



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Theresa Goodness
Chair

Historical Commission

Bruce A. Hamilton
1st Vice-Chair

Jen Trenbeath
Coordinator/Secretary

Linda McMahan
Treasurer

Don Smart
2nd Vice-Chair

Meeting Minutes

**The Regular Meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC)
Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.
Jefferson County Historical Commission Library, 1149 Pearl Street, Third Floor,
Beaumont, TX 77701**

Order of Business:

1. Call to Order. @ 3:00pm
2. In attendance were Linda McMahan, Jen Trenbeath, Theresa Goodness, Don Smart, Paul Prosperie, Kate Hambright, Les McMahan, Bruce A. Hamilton, Steven P. Lewis, Lynn Simon, Brenda Jackson and JCHC advisors Judy Linsley and Mike McGreevy. A quorum was determined.
3. Citizens' Communications. Mike McGreevy- discussed bringing the Battleship Texas to Beaumont. The JCHC has written a letter of support to the City of Beaumont and the Battleship Texas Foundation. The City of Beaumont has yet to make a firm claim as to how concerted the effort from the city is to bring the Battleship to Beaumont. If any citizen or JCHC member is aware of an organized group that is working toward the goal of bringing the Battleship Texas to Beaumont, they are encouraged to share the information with the JCHC so members may lend their support.
4. Call, Receive Information and Take Appropriate Action on:

Introduction of Guests

ACTION ITEMS:

Secretary's Report – Jen Trenbeath

1. Consider and possibly approve minutes of previous meeting. Steven P. Lewis moved to accept minutes with corrections. Don Smart seconded. Approved with corrections unanimously.

Coordinator's Report – Jen Trenbeath

- Staff report from Coordinator. Report submitted. See attachment A.

*minutes approved
11/16/2022
Jennifer S. Smart*

2. Consider and possibly approve the purchase of a small plaque to acknowledge the provenance of the Hwy 124 Hillebrandt Bayou Bridge marker that the commission received from TxDOT. Motion by Les McMahan seconded by Paul Prosperie. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Linda McMahan

- Report of Expenditures and remaining Budget. Report submitted. See attachment B.

Chair's Report – Chair Theresa Goodness. Report submitted. See attachment C.

3. Consider and possibly approve participation in the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark project as described by the Texas Historical Commission. Motion by Bruce A. Hamilton, seconded by Steven P. Lewis. Approved unanimously. A sign-up sheet was circulated and a digital copy will be sent to Commission members by the coordinator. Photos to be submitted by October 13th to coordinator for submission to the THC.
4. Discuss and possibly approve expenditures for attendees to the 2023 annual Texas Historical Commission Real Places Conference. Motion to approve by Jen Trenbeath, seconded by Steven P. Lewis. Discussion was held to send Jen Trenbeath, Coordinator to be the in-person attendee. Included with the cost of registration will be access to recorded (virtual) sessions. The JCHC will hold one or possibly several workshops for members to watch recordings as a group. Approved unanimously.
5. Discuss and possibly approve a change in meeting dates and times. Motion by Jen Trenbeath, seconded by Linda McMahan. Proposed day/time is the 3rd Wednesday, bimonthly at 10:00 a.m. Approved unanimously. The next meeting will be held November 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the JCHC Library on the third floor of the historic courthouse.

Committee Reports

Historical Preservation:

Early African-American Schools and Educators – Lynn Simon

- Report on research of early Beaumont schools and educators. Report submitted. See attachment D.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness

- Report on Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness considered by Beaumont Landmark Commission. Report submitted. See attachment E.

Tyrrell Historical Library – Steven P. Lewis

- Report on activities of the Tyrrell Historical Library Association. Report submitted. See attachment F.

Photos of Historic Buildings - Steven P. Lewis

- Report on historic building photography project. Report submitted. See attachment F.

Sam Houston State Library – Don Smart

- Report on research projects conducted at the state library. No report on library, but Don has been doing research on the WWI veteran's marker located at Triangle Park in downtown Beaumont. Don, Bruce and Kate plan to speak to the city of Beaumont soon regarding the moving of the marker to Magnolia cemetery. 36 WWI Veterans from Beaumont who were killed during service have been identified. Of the 36, 22 are known to be buried in Magnolia and 2 are known to be buried in Evergreen.

