

## Activity Report for the Harrison County Historical Commission for the month of July, 2020

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.

The Harrison CHC did not to hold the regularly scheduled meeting on July 9th, 2020, due to quarantine concerns in response to COVID-19. This is a report of what some of our members have been doing to help preserve and promote Harrison County history. I wanted to share this information with our members and other interested parties so that everyone will know that we are still active even as we are “**alone/together**”. – Thomas Speir, Chairman

### **A. Archaeology**

The project to transfer ownership of the old Young's Mill Pond (YMP) property north of Hallsville to a local entity for preservation purposes is ongoing. I have received this update from project leader Ron McGregor: *"A team of four completed a draft proposal last week with a matrix of options to present to YMP owners. A Conservation Easement appears to be best approach to stewardship for protecting land in the future. Ownership is yet to be decided in near future with current owner's decisions on options."*

### **B. Archives**

The office files are in reasonably good shape so that we can hopefully keep them up to date in the future without too much difficulty.

### **C. Cemeteries**

We received from Bill Whitis a report of no ongoing progress. From volunteer Bill Elliott, we received the following:

*"The Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #2042 held our group get-together at Greenwood [Cemetery] in April & May. We gathered at Marshall [Cemetery] for our June gathering. At both we chased down, flagged and cleaned around our CSA soldiers*

*and also the 10 Union at Greenwood [Cemetery]. At the Hebrew [Cemetery] we have flagged 6 CSA & 3 Union. We went to Scott's Cemetery and reflagged 32 CSA Vets in June.*

*"I have ridden the City on the conditions of Marshall and Greenwood [Cemeteries]. I raised enough heel with Commissioner Larry Huerta [that he] did push the Public Work to send help and in late May Greenwood had 14 men mowing and weed-eating and that caught them up at both. Well, they are behind again big time. Some spots in Greenwood are hip high in grass and weeds. The City is trying to maintain these 2 14 ac & 10 Ac. Cemeteries with a 4-man crew... Myself and others have CSA vets we also care for their plots but as needed... We flagged St. Joseph's [Cemetery] for all Vets including all Vets which include 4 CSA & 4 Union.*

*"[At Greenwood] ETBU has closed the East entrance so you have to go around to the southwest to get to Greenwood [Cemetery]. They have it routed now that will have people using the cemetery roads to turn around. That will add to road problems and vandalism."*

Ann Brannon also added this cemetery information:

*"I've been working on getting markers for some unmarked vets in Greenwood. I have two applications almost completed and I've worked on several others."*

#### **D. Education**

Barbara Cox has begun work on the History Fair for this coming fall semester. She reports:

*"The Education Committee is looking at ways to bring local history (specifically about the Republic of Texas) into the local schools. We have sent out emails to see what the needs of our local educators will be this year. We are also working on ways to increase participation in our county-level History Fair and revising the contest rule book."*

#### **E. Historical Markers**

According to an email from the Texas Historical Commission, as of June 16th the following markers are still active in Harrison County:

- 18HS01 - First State Bank of Hallsville – ordered on 3/31/20, The foundry is currently working with a skeleton crew in order to social distance themselves. This has significantly slowed down production at the foundry but they are still producing markers. So, I do not have an exact estimate though we will send you an order notice with an estimate of 6-8 weeks once the foundry gets closer to working on your marker.

- 19HS01 - C.G. Lancaster – draft inscription sent on 5/16/20. It looks like at the time we did not have a chair listed for Harrison County so it went to the County Judge. I will resend it to you with a new deadline. (This has been done.)
- 19HS02 - Fred Lewis – inscription drafted, our staff still need to proofread it before we can send to you and the sponsor for review.
- 20HS01 - Pope Cemetery (HTC) Name & Date Plaque – inscription authorized on 5/25/20, The final inscription will be reviewed by our Commissioners at their next available Quarterly Meeting in October. Once they approve the wording, we can put the marker in line to be ordered. We will notify you of when the marker is ordered to be cast at the foundry and when to expect its shipment.

Also, Rose Mary Magrill offers this report:

*“I have been working with a couple of others on a history of the Karnack area. We are getting close to the end of the multi-year project (I think). (I have written more than 400 pages on the subject, so far.)”*

Additionally, we have received the historical marker for Young’s Mill Pond, located north of Hallsville. It is in storage in the basement of the old 1901 Courthouse until arrangements with the current property owners can be made for a dedication ceremony.

Also, the congregation at the New Canaan Church tried to apply for a historical marker for the new and old churches, but the Texas Historical Commission timeline for submissions prevented submitting an application this year. However, they now plan to submit an application for a marker for 2021. They also intend to apply for a possibly both a Historic Texas Cemetery designation as well as a Cemetery marker for the Canaan Church Cemetery off of U.S. Hwy. 43 south of I-20.

Finally, the materials to make a new historical marker cover for dedication ceremonies has been received at our office. We hope to have them sewn together soon into a “pillowcase” style of cover similar to what we had before.

## **F. Harrison County Historical Museum/Inez Hatley Hughes Research Center**

From Becky Palmer we have this information:

*“The Museum has been busy with our annual membership drive. We have also been busy working on our upcoming Harleton ‘Places In the Heart Exhibit’ which will premiere this summer (date to be announced). We have a Humanities Texas Traveling Exhibit arriving in Sept. entitled: ‘The Way We Were; People and Their Buildings*

*1860s-1930s.' This traveling exhibit will feature a local exhibit of historic homes in Harrison County. Former State Historian Bill O'Neal will lecture on early East Texas Architecture in conjunction with this Exhibit.*

*"We are also working to create interest in genealogy in our area first by creating a new Facebook Group for the HCHM Inez Hatley Hughes Research Center and Library. We are also working on an informal exhibit space in our large artifact area at 400 S. Washington.*

*"Our volunteers at the Research Center are receiving multiple requests each week for families from all over the country."*

## **G. Information Technology**

Bill Whitis is still doing a great job maintaining our Facebook page. The posting of our meeting minutes is up to date on the County's webpage.

## **H. Oral History**

No report has been received on this subject.

## **I. Preservation/Rosenwald Schools**

We received the following report from Gerry Gibson:

### ***"ROSENWALD SCHOOLS PROJECT***

*As we have discussed, I have located and documented 20 of the 21 Rosenwald Schools in Harrison County as identified on the Fisk University Rosenwald School site. The only 1 of the 21 for which I can locate absolutely nothing is identified on the Fisk site as "Woodlawn C.T.S." (Fisk shows that C.T.S. = County Training School).*

*"Fisk states that this school was originally funded in 1920/21 as a 2-teacher school, was expanded in 1925/26 to a 3-teacher school, and was expanded a 2nd time in 1929/30 to a 5-teacher school. This is the \*only\* school in the County (and the only one of all the 5,000+ schools funded I've been able to locate with the limited searching that Fisk allows of their data base) to receive any Rosenwald funds for expansion, much less for 2 expansions.*

*"As far as possibly confusing it with another school in Harrison County, the Fisk site provides separate listings for 2 schools specifically in Woodlawn: Morning Star (which is only 1 or 2 miles west of the center of Woodlawn) and this, Woodlawn School C.T.S. Without personal examination and much greater understanding of the Fisk files I have to assume they are correct. Rather than chance losing what I have found I am*

*finalizing my official report with this one gap remaining, with hopes it can be filled / explained at some future date.*

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### **ROSENWALD SCHOOLS EXPANDED REPORT FOR LOCAL USE**

*In addition to the information of the official report referenced above I am preparing a much more detailed and expansive file for the Museum's IHHRC and the HCHC. This expansion will include the official report cited above, maps from both the end of the funding period (I'm planning to use the 1936 state highway map for the county for this) and present-day (the 2016 county tourist map gives excellent detail) showing the nearest actual location of each school as I've been able to determine them, along with the GPS and long/lat. locations of each school (these coordinates are annotated / footnoted to indicate whether they are actual cite, road-side, or best-guess readings on a google or similar map, due to access restrictions). Also, the 1920s school district information and summaries of data from and citations for sources, published and un-published, for major historical data on or references to the school pre-, during-, and post-Rosenwald funding eras (primarily local newspaper references, but others as they have been found). Additionally, photographs of or directly related to the schools and architectural drawings / specifications / elevations of the school. Finally, all data on the schools available from the Rosenwald School data site and a broad bibliography of Rosenwald Schools related data and materials.*

*Hopefully the final version of this expanded report will be completed by September or October of this year (with copy available in an on-going basis as it progresses) at the Harrison County Historical Museum's Inez Hatley Hughes Research Center (and such other places as you think appropriate -please advise on others).*

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*Finally, as the above 2 reports / projects have progressed I have realized that I've accumulated a great deal of parallel information on non-Rosenwald schools, as well as non-school subjects and entities, such as communities, churches, cemeteries, hospitals, ferry and stream crossing points, post offices, and other points of historical interest -and a wide miscellany of simply accumulated novelty and curiosity points- throughout the County and the City of Marshall in the 19th and 20th centuries. While virtually none of this information is unique, it has not been pulled together in one place. So, while I have it in my hands as a direct outgrowth of the Rosenwald Schools in Harrison County project I am expanding what was previously limited to be a Rosenwald-funded schools effort to be a single, A-to-Z inventory-type name listing of all the 19th and 20th century Harrison County points that I have come across. The purpose is not the in-depth thoroughness of the Rosenwald-School report but, rather, a gathering place of information, citations and sources as I suspect they might facilitate future research for others. It is my intent to include, at a minimum, the name of the site / novelty, variants of that name, and my source/s of the information concerning it. Other data I will try to*

*include as it is reasonably available is location, a summary of function, asides I've found interesting, and relevant illustrations as available, and source of my info. As always, I'll throw in a bibliography.*

*At the out-set - especially for this last bit- for the record I wish to make it clear that I have no objection if the IHHRC or HCHC feels it more useful to break it up and file it in its/their separate parts and files."*

If you have any information or photos of old County schools, please pass them along to Gerry.

## **J. Publications**

Digital scanning of the Gail Beil papers is ongoing.

## **K. Tourism**

Due to the current quarantine restrictions, no action has been taken in the last few months regarding county-wide tourism.

## **L. Goals/Projects**

Regarding the ongoing discussion about the Confederate Statue on the grounds of the old 1901 Courthouse, I have this update directly from County Judge Chad Sims:

*From County Judge Chad Sims, "Regarding the statue, Harrison County Commissioner's Court has heard from both sides during court as well as numerous phone calls and personal contacts. Personally, I am eager to see some healing take place and for the divisive rhetoric to stop. A house divided against itself cannot stand and similarly our community will continue to muddle along at best or deteriorate unless we can bring some unity here."*

*"The statue on the courthouse grounds is a state antiquities landmark and is protected by the Texas Historical Commission. All of the suggestions received to date, other than leaving the statue in place, would require action from the Commissioner's Court to make formal request from the Texas Historical Commission. Currently the court is still weighing all options."*

In another matter, our six-foot tall HCHC collapsible banner with pictures of historic Harrison County sites has been erected just inside the front door of Central Perks restaurant in the Weisman Center, along with a selection of historic venue brochures nearby. It seems several visitors have already seen the banner and we have

received complements on how it promotes Harrison County history. Our thanks go out to Tom and Deb Sorich for their help and assistance on this project!

### **M. Annual Preservation Awards**

The awards have been picked up by Robert Wood from our office. He will be trying to personally hand deliver the awards to the recipients so that they do not have to wait any longer to receive them. Our thanks go out to Robert for his help!

## **Partners in Preservation Reports**

### **A. 1901 Courthouse**

Christina Anderson shared the following information:

*“In regard to the installation of the eight survey markers on the Courthouse Square, the 4-inch brass survey markers that the HCIDA purchased from Berntsen International are beautiful. The MTX Surveying team did an excellent job installing the eight markers around the Courthouse Square between 8am--3pm this past Thursday, July 9.*

*“Now that the markers are installed, the surveyor, Mark Patheal, shared with Richard and me that he would be able to certify the survey and submit the final plat, field notes, and other final materials in the coming week or two. I will then prepare the final survey report with all elements of the survey, historical research, etc. and share it with the HCIDA Board, Commissioners Court, Texas Historical Commission, and Harrison County Historical Commission once it's completed.”*

### **B. Texas and Pacific Depot Museum**

Robert Wood says the Museum is open only on Friday and Saturday and masks are required. Only two people are allowed in at a time. AMTRAK has completed new lighting in the tunnel as well as the exterior of the building. AMTRAK is planning on cutting back service to every other day, but they have put a ticket agent back in place.

### **C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site**

Barbara Judkins reported this:

*“Starr is currently working on completing some maintenance projects and planning for the future. Since we are in the middle of the pandemic, we are currently only allowing 5 people at a time in Maplecroft for self-guided tours. Guests must wear a mask which we will gladly supply for free. Our admission fees remain the*

same. Tours must be scheduled in advance.

*“Our Educator, Kellie Farr, is keeping our social media platforms up-to-date and just posted a video on Facebook about making ice cream at home. She has included four different methods of doing so. This video is aimed at families with children or, really, anyone that enjoys ice cream. Additionally, we will post a video in August dealing with aspics or jellied foods and I will be cooking once each week and be posting videos and photographs of my efforts. This last part is still in the planning stages so I don’t have a lot of info or any dates scheduled. We will put all of the dates on our Facebook page when we get everything approved.”*

*“Overall, the Texas Historical Commission is combining its resources in an agency wide collaboration to produce quality virtual school programming that will be available to educators for free. We are proud of this effort and hope you will stay tuned for the debut of this programming!”*

#### **D. Michelson Museum of Art**

Susan Spears has sent the following report:

*“We will not reopen until September. However, we have been making and distributing kraft kits to children. Just to keep a little art out there.”*

#### **E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)**

Ralph Newlan advised that *“We are not active at this time and are waiting on word from Wes Morrison [with the City of Marshall] on when the board will meet again in the future.”*

#### **F. Others Sites and Organizations (Sabine Farms, T.C. Lindsey Store, Main Street, Pemberton Heritage Center, colleges/schools, etc.):**

##### **Pemberton Heritage Center**

Rev. Glenda Clay says that the Center has been closed due to quarantine restrictions, and that no reunions are planned. The Center will hopefully reopen by 2021.

##### **Sabine Farms:**

Helen Murray provide me with this information:

*“No activities are currently planned due to the excessive heat. However, plans for a new tourism brochure are in the works.”*



### **T.C. Lindsey Store:**

From Marty Vaughn:

*“T. C. Lindsey & Company in Jonesville remains closed due to COVID - 19, however customers can place online orders by Wednesday of each week on the T. C. Lindsey & Company General Store Facebook page. Orders can be picked up on Saturdays between 10:00 a.m. and noon at the loading dock (the side of the store where the flagpole is located). There are daily Facebook posts which not only highlight some of the popular items for sale but also share some of the history of the business that was founded in 1847 and show pictures of some of the antiques on exhibit.”*

### **Other Businesses and Sites**

All members are encouraged to submit information on any other ongoing project.

### **Administrative**

#### **Incoming mail:**

We have received two more notifications of new construction in Harrison County regarding public works projects. Specifically, these construction projects are for new communication towers in the Woodlawn area. We must be informed of these projects so we can determine if any historic or pre-historic sites might be impacted by the new work.

We also received mail from TxDOT about proposed construction of a new location roadway between U.S. Highway 80 (US 80) and Interstate Highway 20 (I-20) on the east side of Marshall. This will be an extension of Loop 390 from US 80 on the east side of Marshall across FM 31 and I-20. All of this will eventually become part of the new I-69 route. We have informed them that there are no known historic sites in the proposed route, but there may be an undiscovered family cemetery near the route that we informed them of. TxDOT has confirmed that their departmental research team will conduct a survey within the proposed route prior to any construction.

### **Other Harrison CHC Business**

Our memberships with regional, state, and national historic preservation organizations are now up to date, with the exception of The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The current membership for AASLH expires on September 1<sup>st</sup>, but will be renewed later this month.

We have once again received a Distinguished Service Award from the Texas

Historical Commission for our work during 2019. That award will be presented during the next Commissioner's Court meeting, if anyone wishes to attend.

We have acquired a used bulletin board which has been mounted outside our office door in the hallway. It is being used to display map replicas and provides our business cards to any interested person. It can also be used to promote upcoming events if small flyers are sent to our office.

The Texas Historical Commission will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CDT. It is entitled "*Grant Evaluation: Setting Goals and Measuring Impact*". Experienced fundraiser Anjali Zutshi, the Chief Development Officer for the Texas Historical Commission, and Executive Director of the Friends of the THC, will share the why and how of evaluation in a grant process. Those interested can find the registration form at:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9042194918594003728>

I want to thank everyone for their continued efforts to preserve, protect, and promote Harrison County history. As a reminder, we currently still have plans for a regularly scheduled meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, with the location to be determined. If there is any change to that schedule, I will get that information out to you.

- Thomas Speir, Chairman HCHC