

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
January 11th 2018

The Harrison County Historical Commission (HCHC) is the county agency in Harrison County, Texas for historic preservation. Its mission is to assist the commissioners' court and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in the preservation of our county's historical and cultural resources and to protect and preserve the county's historic and pre-historic resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations.

Members Present: Tom Speir, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, Robert Wood, Marty Vaughan, Bill T. Whitis, Jean Birmingham, Thomas Richardson, Ann Brannon, Gail Beil, and Barbara Judkins.

Visitors Present: John Fortune, Pat Odom, and Tony Crosby.

Call to Order

Tom Speir, chair, called the meeting to order on January 11th 2018 at 1:29 p.m. in the conference room of the T&P Depot Museum and welcomed all to the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of November 11th 2017 were approved as sent out.

III. Treasurer's Report

Bill Whitis shared information regarding the Friends of the Harrison County Historical Commission accounts. The statements showed the following:

Brokerage account	\$ 5,520.75
Certificate of deposit	3,300.00
Certificate of deposit	7,075.12
Greenwood Cemetery Fund	14,537.28
Friends of the HCHC Fund	3,642.42

Tom Speir provided an update on the financial records of the Commission which showed that our expenses to date show \$218 having been spent of the \$3,000 included in the county budget for the fiscal year running from October 2017 through September of 2018, leaving a balance of \$2,782.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

Archeological Sites. Tom Speir reported that no archeological sites have been recorded since our last meeting. If there are any that we need to record, January and February when the snakes are not active are the months in which to do the field work necessary. Bill Whitis and Marty Vaughan discussed several sites that might be recorded.

Rosenwald Schools. Tom shared a report from Gerry Gibson on work he has been doing in reference to the locations of the old Rosenwald Schools:

ROSENWALD SCHOOLS REPORT

Gerald Gibson

January 10, 2018

I have located a 1952/54 Harrison County road map that complements the 1930's map which flags the schools in the county with actual names of some of the Rosenwald schools attached to the 1930s sites. In addition I tried googling the names of some of the schools and getting road map directions to their sites, as well as carrying out a newspapers.com search of the Marshall newspapers for related articles and finding mentions to old and new school names in obituaries. Using these three, combined with the work carried out by the commission and published in the *Marshall News Messenger* in earlier work on this project, I've compiled a map of what I feel are the most-likely sites of Rosenwald Schools in Harrison County.

Gail Beil noted that one of the Rosenwald buildings is still standing and used as a hay barn. It is located near Five Notch Road.

Union Missionary Baptist Church. Tom Speir reported that the folks up in Jefferson are still working on the Union Missionary Baptist Church. The excavation work is mostly complete and they are looking toward beginning restoration efforts.

East Texas Archeological Conference. Tom shared a newsletter indicating that the East Texas Archeological Conference will be held on January 24th at the University of Texas at Tyler.

B. Archives

Tom Speir reported that the focus now is on going through the file folders. The vast majority of boxed materials in the office have been integrated into the filing cabinet system. Once the final materials have been placed in folders and their respective drawers, we will need to work on getting the documents in the folders in better order. Robert Wood reminded us that we wanted a photograph of the house which stood on the southwest corner of Peter Whetstone Square (roughly



where the front entrance to the current Harrison County Courthouse now stands). He presented to the commission for its files a photo of the house (*reproduced above*) which he has secured for us. This was the Umbdenstock House, also known as the Resch House.

C. Cemeteries

Scratch Eye Cemetery. Bill Whitis reported that not a lot has gone on since our last meeting. He has responded to queries and he, Ann Brannon, and Tom

Speir went out to the Scratch Eye Cemetery on Haynes Road in Nesbitt and did some cleaning one cold afternoon to try to determine how much was left there. This was at the request of a person who had been familiar with the site several years ago and was concerned about it. Around the cemetery there is a community still known as Scratch Eye. The claim that it contains the site of the burial of the first white child in Harrison County is based on rotting wooden signs at the cemetery with no known factual basis. Bill Whitis suggested that it might, perhaps, contain the burial site of the first white child born in Marshall itself. Bill is working on collecting and organizing his research into filing cabinets.