Tyrrell Park Coalition – Steven P. Lewis

- Report on status of plans by the City of Beaumont to renovate the Tyrrell Park Community Building built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Report submitted. See attachment F.

Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration – Bruce A. Hamilton

- Report on status of restoration of the historic home. The grant process with the National Parks Service is ongoing.

Military History – Kate Hambright

- Report on research projects. Kate was honored as a researcher by the Beaumont Police Department for her discovery of fallen BPD officer, James Augustus Gaines; and additional information on fallen BPD officer George Frederick, who was also the earliest known Black Officer at BPD. Kate has as a result been working with Ron DeLord on further fallen officers. No report submitted.

Historical Markers and Research – Kate Hambright

- Report on Status of Marker Applications/Dedications. Report submitted.
 - Report on Marker Survey/Maintenance. Report submitted. See attachment G.
6. Discuss and possibly approve a list of markers to be sponsored by the JCHC for the 2023 marker cycle. Motion by Bruce A. Hamilton, seconded by Don Smart. A list of potential markers has been made by the coordinator as people have mentioned them in conversation, without seriously expressing interest in sponsoring the markers themselves. The list was read and the consensus was that The Pipkin School is the strongest contender from the list. Then the Gulf and Interstate Railroad was suggested by Les McMahan. Discussion was held to accept the Pipkin School and the Gulf and Interstate Railroad as JCHC-sponsored potential markers to pursue for the 2023 marker cycle. Approved unanimously.

History Appreciation:

Action Item:

7. Consider and possibly approve any pending Texas Treasure Business nominations. THC published final guidelines in the most recent THC Medallion. Les will work on future nominations. No action taken.
8. Consider and possibly approve exploring a partnership with the Ben J. Rogers Visitors Center to create and display a short film about Jefferson County history. Additionally explore the possibility of grant funding from H.O.T. tax grants or other grant sources. Motion by Lynn Simon, seconded by Bruce A. Hamilton. Approved unanimously.
9. Consider and possibly approve a redesign of the website to make it more user-friendly. A mock up created by the coordinator was circulated and no revisions were suggested. Motion by Linda McMahan, seconded by Kate Hambright. Approved unanimously.
 - Report on current Courthouse Mini-museum exhibits and discussion of proposed exhibits. – Linda McMahan. Report submitted. See attachment H.
 - Report on updates to JCHC website and social media. – Jen Trenbeath. Report submitted. See attachment I.
 - Report on events at Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum. – Don Smart. Report submitted. See attachment J.
 - Report on Coastal History. – Jay Camp. Not in attendance. No report submitted.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson

- Report on activities that promote the preservation of archeological resources. Report submitted. See attachment K.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie

- Report on pending applications for Historic Texas Cemetery Designations, cemetery surveys, clean-up days or other similar activities. The Second Annual Historic Magnolia Cemetery Tour will be held on Oct. 20 4:30pm to 6:30pm and Oct. 22nd from 10:00am to 2:00pm. A lecture about Magnolia Cemetery will be held at McFaddin Ward House at 6:30pm. A private tour of Magnolia Cemetery

will be held on November 11th and is being hosted by the McFaddin Ward House. Attendees must sign up in advance with the McFaddin Ward House. The other two tour dates are open to the public.

- Report on THC Cemetery Inventory Project. No report submitted.
10. Consider and possibly approve a letter of appreciation from the JCHC to Bruce Grethen and the Fort Bend Archaeological Society for conducting a Ground Penetrating Radar survey of the Sabine Pass Cemetery on August 16, 2022. Motion by Paul Prosperie, seconded by Jen Trenbeath. Approved unanimously.

Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee – Linda McMahan

11. Report on status of Jefferson County Courthouse or Sub-Courthouse buildings. Report submitted. See attachment L.

Certified Local Government (CLG) – Theresa Goodness

- Report on status of Historic Resources Survey and Preservation Plan project being conducted under the National Park Service Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant. Report submitted. See attachment M.
12. Consider and discuss potential mitigation strategies under Section 106 review of possible demolition of building(s) at Eddingston Court in Port Arthur. No action taken.

Other Business

13. Discussion on any other item not on agenda without taking action. Receive reports on matters of community interest from elected officials, staff or members without taking action.

Adjournment

5:00pm

Attachment A.

Coordinator's Report

September 21, 2022

We have continued to receive requests for assistance from the public for a variety of personal research topics. Most recently we were contacted by Katherine Leister, of the Tyrrell Historical Library to see if we had information on Evergreen Cemetery that could be shared with a patron. I have been reading through our Evergreen folders and passing along information that might be helpful to their research.

We have been contacted by Judge Branick's secretary to assist her family in getting in touch with someone who can help clear a cemetery in Devers, which is in Liberty County. Her family will be providing me with more specific information and I will pass that along to our contacts on the Liberty CHC in hopes that they will have contacts who can help.

On September 8th we received a call from a Beaumont Enterprise reporter by the name of Matt Hollinshead. He was searching for information about McFaddin Beach with regards to its reported hauntings. No commission members were aware of hauntings or paranormal activities there, but Judy Linsley offered to speak to him by phone to share some of the history of the McFaddin Family and how they came to own the beach property.

On September 10th we hosted a group of Boy Scouts at the front steps of the courthouse as part of an event that allowed them to earn their American Heritage Merit Badge. We spoke about the history of the courthouse, the restoration, and the courthouse's place on the National Register of Historic Places. I also provided the scouts with materials for a classroom portion of the event that went into greater detail on how to have a building placed on the National Register as well as how to prepare for a career in historic preservation.

On September 12th we were contacted by a man named Carl Schaumann, who was interested in sending us an item he found in his late father's belongings. It is titled "Introduction to Beaumont and the Golden Triangle" and was prepared by W.D. Currie for Beaumont Works (DuPont) in 1960. His family lived in Beaumont for about 4 years but he felt that it was important to preserve this snapshot of what life was like in our area in 1960 so he asked to mail it to us. I received it on September 20th and plan to send a letter of thanks.

Attachment B

Linda McMahan September 21, 2022

Treasurer's Report

The JCHC budget year runs from October 1- September 30th. All purchases of supplies, renewal of memberships and subscriptions, and the printing of the 2023 Historical Calendar will need to be paid for and received by September 30th.

The JHC Coordinator and Chairman reviewed and turned in to the Accounting Department our requested Budget for 2022-2023. The only changes made for the new budget year were to account for the increase in Marker prices from the THC's foundry. This week all County Budgets were presented, and approved by Commissioner's Court and go in to effect on October 1.

From the Capital Projects fund, a request for a new computer was made, approved and will be installed by the MIS department.

As of Monday, September 19th, out of the JCHC budget of \$11,700, \$4,175.14 has been spent with a remaining amount of \$7,524.86 left in the budget.

Attachment C

Chair's Report 9/21/2022

Jefferson County Historical Commission

1. Consider and possibly approve participation in the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark project as described by the Texas Historical Commission.

THC has requested assistance from CHC's to take and submit updated photos of RTHL (Registered Texas Historic Landmarks) properties.

The request includes instructions on photography practices, naming conventions for the photos, and a standardized Image Release Form which is requested to be obtained for all submitted RTHL property photos.

Currently Jefferson County has 31 properties designated as RTHL, NRHP (National Register of Historic Places) and/or SAL (State Archaeological Landmark).

2. Discuss and possibly approve expenditures for attendees to the 2023 annual Texas Historical Commission Real Places Conference.

The Texas Historical Commission and Friends of THC are holding the 2023 Real Places Conference in Austin February 1-3, 2023. The conference can be attended either in-person or virtually. Our budget for travel for the 2022-2023 FY is anticipated to be \$1500.00. Early Bird registration ends 9/30/2022, and ranges from \$375 per in-person attendee to \$225 for a virtual attendee. Discounted room rates at the conference hotel are \$163 per night.

3. Discuss and possibly approve a change in meeting dates and time.

At our July meeting a member asked for consideration of a meeting date/time change. Currently we are meeting bi-monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. Due to courthouse security issues, any change in meeting times should allow for us to finish our meetings before the courthouse closes at 5:00 p.m.

Attachment D

Public Information Display Project

1. This suggested project purpose is to discuss ways to make available an ongoing public display source, radio, tv, bbs. This public display is to have a constant electronic display setup in a public traffic area, to make known to the public, about the services of Jefferson County Historical Library.

In my opinion, information collected about our county, our city, the people of Jefferson County, the business and education services and the history of Jefferson County need for more public access and public exposure.

