

Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC), held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Jefferson County Historical Commission Library, 1149 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Beaumont, TX 77701

Order of Business:

1. Call to Order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Determination of Quorum. A quorum was determined, in attendance were: Jay Camp, Theresa Goodness, Kate Hambright, Bruce A. Hamilton, Brenda Jackson, Katherine Leister, Steven P. Lewis, Paul Prosperie, Don Smart and Jen Trenbeath. Also in attendance were advisors: Les McMahan and Linda McMahan as well as guests Tyraan Albert, Jessie Davis and William Gray.
3. Citizens' Communications.
4. Call, Receive Information and Take Appropriate Action on:

Introduction of Guests

ACTION ITEMS:

Secretary's Report – Jen Trenbeath

5. Consider and possibly approve minutes of previous meeting. A motion by Don Smart was made to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Kate Hambright. The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator's Report – Jen Trenbeath

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

Treasurer's Report – Jen Trenbeath

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

Chair's Report – Chair Theresa Goodness

6. Discuss, consider, and possibly accept the resignation of Jerrilynn Miller as a JCHC commissioner after a reading into the minutes of her resignation letter as per the bylaws, Article III, Section 5. A motion to accept the resignation was made by Jay Camp and seconded by Steven P. Lewis. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Discuss, consider, and possibly approve recommendation to Commissioner's Court regarding potential new and existing appointees to JCHC for the upcoming 2025-2026 appointment period. Jessie M. Davis and William Gray are the potential new appointees who have expressed interest in an appointment to JCHC. A motion to approve was made by Kate Hambright and seconded by Jen Trenbeath. The motion passed unanimously.

approved 11/15/2025
Jen Trenbeath

8. Hold Election of 2025-2026 Executive Board per Article IV, Section 7, of the Bylaws. A time for nominations from the floor was opened by Chair Goodness. Hearing none, a motion was made by Kate Hambright and seconded by Steven P. Lewis to elect the slate of officers as presented by the Coordinator. The motion passed unanimously.
9. Discuss, consider and possibly approve an expenditure out of budgeted travel funds for registration/travel fees for one or more members of JCHC to attend the Texas Historical Commission 2025 Real Places Conference to be held in Austin on April 23-25, 2025. The conference will be held in-person and virtually. Motion to approve travel for in person attendance for Coordinator, Jen Trenbeath and appointee, Katherine Leister, as well as virtual registration for viewing at the JCHC offices was made by Bruce Hamilton and seconded by Don Smart. The motion passed unanimously.
10. Consider and possibly approve recommendation to Commissioner's Court to accept donations to the JCHC library from Don Smart a new copy of W.T. Block's book, *Sour Lake, Texas: From Mud Banks to Millionaires* and from Paul Prosperie of 18 copies of the *East Texas Historical Journal*, date range Spring of 1983 to Fall of 1995. A motion was made by Jen Trenbeath and seconded by Paul Prosperie. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Historical Preservation:

11. Discuss status of Gilbert Building in downtown Beaumont following a fire. Verbal report given by Theresa Goodness with information received from the City of Beaumont. "They have been demolishing and shoring up the interior in order to thoroughly assess and create a plan for repairs. On the timeline that was originally provided to us, we were told that the owner will be making a financial commitment to proceed with the repairs on November 18th."

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness

- Report on Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness considered by Beaumont Landmark Commission. See Attachment C.

Tyrrell Historical Library – Steven P. Lewis

- Report on activities of the Tyrrell Historical Library Association. See Attachment D.

Photos of Historic Buildings - Steven P. Lewis

- Report on historic building photography project. See Attachment D.

Sam Houston State Library – Don Smart

- Report on research projects conducted at the state library. Don reports that he attended the presentation given by Michael Hurd about his research for his book "Thursday Night Lights: The Story of Black High School Football in Texas". The presentation also included information about Beaumont schools. A family history

day was presented at the Sam Houston State Library on October 5, 2024. It was well attended. A Christmas celebration will be held on December 6, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration – Theresa Goodness

- Report on status of restoration of the historic home. See Attachment E.

Historical Markers and Research – Kate Hambright

- Report on Status of Marker Applications/Dedications.
- Report on Marker Survey/Maintenance. See Attachment F.