Ewing Chapel Cemetery Highway Sign. Rose Mary Magrill reported that a visit this week to the Ewing Chapel Cemetery had not revealed any new highway sign. Tom Speir indicated that he will contact the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) and see what is the status of the sign's installation.

Greenwood Cemetery Confederate Markers. Ann Brannon reported that there will soon be four more markers added at Greenwood Cemetery for Confederate Soldiers making a total of nine graves so marked.

Cemetery Tours. Barbara Judkins reported on plans for a cemetery tour in the fall which would highlight the cemeteries within and near the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge (there are three including one not actually on the refuge property). There was some discussion of a tour this spring of the Ewing Chapel Cemetery in the southern part of the county and two other cemeteries in close to Ewing Chapel.

Disaster Response Workshop for Historic Cemeteries. Tom Speir shared an email from Carlyn Harmons of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) regarding two upcoming THC workshops which will provide training for anyone involved in the recovery efforts at a cemetery impacted by recent disasters and for anyone who wants to be better prepared to respond after the next big emergency. The training is targeted to professionals and nonprofessionals alike. To ensure a quality experience, registration is limited to just 30 participants. The two-day workshops will combine lectures with hands-on demonstrations and field work at local cemeteries. Topics will include: preparing for disaster; post-disaster safety and re-entry; vegetation hazards and removal; marker stabilization; stone monument cleaning; monument resetting; and adhesive stone repairs. Leaders will include: Jason Church, staff conservator of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training; Rusty Brenner of Texas Cemetery Restorations LLC; Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters; and Joseph Keefe of Bartlett Tree Experts. The

cost will be \$35 per person and includes lunch each day. The workshops will be on February 5th and 6th (in Houston) and February 8th and 9th (in Corpus Christi). To register for the Houston workshop: <https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/events/texas-disaster-response-workshop-for-historic-cemeteries-houston/>

Un-Authorized Interments of Cremains. Bill Whitis reported that people are performing burials of cremains in area cemeteries without authorizations. (He recently witnessed a burial using posthole diggers in Greenwood Cemetery. In some cases, he also noted, that they later go back and install headstones!). Control of burials at Greenwood was discussed. Tom Speir suggested informational signs at the entrances to Greenwood with a contact phone number for interested parties. Bill suggested that authorizations come through our Historical Commission. Tom Speir indicated that anyone contacting the Commission will be put in touch with the City of Marshall regarding interments and with Bill if they just need information. Gail Beil, a member of our Commission, is also a member of the Marshall City Commission. She will get our concerns about the need to handle such requests on the City Commission agenda and Tom will also make contact with the City about these concerns. (It was mentioned that there are four entrances to Greenwood and therefore, four signs will be needed.)

Woodlawn Cemetery. It was noted that some years back there was an application for recognition of the Woodlawn Cemetery as an Historic Texas Cemetery. That effort lapsed, but there is now work on-going on a new application.

D. Education

History Fair Dates. Tom Speir reported that the Marshall Independent School District (MISD) is having its History Fair as we meet at the new Junior High School. Our county-wide fair will be on Saturday the 27th also at the new Junior High. It will be held in the cafeteria.

Schedule of County-Wide History Fair on January 27th. The schedule is as follows: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. setup (students can have help in bringing in their exhibits but must assemble them on their own); 9:00 a.m to 12 noon will be the judging (no late submissions will be allowed); 12 noon to 12:30 p.m. any callbacks for explanations/clarifications; 12:30 p.m. the awards will be presented; and 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. the exhibits will available for public viewing.

Ribbons, Medallions, Certificates. Tom report that he has purchased ribbons to be used to mark the exhibits themselves. He has secured forty

medallions with the date and forty with no date. Bill Whitis passed around a sample of the certificate of participation. Richard Magrill asked what building was in the picture on the certificate. No one knew. The picture will be replaced with a good image of the 1901 Courthouse. Generic materials that can re-use are best.

Judging Process. There was a discussion of the judging process and the need for judges. Each exhibit will be evaluated by three-judge groups (if we have enough available; at this point we are very short of judges). If we do not have enough adult judges to form the groups we can supplement the groups with Sharon Dews' advanced-placement students. (These will be high school students; all participants will be junior high school students from the ISDs in the county.) However, at this point, Judges should arrive a little early so that judging can start promptly at 9:00 a.m.

E. Historical Markers

Trammel's Trace. Tom Speir reported that Gary Pinkerton is working on an application for a historical marker for Trammel's Trace. He wants to locate the marker in the Pope City area of Woodlawn on a site where you can actually see the wagon ruts. Daryl Ware is also working with Tom and Gary on this project and he has suggested placing a marker on US59 South.

Swanson's Landing. The location of the Swanson's Landing historical marker (the cleanup of its surroundings was recently featured in the *Marshall News Messenger*) was discussed. It is located in Jonesville and not on the site of Swanson's Landing. We have permission to move it to the actual historic site but this permission was given some years ago and its move has not been accomplished. (Tom suggested that, out of courtesy, we should speak with the family that is currently caring for the incorrect site before any move takes place.)

Stagecoach Trace. The Stagecoach Trace markers were discussed. Tom has asked TXDOT for advice on how to obtain markers that will last longer than a couple of years before they begin to deteriorate.

F. History Museum

General. Jean Birmingham, who had just gotten back from attendance at a funeral, indicated that she had not been able to bring a longer report which she had prepared and promised a fuller report in February. She urged that folks enroll for the genealogy workshop. The museum is still waiting on the completion of the Memorial City Hall renovations in order to install its military exhibits. Gail Beil

noted that the Marshall City Commission has urged the museum to locate its artifacts and documents in the south end of the Business Development Center building across the street from Memorial City Hall and near the museum's offices in the 1901 Courthouse. (The south end of the Center is preferred for the museum's collection because it has its own separate entrance; the hope is for the Marshall Chamber of Commerce to occupy the northern part of the building.)

Genealogy Workshop. Tom Speir shared information on the museum's "Digging into Your Roots II" workshop on genealogy which will be held in cooperation with the Marshall Public Library on February 28th and March 1st. The cost is \$90 and includes supplies and take-home materials, lunch each day, and free entry to the museum exhibits. This is the second year for this workshop to be offered. Last year's was very well received. There is interest in starting up a local group involved in genealogical research.

"Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America." The museum is working with the Texas State Historical Association on a "Smithsonian Museum on Main Street" exhibit coming to Marshall in March of 2018 and is hosting a teacher workshop to present "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America." If teachers would like for their students to be a part, they are encouraged to attend the workshop where they will be introduced to the museum where the exhibit will be hosted, the background of the exhibit, and how teachers can involve their students in collecting oral histories to be a component in the public presentation of the exhibit. The workshop will be on Friday, January 19th at the Marshall Public Library from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

G. Information Technology

Our minutes continue to be posted on the county website and are currently up to date.

H. Oral History

Oral History Workshop. Barbara Judkins reported that there will be a workshop on oral history on Saturday, June 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The workshop will be led by Dr. Dan Utley a professor at the University of Texas at San Marcos. Meetings will be held at the Marshall Visual Arts Center and participants will migrate to Central Perks for lunch. Dr Utley wants to limit the enrollment to 24-25 people so that he will be able to offer one-on-one instruction

with each participant. On motion, the commission will pay Dr. Utley a stipend of \$200 (in lieu of expenses) out of our county budget funds.

Interview Subject. Richard Magrill suggested that Dorothy Grant, a longtime employee of Thiokol/Longhorn Army Ammunitions, be added to our list of persons to be interviewed and recorded.

I. Preservation

Preservation Texas Meeting. Tony Crosby reported that the Preservation Texas regional meeting will be held in Nacogdoches in August and its emphasis will be on African American history and related architecture. He was in Nacogdoches yesterday as possible venues for the meeting were investigated.

New Pavilion at Starr Ranch Location. Tom passed around a picture of the new pavilion which has been erected at the Starr Ranch location in the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The pavilion incorporates stones that formed a part of the foundation and chimneys of the building that has been removed.

Stagecoach Road. Tom reported that the county had added another load of cement to Stagecoach Trace. They are doing this from time to time and making the additions wherever the road is in the worst condition. After the cement has set, the county road crew covers it with rock to preserve the rustic look. Although currently the work is discontinuous, over time Tom hopes that the whole roadway can be stabilized.

Stagecoach Trace Brochures. He also presented a report from Gerry Gibson on his work on the Stagecoach Trace brochure:

REPORT ON STAGECOACH TRACE MARKER REVIEW

Gerry Gibson

January 10, 2018

On starting the drive-around survey of on-site Stagecoach Trace markers, I quickly found that the numbers on the markers did not match those in the brochure, with agreement only for the first 5 markers. One explanation given was that the highway department crews placing markers 6 and later either were not very careful or did not have adequate instructions. Then, in late November 2017, I picked up a replacement brochure – the one I had been using had become dirty – and, *suddenly!!!*, the brochure and marker numbers on my replacement brochure were matching.

On close inspection of the two seemingly identical brochures (with exceptions that I had accepted as reprinting variants, both were the same size, and had seemingly identical or near identical illustrations, layout, color, et al.) I found variants: one had a 2012 / 2014 date and contact information and the other did not; they were slightly different in color; etc. The big difference is that the dated edition has four less entries. It now seems that the on-site markers – or at least the vast majority of them, I'm now only fifty per cent plus or minus completed on my re-drive-thru of the county – were not changed when the revised brochure was created.

Summary: with over fifty per cent of the on-site Stagecoach Trace markers checked, I am finding that seventy-five per cent or more are in place, in varying condition, *but* with numbers belonging to another entry in the brochure. For example, Rosborough Springs has marker #40, its correct marker in the old, pre-2012/2014 brochure. The write-up in the 2012/2014 brochure identifies #40 as *Marshall Pottery*.

I hope to have the drive-around completed by our next meeting and to know better how many – if any – markers were changed to the 2012/2014 numbering.

Bronze Castings. Tom passed on to Gail Beil information about a man who casts bronze statues in case the information might be helpful as she works on the erection of a statue of James Farmer, Jr. on the west side of the 1901 Courthouse.

J. Publications

Tom showed a design that can be used for the new markers for Stagecoach Trace.

K. Tourism

Voices from Small Places. Tom Speir reminded us that “Voices from Small Places” has an upcoming workshop on January 27th in the Marshall Visual Arts Center from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (The workshop is free of charge.) Voices from Small Places seeks to help smaller communities and cities promote their history. This is the last of three workshops and the date of 27th of January is the same Saturday that we will hold our county-wide History Fair. (Note: this organization comes out of University of Texas at Tyler.)

Monthly Community Calendar. Tom reported that he is working on getting all commission members on the email list to received the monthly community calendar that is sponsored and mailed out by the Marshall Regional Arts Council. (It is prepared by Dr. Brenda Dearman, a retired music professor from East Texas Baptist University.)

L. Goals

Fire Inspections. Tom Speir has still not heard back from the County Fire Marshall regarding our jointly offering free fire inspections for old/historic homes in the county. He will pursue this idea. Tony Crosby indicated that he would be available to accompany these inspections to offer any architectural counsels which might be useful to the homeowners.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Tom Speir reminded everyone to be thinking about nominations for next year's annual preservation awards. The current restoration work on the Chesley Adams House on South Washington in Marshall was discussed.

V. Special Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

Tom Speir shared a report from Christina Anderson regarding the work nearing completion at the 1901 Courthouse:

REPORT ON 1901 HARRISON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Christina Anderson

January 11, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to share the following update on behalf of the Harrison County Industrial Development Authority (HCIDA) Board of Directors.

In August and September of 2017, the HCIDA Board of Directors (also known as the Courthouse Endowment Board) and volunteer Harrison Courthouse Manager Richard Anderson prepared and posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a contractor to repaint and repair the windows and exterior doors of the restored 1901 Harrison County Courthouse.

The Board and Courthouse Manager received the proposals in September, 2017 and the HCIDA Permanent Improvements Committee and Courthouse Manager made a recommendation to the HCIDA Board regarding these proposals.

At the October 4, 2017 meeting of the HCIDA Board, the Board voted unanimously to hire Exum Waterproofing of Tyler, Texas to carry out the project to repair and repaint the Courthouse windows and exterior doors.

The work to repair and repaint the windows began in early November and the project is scheduled to be completed this month. You may have seen the workers carrying out their work, often using the motorized lift to accomplish the work on the windows of the upper floors.

The HCIDA collaborated with the City of Marshall on the cost of the rental of the lift, since the City needed the lift for the Wonderland of Lights festival and the HCIDA needed the lift for the window project. This cost-sharing collaboration on the lift saved money for the City and for the HCIDA. James Malanaphy, architect with the Texas Historical Commission, has been very engaged and helpful throughout the process and has met with us several times in Marshall during the bid process and the project itself.

In fact, James will be returning to meet with us on January 22nd 2018 for the assessment of the completion of the window project. We have taken "before" and "after" photos on this project, not only for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) but also for the HCIDA archives, which we have kept throughout the work of the HCIDA which began in 2011.

We appreciate the THC's kind assistance and their strong support of the Courthouse endowment. The window project is the first major permanent improvements project on the restored Courthouse since the completion of the Courthouse restoration in June 2009.

The project to repair and repaint the restored 1901 Courthouse windows and exterior doors was funded solely by the Courthouse endowment, at no cost to the taxpayers of Harrison County or the State of Texas. The oversight of the project was also completely done by the volunteer Harrison Courthouse Manager and the volunteers of the HCIDA Board, at no cost to the taxpayers of Harrison County and the State of Texas.

We are happy to share any additional information about the window project.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information and thank you all for the ongoing excellent work of the HCHC.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Robert Wood reported that construction work is proceeding. The elevator will be complete by April or maybe March.

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

Barbara Judkins reported that restoration work on the service wing has been delayed by the retirement of the worker who was overseeing the project. It is now planned that the dedication will take place on May 6th (the Sunday before Mother's Day.)

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Doug Tuttle's 100th Birthday. The Michelson is honoring Doug Tuttle on the occasion of his 100th birthday on January 25th and all are invited. Since moving to Marshall with Alcoa, he has been a faithful docent and patron of the arts, charitable benefactor, Trinity Episcopal Church parishioner and member of the choir, resident scholar, provider for cats, voracious reader, proud citizen (formerly a Canadian), and friend.

Billy Hassell Exhibit. On February 8th the Billy Hassell Exhibit will open with a reception at the Michelson. The artist favors wildlife scenes painted in bright colors that will brighten the dreary days of winter. He features birds, plants, and beautiful landscapes, many from projects of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

Tom Speir noted that Ralph Newlan reports that the HLPB is working on the establishment of a downtown Marshall Historic District.

VI. Other

Karnack/Thiokol/Longhorn Army Ammunitions Plant. Tom Speir introduced John Fortune and Pat Odom who are engaged on a project to collect information on Karnack and on the Longhorn location (now the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge) and the Thiokol Chemical Corporation work there. John

reported that Dorothy Grant, a longtime former employee of the Longhorn Army Ammunitions Plant, has loaned them a substantial amount of material. In particular she has provided a volume of newspaper articles collected during the destruction of missile warheads under the INF Treaty between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. John also noted that the U.S. Army did a complete survey of the location with maps and pictures before turning the site over to the Wildlife Refuge (a cd copy of which he has secured) and that a significant amount of documents dealing with the site have also recently been declassified.

Pat Odom indicated that she was present to second John's report. Richard Magrill commended them for their work and expressed the hope that it might lead to an exhibit somewhere on the Wildlife Refuge property that would give people an idea of the work done there and the lives of the people involved in it. He also noted that Dorothy Grant would be an excellent focus for an oral history interview.

VII. Administrative

Incoming Mail. Tom Speir passed around for inspection the newest issue of the East Texas Historical Journal, the Texas Archeological Bulletin (dealing with historic sites), Riding Line (the newsletter of the Texas State Historical Association), and the current issue of The Medallion published by the THC.

Community Calendar. He urged that we please coordinate the dates of community activities for which we may have input with Dr. Brenda Dearman as she produces the Community Calendar each month (*see under IV.K. Tourism, above page 9*).

Office Sign. Our new office sign has arrived and been attached to the office door in the County Annex Building. It is a great improvement over the paper notice that it replaced and makes us look like we are really official and in business.

Annual Report. The THC is awaiting our annual report for 2017 so Tom is busy preparing it.

Facebook Page. As always, we need photos for our Facebook page.

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be February 8th 2018 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill