

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
May 12th 2022

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: Thomas Speir, Steve Horton, Audrey Kariel, Roy Jack McCarroll, Robert Wood, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, and Marty Vaughan.

Visitor(s) Present:

I. Call to Order

Tom Speir, chair, called the Zoom meeting to order on May 12th 2022 at 1:32 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Zoom meeting of March 10th 2022 were approved.

III. County Budget Report

Tom Speir reported that \$1,034.68 (nearly 28% of our budget) is left. He will try to get a couple of more of our memberships paid.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

Tom Speir reported on two ongoing archaeology items. First, Earnol Brewster brought up the Field family of Elysian Fields at our last meeting in connection with the Mose McGlothin historic property. (This property was kept in the family by hard work. His daughter Captola McGlothin Grant had her kids

feeding her lunch as she worked the fields so that she would not have to pause from her labor.) We have the necessary info to record it as an archeological site. However, we are waiting for more information on the third structure on the property.

Second, Lisa Jackson and her husband currently own the old Henry Ware house (Cedar Grove plantation on Blocker Road), She wants to see it protected in perpetuity. For that to be accomplished, it will need to have State Antiquities Landmark status. “We are moving slowly because it’s gotten too hot.” Gerry Gibson of our commission and Bob Vernon of Cass County are helping with research on this project.

B. Archives and Historic Survey

Tom Speir reported that Barbara Judkins, not with us today due to vacation from the Starr Family Home State Historic Site, will work on the Historic Survey project.

C. Cemeteries

Marshall and Greenwood Cemeteries. Tom Speir reported that this past Monday, he went to a meeting with new Marshall City Manager Terrell Smith, also attended by Ann Brannon, Bill Elliot, Daryl Ware and Randy Pritchard, the City’s Director of Support Services. The main discussion was on the maintenance of the Marshall and Greenwood cemeteries. Both Ann and Bill have been urging the city to take better care of these two city-owned properties. The city has allocated \$50,000 to maintain them but no one will take the project. Where it takes the City two days to mow the Marshall Cemetery, it takes the City a full week to mow Greenwood, due to the difficulty with the terrain, markers and fences. If the City can use the \$50,000 it has appropriated just to get someone to keep up Greenwood, then maybe City personnel can keep up the Marshall Cemetery.

Champion Cemeteries. There are two cemeteries named “Champion” in the old Darco mine area. The coal mining company has hired someone to do remediation. The big concern is the state of Caves Springs Road. Tom asked Judge Chad Sims if the county would take care of the road. In answer, he said that the county will not pave the road but it will maintain it by going out and grading the road whenever needed. *Note:* One of the cemeteries has headstones and one does not.

Florence George-Martin (Mrs. W.C. Martin). Tom reported that Jim Steely is searching for information on Mrs. W.C. Martin in connection with an anniversary in Arkansas. She owned a lot of land around Elysian Fields and Darco. Gerry Gibson has tried to help but Rose Mary Magrill suggested contacting Bill Whitis who works at the Historical Museum's Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library on Friday afternoon.

Audrey Kariel reported shortly after the meeting: "Hallelujah. Bill Whitis found Mrs. W.C. Martin!"

"Florence George-Martin passed away at Kahn Memorial Hospital on Saturday, January 4, 1958 after a stay of several weeks. She was married to William Clifton Martin from Dallas who preceded her in 1927. (He passed away at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas.) Florence is buried at Granbury Cemetery in Granbury, Texas with her parents Zachary Taylor George and Sarah Jane Nelson-George.

"She had one sister Willie Alberta George-Arrington and one brother Norman George.

"Florence had an obituary in the *Marshall News Messenger*, Thursday, January 5, 1958, page 1. It contains a large amount of biographical information and lists her many accomplishments. There is also a short article, Friday, April 8, 1927, page 3 on her accepting the appointment to the State Park Board from 1927, about 2 months after her husband's passing."

Gregg County Cemetery Maintenance. Following our meeting, Tom Speir provided additional information on cemetery maintenance from Gregg County: "They have a volunteer, a retired gentleman, that goes around mowing some of that county's disused cemeteries, going so far as to weed-eat and treat the grave markers with cleaning solution.

"If anyone knows anyone with that much energy, let me know! We have many cemeteries that could use some help! *Note:* The Gregg County volunteer refuses to take payment for his services ("If I take your money, you will be able to tell me what to do!"), but I bet we can reimburse any volunteer for their gas.

"Thanks to everyone!!"

D. Education

No report.

E. Historical Markers

Tom Speir reported that THC has sent out notice that the largest historical markers will now cost \$2,300 due to the increases in manufacturing costs. THC has been absorbing the difference between the actual cost and the charge from the foundry. THC can no longer bear this expense.

We will be applying for four this year: the old Marshall Cities Service Station Building on Lafayette Street, the Cooperville Rosenwald School south of Hallsville, Marshall Telegraph Park and the Marshall Fire Department Bell. Note: Marshall Mayor Amy Ware has already delivered the check in payment of the application fee for Telegraph Park and the Fire Bell. The deadline for applications is Monday, May 16th.

A gentleman, Bobby Moten, asked how to move or replace the Bishop College Marker. He represents the Bishop Alumni Association which owns four acres of the former Bishop College property and the Association was under the mistaken impression that the marker was on that four acres which it now wishes to sell. However, the marker is on Community Healthcare Land and will stay where it is and provide no impediment to the sale contemplated.

Tracey Meyers is holding off on applying for the Old Town Elysian Fields Cemetery marker until next year due to health issues.

Golden Rule Presbyterian Church is also postponing their application until next year.

Just today, we heard that Daryl Ware will be tabling a marker for the Pope City Cemetery.

Lora McGill Bridgewater would like to get a marker for her Wiley College Sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, by the fall of 2024.

The old Elks Building marker may be dedicated on the 3rd Saturday in July following construction repairs in the building.

Both Tommy Goforth in Hallsville with the First State Bank of Hallsville Marker and the City of Marshall with the C.G. Lancaster Marker at Memorial City Hall are having issues mounting their markers on the buildings. Tom has reached out to the THC for instructions.

Mary Lee Donahue is seeking a Registered Texas Historic Landmark designation for the Noonday Camp Site north of Hallsville. By applying for a “replacement marker,” we are taking that application out of the current time-limit restriction of this coming Monday. They are working on an overview map.

In a conversation with Bob Brinkman, director of the THC Markers Division, Tom learned that there are statutes in place for anyone who damages a

historical marker. Such damage could result in felony charges for damaging State property valued at over \$1000.

Tom provided a reminder that the Fred Lewis marker will be dedicated at the Starr Family Home State Historic Site on September 27th.

Marty Vaughan mentioned that the Old Border Baptist Church, Waskom, Texas has expressed an interest in a marker. It recently celebrated its 185th anniversary.

F. Harrison County Historical Museum/ Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library

Becky Palmer sent an email reporting that the Museum opened a traveling exhibit: 100 Years of Fashion and Accessories which demonstrates women's attire from 1860-1960. Special note was taken that this exhibit includes commission member Audrey Kariel's wedding dress. (She laughed and said don't expect her to model it!)

The Museum plans to have its History Rocks Summer Camp from June 20th to 24th. Participants will visit a different local museum each day.

G. Information Technology

Tom Speir reported that two people have asked for QR codes on some of our historic sites. The County IT department has a specific server which the QR can access. IT will need to be kept in the loop at all times. Steve ? of the Marshall Regional Arts Council has purchased software to produce QR codes. We are thinking of stickers with the codes that could be affixed to historical marker poles. "We are taking this project one step at a time; it is on the back burner."

