

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

Our county has much important history to appreciate, to preserve, and indeed to celebrate.

Many significant structures like the Otho Plummer Administration Building at Lamar University have contributed to the educational life of our community. We recognize the importance of preserving these buildings for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you to our members for your time and service.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



Otho Plummer Administration Building
Photo Credit: [Lamar University website](http://www.lamar.edu)

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In this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Chairman's Letter | 1 |
| Most Endangered Places List 2015 | 3 |
| Beaumont Heritage Society | 5 |
| National Register Nomination | 6 |

MAY, 2015

Special points of interest:

- * Next Meeting.
- * THC Hispanic Heritage Travel Guide
- * Beaumont Landmark Commission
- * Port Arthur Landmark Commission

EXPLORE TEXAS' HISPANIC HERITAGE WITH THC'S LATEST TRAVEL GUIDE

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) latest travel guide, *Hispanic Texans: Journey from Empire to Democracy*, is available now. The 100-page, full color travel guide showcases hundreds of

heritage tourism sites across the state, each featuring cultural and historical attractions significant to the Hispanic experience in Texas. The book is arranged by location in the Texas Heritage Trails Regions,

allowing readers to plan heritage travel journeys or find specific attractions as they travel for business or pleasure across the state. The guide is free and available for [download](#).
Credit: [THC website](http://www.thc.com)

PRESERVATION WINS IN TEXAS SUPREME COURT

The Texas Supreme Court has reversed the Court of Appeals for the 5th District of Texas in *City of Dallas v. TCI West End, Inc.* In 2006, TCI demolished the MKT Freight Station located in a Dallas historic overlay district without prior approval, and the City of Dallas sought to pursue civil penalties. The Supreme Court ruled that municipalities may pursue civil action for violating zoning ordinances relating to land use. TCI had argued, and the Court of Appeals held, that cities may only pursue such action if the ordinances related to health and safety.

Preservation Texas, Preservation Dallas, Historic Fort Worth, San Antonio Conservation Society, the National Trust and the Texas Municipal League participated as friends of the court. Legal counsel for amici curiae is R. Michael Northrup of Cowles & Thompson, P.C. and Buddy Appe of How Frels Rhode Woods & Duke, P.C.

[Read the full Supreme Court opinion.](#)

Credit: [Preservation Texas website.](#)

JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2015

| | | |
|--------------------|------|---|
| May 27, 2015 | Noon | Ben Rogers Regional Visitors Ctr., 5055 I-H 10 South, Beaumont, TX |
| July 23, 2015 | Noon | Ben Rogers Regional Visitors Ctr., 5055 I-H 10 South, Beaumont, TX |
| September 24, 2015 | Noon | Ben Rogers Regional Visitors Ctr., 5055 I-H 10 South, Beaumont, TX |
| November 19, 2015 | Noon | Ben Rogers Regional Visitors Ctr., 5055 I-H 10 South, Beaumont, TX |

VOLUNTEER HOURS AND MEMBERSHIP

Any work in the preservation or promotion of Jefferson County History may be counted toward your volunteer hours. JCHC meetings and travel time to and from meetings also count as volunteer hours. Members are reminded that at least 50 hours of volunteer work per year is required of each member.

Also with the number of hours, JCHC needs a general description of work performed, for example: 3 Hours – Marker Survey.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 409-835-8701 or contact Linda via email at histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us

PRESERVATION PARTNERS

- Beaumont Heritage Society
- Beaumont Landmark Commission
- Port Arthur Landmark Commission
- Texas Historical Foundation
- Beaumont Main Street
- Museum of the Gulf Coast

PRESERVATION TEXAS ANNOUNCES 12TH ANNUAL LIST OF TEXAS' MOST ENDANGERED PLACES

AUSTIN, TEXAS. A landmark African Methodist Episcopal Church, a “poor farm” known for its adobe structures, two sites linked to the heyday of the railroad in Texas, a homestead that was part of a Freedom Colony, and two historic courthouses are among the eight sites that Preservation Texas, Inc. has named to its twelfth annual list of Texas’ Most Endangered Places.

Preservation Texas officials announced the selections outside the Texas State Capitol on March 19.

“The 2015 list is a diverse group of sites that reflect the range of preservation issues that historic places throughout the state are confronting,” said Evan Thompson, executive director of Preservation Texas. “These sites reflect the importance of continued funding for the Texas Historic Courthouse Restoration program and the Texas Heritage Trails program. Also, several demonstrate the potential impact of the new state historic preservation tax credit as an incentive for saving endangered sites.”

The sites on the 2015 list represent cultural, architectural and historic places that are at risk, and represent the types of sites that are endangered across Texas. Local grassroots organizations have been working tirelessly in support of these sites. By including them on the list, Preservation Texas hopes to rally Texans statewide to step up and save them.

Historic preservation has a \$4.6 billion economic impact in Texas. Historic sites named to the list of Texas’ Most Endangered Places represent some of the best opportunities to make a positive economic impact on local communities through preservation, particularly through the use of the new state historic preservation tax credit.

Sites on the 2015 list are:

- Mount Vernon A.M.E. Church, Palestine (Anderson County)
- Historic Resources of Dickens County, Dickens and Spur (Dickens County)
- Laguna Hotel, Cisco (Eastland County)
- Rio Vista Farm, Socorro (El Paso County)
- Falls County Courthouse, Marlin (Falls County)
- Odom Homestead, Burkeville (Newton County)
- Historic Structures in Municipal Parks, Statewide
- Texas & Pacific Warehouse, Fort Worth (Tarrant County)

Read more about these and other endangered historic places on Preservation Texas’ website:

[2015 Most Endangered Places Announced](#)

Jefferson County’s own Pig Stand No. 41 made Preservation Texas’ 2014 Most Endangered Place list.

BEAUMONT HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWS

Annual Membership Appreciation Social

Join BHS at Edison Plaza (350 Pine St.) for the Beaumont Heritage Society's annual Membership Appreciation Social on Thursday, May 19th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Enjoy light hors d'ouerves, craft beer, wine, and soft drinks while visiting with other members. Meet the Board of Directors and new staff members, as well as learn about upcoming events.

Heritage Happy Hour

Heritage Happy Hour is an on-going partnership between BHS and Giglio Distributing Co. Each event highlights both an historical exhibit, time period, or landmark, as well as a craft beer or brewery that is being showcased by Giglio Distributing Co. The event takes place every other month, and the location will change as different historical landmarks are highlighted around the city.

2015 events are free to BHS members and \$10 for non-members. All proceeds benefit Beaumont Heritage Society's historical educational programming and preservation efforts in the community. The next event will be held on the grounds of the Chambers House on June 4th in conjunction with First Thursdays.

Camp Lookinback

BHS' summer program, Camp Lookinback, promises to be a fun, educational experience for campers ages 6 - 11. It is a hands-on, history based, summer camp held in two identical sessions:

Session I, Tuesday—Friday, July 14-17 (900 a.m. until Noon)

Session II, Tuesday—Friday, July 21-24 (900 a.m. until Noon)

The cost is \$65 for BHS members and \$75 for non-members. Some camp activities this year include participating in a simulated archeological dig, tending and harvesting a garden on the museum grounds, making ink and writing with quill pens, and experiencing a typical school day in the 19th century. Spots are limited to 30 children per session and are filled on a first come, first served basis. Visit beaumontheritage.org for information about registering.

Credit: *The Heritage Herald*, Beaumont Heritage Society's Newsletter

BEAUMONT LANDMARK COMMISSION

Beaumont Landmark Commission meetings are held the second Monday at 3:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, located on the 1st floor of City Hall, 801 Main Street, Beaumont, TX. Meetings are open to the public.

The latest agenda from the May 11, 2015, meeting is posted [here](#).

Ramona Hutchison is JCHC's representative on the commission.

PORT ARTHUR LANDMARK COMMISSION

Port Arthur Landmark Commission meetings are held in Council Chambers, located on the 1st floor of City Hall, Council Chambers, Fifth Floor, 444 Fourth Street, Port Arthur, TX. Meetings are open to the public.

The latest agenda and minutes from the March 23, 2015, meeting is posted [here](#).

Les McMahan is JCHC's representative on the commission.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

A national register nomination has been submitted by Lamar University for the Otho Plummer Administration Building. As a Certified Local Government, Jefferson County is required to review such nominations and to notify THC's national register program office and the property owner of the CLG's opinion of the nomination. The county's Historic Preservation Officer, Ramona Hutchison, has submitted the appropriate response, and we look forward to another important local building being recognized with this designation. A copy of the nomination is available for review in the JCHC office.

AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum of the Gulf Coast



**April 6 – May 25,
2015 - Alert Today,
Alive Tomorrow:
Living With the
Atomic Bomb, 1945-
1965**

Exhibit showcases the atomic paranoia of the 1950s. Will be paired with a film series.



Museum of the Gulf Coast

Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



Chambers House

Photo Credit: chambershouse.org

Heritage Happy Hour

When: Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Cost: Free to Beaumont Heritage Society Members and \$10 for non-members

McFaddin Ward House

Mondays at the Museum

May 25, 2015 at 6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The last Monday of each month, head to the McFaddin-Ward house East Lawn for class with the folks from LoveYoga.

All levels welcome.

\$10 suggested donation

BYO mat



McFaddin Ward House

Photo Credit: mcfaddin-ward.org

**JEFFERSON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

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Linda McMahan, Coordinator



*To preserve and
promote history within
the County.*

We're on the web!
[http://co.jefferson.tx.us/
Historical_Commission/](http://co.jefferson.tx.us/Historical_Commission/)

Lincoln Burial Park
Clean-up
Photo Credit:
Paul Prosperie



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2015 - 2017

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

1st Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

2nd Vice-Chairman, Paul Prosperie

Secretary/Treasurer, Linda McMahan

Immediate Past Chairman, Ron Ellington

MUSEUM OF THE GULF COAST HOSTS ATOMIC COCKTAIL PARTY

JCHC members are invited to be the guests of the Museum of the Gulf Coast on May 16, 2015, for a lecture, "*Living with the Atomic Bomb, 1945-1965*" by Michael Schiebach, an Atomic Age historian.

3:30 p.m. Lecture

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Atomic Cocktail Hour

Come sample 1950's beverages such as the Atomic

Cocktail, Sputnik Cocktail, Oppenheimer Martini, and the Duck and Cover.

Non-alcoholic beverages will also be provided.

Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow Exhibition sponsored by:

The Port Arthur Historical Society

Lamar State College - Port Arthur

Southeast Texas Arts Council

Mid-America Arts Alliance

City of Port Arthur