



## JEFFERSON COUNTY

Theresa Goodness  
Chair

Jen Trenbeath  
Coordinator/Secretary

Historical Commission

Linda McMahan  
Treasurer

Dr. Steven P. Lewis  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair

Don Smart  
2nd Vice-Chair

**Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Jefferson County Historical  
Commission (JCHC)  
Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the  
Jefferson County Historical Commission Library, 1149 Pearl Street, Third Floor,  
Beaumont, TX 77701**

### Order of Business:

1. Chair Theresa Goodness called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. An announcement was made that food was available.
2. Determination of Quorum. A quorum was determined. In attendance were: Jay Camp, Theresa Goodness, Kate Hambright, Bruce Hamilton, Rayanna Hoeft, Steven P. Lewis, Mike McGreevy, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Don Smart, Tish Stewart, Jen Trenbeath.
3. Citizens' Communications. None.
4. Call, Receive Information and Take Appropriate Action on:

Introduction of Guests. William Gray was in attendance thanks to an invitation by Bruce Hamilton.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **Secretary's Report** – Jen Trenbeath

5. Consider and possibly approve minutes of previous meeting. Minutes of the March 15, 2023 Regular Meeting and of the April 26, 2023 Special Meeting were sent to members by email and included the written reports. No changes were needed. A motion to accept both sets of minutes as presented was made by Jay Camp and seconded by Don Smart. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Coordinator's Report** – Jen Trenbeath

- Staff report from Coordinator. See Attachment A.

#### **Treasurer's Report** – Linda McMahan

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

approval  
passed unanimously  
7/19/2023  
Jen Trenbeath

**Chair's Report** – Chair Theresa Goodness. See Attachment C.

6. Discuss, consider, and possibly accept the resignation of Lynn Simon as a JCHC commissioner after a reading into the minutes of his resignation letter as per the bylaws, Article III, Section 5. See Attachment D. A motion to accept the letter of resignation was made by Mike McGreevy and seconded by Les McMahan. The motion passed unanimously with extreme sadness at the loss of such a knowledgeable and kind member of the commission.
7. Discuss, consider and possibly approve submission to the county of JCHC annual budget request for fiscal year 2023 – 2024. See Attachment E. A motion to approve the budget requests for FY 2023/2024 was made by Linda McMahan and seconded by Rayanna Hoeft. The motion passed unanimously.
8. Consider and possibly recommend to Commissioners Court the acceptance of a donation to the JCHC library from Bill Block of “Sabine Pass Chronicles” by W.T. Block. A motion was made by Dr. Steven P. Lewis and seconded by Kate Hambright. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

**Historical Preservation:**

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness

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

Tyrrell Historical Library – Steven P. Lewis

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

Photos of Historic Buildings - Steven P. Lewis

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

Sam Houston State Library – Don Smart

- Report on research projects conducted at the state library. Don reports that he has been working on research of former Jefferson County Sheriff, Ras Landry,

Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration – Theresa Goodness

- Report on status of restoration of the historic home. Report submitted. See attachment H.

World War I monument committee – Kate Hambright

- Report of progress of the WWI monument committee on the relocation project. Report submitted. See attachment I.

**Historical Markers and Research** – Kate Hambright

- Report on Status of Marker Applications/Dedications. Report submitted. See attachment J.
- Report on Marker Survey/Maintenance. Report submitted. See attachment J.

**History Appreciation:**

- Report on current Courthouse Mini-museum exhibits and discussion of proposed exhibits. – Linda McMahan. Report submitted. See attachment K.
- Report on updates to JCHC website and social media. – Jen Trenbeath. No report submitted.
- Report on events at Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum. – Rayanna Hoeft. Rayanna reports that her first full-time day was May 2<sup>nd</sup>. She is assessing operations for the first 60 days. Accessions are currently on hold as she works through the existing collection. The Advisory Board is being recreated and she is working on a collection management plan to guide staff moving forward. Over 1,000 visitors came to the museum in April. Many volunteers will be needed to achieve the short-term goals.
- Report on Coastal History. – Jay Camp shared that the Bolivar Lighthouse is undergoing restoration. It is funded by a non-profit and the progress can be seen on facebook. The finial is in the Smithsonian as a permanent piece of their collection. Jay also shared about the Gutierrez/Jane Long Expedition. He also asked if any commission members knew whether Mike McGaffey was part of the McGaffey family from Sabine Pass. Jen offered to check some McGaffey family records that she acquired doing research on their formerly enslaved workers, who eventually became caretakers of the Evergreen Cemetery and members of Mount Goliad Baptist Church in Beaumont.

**Archeology Committee** – Brenda Jackson

- Report on activities that promote the preservation of archeological resources. No report submitted, Brenda was unable to attend.

**Cemetery Committee** – Paul Prosperie

- Report on pending applications for Historic Texas Cemetery Designations, cemetery surveys, clean-up days or other similar activities. No report submitted. Paul unable to attend. Jen verbally updated that the Magnolia HTC is still pending but that she has

been in contact with the THC about it. Kate verbally reported that Jessie Davis, former JCHC member will revisit her application for Pear Orchard Cemetery HTC after June.

- Report on THC Cemetery Inventory Project. No report submitted. Paul unable to attend.

**Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee** – Jen Trenbeath

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

**Certified Local Government (CLG)** – Theresa Goodness

6. Discuss, consider and possibly adopt priorities for the County Certified Local Government (CLG) and County Historical Commission (CHC) for the next 5-10 years, such as:
  - Creating a publicly accessible system for sharing and updating survey data.
  - Selecting areas for follow-up survey recommended by the windshield survey (such as intensive-level survey and research).
  - Listing resources in the National Register as recommended by the survey.
  - Planning and implementing educational programs and partnerships with other advocacy groups.
  - Considering other ways that the County might incentivize and/or promote preservation.
- 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.
- Report on status of any reviews under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of the State of Texas. Report submitted. See attachment M.

**Other Business**

9. 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 was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Attachment A

Coordinator's Report

May 17, 2023

Since our March 15, 2023 meeting I have been honored to participate in the following activities:

A presentation about preservation and disaster preparedness held at the Port Arthur Public Library with Les McMahan for Preservation Week kick off April 12<sup>th</sup> 2023

I was invited by Carol Gary with Beaumont Main Street to docent at the First City/First Security National Bank building for Main Street's "Imagine the Possibilities Tour" on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2023

Advisory member, Judy Linsley asked Chair Theresa Goodness and I to give a presentation to the Texas Gulf Historical Society with on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2023. I spoke about the overall mission of the JCHC and Theresa gave a detailed report on our CLG goals as well as our current Historic Resources Survey.

