building is that it’s where the 8th and 9th Texas Congress met. The House of Representatives also met on the second floor,” Failor explains. “So, when the Republic relocated its government offices to Washington in 1842, they took over vacant buildings in town like Hatfield’s Exchange.”

He adds that Anson Jones, the last president of Texas, hosted his inauguration and his inaugural ball in the building, and it’s also where the special session in June 1845 took place that led to annexation.

“That’s the building where the end of the Republic began,” Failor says. “And just a block to the south is where the Republic was born on March 2, 1836. So, it’s really this incredible bookend to the whole story.”

Failor also looks forward to expanding the site’s story by including interpretation about Washington’s carpenter shop,



Washington circa 1860

where three Spanish-speaking delegates stayed during the 1836 convention— José Antonio Navarro, José Ruiz, and Lorenzo de Zavala.

“People want to see where they fit in, and even though it’s largely a white male story, there are other stories that haven’t always been told,” Failor says. “Some people hear we’re going to tell other stories, and they might think we’re trying to change history. We’re just trying to expand it. It’s all part of the same story. We’re adding pages to the book, not taking pages away from it.”

He adds, “We feel really good about what we’ve got so far. Since 1916, the story of the townsite has been about how the Republic of Texas started, but not how that country existed. I’m excited that we’re going to be able to tell this story at the actual townsite like we never have before.”

To learn more about heritage travel attractions in the area, visit [textstimetravel.com](http://textstimetravel.com).

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LEFT: Draft rendering of Main Street reconstructions. Courtesy G&A (Gallagher and Associates).





# REAL FACES 2024

THC CONFERENCE DRAWS 800 ATTENDEES FOR THREE FUN DAYS IN AUSTIN

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

The eighth annual Real Places conference, held at the Renaissance Austin Hotel April 3–5, was a resounding success. As the faces on these pages indicate, attendees, speakers, and exhibitors enjoyed three days of learning about historic preservation activities throughout the state. Highlights included keynote speeches by esteemed authors and historians, workshops with industry experts, and dynamic sessions dedicated to all aspects of Texas history. Mark your calendars for next year's event: April 22-25, 2025.

Photos by Patrick Hughey.











# ANTISEMITISM AWARENESS

THGAAC PROVIDES VALUABLE RESOURCES DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

By Joy Nathan  
THGAAC Executive Director

Jewish communities have been on high alert in the Lone Star State, from social media to public spaces, especially local high schools and universities. Nearly 10 months ago, the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission (THGAAC), the state agency tasked with identifying antisemitism, submitted its Study on Antisemitism to state leaders.

On October 7, 2023, the terrorist group Hamas launched a coordinated surprise attack on the State of Israel, brutally murdering, maiming, and raping more than 1,200 primarily civilian Israelis and kidnapping 240 men, women, and children, including babies. The horrific act of unprovoked violence was the bloodiest day for Jewish people since the Holocaust, less than 80 short years ago.

Hamas' official charter makes clear that its intent is to annihilate Israel and kill Jewish people. During Hamas' 15 years of elected rule in Gaza, it has prosecuted a guerilla-style campaign through a series of continual suicide bombings, rocket launches, checkpoint ambushes, arson, and other deadly means, culminating on the multi-prong incursion into Israel on October 7. Israel declared war on Hamas and initiated ground operations in Gaza to eliminate the terror organization.

Tragically, this terrorist attack and subsequent military response revealed a worldwide wave of antisemitism from the Middle East to Europe to the United States, including many anti-Israel rallies on college campuses where antisemitic incidents are surging to an all-time high. These incidents range from common protestor tools like walkouts, harassment, and vandalism and have escalated in many cases to physical assault against Jews,

Zionists, and their allies. These activities have become so frequent that the Anti-Defamation League, a leading anti-hate organization, noted that occurrences of antisemitism could be tracked hourly. Now, many Jews in Texas feel as if they face their gravest threat in decades.

The THGAAC, an advisory commission to the Texas Historical Commission, immediately identified ways to serve Texans at this crucial moment. It connected with the Texas Education Agency and regional education centers to ensure educational resources were distributed statewide while also coordinating with state leaders, local communities, and museums to provide accurate information about the Israel-Hamas conflict and rising antisemitism at home and opportunities to support Jewish Texans.

Gov. Greg Abbott hosted an emergency meeting of the THGAAC on October 30, 2023, in his Capitol office. He addressed the commissioners and tasked them with two directives: to devise ways to identify acts of antisemitism and quickly report them to law enforcement, and to identify ways law enforcement, the state, and local governments can take preemptive action against dangerous acts of antisemitism before they occur. The THGAAC quickly sprang into action and issued an addendum to its original Study on Antisemitism, which provided recommendations to combat antisemitism in advance of their events.