History Appreciation:

- Report on current Courthouse Mini-museum exhibits and discussion of proposed exhibits. – Jen Trenbeath. Verbally reported that Steven Lewis will be providing an exhibit of the Gilbert Building. Spots are open so members are encouraged to bring all ideas.
- Report on updates to JCHC website and social media. – Jen Trenbeath. See Attachment G.
- Report on history articles in newspaper and events at the Stark House Museum. – Katherine Leister. Verbal report: Katherine wrote an article for the Beaumont Enterprise about the Pear Orchard Cemetery and a longer article about the Pear Orchard neighborhood. The Stark House will be hosting an Open House on December 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and an evening Open House on December 18 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Report on Coastal History. – Jay Camp. Report given on history of Gutierrez-McBee Expedition through Natchitoches through Nacogdoches.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson

- Report on activities that promote the preservation of archeological resources. Brenda reported that she attended the Texas Archaeological Society meeting. She also reports that no new surveys have been made of the Pivoto Robinson Cemetery as Bruce Grethen and the Fort Bend Archaeological Society are otherwise occupied.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie

- Report on pending applications for Historic Texas Cemetery Designations, cemetery surveys, clean-up days or other similar activities. Information included in Attachment F. Discussion was held looking back about the 4th Annual Historic Magnolia Cemetery tour to discuss positives from the tour and improvements for future years.

Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee – Jen Trenbeath

- Report on status of Jefferson County Courthouse or Sub-Courthouse buildings. No report submitted, nothing to report.

Certified Local Government (CLG) – Theresa Goodness

- Report on status of online GIS map of our historic resources survey data.
- Report on status of review of Texas Railroad Commission Consultation on an Orphaned Well Mitigation Project in Jefferson County, Texas, under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of the State of Texas.
- Report on status of ongoing project to review and monitor current state and nationally designated properties in Jefferson County and inform the Texas Historical Commission of any alterations to these historic resources. See Attachment H

Other Business

12. 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

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Attachment A

Coordinator's Report

The fall was a busy time in the JCHC office. Since our last meeting I assisted Beaumont Heritage Society with their tours of the Jefferson Theatre during the Jefferson's 13 Nights of Halloween event. I also worked with Jade Moreau from KFDM on their ARC "Living History" segment and shared history about the Sabine Pass Cemetery and the Marconi Tower on the Lamar Port Arthur campus. We of course, hosted our cemetery tours, which were very well received. I covertly worked with Laurie Leister to arrange the donation of the beautiful photos which are now on display in the jury impaneling room in honor of Theresa and her dedication to Jefferson County.

You'll remember that many months ago, a concerned citizen approached us about the Spindletop Centennial Park's condition. Laurie Leister enlisted the help of the Beaumont Heritage Society, who was able to secure grant funding for new interpretive panels at the park. To take it a step further, Laurie, Shelby and I will be meeting with Dohn LaBiche tomorrow at the park to discuss options for installing a cover or covers to further extend the life of the panels.

I've spoken with Carlyn at the the Texas Historical Commission, Cemeteries Division about the possibility of hosting an in-person workshop about cemetery preservation. The workshop would be held in 2025 and would satisfy one of our CLG requirements to host educational events for the public (of course Commission members and member of neighboring Commissions would be invited as well).

Attachment B

The JCHC Budget year runs from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. Expenditures so far include a - \$25 credit from Office Depot on an order placed at the end of the 2023/2024 FY which was not credited to the account until after the beginning of the 2024/2025 budget year, a \$350 repair to a historical marker which Kate will cover in her report, and a \$100 membership fee to the Beaumont Heritage Society.

Upcoming anticipated expenses will be renewal of membership fee for the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, postage costs for calendars (which were mailed on November 18) and registration fees for the Real Places Conference.

Jefferson County Historical Commission 2024 – 2025 Budget Report November 20, 2024

Line Item	Budget	Spent	Remaining
30-10 Books	\$0	\$0	\$00.00
30-78 Supplies	\$2,000	-\$25.00	\$2,025.00
30-90 Education	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000.00
50-05 Mileage	\$700	\$0	\$700.00
50-12 Markers	\$4,800	\$350.00	\$4,450.00
50-21 Dues	\$850	\$100.00	\$750.00
50-62 Travel	\$1,750	\$0	\$1750.00
40-52 Postage	\$300	\$0	\$300.00

Totals	\$13,400	\$425.00	\$12,975.00
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Attachment C

The Beaumont Landmark Commission has met twice since my last report. On October 14, 2024, and on November 18, 2024, the Beaumont Landmark Commission (HLC) met to review Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

- The approved minutes for the October 14, 2024, meeting are attached.
- The agenda for the meeting of November 18, 2024, is also attached. The minutes for the November meeting will be submitted with my next report after approval by the HLC in December.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
October 14, 2024
Council Chambers, City Hall, 801 Main Street, Beaumont, Texas

A Regular Meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission was held on October 14, 2024 and called to order at 3:32 p.m. with the following members present:

Chairman Dohn LaBiche
Commissioner Hester Bell
Commissioner John Berube
Commissioner Marty Craig *arrived at 3:40
Commissioner Christina Crawford
Commissioner Theresa Goodness
Commissioner Lynda Kay Makin
Commissioner Marva Provo
Commissioner Janelle Templeton
Commissioner Kirk Thomas

Commission Members absent: Commissioner Ronald Kelley
Commissioner Thomas Sigee

Also present: Elayna Luckey, Planner I
Susan Smith, Recording Secretary

Chairman LaBiche and Mrs. Luckey briefed the Commissioners on the voting and abstention process.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Goodness moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 12, 2024. Commissioner Makin seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried 9:0. Commissioner Craig not yet present.

REGULAR MEETING

The applicants of Agenda Item No. 1, PZ2024-265, and No. 2, PZ2024-266, were not present. In order for the Commission to have a complete understanding of all the details of each request, the applicant should make every effort to be in attendance at the meeting. To allow time for the applicants to arrive, Chairman LaBiche announced that the presentation of Agenda Item No. 1

(PZ2024-265) and No. 2 (PZ32024-266) will be delayed until the end of the meeting. Therefore, the Commission moved forward with the presentation of Agenda Item No. 3, PZ2024-296.

- 3) **PZ2024-296**: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to support a designation for a State Historical Marker.

Applicant: Jennifer Trenbeath
Location: 801 Pearl Street

Ms. Luckey presented the staff report. The Jefferson County Historical Commission is seeking support for an Undertold Marker application through the Texas Historical Commission. The Undertold Marker program was established to address historical gaps, promote diversity of topics, and proactively document significant underrepresented subjects or untold series. The application is to highlight the 1943 Beaumont Race Riots.

Between 1940 and 1943, Beaumont became a destination for workers in the defense industry with the population growing from 59,000 to 80,000, with African Americans maintaining a proportion of roughly one third of the population in Beaumont. In 1943, racial tensions were worsened by the pressure of World War II and increased population related to Beaumont's shipbuilding industry. On June 15th, the tension reached a head when a white woman accused an African American man of assault. For five days that followed, mobs raged in the streets of downtown Beaumont, converging on the Police Department and Jail, demanding to search all prisoners for the attacker. Three people lost their lives, thousands were injured and the African American sections of Gladys and Forsythe Streets were ravaged, with over a dozen fires being fought by the Fire Department.

Ultimately the Texas Rangers and National Guard were brought in to establish martial law. The highway was closed to prevent others from outside the city entering to join the violence, curfews were set and gatherings of large crowds prohibited and some even were not permitted to work until the violence ceased. In great irony, our nation was engaged in war battling genocide due to racism and supremacy, the very issue that cost over 200,000 labor hours of wartime shipbuilding during the week of the Beaumont Race Riots.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

Planning staff recommended approval of the request.

The applicant was present. Jennifer Trenbeath, 1149 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Beaumont, Texas addressed the Commission. Ms. Trenbeath provided the history of the Beaumont Race Riots and the process for obtaining the requested historical marker.

Gordon Williams, 1810 N. Travis, Cleveland, Texas addressed the Commission. Mr. Williams discussed the research he conducted which resulted in the creation of a fictional film relating to the Beaumont Race Riots.

Commissioners expressed support of the Untold Marker and the need to bring awareness to the community of the historical event.

Commissioner Makin moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow support a designation for a State Historical Marker, as requested in PZ2024-296. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion.

Commissioner Goodness stated that she will abstain from voting as she is the Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission, which is the Commission requesting the marker.

A roll call vote was taken. Chairman LaBiche-Aye; Commissioner Bell-Aye; Commissioner Berube-Aye; Commissioner Craig-Aye; Commissioner Crawford-Aye; Commissioner Goodness-Abstained; Commissioner Makin-Aye; Commissioner Provo-Aye; Commissioner Templeton-Aye; Commissioner Thomas-Aye. The motion to approve the request carried 9:0:1 (Goodness).

- 1) **PZ2024-265**: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a second driveway.

Applicant: KW Rentals
Location: 2137 Liberty Avenue

Ms. Luckey presented the staff report. KW Rentals, is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a second driveway located at 2137 Liberty Avenue. The proposed drive will be to accommodate the second dwelling unit to allow separation of the parking for the tenants. The drive will be constructed to the side of the structure, and will not allow for parking in front of the structure.

The home is listed in the 1989 SPARE Beaumont Survey as built circa 1910 and classified as a neoclassical with Queen Anne influences. The recorder noted that *“The house is structurally sound and well maintained, although unsympathetic alterations detract from the architectural details.”* The significance of this home is listed as *“The house is a typical example of middle-class homes built in Beaumont in the early decades of the century.”*

Slides of the subject property were shown.

Planning staff recommended approval of the request with the following condition:

1. All applicable permits and inspections are obtained through the Building Codes Department.

Brief discussion followed concerning parking on the front lawn, the tree located in the right-of-way, and location of the proposed driveway.

The applicant was not present.

Commissioner Goodness moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a second driveway, as requested in PZ2024-265, with the following condition:

1. All applicable permits and inspections are obtained through the Building Codes Department.

Commissioner Makin seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Chairman LaBiche-Aye; Commissioner Bell-Aye; Commissioner Berube-Nay; Commissioner Craig-Aye; Commissioner Crawford-Nay; Commissioner Goodness-Aye; Commissioner Makin-Aye; Commissioner Provo-Aye; Commissioner Templeton-Aye; Commissioner Thomas-Nay. The motion to approve the request carried 7:3.

- 2) **PZ2024-266**: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install an 8' fence.
Applicant: Charlie Jones
Location: 2390 Broadway Street

Ms. Luckey presented the staff report. Charlie Jones, on behalf of Judith Rich, is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to install an 8' fence on the property located at 2390 Broadway Street to prevent pedestrian foot traffic from crossing her property. The fence will be eight (8) feet in height and wood along the interior side yard and once it reaches the front of the home it will continue forward to the front property line with wrought iron.

Section 28.03.018 (g)(3)(C)(i) Historic-Cultural Landmark Preservation Overlay District states "*A fence in an interior side yard must be located no further forward on the lot than the front of the main building.*" Additionally, Section 28.03.018 (g)(3)(B) states "*Within a front yard, no solid fence or wall shall be erected to exceed a height of four (4) feet...In no circumstance shall a solid wall or fence located in a front yard exceed a maximum of six (6) feet. A fence or wall that is at least eighty (80) percent open may be erected to a maximum height of six (6) feet.*"

The home is not listed in the SPARE Beaumont Survey.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

Planning staff recommended approval of the request with the following conditions:

1. Installation of the fence shall not create a sight obstruction.
2. All parts of the fence must be installed on private property.

Brief discussion followed concerning location and height of the proposed fence.

The applicant was not present.

Commissioner Craig moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install an 8' fence, as requested in PZ2024-266, with the following conditions:

1. Installation of the fence shall not create a sight obstruction.



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Historical Commission

Theresa Goodness
Chair

Jen Trenbeath
Coordinator/Secretary

Treasurer

Steven P. Lewis
1st Vice-Chair

Don Smart
2nd Vice-Chair

2. All parts of the fence must be installed on private property.

Commissioner Templeton seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Chairman LaBiche-Aye; Commissioner Bell-Aye; Commissioner Berube-Nay; Commissioner Craig-Aye; Commissioner Crawford-Aye; Commissioner Goodness-Aye; Commissioner Makin-Aye; Commissioner Provo-Aye; Commissioner Templeton-Aye; Commissioner Thomas-Aye. The motion to approve the request carried 9:1.

HISTORIC DISTRICT CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Mrs. Luckey presented the Historic District Code Enforcement Report for the month of September, including information about current violations and inspections.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:21 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING
HISTORIC LANDMARK
COMMISSION

Council Chambers, City Hall, 801 Main St. - 3:30 p. m.

*** A G E N D A ***

**ROLL
CALL**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 14, 2024.

REGULAR MEETING

- 1) PZ2024-293: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to add two
(2) accessory buildings for classrooms.
Applicant: Misty McCord
Location: 2390 Cartwright Avenue
- 2) PZ2024-298: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to support the relocation of
two (2) State Historical Markers.
Applicant: Jennifer Trenbeath, Jefferson County Historical Commission
Location: 700 Crockett Street
- 3) PZ2024-327: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint a front door.
Applicant: Andrea Karlin
Location: 2449 Harrison Avenue
- 4) Historic District Code Enforcement Report

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

"To protect, enhance and perpetuate historic landmarks which represent or reflect distinctive and important elements of the City's and State's architectural, archaeological, cultural, social, economic, ethnic and political history and to develop appropriate settings for such places."

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Kaltrina Minick at 409-880-3777.

Attachment D

Meeting Notes 20 November 2024

Tyrrell Historical Library: There are now 549 images on the Weber Collection online (up from 547) but the changes that have been entered by David Greer still have not been added. The only changes are three additions of photos of Frank Weber on the Hollywood set of the Laurel and Hardy movie Flying Deuces.

Historic Buildings Photography: On 25 August I took a final photograph of the AT&T Building site, completing the demolition of the building. The final photo album is being passed around.

I had not photographed the Gilbert Building since 10 October so I visited the site on 18 November. Internal scaffolding has been erected, extended up to the second-floor level.

I have continued to photograph the demolition of the Beaumont High School building throughout September, taking my last images on 28 September.

The only HUD house construction I have found is on Corley Street. The initial activity quickly had the house dried in. However, there has been no activity for the last couple of weeks. I have found a cleared lot on the corner of Adams and Highland that may be a future site of a HUD house but the only predictor of future construction is the presence of a portable toilet.

A final note: I found an eBay auction that had two photographs from the 1923 flood. I won the auction but the seller misaddressed the envelope and it was delivered to a neighbor. Even though it was addressed to me, she opened it. After several visits to her house, she could not remember if she had thrown them away or sent them back. In correspondence with the seller, I found out that she had a collection of 155 negatives from the Cribbs family of Beaumont. I won that auction and received the photos on Tuesday. She also found that she had another flood photograph which she included with the negatives.

Attachment E

Report of Theresa Goodness, Board Member of Hinchee House Restoration Project November 20, 2024

In response to an intentionally set fire on the night of June 6, 2024, the Hinchee House Board has installed a monitored security system and is in the process of installing cameras. A \$10K grant and donations are covering these costs.

A workday was scheduled for Saturday, September 17, 2024. A clean-up of the yard, grass-cutting, and brush removal was completed with help from a professional lawn company hired with a donation from the South End Charlton-Pollard Neighborhood Association..

On October 20, 2024, at the Event Centre in downtown Beaumont, a first annual Bridgerton-themed Bingo fundraiser was held to benefit the restoration project for the Hinchee House. The event was a success, garnering \$5800 towards our goal.

Attachment F

New Marker Filings

Three untold marker applications were filed from Jefferson County during this fall's application period, two locally and the third by an individual in Austin:

1. 1943 Beaumont Race Riot, marker sponsor Jen Trenbeath, with collaboration and research by Gordon S. Williams

In 1943, racial tensions in Beaumont were worsened by the pressures of World War II and increased population related to Beaumont's shipbuilding industry. On June 15, the tension reached a boiling point when a white woman accused a Black man of assault. For five days that followed, mobs raged in the streets of downtown Beaumont, converging on the Police Department, and Jail, demanding to search all prisoners for the attacker. Three people lost their lives, thousands were injured, the Black sections of Gladys and Forsyth Streets were ravaged with multiple businesses destroyed, and over a dozen fires being fought by the Fire Department. Over 2,500 Beaumont Black citizens permanently fled the city. Ultimately the Texas Rangers and National Guard were brought in to establish martial law. In great irony, our nation was engaged in war battling genocide due to racism and supremacy, the very issue that cost over 200,000 labor hours of wartime shipbuilding during the week of the Beaumont Race Riots.

2. Atakapa Community, Port Neches, 1700s-1800s, marker sponsor Professor Ted Campbell

A community of Atakapa people (*Atakapa-Ishak*) lived at present-day Port Neches from at least 1757 until the early 1800s when the earliest American settlers to the area found a complex of six large burial mounds, each estimated to be about 150x15x10 feet. Although the earliest documented record of the community is a 1757 map prepared by Spanish Lieutenant Governor of Texas Bernardo de Miranda y Flores, the scale of the mound complex suggests a longer period of habitation, perhaps for centuries. The 1757 map shows another community also designated as *Atakapa* either across the Neches from this village or possibly on the Louisiana shore of Sabine Lake (the map does not show the Sabine River). One of the last Spanish officials in the Province of Texas, Juan Antonio Padilla, estimated the population of the village "on the Neches river near the lagoons where it empties into the sea" to be about 200 people in 1919, though he used the apparently Caddo name *Nacazil* rather than the Choctaw-derived name *Atakapa* for the community. By this time, the *Atakapa-Ishak* people subsisted by farming as well as hunting and fishing. By 1830, the site had been abandoned, although Atakapa descendants continue to live in southeast Texas. The Atakapa community had decreased for more than a century as a result of disease and

hostilities. The Native burial complex on the site was desecrated piecemeal between 1837 and 1902 and became the site of the Texas Port Neches Works, now the Motiva docks.

3. Sadie Patillo, Patillo v. State, Texas Separate Coach Laws (Texas' First Bus Desegregation Case), marker sponsor Vince Leibowitz of Austin.

The narrative centers around Sadie Patillo, a Black school teacher, who, in 1930, refused to sit in the segregated portion of Beaumont busses assigned to Black individuals and instead sat in the "whites only" section. She was arrested. The lawsuit filed on her behalf stemmed from the fact that busses were not specifically referenced in existing desegregation laws of that period. Research on our end following our discovery of this marker application filing revealed several news articles which the marker sponsor had not yet uncovered. He had stated that the reason why Sadie Patillo had chosen to sit in the "whites only" portion of the bus was not known. However, local news articles reveal that this was not Sadie's first time to flaunt the then laws regarding seat placement; she had been called out several times previously by the bus company for sitting in the "whites only" section and refusing to move, although apparently she had never been arrested for this offense before the present instance. Therefore, Sadie had obviously made a conscientious choice to protest the limitations placed on her seat selection while riding the local bus. These articles were provided to the marker sponsor, who expressed pleasure to hear from us but did not follow up with any further communications. It is unknown where he intends to place the marker if approved.

The THC will notify untold marker sponsors if their applications have been approved in early February. Approved applicants will receive a large 27" x 42" historical marker, free of charge.

We will next turn our attention to the regular (paid) historical marker filing application cycle, which runs from March 15-May 15.

Report on Status of Current Marker Applications/Dedications

The RTHL marker dedication for the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers House was held on Saturday, November 9, 2024 with an excellent turnout of guests in spite of inclement weather.

Blanchette Cemetery, located in the Pear Orchard community has now received its Historical Texas Cemetery designation. The HTC declaration will be filed in the Jefferson County Clerk's office today.

We have at long last received the draft inscription for Sprott Hospital, our second Undertold Marker application approved in November 2023, and it is currently being reviewed by our marker sponsor.

The final inscriptions for the HTC plaques for Pear Orchard and Magnolia Cemetery, the RTHL marker for the Temple to the Brave, and subject markers for Pandit Mehar Chand and George O'Brien Millard are in various states of processing by the THC and/or foundry with expected delivery dates in 2025 (hopefully).

Potential New Marker Requests

We are still hoping to file a Historical Texas Cemetery designation application for Blessed Sacrament Cemetery, a/k/a Haven of Rest, in the Pear Orchard neighborhood. This cemetery adjoins the Pear Orchard Cemetery.

Father Tommy Williams of Fellowship Baptist Church, 1175 Isla Street, has reached about a historical marker, as has Carolyn Guidry of Blessed Sacrament Church, 780 Porter Street.

NRHP Nomination

We are still inching along on the Temple to the Brave National Register Nomination, which was approved by the THC its State Board of Review meeting on January 13, 2024. It's a lengthy process.

Marker Relocation Updates:

Site of Old Aurora: This marker remains in storage in Commissioner Sinegal's Pct. 3 warehouse for the duration of an anticipated six-months-long improvement project along Woodworth Boulevard between Proctor Street and Lakeshore Drive. The City of Port Arthur is aware of this project. They have not responded to queries for updates on this project.

Miscellaneous Marker Matters:

The damaged Port Arthur Refinery Marker near the Valero plant on Highway 87 has now been repaired by Triangle Metals. We anticipate its reinstallation in the near future.

Beaumont Historic Landmark Commission approved the proposed reinstallation of each of the Nancy Tevis and Beaumont Lumber Mill City historical markers at the Event Center at their meeting on Monday, November 18. This matter will next go to City Council and then we will file the marker relocation requests with the THC.

Other items of interest:

Beaumont Police Department:

There will be a ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. to dedicate a memorial plaque in memory of Special Police Officer George Frederick, who was killed in the line of duty in May 1902. He was one of Beaumont's first known Black police officers. The Beaumont City Council paid for Frederick's funeral. However, the site of his burial is unknown. Frederick's surviving spouse was later buried at Evergreen Cemetery. Sandra Wilturner and the Evergreen Cemetery Association graciously donated a plot of land so that a plaque to George Frederick's memory could be placed in the same cemetery as his deceased wife's grave. A shield for Frederick was previously added to the Beaumont Police Department's Officers' Memorial on College Street and his name has also been added to the State of Texas and national police officer memorials. Operation Blue Remembrance provided the memorial plaque being installed at Evergreen and Beaumont Fire Chief Earl White provided funding for its frame.

Tyrrell Historical Library:

The Tyrrell Historical Library is now the repository of Gordon S. Williams' two films, "They Will Talk About Us: The Charlton Pollard Story" and "The Example." The films were accepted during an extraordinarily moving ceremony on November 14, 2024.

Attachment G

I am excited to report that after about 2 months of issues accessing the county website, MIS has addressed the security issue on my browser and I am again able to access all functions of our website. As this was an ongoing issue, there is nothing to report for the web committee.

Don has been kind enough to provide three great Christmas time articles from the Beaumont Enterprise and Beaumont Journal that will be shared on our facebook page in December.

Attachment H

Certified Local Government Committee Report

November 20, 2024

- Report on status of online GIS map of our historic resources survey data.

The County's GIS Dept. has been working on creating an online GIS map from our historical resources survey. The goal is to have a map with layers showing the surveyed properties in the county, along with the status, i.e. Possesses Integrity, Intensive Survey Needed, etc. The map should be completed soon and posted on our website.

- Report on status of review of Texas Railroad Commission Consultation on an Orphaned Well Mitigation Project in Jefferson County, Texas, under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of the State of Texas.

See attached letter sent to Texas Railroad Commission on 10/1/2024, informing the agency JCHC has not adopted any comments with regard to this project.

- Report on status of ongoing project to review and monitor current state and nationally designated properties in Jefferson County and inform the Texas Historical Commission of any alterations to these historic resources.

Per the requirements outlined in the [Certified Local Government Handbook](#) and our certification agreement, CLG's are to monitor and inform the Texas Historical Commission of changes affecting any county courthouse, RTHL, SAL, National Register property, or locally designated landmarks. Recently in conjunction with the City of Beaumont we made certain THC was informed of damages to the Gilbert Building, the First National Bank Building, and the Mildred Building. Last year we photographed all of the designated properties in the county, and will continue to monitor them for any changes.