JCHC Treasurer, Linda McMahan suggested me as a presenter for the Colonel George Sanders chapter of the D.A.R. Paul Prosperie previous gave a cemetery presentation to this D.A.R. chapter as well which was enjoyed by all. I gave a similar presentation on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2023 as Theresa and I gave on May 9<sup>th</sup>, with a greater focus on our committees' work.

Does anyone have suggestions of resources that I can provide to Latasha Simon, who is looking for lists of businesses in operation in Beaumont during unspecified periods. City Directories of course, and Business Census perhaps?

Attachment B

Treasurer's Report- Linda McMahan

May 17, 2023

The Jefferson County Historical Commission's 2022-2023 Budget year started October 1, 2022 with \$13,200. The year runs through September 30, 2023.

As of today, \$2,485.42 has been spent with \$10,714.58 remaining.

Expenditures are:

\$100 application fee to the Texas Historical Commission for the George O'Brien Millard marker application.

\$245 for custom printed tablecover from Cotton Cargo.

\$279.13 for TV and Mount for the JCHC Library

Membership Renewals:

\$50 Tyrrell Historical Library Association

\$50 Beaumont Main Street

\$50 Texas Historical Foundation

\$25 Texas Gulf Historical Society

**Jefferson County Historical Commission  
2022 – 2023 Budget Report  
May 16, 2023**

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
30-10 Books	\$250	\$0	\$250.00
30-78 Supplies	\$2,000	\$609.13	\$1390.87
30-90 Education	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000.00
50-05 Mileage	\$500	\$313.75	\$186.25
50-12 Markers	\$4,800	\$100.00	\$4,700.00
50-21 Dues	\$850	\$435.00	\$415.00
50-62 Travel	\$1,500	\$909.54	\$590.46
40-52 Postage	\$300	\$118.00	\$182.00
Totals	\$13,200	\$2,485.42	\$10,714.58



Attachment C

Chair's Report 5/17/2023

Jefferson County Historical Commission

- Discuss, consider, and possibly accept the resignation of Lynn Simon as a JCHC commissioner after a reading into the minutes of his resignation letter as per the bylaws, Article III, Section 5.

See attached letter from Mr. Lynn Simon tendering his resignation from JCHC (Attachment D). Mr. Simon would like to move to advisor status.

- Discuss, consider and possibly approve submission to the county of JCHC annual budget request for fiscal year 2023 – 2024.

See attached proposed budget request.

- Consider and possibly recommend to Commissioners Court the acceptance of a donation to the JCHC library from Bill Block of “Sabine Pass Chronicles” by W.T. Block.

Bill Block, son of W.T. Block, would like to donate a copy of his father's book to the JCHC library.

Attachment D

4/01/2023

To Jefferson County Historical Commission  
To Theresa Goodness Chair  
To Jen Trenbeath Secretary

This letter is a request to leave the JCHC. Conditions in my life no longer permit me to perform my duties to the level required by the historical commission.

I have a need to thank all that have helped me to learn a new enjoyable skill that serves me and our community. The JCHC has been also a new source for new friends.

There is a commitment that I signed onto long before the JCHC (my family). Health, economics and family group support are required now.

Information acquired while being a member of the JCHC will be shared with the JCHC. Any needed support or help from me will be given.

Lynn Matthew Simon

Attachment E

### Jefferson County Historical Commission 2023 – 2024 Proposed Requested Budget

Line Item	2022/2023	Proposed 2023/2024	Difference/Explanation
30-10 Books	\$250	\$0	Library will be downsized and the likelihood of acquiring new books is slim. Rather than continue to fund an obsolete account, I propose to request the county to instead allot funds to Account 30-78 supplies.
30-78 Supplies	\$2,000	\$2250	Additional \$250 to come from obsolete "books" account if approved
30-90 Education	\$3,000	\$3,000	
50-05 Mileage	\$500	\$500	
50-12 Markers	\$4,800	\$4,800	
50-21 Dues	\$850	\$850	
50-62 Travel	\$1,500	\$1,500	
40-52 Postage	\$300	\$300	
30-84		\$1,500	This line item is not usually funded. I am awaiting a

Computer Equipment			quote for a new printer/scanner from MIS, but I'm asking for permission from the JCHC to include the cost of a new printer and scanner up to \$1,500 in our 2023/2024 budget request
	\$13,200	\$14,700	This is the max I would request, pending pricing on printer from MIS.

Attachment F

Report of Theresa Goodness, JCHC Designee for Beaumont Landmark Commission

May 17, 2023

The Beaumont Landmark Commission has met twice since my last report. On April 10, 2023, and on May 8, 2023, the Beaumont Landmark Commission (HLC) met to review Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

- The approved minutes for the April 10, 2023, meeting are attached.
- The agenda for the meeting of May 8, 2023, is also attached. The minutes for the May meeting will be submitted with my next report after approval by the HLC.

**\* M I N U T E S \***

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**

**April 10, 2023**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, Ste. 130, City Hall, 801 Main Street, Beaumont, Texas**

A Regular Meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission was held on April 10, 2023 and called to order at 3:35 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Yolanda Nan Avery  
Commissioner Hester Bell  
Commissioner Christina Crawford  
Commissioner Theresa Goodness  
Commissioner Hajrah Javed \*arrived at 3:40  
Commissioner Lynda Kay Makin  
Commissioner Thomas Sigee  
Commissioner Janelle Templeton

Commission Members absent: Chairman Dohn LaBiche  
Commissioner John Berube  
Commissioner Marva Provo

Also present: Chris Boone, Assistant City Manager, Community Services  
Demi Engman, Planning Manager  
Elayna Luckey, Planner I  
Susan Smith, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Goodness moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 13, 2023. Commissioner Sigee seconded the motion. The motion to approve The motion to approve carried 7:0. Commissioner Javed not yet present.

**REGULAR MEETING**

- 1) **PZ2023-107:** A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a hog wire fence.  
Applicant: David Bradley  
Location: 694 Forrest Street

Mrs. Luckey presented the staff report. Applicant, David Bradley, requests permission to keep a hog wire fence to the property located at 694 Forrest. The hog wire fence has been constructed to be four (4) and a half (1/2) feet in height with 2x4 trim cattle fencing and is situated along the

Historic Landmark Commission  
April 10, 2023

northern and western sides of the property. The placement of the fence appears to not restrict the visibility of the structure or the surrounding structures.

The property is in the 1977 and 1989 SPARE Beaumont Survey. SPARE states the house was built in 1899. The buildings significance is listed as, Beaumont's best example of a small Queen Anne house and one of the few surviving from the pre-Spindletop era. The finely detailed structure includes original woodwork as well as stained and beveled glass windows. The house was built for the Holmes Duke, a prominent local businessman and city official. A recorded Texas Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Staff recommended approval.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

The applicant was present. David Bradley, 2165 North Street, Beaumont, Texas addressed the Commission. Mr. Bradley stated that he purchased the home approximately 1½ years ago. The property was in a state of condemnation due to termites and he has been restoring the home for approximately the past year. He further stated that the current fencing was installed approximately 1½ month ago and was not aware that the home sits within the City's Historic Landmark District. The property has been cleared of brush and debris and the alleyways are now private roadways. Mr. Bradley also stated that fencing has been constructed on the McFaddin end of the property to isolate the property from the homeless persons problem he was having with the Salvation Army and Some Other Place. He further stated that his original plan was to move the house to the Historic District. Mr. Bradley indicated that he chose hog wire fencing because he did not care for the existing aluminum fencing and a privacy fence would block the view of the home. He also gave examples of this type of fencing used at other homes within the Historic District and would like to keep the original appearance of the property. Mr. Bradley further stated that property will be used as commercial office space.

Commissioner Crawford moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a hog wire fence, as requested in file PZ2023-107.

Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion to approve the request carried 8:0.

- 2) **PZ2023-116:** A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace metal posts.  
Applicant: George Leonard  
Location: 2575 Hazel Street

Mrs. Luckey presented the staff report. Applicant, George Leonard, on behalf of property owner Paula Rodriguez, requests permission to replace the metal posts at the property located at 2575 Hazel Street with wooden six inch (6") by six inch (6") posts. The metal posts at the entry are deteriorating and the homeowner is remodeling and wishes to have such replaced while the work is in progress.

Historic Landmark Commission  
April 10, 2023

The submitted wooded posts for the porch appear to be appropriate for a Dutch colonial home with new traditional influence, in accordance to photos demonstrated in *A Field Guide to American Houses* (McAlester et al., pgs. 118-119).

The property is in the 1991 SPARE Beaumont Survey. SPARE states the house was built c. 1930. The buildings significance is listed as, a common house form built in the 1930's in Beaumont.

Mrs. Luckey noted that the metal posts were removed some time after the packets were mailed to the Commissioners and is uncertain if the current posts are permanent or temporary.

Staff recommended approval of the request with the following conditions:

1. The posts be painted to match the structure.
2. All applicable building permits and inspections are to be obtained through the Building Codes Department.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

The property owner was present. Paula Rodriguez, 2575 Hazel Street, Beaumont, Texas addressed the Commission. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the current wooden temporary posts are in place because once the metal posts were removed, the City instructed them to not move forward with the project. She further stated that the old metal posts were rusted and is unaware if similar metal posts are available. The property owner was advised of local historic salvage vendors that supply metal posts similar to the posts previously in place. Ms. Rodriguez also stated that wooden posts are preferred and no wooden caps or moulding will be placed on the posts.

Commissioner Sigee moved to deny the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace metal posts, as requested in file PZ2023-116, with the following conditions:

1. The posts be painted to match the structure.
2. All applicable building permits and inspections are to be obtained through the Building Codes Department.

Commissioner Crawford seconded the motion. The motion to deny the request carried 7:1 (Templeton).

- 3) **PZ2023-118**: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a hog wire fence.  
Applicant: J.W. Turner Construction, LTD for Mary Zavala  
Location: 2075 Liberty Avenue

Mrs. Luckey presented the staff report. Applicant, Joseph Reho, on behalf of property owner Karen Corwin, requests permission to install a hog wire fence to the property located at 2540 Hazel. The hog wire fence will be constructed to be four (4) feet in height with, 2x4 trim cattle



Historic Landmark Commission  
April 10, 2023

fencing, to include a portion of the vacant property to the west that is also owned by Ms. Corwin. The placement of the fence appears to not hinder the visibility of the structure or surrounding structures.

The property is in the 1991 SPARE Beaumont Survey. SPARE states the house was built c. 1939. The buildings significance is listed as, an example of a common house built in the 1930's.

Staff recommended approval of the request.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

The applicant was not present.

Commissioner Goodness moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a hog wire fence, as requested in file PZ2023-118.

Commissioner Avery seconded the motion. The motion to approve the request carried 8:0.

- 4) **PZ2023-132**: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a hog wire fence.  
Applicant: Marco Lopez  
Location: 2171 Liberty Avenue

Mrs. Luckey presented the staff report. Applicant, Marco Lopez, requests permission to keep a hog wire fence to the vacant property located at 2171 Liberty. The hog wire fence has been constructed to be five (5) feet in height with, 2x4 trim cattle fencing. Mr. Lopez was granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a 5' wooden fence to surround the property on March 22, 2023. On the same day Inspector Randle noticed the hog wire fencing during routine inspections. The request was amended to match what had been installed and Mr. Lopez was notified his request would appear before the Historic Landmark Commission. The installation of fence, does not appear to restrict visibility of surrounding structures.

The property is not listed in the SPARE Beaumont survey.

Staff recommended approval of the request.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

The applicant was present. Marco Lopez, 2165 Liberty Avenue, Beaumont, Texas addressed the Commission. Mr. Lopez stated that he did not realize the original Certificate of Appropriateness specified that it was for the installation of 5' solid wooden fence. He further stated that he is happy that he resides in the Historic District and wishes to maintain its appearance.

Commissioner Goodness moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a hog wire fence, as requested in file PZ2023-132.

Historic Landmark Commission  
April 10, 2023

Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion to approve the request carried 8:0.

- 5) **PZ2023-137**: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to relocate a World War I monument.  
Applicant: City of Beaumont  
Location: Main Street to 2290 Pine Street

Mrs. Luckey presented the staff report. The City of Beaumont, requests permission to relocate the World War I monument currently located in downtown Beaumont within the right-of-way of Main Street. The proposed location for the monument is within the front entry of the historically accredited Magnolia cemetery located at 2290 Pine Street.

Magnolia Cemetery has served Southeast Texas for over one hundred twenty years (120) provided its founder William McFaddin, a pioneer and Texas War for Independence Veteran, who deeded approximately two acres of his land to the Town of Beaumont in 1876. The prominent display of the monument will be within the entrance of Magnolia Cemetery and will provide the visual presence and accessibility that its current location of a City right-of-way lacks. With understanding that over two hundred thousand (200,000) Texans served in the military during World War I, housing the monument where many veterans of that war are laid to rest seems appropriate.

Neither property is listed in the SPARE Beaumont survey.

Staff recommended approval of the request.

Slides of the current monument location were shown, along with the proposed location.

Mrs. Luckey stated that included in the packets were copies of the 2017 Special Edition of the Texas Historic Commission medallion related to WWI memorabilia and monument placement throughout Texas cemeteries.

Brief discussion followed concerning the William McFaddin historical dedication monument currently located at the proposed site and other possible locations for the World War I monument. Mrs. Luckey explained that the idea of moving the monument was proposed to the City by the Jefferson County Historical Commission and Magnolia Cemetery. Commissioner Goodness stated that the Jefferson County Historical Commission established a committee to review the proposal and to research the deceased World War I soldiers that were from Beaumont. She further stated that the Commission would like to call attention to the service of the men and women that died in the war and to place the monument where it can be better seen by the public.

Donald Smart, P.O. Box 591, Hardin, Texas addressed the Commission. Mr. Smart stated that thirty-nine Beaumont men died in WWI of which twenty-two are buried at Magnolia Cemetery, one at Hebrew Rest Cemetery, and two at Evergreen Cemetery. He further stated that the Jefferson County Historical Commission is creating a booklet containing a biography of each of the thirty-nine soldiers and their burial site location. Mr. Smart also stated that the Commission would like to have a monument made listing the names of the thirty-nine Beaumont soldiers in their honor.

Historic Landmark Commission  
April 10, 2023

Councilmember Mike Getz, 7950 Phelan Boulevard, Beaumont, Texas addressed the Commission. Councilman Getz thanked the Jefferson County Historical Commission for bringing awareness to the need of moving the monument to a more visible location. He further stated the he supports moving the monument to the Temple to the Brave located at Pipkin Park, which was built and dedicated by the Daughters of the American Revolution in memorial of those who lost their lives in World War I. He also stated that World War I artifacts are located at the site and is open to the public a few days throughout each year and by appointment. Councilman Getz stated that the pedestal to the statue of George O'Brien Mallard currently located at Pipkin Park will be relocated making its site a good location for the World War I monument. He further stated the Pipkin Park location is ideal being that it is City-owned property, rather than private property. He also stated it could become problematic if a City-owned monument is placed on private property.

Bruce Hamilton, 7730 Chelsea Place, Beaumont, Texas addressed the Commission. Mr. Hamilton stated that the Jefferson County Historical Commission considered relocating the monument to Pipkin Park, however, the World War I monument will be less impressive due to the Temple to the Brave already being located at Pipkin Park. He further stated that most of the Veterans are buried at Magnolia Cemetery and nearby cemeteries, therefore, Magnolia Cemetery is an appropriate location for the monument.

Kelli Maness, President of Magnolia Cemetery, 25 Bellchase Gardens Drive, Beaumont, Texas addressed the Commission. Ms. Maness stated that most are unaware of the World War I monument as it is not visible at the present location and should be relocated to Magnolia Cemetery where it will be cared for. She further addressed the location of the proposed ledger that will contain the names of the thirty-nine Beaumont men that died in WWI.

Commissioner Goodness moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to relocate a World War I monument, as requested in file PZ2023-137.

Commissioner Crawford seconded the motion. The motion to approve the request carried 8:0.

- 6) **PZ2023-138**: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove window grids or match lower level grids.  
Applicant: Jennifer Stimmel for Shirley Boone  
Location: 615 N Fifth Street

Mrs. Luckey presented the staff report. Jennifer Stimmel, on behalf of Shirley Boone, seeks permission to replace twenty (20) windows on the Wiess house located at 615 North Fifth Street. The request is to remove the grids from the windows on the second story, or to match the grids to the first floor of the structure.

This home is categorized as a Prairie house. Examples for this style of home are located in *A Field Guide to American Houses* (McAlester et al., pgs. 444-451). The request to remove the grids seems inappropriate with the examples given. The request to match the first floor grids appears appropriate as a number of examples provide matching windows throughout the structure.

Historic Landmark Commission  
April 10, 2023

This house is in in the 1990 SPARE Beaumont Survey. SPARE states the house was built c. 1912. The buildings significance is listed as, the house is the only example of Prairie style architecture in Beaumont. The house was originally owned by Harry Wiess founder of Humble Oil and Refining Company (now Exxon Corporation). The house has HC designation. The house was built by a protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright at H.C. Banker and company, Architects.

Staff recommended approval of the request to match the first floor grids with the following conditions:

1. Shall obtain all necessary building permits from the Building Codes.
2. Any replacement of trim shall match existing color scheme of the structure.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

Brief discussion followed concerning the location of the windows to be replaced. Mrs. Luckey stated that new windows are available for purchase and the property owner is awaiting the Commission's decision prior to placing the order.

The applicants were not present.

Commissioner Templeton moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to match the first floor grids, as requested in file PZ2023-138, with the following conditions:

1. Shall obtain all necessary building permits from the Building Codes.
2. Any replacement of trim shall match existing color scheme of the structure.

Commissioner Sigee seconded the motion. The motion to approve the request carried 8:0.

- 7) **PZ2023-158**: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to support a designation for a State Historical Marker.  
Applicant: City of Beaumont  
Location: 500 Main Street

Mrs. Luckey presented the staff report. The City of Beaumont, with the Jefferson County Historical Commission and the family of George O'Brien Millard, are seeking support in a designation request for a State Historical Marker. The designation request is for the statue of George O'Brien Millard, located at the corner of Bowie Street and Pearl Street, also known as 500 Main Street.

George O'Brien Millard was once listed in the *Beaumont Enterprise*, as "perhaps the most beloved man in Beaumont". He was a dedicated member of the First Methodist Church and served two terms as an Alderman for the City of Beaumont. He spent his retirement advocating for improvements to the public school system, and was benefited the credit of "Beaumont's splendid school systems."

Historic Landmark Commission  
April 10, 2023

The Statue cast in Bronze, was crafted by Pompeo Coppini in 1912, just two years after Millard's untimely death. The seven foot (7') tall statue was unveiled in front of the "Millard Elementary" school, named in honor of Millard. The statue was moved to Pipkin Park sometime after the closing of the school. In 1999 The Texas Historical Commission announced that the bronze statue was in desperate need of restoration, an art conservation group evaluated the statue, cleaned and made small repairs to the statue. In 2010 artist, Ron Pettitt suggested moving the sculpture to its new location at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. The statue was removed from its original granite base and fully restored.

Staff recommended approval of the request.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

Brief discussion followed concerning the statue marker dedication application deadline, the families desire to relocate the base from Pipkin Park to the grounds of the Art Museum of Southeast Texas, and the Sculptor of the statue.

Jennifer Trenbeath, Jefferson County Historical Commission Coordinator and descendant of George O'Brien Millard, 2020 Chevy Chase Lane, Beaumont, Texas addressed the Commission. Ms. Trenbeath stated that the State Historical Marker is important in explaining Mr. Millard's impact on the community.

Commissioner Templeton moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to support a designation for a State Historical Marker, as requested in file PZ2023-138.

Commissioner Goodness seconded the motion. The motion to approve the request carried 8:0.

#### **HISTORIC DISTRICT CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

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

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- 1) Discuss administrative reviews for hog wire fences within The Oaks Historic District.

Mrs. Luckey stated that the number of requests for hog wire fences is increasing. Discussion followed concerning the Commission reviewing each request individually or allowing Planning Staff to review each request administratively with any extenuating circumstances being presented to the Commission. The recommendation before the Commission was for minimum requirements of an unobstructed view four foot treated wood fence with any paint color requests in keeping with current Historic Landmark District color requirements be reviewed by Staff administratively. The

Historic Landmark Commission  
April 10, 2023

recommendation for minimum requirements of an unobstructed view four foot treated wood fence to be reviewed by Staff with any variations to be presented to the Commission for consideration carried 8:0.

2) Commissioner Crawford discussed the need for notifying The Oaks Historic District homeowners of Historic Landmark District rule and regulations. Staff advised the Commission of steps being taken to better inform residents of the rules and regulations.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:34 P.M.**

Attachment G

**Meeting Notes 17 May 2023**

Tyrrell Historical Library: At the last regular meeting I reported that I had submitted corrections that need to be made on Tyrrell Library online site of the 535 images from the Weber Collection at the Texas Energy Museum. The last I heard from Bill Grace is that the corrections should be made and that we need to get together and work this out. If allowed, I am willing to enter the information to their system. I have been busy on other projects and have not had time to revisit the subject.

Historic Buildings Photography:

I had continued my weekly visits to Tyrrell Park to check on the progress on the CCC building until the bridge over Hillebrandt Bayou was opened around March 18. While the bridge is open, there is still work that needs to be done on the approaches the bayou. I think that the opening of the South Texas State Fair spurred on the opening of the bridge.

No FEMA houses were photographed except as will be noted later.

Using the document on the Commercial District supplied by Katy, I have almost finished the project. I have submitted my penultimate report to Jennifer. I found all the sites including ones that have been demolished. Unfortunately, the Commercial District document indicates reference images of the demolished sites but I have not been able to locate them. At our special meeting on April 26, I talked to Leslie Wolfenden about finding those images. I sent her a copy of the document since she agreed to look for them. So far, I have not heard back from her.

At the last regular meeting of the JCHC I reported that I have started photographing the sites in SPARE 1990. I have photographed 512 of the 725 sites. The survey is organized roughly by streets, which makes the project a little easier. I have finished Angelina, Ashley, Calder, Concord, Evalon, Grand, Harrison, Hazel, Laurel, Long, Magnolia, McFaddin, Miller, North, numbered streets (Second, Third, etc.), Pecos, Rusk, South, and Stephenson. I plan on doing some simple statistics based on the number of houses extant, demolished, and if demolished if a new house was built on site. I have a gut feeling that in the lower economic locations, that the rate of demolition without house replacement is going to be higher. So far, I have found five FEMA houses that I have added to my tally. I am hopeful that I will complete this survey in the next couple of weeks. I will then start on the 1991SPARE with 825 in 1991sites.

On March 4, Beaumont Main Street sponsored a walking tour of downtown Beaumont featuring the Jefferson Theatre, Tyrrell Historical Library, V. Blanchette Building, 300 Crockett Street, Nathan Building, Shepherd Laundries Building, American National Bank, First City Bank, and 434 Fannin (early home of Broussard's Mortuary.) At the Nathan Building, I met the current

owner, Jim Broussard. I expressed my interest in visiting the upper floors and he is willing to let me do it.

I thought that I had photographed all of this year's Mural Festival art works but I discovered that I had not. I met a man who informed me of one at 1600 Cedar Street, painted on the side of the abandoned rice dryer. (The site was originally the location of a rice mill that changed names several times, beginning in 1906 and closing in 1983 (McFaddin-Weiss- Kyle Mill, McFaddin Rice Mill, Steinhagen Rice Mill, American Rice Growers Co-op Association, Comet Rice Dryer, and Wonder Rice Mills.) I remember going to that site during the festival but I saw no activity there. Evidently, someone did start and completed the very, very large mural. I must admit that it is rather risqué.



Attachment H

Report of Theresa Goodness, Board Member of Hinchee House Restoration Project  
May 17, 2023

The Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration Project has the immediate goal of removing the City of Beaumont's red tag from the structure. To that end the following work has been accomplished or is in the planning process:

- The services of a professional engineer, Hani Tohme, have been procured.
- The property has undergone clearing of the vegetation overgrowth in the past month.
- Additional piers were installed under the house in preparation for foundation work.
- The foundation repairs, including replacement of rotten beams, is ongoing and should be completed this week.
- Bids for roofing and structural repairs are being procured.
- Next steps will be to procure electrical and plumbing bids.

The majority of the above listed restoration work is being funded by a grant from the National Park Service under the Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund, which is being administered by the Texas Historical Commission. Additional fundraising plans are being discussed.

This month Preservation Texas announced the inclusion of the Hinchee House on their 2023 Most Endangered Places list. It is hoped that this announcement will bring much needed attention to the plight of the home and to the restoration work and funding needed.

Attachment I

**Kate Hambright**  
**Military History Report**  
**March 15, 2023**

World War One Monument Committee:

The World War One Monument Committee appeared before the Historic Landmark Commission on April 10, which approved the removal of the monument from the city easement on Main Street to Magnolia Cemetery. As I was out of the country during that interesting meeting, I will let others fill everyone in on the details of that gathering as necessary. I do know that Bruce Hamilton and Don Smart each spoke quite eloquently for our team. Our next step will be an appearance before City Council. Kelli Maness of Magnolia Cemetery is still reviewing the City's proposed contract for the "lease" of the WWI monument with her legal advisers. This matter will be picked again in mid-July after Kelli returns from a six-week trip to Camp Waldemar in west Texas, where she will be teaching classes in "Charm." In the interim, Bruce and Don are also actively obtaining letters of support for the project from our veteran partners.

World War One Grave Markers:

The VA grave markers for each of WWI soldier Sgt. George Shaw (replacement marker) and Buffalo soldier Pvt. Jerry Lloyd have now been received. Each of these men are buried at Evergreen Cemetery. The markers were shipped to Magnolia Cemetery, who has graciously agreed to erect the two stones for Evergreen.

George Shaw's original grave marker, ordered by the ladies' auxiliary of the American Legion in 1921, contains an error. His service rank was actually Sergeant, not Private as it appears on his existing marker.

Private Jerry Lloyd, Buffalo soldier, lies in an unmarked grave. We do know that he is buried at Evergreen because we have his death certificate as well as service records from the NPS. The exact location of his grave at the cemetery, however, remains unknown in spite of all efforts to locate it, including a review of all notebooks/cemetery burial records in the possession of Rosalind Hall-Hiner. Therefore, the board of the Evergreen Cemetery Association has decided to place Pvt. Jerry Lloyd's VA marker next to that of Sgt. George Shaw near the front of the cemetery, in an otherwise unclaimed burial plot.

Assuming the markers are erected in time, Sandra Wilturner hopes to hold a service to dedicate the two markers on Memorial Day. The JCHC will send out press notices of the event for Evergreen. I have also reached out to the Buffalo Soldiers Museum in Houston to request that Pvt. Jerry Lloyd be added to their roster of known Buffalo Soldiers. Supporting documentation was also provided to the museum. Although the museum did acknowledge one of my several emails, they have not added Pvt. Lloyd to their roster. Hopefully they will consider doing so one day!

Attachment J

Kate Hambright  
JCHC Marker Chair  
May 17, 2023 Report

Report on Status of Marker Applications/Dedications

On Thursday, May 11, 2023, our office filed two new marker applications with the THC for George O'Brien Millard and the Temple to the Brave, which was a last minute submission. Two other applications we anticipated filing during this year's marker cycle for The Rauwerda Family and the Black Stallion Ranch (Floyd Frank) did not go forward as planned.

The inscription for the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers House has now been finalized. We are now awaiting its final approval at the next quarterly THC meeting and for it then to be sent to the foundry for casting.

The China Methodist Church hopes to move forward with the dedication of its marker on October 15 or 22 of this year. They will let us know more as the fall approaches.

Potential New Marker Requests

We are currently in a holding pattern on HTC designations for the LeBlanc Family Cemetery and Pear Orchard Cemetery while each of their sponsors continue to collect data, complete their applications, and are involved with other commitments (full time jobs; planning for summer Vacation Bible School, etc.). I have assisted sponsors with in depth deed/JCAD and newspaper research and Paul Prosperie has kindly taken photographs of the Pear Orchard Cemetery.

NRHP Nomination

The THC has at last officially determined that the Temple to the Brave is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The process to formally nominate the Temple to the National Register will now begin with the aid of copious materials/instructions received from the THC.

Marker Relocation updates:

Spindle Top Hill Confederate Camp, Site of: The first official date of this marker relocation was supposed to be March 16 but it did not take place. The marker will need be lifted over a 6' hurricane fence that was newly installed around the dog cemetery - without taking consideration that the marker on its wooden pallet was located outside the new fence, just inches away from it. The wooden pallet upon which the marker had been placed face down has long since rotted away; the marker is now in the dirt. Since March it is now also covered by weeds almost two feet tall. It will require a "lull" to move the marker. The marker is to be set on a new base (not yet on site) that has supposedly been preconstructed for it. The Humane Society's manager, Taylor Westpuhl, was to be on vacation during this operation in March. I visited the facility on March

Kate Hambricht  
JCHC Marker Chair  
May 17, 2023 Report

16<sup>th</sup> to monitor progress and obtain photos and GPS coordinates upon completion of the project. For unknown reasons, the installation did not take place and no one on site even knew it was supposed to take place that day. The marker reinstallation was subsequently reset for Thursday, May 4 at 3:00 p.m. after multiple unreturned calls/onsite visits to Taylor Westpuhl at the Humane Society over a month and a half period. I was on site for three hours for the second reinstallation attempt on May 4. It did not go forward. A call was placed by Amanda at the Humane Society to the contractor, N & T Construction, who stated that they had never had any intention of reinstalling the marker that day, and furthermore, did not even own the equipment that it would take to move the marker. The contractor had made arrangements directly with Amanda just two days previously to do the job. The contractor now states that they will rent the appropriate equipment and give one day's notice before they come out to reinstall the marker. There has been no further word from the contractor since that date.

We have received a marker relocation request for the Site of Old Aurora marker in Port Arthur. As a legacy project in connection with Port Arthur's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, the section of Woodworth Blvd. between Procter St. and Lakeshore Dr. will be improved, and certain amenities added to it. A gazebo and bandstand will be built in the esplanade near the seawall end and a "Welcome to Port Arthur's Historic District" sign will be built on the Procter St. end. This will necessitate the relocation of the Site of Old Aurora Texas State Historical Marker, and it will be placed near the planned gazebo/bandstand. Following approval of the marker relocation by the THC, Pct. 3 Commissioner Sinegal has agreed to remove and store the marker for its safety during the estimated six months-long construction project.

The Colliers Ferry marker is still (as of Sunday, May 14) in storage after some months due to construction at the park but the city anticipates its reinstallation in the near future. I am closely monitoring the situation and drive by the park every week or two.

Miscellaneous:

The Holmes Dukes House at the corner of North and Forrest Streets is one of our RTHL and NRHP properties and of late has been on our radar due to the construction taking place in/around the home. Located outside the Historic Oaks District, the property additionally has a City of Beaumont local historic designation. It is owned by David Bradley. It is our understanding that he intends to turn the residence into office space. Near the end of February, we contacted the City after I observed carpenters building a hog wire fence around the front (Forrest Street) and side (North Street) of the property. Demi Engman, Planning Manager of the City of Beaumont, reached out to Greg Smith of the THC, who informed her that there was no issue with building such a fence on a NRHP property; however, Greg did put the City on notice at that time (Feb. 28) that any exterior modifications to the home itself would require prior review by the THC as the Holmes Duke House also has RTHL status. In light of this email, the City simply would have allowed work on the fence to have continued unabated, even the property also has a local historic designation. After we reminded them of that fact, the City then required Mr. Bradley to file a certificate of appropriateness for the fence. He was also subsequently required to appear before

Kate Hambright  
JCHC Marker Chair  
May 17, 2023 Report

the Historic Landmark Commission, at which time the fence was approved. The story does not end there, though. Since that time, Mr. Bradley commenced work on the exterior of the home itself, including removing ancient shutters on the driveway side of the house and at the very least replacing broken glass if not entire windows; building a sturdy handicap accessible ramp with rail on the North Street side of the house and affixing it to the house with a new small deck leading out of a side door; and replacing rotten wood on the front porch, including newly constructed boxes at the bases of each of the pillars. We notified the City of this construction, reminded them of their duties as a CLG to report same to the THC, and provided a link to THC requirements regarding RTHL properties (including potential fines that could be incurred by Mr. Bradley). The City again contacted the THC. They asked for further information and included Mr. Bradley in their email. Mr. Bradley, as can be imagined, had a few choice words to say about our findings. Jonathan Moseley of the THC's Division of Architecture swiftly replied to the City, outlining in polite but no uncertain terms the THC's expectations regarding its RTHL project review process and provided an RTHL application for Mr. Bradley's use:

"The RTHL designation does legislatively require 60 days prior notice of any work on the exterior of the building to allow time for the Texas Historical Commission Division of Architecture to review and consult on the preservation best-practices as guided by the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Please have the owners see the attached RTHL project application form for their reference and use. The Texas Historical Commission also maintains the right to remove the RTHL designation and associated marker in the event that the owner ignores our staff expectations, and the property is inappropriately altered to the point of losing historic integrity.

Please see attached RTHL Application that must be submitted BEFORE ANY exterior work is done."

The City intends to issue a letter of no Certificate of Appropriateness on file to Mr. Bradley and will review his work based upon the THC's findings.

Hopefully the City Planning Department will use this experience as a learning tool moving forward. Since our notification, however, I have now observed that decorative spindles have been added to the handicap ramp. Also, on Sunday, May 14, I also observed that the home's front steps have been replaced and that an additional set of entrance steps have been built on the back side of the house, on the opposite side of the home from the new handicap ramp. It is unknown if this additional construction work (new steps to the front and rear of the house, spindles on ramp) was made before or after our contact with the City. However, I did not observe any ongoing construction on Monday, May 15.



Spillertop, Confederate Camp Site of (March 2023)



Holmes-Duke House, Feb. 2023

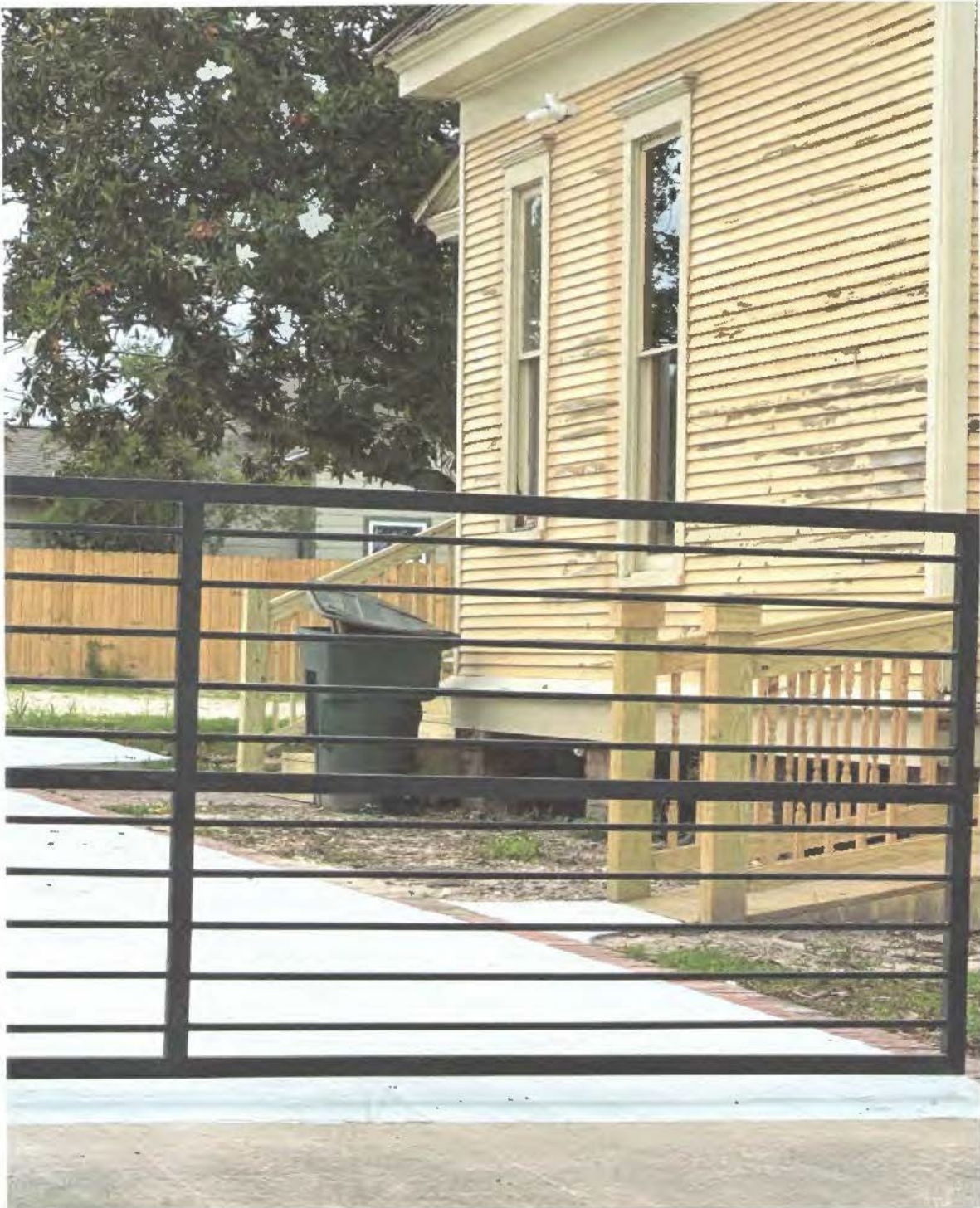




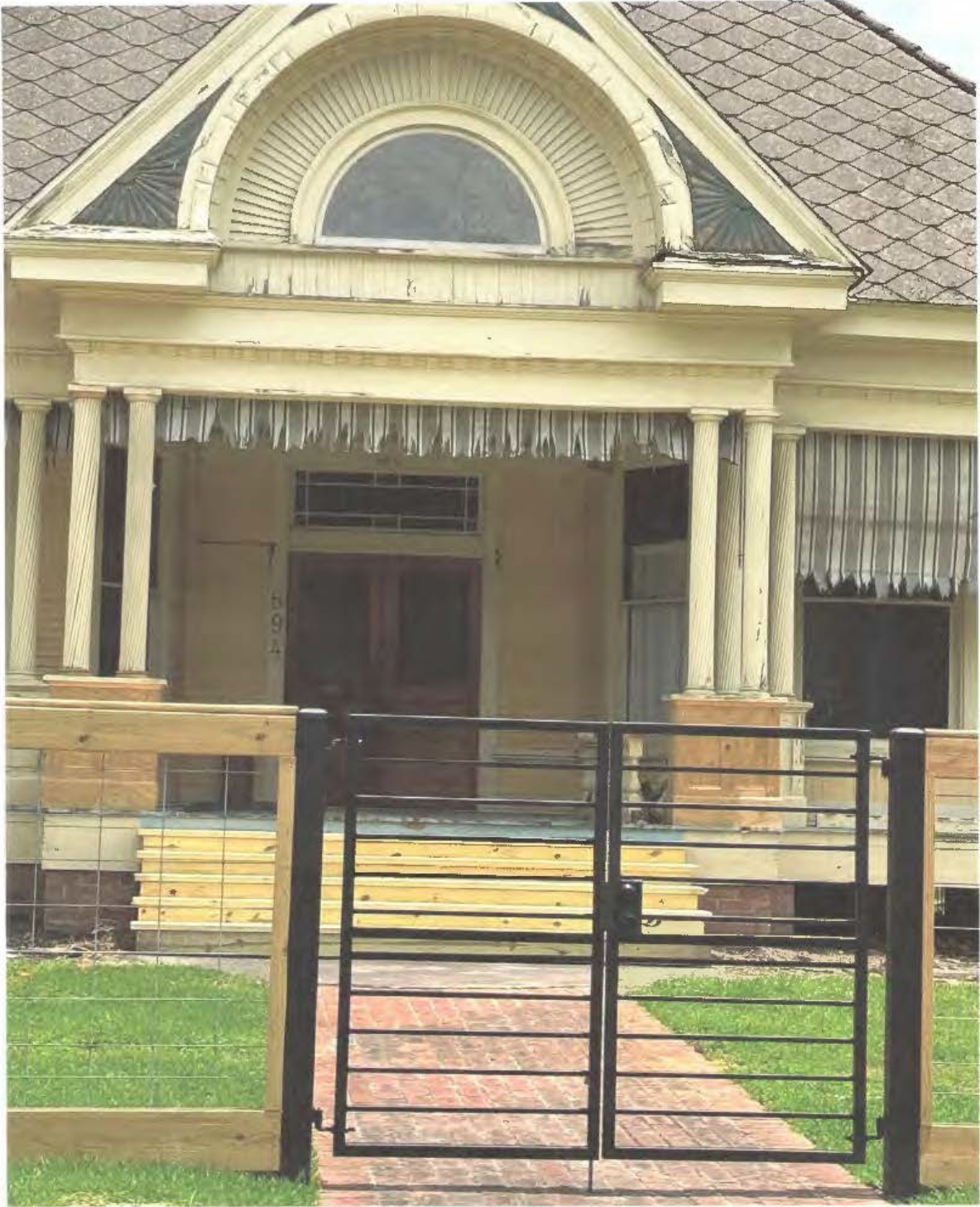
Holmes - Duke House



Holmes Duke House (note 2nd Staircase behind garbage can)



Holmes Duke House. (note 2nd new staircase, behind garbage can)



Holmes Duke House



Holmes Duke House

Attachment K

**Jefferson County Historical Commission Mini-Museum**  
**Linda McMahan**  
**May 17, 2023**

We continue to thank Dr. Steven Lewis for hosting our present exhibit "Floods of Beaumont". There has been positive feedback on the exhibit from members of the community, Courthouse Staff and those exiting through the main entrance of the Historical Courthouse.

At this time, there is no one signed up to host the next exhibit. If you, or you know of some organization or group who would like to place an exhibit, please contact me or the JCHC Office at 409-835-8701 and we will be glad to answer any questions and help with the placement of the exhibit.

Examples of exhibits in years past are: CCC Building Tyrrell Park, Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration, Jefferson County Historical Marker Survey, Magnolia Cemetery, McFaddin Ward House, Chambers House, Port Arthur Landmarks, Sabine Pass History, Charlton Pollard Community, Tyrrell Historical Library Collection and Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum.

There is a lot of preservation work going on across Jefferson County and if you are affiliated with any museum, group or organization involved in such project and would like to get the word out, please consider placing an exhibit in the mini-museum.

Attachment L

Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee

May 17, 2023

A handrail on the back steps of the courthouse broke in the course of normal use due to the age of the limestone it was mounted to. A brace has been put in place that connects to a parking sign, therefore not requiring an Antiquities Permit to be filed. Commissioner Pierce is considering the possibility of including a "handrail package" as a budget item to be considered for the upcoming fiscal year. This would replace all handrails at basement stairs and would require an Antiquities Permit.

Dan Valenzuela, our THC courthouse reviewer visited on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Theresa and I, along with the Director of Maintenance, Greg Keller, Commissioner Pierce and Dohn LaBiche took a tour of the historic courthouse with Dan. It allowed me to opportunity to see some of the area that I'd not yet seen, and Dan was able to see some of our problem areas and troubleshoot with Dohn and Commissioner Pierce.

As a result of the tour, Commissioner Pierce would like to discuss hosting tours of the courthouse. I will meet with Commissioner Pierce so he can share the scope of his idea. Do we have volunteers to participate as docents or other positions as needed?

Courthouse security has been a topic amongst our elected officials lately, and in the past some keys to the commission office have been held by appointees. If you have a key to the commission office, please turn it in to me so all keys can be accounted for to the county. We will keep a spare handy that I can arrange to leave hidden upon request for appointees if anyone needs to access the library when I'm not going to be here.

Attachment M

Certified Local Government Committee Report

May 17, 2023

- Discuss, consider, and possibly adopt priorities for the County Certified Local Government (CLG) and County Historical Commission (CHC) for the next 5-10 years, such as:
  - Creating a publicly accessible system for sharing and updating survey data.
  - Selecting areas for follow-up survey recommended by the windshield survey (such as intensive-level survey and research).
  - Listing resources in the National Register as recommended by the survey.
  - Planning and implementing educational programs and partnerships with other advocacy groups.
  - Considering other ways that the County might incentivize and/or promote preservation.
  
- 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.

Invoices received and approved through April 28, 2023, total \$202,899.72, with a remaining grant fund balance of \$47,013.28.

We held a public input meeting on April 26, 2023, to receive input from the public on our historic resources survey and preservation plan project. The meeting was attended by HHM, Inc. President and Project Manager, Emily Payne, via Zoom, and by Leslie Wolfenden, THC reviewer, in person.

The next task due under our contract is Task 10, Draft Historic Preservation Plan which is due from the vendor by June 16, 2023.

- Report on status of any reviews under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of the State of Texas.



- There have been no requests for comment since our last meeting.