"Texas will always support Israel and the Jewish People, and I thank the THGAAC for swiftly answering my call to research ways we can continue to combat antisemitism across our state," Abbott said, "Now, more than ever, we need to support our friends in the Jewish community. Through THGAAC's work,





we will continue to raise awareness and combat acts of hate in Texas to chart a course toward a brighter future for every Texan.”

Additionally, on March 27, 2024, Abbott issued an executive order to fight antisemitic acts on college campuses. He tasked the board of regents of each Texas public university to update their policies.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has indicated that combating antisemitism on Texas college campuses is a priority in the next legislative session. He tasked the Senate’s interim legislative charges to “Review campus policies to prevent antisemitism (and) study the oversight Texas institutions of higher education have over the formation and operations of student organizations, including access to campus facilities and use of campus property. Make recommendations to prevent antisemitism on college campuses while protecting First Amendment rights.”

The THGAAC stands ready to assist and advise the legislature as they work to halt the spread of antisemitism.

In addition to providing updated resources to understand and combat antisemitism, also referred to as Jewish hate, the THGAAC continues to offer educational materials to all Texans on the Holocaust and other genocides. The THGAAC’s robust website, [thgaac.texas.gov](http://thgaac.texas.gov), includes a roadmap of learning opportunities for Holocaust Remembrance Week (January 27–31, 2025), genocides, and antisemitism, as well as connections to events, including commemorations, speakers, and grants to nonprofit organizations located in Texas.

The THGAAC’s mission is to combat and confront hatred, prejudice, and indifference by educating all Texans about the Holocaust and other genocides. It works with schools,

museums, community organizations, public officials, and other partners to ensure that Texans understand the impact of the war in Israel and the hate that is rising.

This fall, the THGAAC will issue two reports to the Texas Legislature. One will focus on the Study of Antisemitism in Texas, and the second is a report on Holocaust Remembrance Week implementation with recommendations for expanding the teaching of the Holocaust in grades K-12, which was mandated by the state in 2019 through Senate Bill 1828.

The Friends of the THGAAC, which serves as a philanthropic arm to raise outside funds to support the THGAAC’s work, is off to an impressive start. The Friends of the THGAAC received a generous \$250,000 grant from the Moody Foundation to combat antisemitism at public colleges and universities in Texas. Communities in Austin, San Antonio, and Houston have hosted parlor meetings to raise awareness of the commission and have secured over \$30,000 in funding.

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ABOVE FROM LEFT: Gov. Greg Abbott addressing the THGAAC at an emergency meeting on October 30, 2023; State Coordinator of Education Dr. J.E. Wolfson at De La Vina Elementary School in Edinburg during Holocaust Remembrance Week; Friends of the THGAAC Parlor Meeting in Houston (from right to left: Friends of the THGAAC Development Manager Scott Kammerman, Chair of Friends of the THGAAC Steve Finkelman, THGAAC Commissioner Ira Mitzner, THGAAC Commissioner Lucy Katz, THGAAC Executive Director Joy Nathan, THGAAC Chair Ken Goldberg, THGAAC Commissioner Providence Nkurunziza, and THGAAC Commissioner Jay Zeidman; the Hate Ends Now Cattle Car Exhibit received a THGAAC education grant to bring Holocaust awareness to South Texas communities.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## JOSEPH BELL NAMED NEW THC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is excited to announce Joseph Bell's promotion to Executive Director of the agency and its 350 employees. Bell has been the Deputy Executive Director of Historic Sites since 2015, providing guidance and oversight to the agency's 38 state historic sites.



Some key initiatives under Bell's leadership include the opening of the 10,000-square-foot visitor center at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, a major restoration of the Fulton Mansion State Historic Site following Hurricane Harvey, and the addition of the Bush Family Home and Presidio La Bahía as state historic sites in 2023.

"He is an ideal choice to lead the agency forward and expand its mission of saving the real places that tell the real stories of Texas," said THC Chairman John L. Nau, III.

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## THC CELEBRATES LEADERS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The THC recently honored dedicated historic preservationists, archeologists, volunteers, and others for their accomplishments and exemplary leadership in the preservation of Texas' heritage. The following THC Preservation Awards were presented at the agency's Real Places 2024 conference, April 3–5, in Austin.

The **Governor's Award for Historic Preservation** was presented to the Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution (TXDAR), an active group of approximately 19,000 women who are passionate about historic preservation, comprising 198 chapters across the state. Because of its size and many projects, TXDAR is considered one of the major organizations in Texas that informs, promotes, and engages people about history and historic preservation. Note: an official ceremony in conjunction with the Texas Governor's Office will be held later this year to present the award.

