

# COURTHOUSE CORNERSTONES

An Update of the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program

## THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program Sparks Economic Revitalization

**A**s downtown centerpieces throughout Texas, historic county courthouses have enormous potential to promote prosperity within a community. The restoration of these magnificent historic structures through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program has sparked a revitalization of historic downtowns across the state.

Participation in the THC's other preservation initiatives, including the Texas Main Street Program, Visionaries in Preservation or Certified Local Government, instigates a similar transformation. Whatever the level of involvement in these programs, a restored and well-maintained historic county courthouse serves as the anchor of a vibrant town center.

In addition to acting as a catalyst for a downtown renaissance by stimulating local and state economies, the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program precipitates financial growth through the monetary investment made by the state and participating counties. The state of Texas has allocated \$207 million and counties have provided local matches of more than \$130 million to execute partial work on eight and full restorations on 40 of the state's historic county courthouses, as well as to provide architectural plans and specifications in preparation for five more restorations with an additional 17 new projects underway in Round V. As a result, more than 7,750 jobs have been created along with more than \$17 million generated in local taxes.

*continued, page 2*



A stucco exterior, added in 1935, is removed from the 1889 Wharton County Courthouse.



The restoration included the demolition of the 1940s additions and replicating the pressed metal shingle roof and clock tower.

The THC recently consulted representatives from Bee, Harrison, Presidio and Wharton counties about the impact of the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program on their communities. The overwhelming consensus was their courthouse restorations played a crucial role in the resurrection of their downtowns and often acted as the primary impetus for economic renewal of the business districts adjacent to the historic courthouse square.

Beeville's downtown turnaround was the result of the leadership of Bee County, the city of Beeville, the Bee Development Authority and the Bee County Chamber of Commerce. Momentum and support for historic preservation, gained during the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program grant, assisted with the restoration of the 1912 Bee County Courthouse and ultimately led to a Texas Main Street Program application. Since that time, most of the historic commercial buildings in the 14-block area surrounding the courthouse square have been rehabilitated and are now occupied.

According to Dr. Barbara Welder, former chair of the Bee County Historical Commission, the courthouse restoration reached beyond the building's exterior walls.

"It was a catalyst that really helped redevelop downtown," she said. "The courthouse restoration was the basis of a long-range plan for the revitalization of the downtown area and resulted in a reinvestment of \$9 million in a two-year period."

Beeville's Main Street Manager Molly Young added, "Beeville was lucky enough to be awarded Main Street status during our courthouse project. The two programs have intertwined and now it's difficult to separate their impact — there's definitely a new positive energy in this community that can be attributed to both."

In the early 1980s, the city of Marshall struggled with downtown occupancy, and the dilapidated Harrison County Courthouse contributed to the district's negative image. According to Marshall's Assistant City Manager Janet Cook, the courthouse restoration instilled confidence in developers, who invested in downtown properties after construction began.

Shortly after receiving its first of three Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program grants, Marshall was recertified as a Main Street city in 2002. Subsequently, the long-abandoned Hotel Marshall, across from the courthouse, was purchased and rehabilitated under a public/private partnership. Since then, Marshall has become one of the state's most vibrant historic downtowns and continues to support new restaurants, shops and loft apartments on and around the courthouse square.

"Without the restoration of the courthouse, Marshall's downtown development could never be considered successful," Cook said. "Instead of a deteriorating building contributing to blight, the Harrison County Courthouse is once again a beautiful centerpiece for our downtown area."

“The courthouse restoration brought a lot of new businesses to the town center. [It] literally brought the town back from the dead.”

— *Barbara Young, former Chair, Wharton County Courthouse Committee*



The project is considered one of the most dramatic restorations in the program.

In Marfa, where the Presidio County Courthouse is the focal point of downtown, Mayor Dan Dunlap claims the courthouse preservation program’s dramatic restoration resulted in adjacent properties becoming particularly desirable for businesses.

“Competition for space on the square has certainly enhanced the property values,” Dunlap said.

Joni Marginit, director of the Marfa Chamber of Commerce, reports that since the completion of the restoration project several new businesses have been established on and around the courthouse square to accommodate a growing tourist industry.

As a result of its involvement with the courthouse program, the city of Marfa joined the THC’s Visionaries in Preservation program in 2005 and plans to produce a citywide preservation action plan.

When Wharton became a Texas Main Street city in the 1980s, many historic buildings on the square benefited from adaptive use despite a decrease in commercial activity due to a highway bypass. In 2000, the Wharton Economic Development Council commissioned Texas A&M’s School of Urban Planning to conduct a downtown analysis. Its report advised the city to make the most of its existing assets, primarily the historic courthouse and surrounding buildings.

Wharton County took the advice, applied to the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program and completed its courthouse restoration in August 2007. Prior to that, Wharton County considered plans to demolish its historic courthouse and construct a new facility outside of downtown.

Barbara Young, former chair of the Wharton County Courthouse Committee, believes this would have been the “final nail in the coffin” for Wharton.

“Fortunately, the courthouse restoration brought a lot of new businesses to the town center,” Young said, adding that it “literally brought the town back from the dead” and prompted regular visits from tour groups to see the courthouse and shop on the square.

A city’s involvement in urban renewal through preservation of its historic town center — particularly a restored historic county courthouse — provides a hub for a prosperous downtown and a distinctive vitality.

“We’re very proud of the commitment of counties across the state that preserve and restore their historic county courthouses through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program,” Stan Graves, director of the THC’s Architecture Division said. “It affects many facets of Texas communities by bolstering citizens’ pride, generating heritage tourism and downtown revitalization, and by enriching lives through history.”

# COURTHOUSE CRUSADER

## Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka

**H**aving recently returned from a trip to central Europe, Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka is reinvigorated about the benefits of historic preservation.



“They get it,” he announced, referring to the preservation ethic and respect for historic structures he found among community leaders in the cities he visited in Germany, Czechoslovakia (where he has friends and family) and neighboring countries.

Judge Janecka “gets it” as well, as evidenced by the March 2005 restoration of the historic Fayette County Courthouse through the Texas Historical Commission’s Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. Understanding the benefits of restoring a historic building and convincing an entire community of that, however, takes more than just “getting it.” It requires vision and persuasion.

“Initially I didn’t think it was something we could afford,” laughed Janecka during a recent interview in his comfortably cluttered office on the third floor of the courthouse. “I remember sitting right here in this office and someone saying to me, ‘Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could bring the atrium back?’ and I said to them, ‘Are you kidding me? That’s impossible.’”

Rare among courthouses, the 1891 Romanesque Revival courthouse designed by noted architect J. Riely Gordon featured an open atrium providing ventilation and lighting and included a large fountain. The atrium was hidden for years under concrete flooring that increased work space, but made it gloomy where it was once bright and cheerful.



Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka admires the banana trees in the courthouse atrium.

“When we first started this thing I was trying to be as practical as possible and appease as many people as possible so we talked about having the commissioners courtroom downstairs in the atrium,” said Janecka. “That would have been a disaster! Somehow it evolved and we broke through the concrete and put it back the way it was originally. That was a pleasant surprise. We went through the concrete and all we found was sand and the original steps and everything was still in place just the way they had left it. People come in and say, ‘I remember as a kid I used to come here and watch the squirrels in there.’ The overriding thing was everyone remembered the banana trees, so we put them back.”

The nearly \$4 million grant awarded to Fayette County in 2002 through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program was then the largest to date. Fayette County would provide the nearly 30 percent match. Judge Janecka called it a “no-brainer.”

“The selling point was we could invest this amount of money over a few years and not raise taxes and what we get is a brand new courthouse instead of an old courthouse with a new roof,” explained Janecka. “You have a wonderful building that is extremely functional that somebody gave you money for. It’s an amazing thing, really.”

# PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION

## Texas Land Title Association plays vital role in protecting shared investment

**T**hroughout our state's history, the county courthouse has served as the nucleus of the community and the primary symbol of justice and democracy. Texas is home to more historic courthouses than any other state, many in need of restoration and maintenance. Through the award-winning Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) is protecting a rich cultural legacy and revitalizing historic downtowns. The program's centerpiece — Texas' historic courthouses — also inspired a unique partnership to preserve and maintain them.

"A decade ago, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Texas historic courthouses to its list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places," said THC Chairman John L. Nau, III. "Today, thanks to the Texas Legislature, we have re-dedicated 40 courthouses and have plans to renovate 54 more. We are especially delighted to have the generous support of the Texas Land Title Association (TLTA) in our mission to restore these architectural treasures. Our partnership with TLTA is the only one of its kind in the nation, and it exemplifies the pride Texans take in their history."

Title companies have a longstanding relationship with Texas county courthouses, as guardians of the records and deeds of ownership of home and property. The TLTA represents more than 2,500 members who work to protect property owners from problems that could affect their legal rights to own property. In 2006, TLTA joined the THC in launching the Texas Courthouse Stewardship

Initiative to provide the resources and training needed to maintain historic courthouses.

"As we celebrated our history and centennial year in 2008 we were reminded that the title industry in Texas has deep roots throughout the state and strong bonds with the communities we serve," said TLTA President Celia Flowers. "Our partnership with the THC's courthouse program represents our dedication to empowering the citizens of Texas and expanding opportunities for property owners. Together, we have created a public-private joint venture that will have an impact for generations to come. We are very proud of our association with the commission."

The Texas Courthouse Stewardship program is providing a series of training workshops, site visits and consultations with THC architects. Three generous grants from TLTA have allowed the THC to provide specialized training, advice from regional and national experts and ongoing technical assistance to promote the sustained, regular maintenance of newly restored courthouses. The first two workshops were highly successful and a third training session is scheduled for the summer of 2009.

"Not just restoring, but maintaining our historic courthouses demonstrates both vision and protection for our investment. We have come a long way since our courthouses appeared on the National Trust's Most Endangered list," said THC Executive Director Larry Oaks. "But we could not have succeeded without the support of the Texas Legislature and the generosity of TLTA. We will always be grateful for these partnerships."



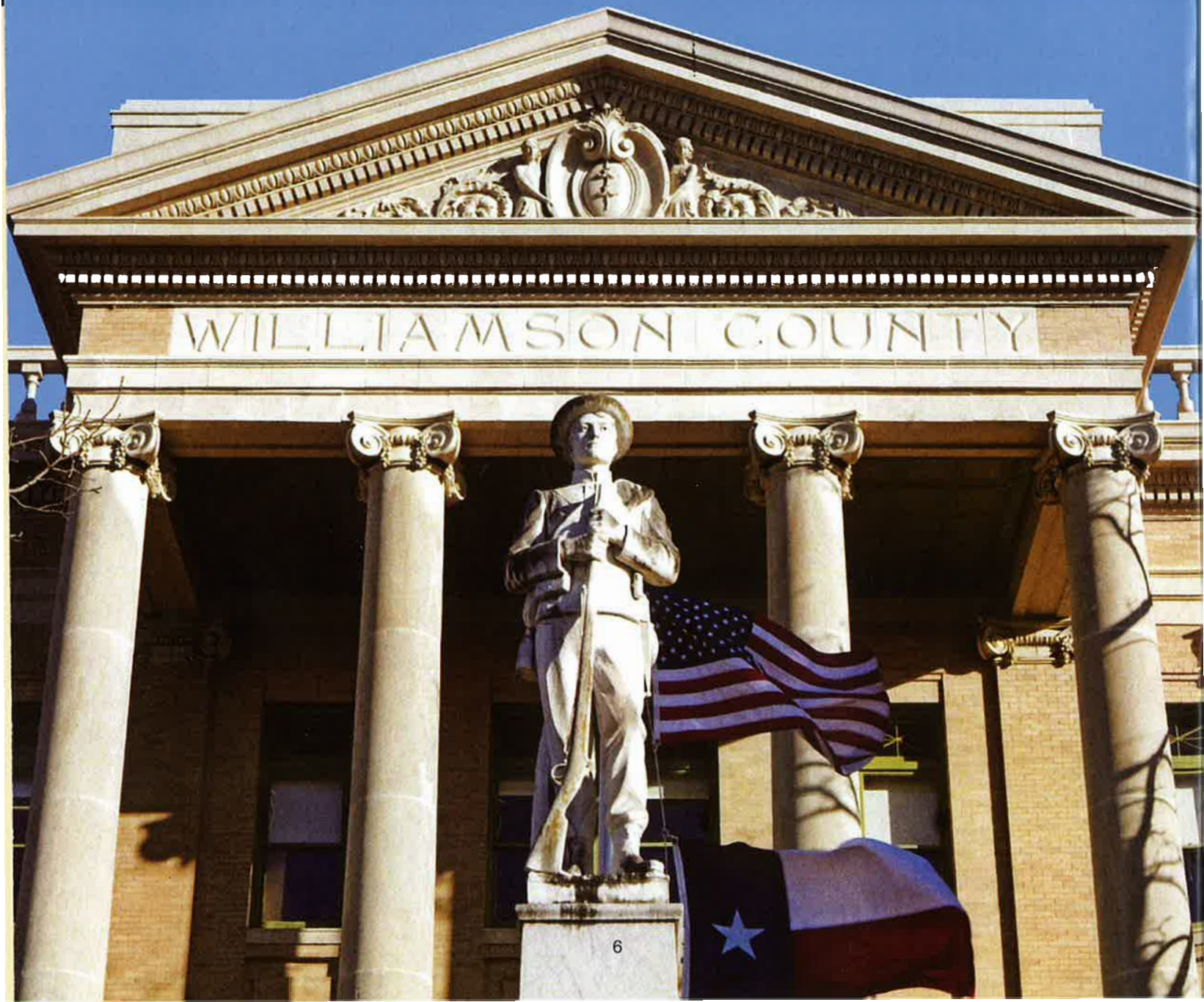
The 1886 Bosque County Courthouse in Meridian originally had a Gothic tower and small turrets which were dismantled in 1935 and rebuilt in 2007 during the restoration.

## 1999–2009

### A Decade of Progress and Renewal

**N**early 10 years have passed since the Texas Legislature determined the state's historic courthouses were irreplaceable resources and must be preserved. The accomplishments of the program to date include 36 beautifully restored and highly functional Texas county courthouses with an additional 19 construction projects under way. Five grant funding cycles have passed since 1999 with a total of \$207 million awarded to 68 counties for courthouse preservation, along with more than \$130 million in local matching funds.

Fifteen counties from across the state were selected during fiscal year 2008–09 to receive the most recent Round V grants for major construction activity to restore their historic courthouses. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is requesting \$85 million in 2009–10 from the Texas Legislature to continue funding additional rounds of the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. This would complete the restoration of an additional 15–18 courthouses and grant up to 12 more awards for construction planning or emergency repairs. These projects



## Fully Restored Courthouses

County	City	Rededicated	Originally Completed
Archer	Archer City	5/12/05	1891/1926
Atascosa	Jourdanton	6/14/03	1912
Bee	Beeville	5/20/06	1913
Bosque	Meridian	9/22/07	1886
Cameron	Brownsville	10/17/06	1912
Dallas	Dallas	5/15/07	1892
Denton	Denton	11/6/04	1896
DeWitt	Cuero	10/27/07	1897
Dimmit	Carrizo Springs	11/18/04	1884/1926
Donley	Clarendon	7/4/03	1891
Ellis	Waxahachie	10/4/03	1895
Erath	Stephenville	8/20/02	1892
Fayette	LaGrange	6/25/05	1891
Goliad	Goliad	12/4/03	1894
Grimes	Anderson	3/2/02	1894
Hopkins	Sulphur Springs	12/7/02	1894
Hudspeth	Sierra Blanca	7/3/04	1920
Jeff Davis	Fort Davis	11/8/03	1910
Johnson	Cleburne	12/1/07	1854
Lamar	Paris	9/3/05	1917
Lampasas	Lampasas	3/2/04	1883
Lee	Giddings	10/8/04	1897
Leon	Centerville	7/1/07	1887
Llano	Llano	6/15/02	1892
Maverick	Eagle Pass	10/13/05	1885
Menard	Menard	11/11/06	1932
Milam	Cameron	7/4/02	1892
Parker	Weatherford	6/4/05	1886
Presidio	Marfa	1/5/02	1886
Red River	Clarksville	10/26/02	1884
Shackelford	Albany	6/30/01	1883
Sutton	Sonora	6/11/02	1891
Val Verde	Del Rio	7/23/04	1887/1915
Wharton	Wharton	8/4/07	1889
Wheeler	Wheeler	10/16/04	1925
Williamson	Georgetown	12/8/07	1911

### Partially Restored/Emergency Projects

Bandera	Bandera	not applicable	1890
Bexar	San Antonio	4/4/03	1897
Cooke	Gainesville	10/14/06	1912
Gray	Pampa	4/12/03	1928
Lavaca	Hallettsville	not applicable	1897
Montague	Montague	not applicable	1913
Nueces	Corpus Christi	7/21/06	1892
Tyler	Woodville	not applicable	1891

would also put many Texans to work immediately on construction activity.

Another 54 counties with approved preservation master plans have applied in previous rounds but received no funding awards to date. These counties generally lack the financial resources to undertake necessary repairs and major upgrades to their buildings. In some cases, years have passed since they assessed the condition of their properties, identified their goals and requested financial assistance. Several counties with completed construction documents that are further prepared and stand ready to start their projects or undertake a second phase, include Comal, Hardeman, Karnes, Tarrant, La Salle and Hamilton counties. This anticipated projects list is expected to grow with the possible addition of Colorado and Rusk counties, which may soon receive planning grants to prepare construction documents. Regardless of the level of progress, all of these counties depend on the continuation of the program to accomplish their long and short-range plans.

Many more counties are asking for information on joining the program and express an interest in developing preservation master plans, the first step in getting on board. The THC estimates that 40 to 60 counties would apply for state funds of up to \$6 million each during the 2010–11 biennium, including as many as 10 counties that have not previously applied. The potential list of new Round VI applicants includes Coleman, Mason, Wilson, Duval, Starr, Kleberg, Coryell, Willacy and Navarro counties. These counties recognize their buildings have deteriorated, some precipitously, and look to the state for a potential partnership to undertake the preservation of their facilities.

“Counties throughout Texas are geared up and ready to follow the lead of five dozen of their predecessors,” said Stan Graves, director of the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. “This program is a great example of how the Texas Historical Commission works to save the real places in our communities that help to tell their stories. The historic county courthouse is the keeper of the county’s history. It should invite people to learn more about themselves.”

# TRAVELING THE COURTHOUSE TRAIL

**W**hether gracing the skyline or dominating a quaint city square, courthouses have long been symbols of law, order and justice within a community. Now, with a rise in heritage tourism, these stoic structures have taken on a new significance as historic monuments, community gathering places and pristine representations of architectural achievement. In counties across Texas, courthouses have become tourist destinations unto themselves, enriching lives through the stories they hold within their historic walls.

Texas ranks second in the United States in the number of cultural and heritage travelers. These visitors help produce more than \$7.1 billion in local and state taxes. Several of the courthouses restored through the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program are representative of this growing trend of courthouses serving as tourist sites.

Joy Graham, former chair of the Milam County Historical Commission noted, "We've had people come through who say they are traveling to every restored courthouse in Texas. They've constructed their own hand-drawn maps to traverse the state and visit each building."

Along with these homemade maps, books such as *The Courthouses of Texas: A Guide* published by Texas A&M University Press and *Historic Courthouses of Texas* from Bright Sky Press are being utilized by heritage tourists in planning their itineraries. The façades of many historic county courthouses have also appeared in publications

such as *Texas Monthly*, *Texas Highways*, *AAA Journey* and *True West* magazines.

Other courthouses, like the J. Riely Gordon-designed Harrison County Courthouse, have harnessed their prominence in the community to serve as the backdrop for annual events such as Marshall's Wonderland of Lights and Dixieland on the Square.



Milam County Courthouse

"Our courthouse is the centerpiece of Marshall," says Geraldine Mauthe of the Marshall Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It is the crown jewel of our Wonderland of Lights."

The Wonderland of Lights includes holiday festivities that attract visitors from across the state and drapes the historic Harrison County Courthouse in more than 100,000 lights, an image recently featured in the December 2008 pages of *Texas Highways* travel magazine.

This example is just one of the many ways communities have realized the value of restoring and maintaining their historic county courthouse. The newly restored Williamson County Courthouse in Georgetown, which was recently recognized with the Best Restoration Award in the 2008 Texas Downtown Association Presidents Awards Program, is the sole focus of a brochure produced by the city. Georgetown's 2009 visitor's guide will feature an image of the courthouse on its cover. The 1911 courthouse has hosted the popular Taste of Georgetown as well as Texas Archeology Month events. Williamson County Museum Director Chris Dyer says museum staff has given tours of the courthouse to nearly 2,000 people since November 2007.



Dallas County Courthouse

Where the Williamson County Courthouse sees tourism cross-promotions because of its relationship to area museums, other courthouses experience this benefit from the presence of a museum being contained within its own walls. The increased visitation the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square has received reflects this partnership. Since 2003, the visitation to the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum and other area government facilities has increased from 41,428 visitors to 84,849 in 2007.

“There is no question that the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square has benefited the community and increased tourism to the city and county,” said Georgia Caraway, executive director of Denton County Museums. “Being one of the original remaining late-1800s courthouses in Texas draws tourists who are attracted to the downtown area for shopping, restaurants and the numerous events and activities sponsored throughout the year.”



Denton has also seen a rise in funds collected from the hotel occupancy tax (HOT), which further illustrates an increase in visitation. There was a 23 percent increase in HOT funds collected in 2007 from 2006, and from October 2007–December 2008 the city generated \$1.3 million in revenue from the HOT.

Initiatives like the THC’s Texas Heritage Trails Program (THTP) have also provided historic county courthouses an outlet to promote themselves to history enthusiasts and heritage travelers intrigued with the Texas mystique. Several of the regional travel guides being developed for each of the 10 regions in the THTP have featured historic county courthouses because they often highlight areas frequented by tourists.

The *Texas Mountain Trail Region* travel guide showcases the Hudspeth County Courthouse, which is Texas’ only adobe courthouse. The adobe vernacular architecture reflected in the courthouse, restored in 2004 through the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, captures a rare and valuable tradition characteristic of the Mountain Trail Region. The forthcoming *Texas Pecos Trail Region* brochure will also include a notation on courthouses designed by renowned architect Oscar Ruffini, who is credited with planning the region’s Crockett, Sterling and Sutton County Courthouses.



Fayette County Courthouse

As more and more historic county courthouses throughout Texas continue to be restored through the THC’s Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, travelers across the state, country and world are sure to aspire to Fayette County Court Administrator Babette Skalka’s dream itinerary, “I told my husband when I retire I want to travel across the state and visit every historic county courthouse in Texas.”

Left, Hudspeth County Courthouse



From left: Texas Historical Commission Chair John L. Nau, III, Executive Director Larry Oaks, First Lady Laura Bush and Vice Chair David Gravelle pose for a photo at the White House after Mrs. Bush presented the 2008 Preserve America Presidential Award to the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program on May 12, 2008. The honor is the highest national award for historic preservation achievement.

## Program and Project Awards

- **Preserve America Presidential Award**, May 2008
- **National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers' Award of Excellence**, 2005
- **Texas Society of Architects Citation of Honor**, 2004
- **Association for Preservation Technology International Presidential Citation**, November 2004
- **National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Preservation Award**, September 2004

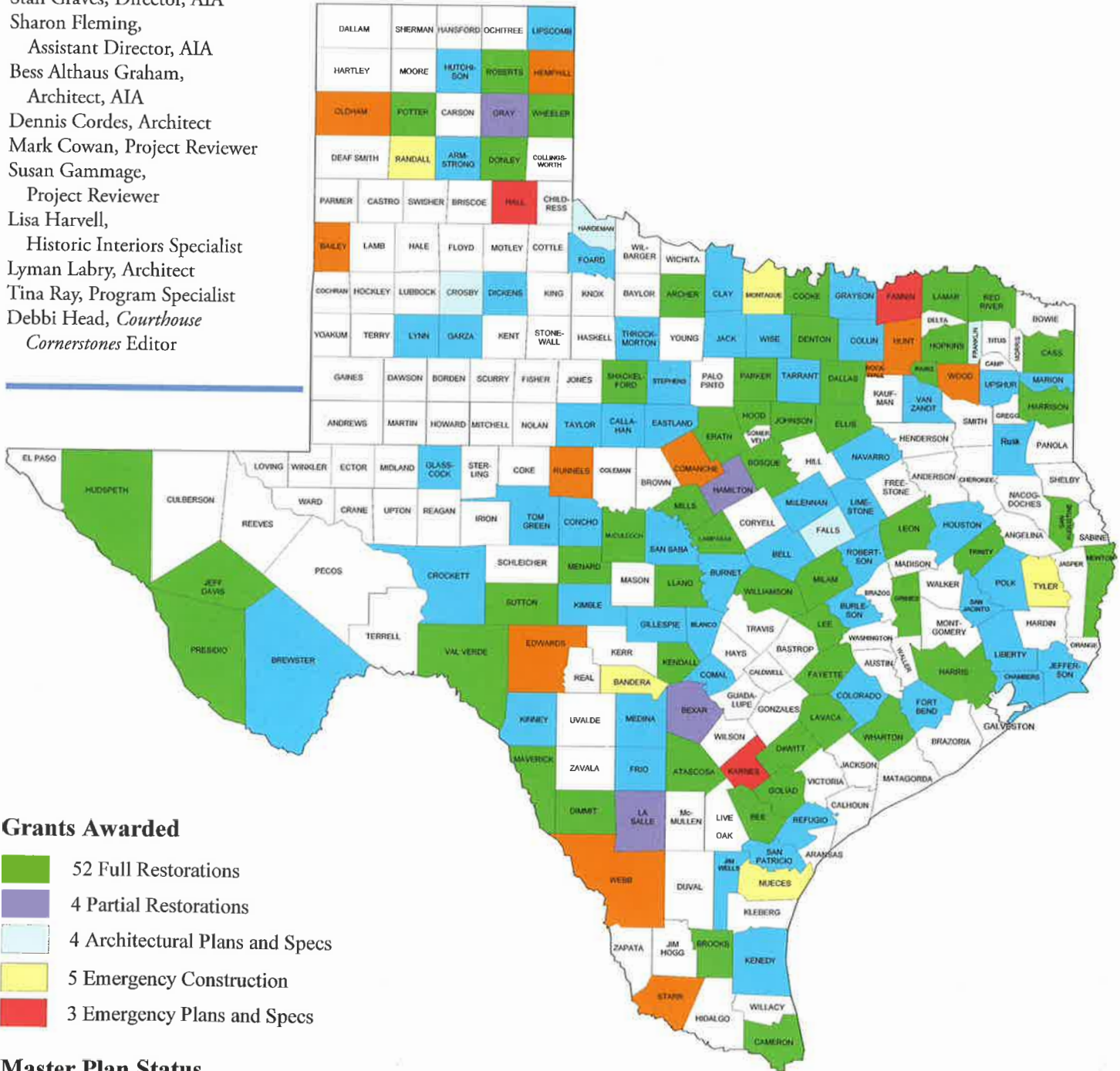
**ATASCOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • San Antonio Conservation Society, 2004 Historic Preservation Award • **BEXAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE, EXTERIOR RESTORATION** • *Texas Construction* magazine, Best of 2003, Award of Excellence for Best Public Renovation/Restoration • American Institute of Architects, San Antonio Chapter, 2003 Mayor's Choice Award, Honorable Mention • Associated Builders & Contractors, South Texas Chapter, 2003 Excellence in Construction Award for Scaffolding • San Antonio Conservation Society, 2004 Historic Preservation Award • **BOSQUE COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • *Texas Construction* magazine, Best of 2007, Award of Excellence for Best Public Renovation/Restoration • Preservation Texas, 2008 Honor Award for Restoration • **CAMERON COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • American Institute of Architects, Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter, 2007 Design Award • **DALLAS (OLD RED) COUNTY COURTHOUSE, EXTERIOR RESTORATION** • *Texas Construction* magazine, Best of 2003, Award of Excellence for Best Public Renovation/Restoration • **DENTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • Texas Downtown Association, 2005 President's Award for Best Restoration • Preservation Dallas, 2004 Award for Restoration • **DONLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • Preservation Texas, 2004 Honor Awards, Historic Rehabilitation • Preservation Texas, 2000 Honor Awards, Texas Media Award to *The Clarendon Enterprise* for coverage of the courthouse preservation project • **ELLIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • Associated Builders & Contractors, National 2002 Excellence in Construction Award • Preservation Texas, 2003 Honor Award, Historic Restoration • **FAYETTE COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • Preservation Texas, 2006 Honor

Award, Historic Restoration • American Institute of Architects, Austin Chapter, 2007 Design Awards, Citation of Honor • Associated General Contractors Association, Austin Chapter, 2006 Award for Outstanding Construction • **HOPKINS COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • *Texas Construction* magazine, Best of 2003, Award of Excellence for Best Public Renovation/Restoration • **JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • *Texas Construction* magazine, Best of 2008, Award of Excellence for Best Public Renovation/Restoration • **LAMAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • *Texas Construction* magazine, Best of 2005, Award of Excellence for Best Public Renovation/Restoration • Preservation Texas, 2006 Honor Award, Historic Restoration • **LAMPASAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • *Texas Construction* magazine, Best of 2004, Award of Excellence for Best Public Renovation/Restoration • Preservation Texas, 2005 Honor Award, Historic Restoration • **LLANO COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • Associated Builders & Contractors, Central Texas Chapter, 2002 Excellence in Construction Award in Historic Restoration • **MAVERICK COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • San Antonio Conservation Society, 2008 Historic Preservation Award • **MILAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • American Institute of Architects, Austin Chapter, 2004 Design Awards, Citation of Honor • **NUECES COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • Masonry Contractors Association, San Antonio Chapter, 2007 Golden Trowel Award • **PRESIDIO COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • American Institute of Architects, Austin Chapter, 2002 Design Awards, Citation of Honor • **RED RIVER COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • *Texas Construction* magazine, Best of 2003, Award of Merit for Best Public Renovation/Restoration • Preservation Texas, 2005 Honor Award, Historic Restoration • Preservation Dallas, 2004 Award for Restoration • **SUTTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • Texas Downtown Association, 2003 President's Award for Best Restoration • **SHACKELFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • Preservation Texas, 2003 Honor Award, Historic Restoration • **WHARTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • Preservation Texas, 2008 Honor Award, Historic Restoration • Masonry Contractors Association, San Antonio Chapter, 2006 Golden Trowel Award • American Institute of Architects, Houston Chapter, 2008 Design Award • **WILLIAMSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE** • Texas Downtown Association, 2008 President's Award for Best Restoration • Associated Builders & Contractors, Central Texas Chapter, 2007 Excellence in Construction Award for Restoration

# TEXAS HISTORIC COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

## TEXAS HISTORIC COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION PROGRAM STAFF

Stan Graves, Director, AIA  
 Sharon Fleming,  
 Assistant Director, AIA  
 Bess Althaus Graham,  
 Architect, AIA  
 Dennis Cordes, Architect  
 Mark Cowan, Project Reviewer  
 Susan Gammage,  
 Project Reviewer  
 Lisa Harvell,  
 Historic Interiors Specialist  
 Lyman Labry, Architect  
 Tina Ray, Program Specialist  
 Debbi Head, *Courthouse*  
*Cornerstones* Editor



Updated 1/09

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— *Economic Impacts  
of Historic Preservation  
in Texas*



02/09

Johnson County Courthouse



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PHONE 512.364.6100 • FAX 512.475.8222  
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