Information is being placed on the internet web services for usage by the public. In my opinion, information on the book shelf's of the county library is an additional source of information that can be used by public school students, university students, industry and businesses.

I think there are undiscovered ways to reach the public and keep the JCHC in the public eyes.

THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS PROJECT IS DUSCUSS AND TO UNCOVER ANY OVERLOOKED SERVICE WE CAN PROVIDE TO OUR COMMUNITY TO SHARE THE COLLECTED INFORMATION ACCUMULATED BY OUR SEARCHES, AND THE PROMOTION OF THE JCHC LIBRARY.

(Ideas)

2. The use of existing pubic facilities, finding and using unseen economical resources,
3. Discuss a method to provide requested information, (Alexa type delivery). Setup a committee to brain storm and develop communication distribution methods.
4. A short 15 second radio and TV AD about JCHC awareness. (A free ad)
5. Request public involvement in supplying items and donations to be evaluated for consideration and to be added to the county library. (Text, Photo, Audio, Video and artifacts hard structures. Buildings etc.)

These are a few of my thoughts. I see the JCHC Library as a great resource that can be improved and up dated. I also see the many super things that are already in place.

Newspapers, TV, Internet, community interaction. We reach a few people, there are many more people that are not reached. Making our service easy and available to all is my objective.

THIS CONCLUDES MY THOUGHTS, OBSERVATION AND SUGGESTIONS.

L M Simon

Attachment E

Report of Theresa Goodness, JCHC Designee for Beaumont Landmark Commission
September 21, 2022

The Beaumont Landmark Commission has met twice since my last report. On August 8, 2022, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

1. PZ2022-242: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint a house. Applicant: Norelia Reed
Location: 2160 North Street

Action: Approved

2. PZ2022-255: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace a roof and paint a structure.

Applicant: Kisha Ridley
Location: 2385 Broadway Street

Action: Approved as to Rood and trim. Denied as to painting brick.

3. PZ2022-274: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint a house. Applicant: Chris Ellebracht
Location: 2226 Hazel Avenue

Action: Approved except for trim color.

On September 12, 2022, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

1. PZ2022-313: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a storage building. Applicant: Matthew Clark
Location: 2505 Louisiana Street

Action: Approved

2. PZ2022-314: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a carport and replace the siding of a house.
Applicant: Alma Hernandez
Location: 2369 Liberty Avenue

Action: Approved as to siding. Denied as to carport.

3. PZ2022-343: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a fence. Applicant: David Bradley

Location: 2214 Angelina Street

Action: Approved

Attachment F

Report on Tyrrell Historical Library Association- Steven P. Lewis

Tyrrell Historical Library: From the THLA Journal: Summer intern Avril Falgout was awarded a \$600 check for the work she did at the library. Darwin Morris, who worked at the Tyrrell for many years, passed away on 25 February 2022. The library has acquired the Beaumont Enterprise's archives to be added to the existing Enterprise collection. The THLA gifted the library funds to purchase shelving for drawings (e.g., Milton Bell's architectural sketches) and blueprints.

Report on Historic Buildings and Tyrrell Park Coalition- Steven P. Lewis

Historic Buildings Photography: I have continued my weekly visits to Tyrrell Park to check on the progress on the CCC building. No changes on the outside of the building. However, the city has examined the pool and fountain in the courtyard area to assess their renovation. On 25 August, I met again with Rebecca Woodland. The gift shop from the Cattail Marsh facility has been moved to the CCC building (now referred to as the Nature Center) and the gift shop is opened Monday through Friday. There are still no exhibits in the structure.

The bridge over Hillebrandt Bayou on Hwy 124 is slowly being replaced and I have continued photographing the progress. Due to Leslie's efforts, the most of the concrete around the plaque have been removed and is now in the possession of the JCHC.

The two round brass markers on the bridge, a USGS Survey marker and one for elevation are also now with the JCHC.

I have one new FEMA house one Avenue A that I photograph weekly.

After my photo excursion to Tyrrell Park on this past Saturday, I had an email from Richard Gachot with two photographs of the demolition of the garage at the Phelan house. I immediately went to the location to photograph the destruction. By the time I got there, the second story had been removed. I went back on Monday and most of the first floor was gone. Yesterday, only a pile of brick rubble was left. I asked a woman who was leaving the hospital if she knew why it was being demolished but she did not know. She reassured me that the house would not be touched.

Attachment G

Kate Hambright
JCHC Marker Chair
September 14, 2022 Report

Report on Status of Marker Applications/Dedications

The Methodist of Church of China marker has received its marker. Due to some internal church matters, the actual installation will not take place until 2023. The marker sponsor, Peggy Granger, asked me to pass along this message: If I may ask this of you, please extend the church's gratitude to Les McMahan for his initial help and the THC for recognizing the small part the church has played in the history our great state by granting this historical marker to The Methodist Church in China. God has blessed Texas and it is only through him that we continue to mark forward as a church in a community in a county of the best state in the greatest nation that can still say "In God We Trust!" Amen and Amen.

The draft marker inscription for St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Port Neches was reviewed/approved by the marker sponsor and forwarded to the THC on July 19, 2022 for presentation to THC Commissions for final review at their next quarterly meeting before ordering from the foundry.

We are still awaiting a draft inscription for the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers House. As of June 30, it was 37th in line of about 70 awaiting inscriptions. It is important to note that the THC has not yet replaced Sarah McCleskey, their historian in their marker department.

The William C. Hall marker still has an estimate ship date of September 23 as of last week and the marker sponsor has been so advised. The marker will be delivered to the Precinct 4 Commissioner's warehouse- whenever we do receive it.

Potential New Marker Requests

There has been no further work from the pastor of the 154-year-old Live Oak Missionary Baptist Church, who was potentially interested in pursuing an historical marker. His schedule has not permitted him to make an appointment (he is also a full-time delivery driver).

I have also recently heard from Gwendolyn Carter of Scott Oliver Missionary Baptist Church, who was interested in possibly submitting an application under the Undertold Markers Program. I explained the criteria to her as well as reviewed the regular application process. She will discuss same with the congregation and get back with me.

Marker Relocation updates:

Trinity Lutheran Church: This marker was finally installed at its new home, Peace Lutheran Church, 5801 W. Jefferson Avenue, Groves, Texas on Wednesday, August 31, 2022. Two pastors, five board members, the marker sponsor, one small dog, three precinct workmen, one “extra” precinct workman who brought extra concrete, and I were all in attendance. It was perfectly level when we finished the job; however, it rained heavily before and after the installation. Also, we installed the marker about eight or nine inches high, but used an entire extra bag of concrete and some rebar in the base. However, marker installation instructions provided by the THC clearly stated that the center of the marker plate should be placed at a height that would satisfy the customer, and they did not want anyone to run into it as it was next to a sidewalk. Ultimately, the sponsor was pleased, and so was the THC, to whom I sent several photos from varying distances, so that is what matters. I also provided the THC with coordinates for the relocated marker.

Spindle Top Hill Confederate Camp, Site of: No update at this time.

First Baptist Church of Beaumont: This marker relocation request was finally approved. The church will be celebrating their 150th anniversary on October 1-2. (I will be attending the celebrations.) The marker was installed today, on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. This marker is set into a granite monument weighing 5,000 pounds. The install was quite involved and included excavating a large hole, filling it with crushed limestone as a base and packing it down, packing sand on top of that, centering the marker’s base, and then setting the marker itself atop the base. Surprisingly, the massively heavy granite stone sits atop its granite base by means of two tiny pieces of rebar that are only 6” in length- 3” imbedded in the base, and 3” sticking straight up. We did epoxy the rebar into the base as well as apply epoxy to top of the base itself. Moving the marker by means of straps (which did slip), dangling from the forks of a front loader as it eased across the immense acreage of the church grounds, and then attempting to lower same onto the tiny pieces of rebar, was... a bit of a challenge. Let’s just say that this project was a first for everyone involved, on many levels. The church does plan to have one of its members, H.B. Neild & Sons, come out and stabilize the marker with a larger concrete base at some point but they are quite pleased to have the marker up. It does lean slightly forward, (not side to side) but keep in mind that it was an incredibly difficult project that was a learning for project all involved. However, the ground at the monument location slopes backwards and it is expected that the packed limestone (which was built up in the back on purpose) will settle in due course. We had two large dump trucks, a massive front end loader, a bull dozer, two county commissioners, two foremen, four or five precinct workers, the church’s executive pastor, the church’s plant manager and me all on the four hour project this morning. Jen and Theresa added invaluable help to get this project across the finish line.

Report on Marker Survey/Maintenance:

Pietzsch Elementary School and David Crockett Middle School:

These two schools were torn in the latter 1990s. Bruce Hamilton, our then JCHC chairman, requested the THC to allow the JCHC to have the disposition of the decommissioned RTHL marker for each school, suggesting that the schools display them in a commemorative fashion within the new school buildings which were to be built to replace the old ones. The THC approve of this plan. Unfortunately, this information did not appear to make its way into our

marker files, and was only to be found in minutes of our JCHC meeting. In March 2001, our then coordinator was under the impression that both schools could affix their decommissioned RTHL markers to the exterior of the new school building, which were not Registered Texas Historical Landmark properties. In fact, Pietzsch Elementary was even sent the information for a Supplemental Marker Inscription. Our marker chair soon discovered the error, however. The decommissioned markers could not in fact be so displayed on the outside of the new structures as both schools had previously lost their RTHL status. Two of our JCHC delivered the Pietzsch Elementary School RTHL marker to the new school in 2002 and placed it inside the school, in a bookcase, where it was prominently displayed for a number of years. Unfortunately, in 2018, the school was erroneously told during one of our regular surveys that the marker-now simply a commemorative plaque- needed to be affixed to the exterior of the building. The school complied with that instruction, and that is where the marker is found today. It is important to note that while sometimes markers may be found in unusual locations, there may be a prior reason for that. If members ever see something amiss with one of our markers, they are requested to bring their concerns to the JCHC office and marker chair so that we may research our files. We will act as point of contact with the marker sponsor and/or property owner to attempt to resolve any problems.

I am still researching the saga of the David Crockett Middle School marker. Lots of data there. More later.

Status of 2021 Marker Survey

The last two remaining surveys to be completed are both downtown Beaumont NRHP sites (also originally assigned to another one of our members to survey):

2. **Beaumont Historical Commercial District:** roughly bounded by Orleans, Bowie, Neches, Crockett, Laurel, Willow, Broadway, Pearl, Main, and Gilbert Streets; and

4. **Beaumont Historical Commercial District Extension:** roughly bounded by Willow, Neches, Gilbert and Main Streets.

I have made a couple of requests for a volunteer to snap some photos of any particularly historic building in these two districts. Did anyone have a chance to do so?

Please be reminded that it has now been over one year since the 2021 marker survey project was assigned, and we still have not completed same. Your help in bringing this important assignment to a close would be greatly appreciated.

Attachment H

Mini-Museum Report

A new exhibit will be available for viewing on October 1, 2022. Paul Prosperie, Cemetery Chair, will place information about the history of the Magnolia Cemetery including the upcoming Magnolia Cemetery tour and lecture on the history of Magnolia Cemetery at the McFaddin-Ward House Visitor's Center. The exhibit will run through December 31st.

Attachment I

Proposed JCHC Website Home Page



Jefferson County Historical Commission

2021-2022 Executive Board:

- Chair— Theresa Goodness • 1st Vice Chair— Bruce Hamilton • 2nd Vice Chair— Don Smart • Secretary—Jen Trenbeath
- Treasurer— Linda McMahon



Jefferson County Certified
Local Government

Jefferson County Historical
Markers

Jefferson County Courthouse

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Volume 2022, Issue 8

September, 2022

JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MOSAIC TEMPLARS OF AMERICA

BY LES MCMAHEN

The Mosaic Templars of America was an African-American fraternal organization founded in 1882 and incorporated in 1883 in Arkansas. It offered illness, death and burial insurance to African-Americans at a time when white insurers refused to treat them equally. At its peak in the 1920s, the organization had an estimated membership of 100,000 individuals, and had chapters in 26 states and elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere. It later expanded its holdings to include

(Continued on page 2)

UPCOMING MEETINGS	
• September 21, 2022 9:00pm	
• November 18, 2022 9:00pm	

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Mosaic Templars of America	1-2
Catherine Jeanette Stangor	3-5
Marker Spotlight: The City of Sabine and Sabine Pass	6
Project Updates	6
Black Wall Veterans in Johnson Cemetery	7
Upcoming Events	8

A photograph of a gravestone for Clara Hunter, inscribed with "CLARA HUNTER BORN NOV. 15, 1863 DIED MAY 11, 1944".

(Picture source — Les McMahon collection)

Attachment J

Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum had a great year of 2021-2022 with almost 4000 people more than the previous year and about \$8000 more in revenue over the previous year (not including grants). We had visitors from 48 states, including from Rhode Island which was the last state that has not come since Troy became director. We had visitors from 34 different countries.

We are hoping to keep the momentum of renovations going this year. On our plan is a renewal of the plans and bushes around our monument and in the circle I our parking lot. We also hope to make a cementer walkway to and around the monuments. We have plans to put new wood on the derrick in the middle of the museum and the gusher derrick as well as redo the wood on the front of the photography studio and getting new doors for the stable, blacksmith shop and possibly the general store. We also will get a new wooden fence in front of the museum and new metal fencing on the rest. Lastly, we have 3 boy scouts doing Eagle Scout projects at the museum.

Upcoming events including the homecoming car show, Spindletop Spookfest and the Christmas in Boomtown: City in Lights. We need volunteers the last 2 Saturdays in October to help with the garden and the first 3 weekends in November to help with the Christmas lights. We are happy that we are planning together our Christmas lights with Lamar University's Cardinal Lights. It should be a great night on December 1 when we both turn on our lights together.

November 10th (Tuesday) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wine and Music Night.

Attachment K

**Jefferson County Historical Commission
Archeology Committee Report
September 21, 2022**

The 93rd Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting and the East Texas Archeological Conference will hold a combined meeting this year at the University of Texas Tyler campus on October 21-23, 2022.

Featured speakers are archeologist Bobby Gonzalez, Chairman of the Caddo Nation and Dr. Role Mandel, current director of the Kansas Geological Survey and the state Geologist of Kansas. Other papers, symposia and posters will be presented during the event. While there, I will attend a meeting of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network as a representative of this area.

There will be a silent auction and book room. This event offers many networking opportunities.

More information can be found at <http://www.txarch.org>

Brenda Jackson

Attachment L

Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee

Since Linda McMahan is no longer working in the Courthouse or has access to work being done in both locations, she suggests that reporting from this committee be turned over to Coordinator Jen Trenbeath.

Report from Jen Trenbeath:

On August 23, 2022 we were contacted by Sydney Moreau with a request to install a TV in the 58th District Courtroom. After consulting with Theresa and Betsy Frederick-Rothwell from the THC, we contacted Greg Keller and Mike Shannon in the maintenance department to create and receive plans for the mounting of the TV.

On September 6, 2022 the Jefferson County Commissioner's Court voted to approve and authorize Judge Branick to execute a Texas Historical Commission Antiquities Permit Application for Historic Buildings and Structures for the installation of a television in the 58th Judicial District Courtroom. The motion passed unanimously, and we submitted the application to Betsy Frederick-Rothwell on September 7, 2022.

A follow-up email was sent on September 13, 2022 to confirm the receipt of the application. An auto-response came back from that email alerting us that Betsy Frederick-Rothwell is no longer with the Texas Historical Commission. The email contained two alternative points of contact, so the request and signed application has been forwarded to both parties.

We received a response from Susan Tietz on September 13, 2022 that read: "The SAL Permit #1187 should be provided to Jefferson County within the next few days. Betsy reviewed and approved it before she left and I signed off on it yesterday". We are pleased with this response and thankful that Betsy was able to take care of it before her resignation from the THC. As soon as the actual permit is received, we will pass it along to the appropriate parties.

Attachment M

Certified Local Government Committee Report
September 21, 2022

1. Report on status of Historic Resources Survey and Preservation Plan project being conducted under the National Park Service Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant.

Between June 1, 2022 and August 31, 2022 HHM completed the countywide field survey and began reviewing the fieldwork data for consistency and quality.

Invoices received and approved through August 31, 2022 total \$170,149.74, with a remaining grant fund balance of \$79,763.25.

2. Consider and discuss potential mitigation strategies under Section 106 review of possible demolition of building(s) at Eddingston Court in Port Arthur.

At the public meeting held April 12, 2022, for comments on our historic survey and preservation plan, a staff member for the City of Port Arthur brought up the fire-damaged buildings at Eddingston Court. The City had consulted THC for permission to demolish some of the damaged buildings, but THC sent the City a letter finding demolition would have an adverse effect. The City may pursue and appeal of this decision, and so may be open to pursuing mitigation strategies.