Margaret Howard received the **Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award** in Archeology for her essential contributions to the field of archeology and conservation in

Texas over nearly four decades. One of her career achievements was helping create a new initiative in 1994 at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), where she conducted comprehensive archeological surveys and generated baseline data on areas within the Texas State Parks system.

The **Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award** was awarded to Pam Wheat Stranahan for educating, preserving, mentoring, and sharing Texas history for over 44 years. She has been active with the Texas Archeological Society and Aransas County heritage groups, and she has authored many publications, including a book on the shipwreck *La Belle*.

The **John L. Nau, III Award of Excellence in Museums** was presented to the Museum and Visitor Center of the Bastrop County Historical Society. With research facilities, staff, permanent and rotating exhibits, and an exemplary visitor center, it anchors Bastrop's historic downtown, drawing over 14,000 visitors annually and preserving over 18,000 artifacts.

The **Anice B. Read Award of Excellence in Community Heritage Development** was presented to the Honorable Janet Gott, mayor of Denison. A lifelong resident, she has championed historic preservation and downtown revitalization efforts, including serving on the fundraising committee for the THC's Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site, which is undergoing a major renovation project.

The **Award of Excellence in Preserving History** was awarded to the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library of Texas Tech University for its successful digitization of more than 290,000 issues of regional West Texas newspapers over the past 10 years. The project provides researchers and the public with





perspectives of historic, social, and cultural events relevant to West Texas history.

The Bellville Turnverein Pavilion was awarded the **Award of Excellence in Historic Architecture** for the restoration project that returned the 12-sided historic dance and social hall to use as an event venue through the sensitive application of modern technology. The project introduced air conditioning to the historic wood building without visually impacting the character-defining interior space.

The **Award of Excellence in Media Achievement** went to TexasTejano.com and KSAT 12's "Tejano Moments" series of 20 educational videos that aired on San Antonio television and focused on untold stories of historical significance, people, and events. These stories highlighted the Tejano men, women, and families who helped shape Texas and the Southwest.

Bob Ward of Travis County received the **John Ben Shepperd County Historical Commission Leadership Award**. Ward is chair of the Travis County Historical Commission, an archeology and history steward, and a member of the THC's Antiquities Advisory Board. He serves on the boards of the El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Trail Association, Austin History Center Association, Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farms Board of Governance, and Preservation Austin.

Harold A. Odom, Jr. received the **George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award** for his contributions to the Odom Homestead Preservation effort in the Newton County freedom colony of Shankleville. He worked with architect Donna Carter to establish specific short-term workplans

to systematically restore each building on the site to its 1945 appearance.

To learn more about criteria and the nomination process, visit [thc.texas.gov](http://thc.texas.gov).

OPPOSITE, FAR LEFT: Joseph Bell, new THC Executive Director. OPPOSITE, FROM LEFT: THC Deputy Executive Director for Preservation Programs Brad Patterson and THC Commissioner/Secretary Garrett Donnelly present the Award of Excellence in Museums to Nicole DeGuzman and Sherri Gilmore, representing the Bastrop County Historical Society, and the Award of Excellence in Media Achievement to Rudi Rodriguez and Roslyn Jimenez, representing TexasTejano.com.

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## THC ACCEPTING EVENTS FOR ARCHEOLOGY MONTH CALENDAR

Every October, Texas Archeology Month (TAM) celebrates the spirit of discovery and promotes awareness of archeological programs throughout the state. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is accepting event submissions from the public for the annual TAM Calendar of Events. The THC invites anyone hosting an archeology or history-related event in conjunction with TAM to submit information online at [thc.texas.gov/tam](http://thc.texas.gov/tam). The deadline for submissions is September 15, 2024.

The THC sponsors TAM in association with the Texas Archeological Society and the Council of Texas Archeologists.

For more information, contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-5915.

BOTTOM: Texas Archeology Month is held each October.





## 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 be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Please email your answer to [medallion@thc.texas.gov](mailto:medallion@thc.texas.gov) or send to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711.



### NEED A CLUE?

This handsome Gothic Revival church, located at the edge of the Hill Country, features native stone and was constructed in 1899.

### ANSWER TO PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE:

The site pictured at left is the Broad Street Bridge in Mason. Because Mason had no railroad to transport large pre-fabricated

building materials, the bridge was constructed of reinforced concrete on site in 1918. It is considered the last concrete truss bridge in Texas. Congratulations go to the first readers (of many!) who correctly identified the site: Bob Flocke of Wimberley, Jerry Lawrence of Arlington, and Michael Lucas of Hamilton. Thanks to all who participated!