H. Oral History

Tom Speir reported that Randi Lefall has done an hour+ interview with Audrey Kariel. The interview was carefully done following the guidelines for oral history. Tom has asked for a second interview, however, to cover information that will be useful to us as a commission. Randi uses guidelines that come from the Smithsonian. Audrey has her own agenda of topics to discuss, which Tom is sure will be helpful to our Commission and the City (since she is a former mayor. *Note:* Audrey was the fifth person that Randy has interviewed. Tom reported that we need to reconstitute our list of people we think need to be interviewed.

I. Preservation/Rosenwald Schools

Questions were raised about activities going on at the old First Presbyterian building on Burleson in Marshall. Steve Horton later reported that he had researched the question of the current owner. It was bought by Following Christ Ministries, whose other property is on Bell Cut-off.

J. Publications

Rose Mary Magrill was asked to hold up a copy of her book, *The Northeast Corner of Harrison County, Texas: Karnack, Caddo, Uncertain and Leigh*. The second printing of 50 copies is expected to arrive from the printer's this week.

K. Tourism

Tom Speir reported that the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce is having a monthly roundtable to coordinate events.

Robert Wood asked about the date for the Convocation at the Josephine Davidson Memorial Chapel. It will be on Saturday May 21st at 11 a.m. Dr. David Dykes, interim pastor at Mobberly Avenue Baptist Church in Longview, will speak.

Tom Speir reminded us to put activities on the Chamber of Commerce's Community Calendar of Events.

L. Goals

No report.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Our annual preservation awards will be presented in June at The Blake House of the Starr Family Home State Historic Site. The actual day has not yet been set but it will probably be on a Saturday.

Just to remind everyone of the recipients of the awards, they are listed below:

Jerry Graves, Master Gardener
Marjorie Perkins Volunteer Award
Marshall Mayor Amy Ware
Award of Merit
Ann Brannon
Max Lale Award

Barbara Cox
Chairman's Award

V. Partners in Preservation Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

No report.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Robert Wood reported that the Depot is back in business. It has recovered from the problems incurred with the last Marshall city manager. Its electrical issues have also been cleared and the elevator is back up and running. Christina Anderson is taking care of the administration. Several board members recently visited the Cotton Belt Museum in Tyler. It was reported to be a very fine museum but did not yield any ideas for our T&P Museum. Robert wondered if anyone knew where the originals of the photos on the Depot board room wall are stored.

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

No report. (Barbara Judkins is on vacation.)

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Tom Speir reported that Dinora Harris is the new director and that she has been asked to take Susan Spear's place on the Commission.

The Modernist Architecture Tour is the first of a series of tours the Michelson Museum of Art is organizing to appreciate architecture as a form of art. Ken Hollis Endowed Professor Guy W. Carwile, co-author of *The Modernist Architecture of Samuel G. and William B. Wiener: 1920-1960*, will lead on a walking tour of several of the Wiener brothers buildings in Shreveport, Louisiana on Saturday May 14th beginning at 10:00 a.m. *Note:* The tour was limited to 20 participants and is filled.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

See IV. M. Annual Preservation Awards (*above*)

Jay Cariker of Wiley College, an educator, historian and consultant, is the new president of HLPB.

F. Others (Sabine Farms, T.C. Lindsey Store, Main Street, Pemberton Heritage Center, colleges/schools, etc.)

T.C. Lindsay Store. Marty Vaughan reported that the Store is still planning some festive celebration in the fall that will be different from past events. They are continuing their research on all the owners of the Store from its 1837 founding.

VI. Other

Tom Speir reported with sadness that word had been received that Temple Emanu-El in Longview is closing. It only has eight members left. With its closing there will no longer be a Hebrew community in the area. Audrey Kariel has asked for some Marshall artifacts given to the temple for display in the museum here in Marshall. But, she admits, they are under no obligation to donate them.

VII. Administrative

In light of our discussion, Tom Speir will tell the firm doing re-mediation at Darco to go ahead.

A communication from the Marshall Independent School District indicates that twelve bus drivers are still needed for the new school year and they are reaching out far and wide.

Tom asked for photos and records of events for our Facebook page.

VIII. Adjournment

Tom Speir announced that the next meeting will be July 14th 2022 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill