

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
July 14th 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: Barbara Judkins, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, Audrey Kariel, Roy Jack McCarroll, and Marty Vaughan.

Visitor(s) Present: Steve McFarland from the Marshall Regional Arts Council

I. Call to Order

Barbara Judkins, chair pro-tem, called the Zoom meeting to order on July 14th 2022 at 1:38 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Zoom meeting of May 12th 2022 were approved.

III. County Budget Report

Barbara Judkins reported that \$555.24 (nearly 14% of our budget) is left. Tom Speir will try to get a couple of more of our memberships paid. Buddy Power reported that there was no activity in the Friends of the HCHC accounts except for the addition of a few cents interest.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

Cedar Grove Plantation (on Blocker Road) is on hold. Lisa Jackson and her husband who currently own the old Henry Ware house are attempting to sell it due to her husband's ill health. Mark Genailles in Gilmer is a prospective buyer.

We are trying to arrange for Tony Crosby to go through the house with him prior to purchase.

Mose McGlothin Home (historic property between Waskom and Elysian Fields). Work on this property's historic designation is on hold because the Field family of Elysian Fields wants to add info to our application and the weather is too hot right now to make the investigations.

B. Archives and Historic Survey

Barbara Judkins shared a report from Tom Speir that we are still trying to arrange for any of our members to work on our survey of historic sites either electronically or by hard copy. This will include follow-up inspections of the homes covered in Natalie Bach-Prather's 2013 M.A. thesis.

C. Cemeteries

Jessica Martin has reached out for information on organizing a cemetery association for the Lilly Hill Cemetery in Harrison County. It is near the Gregg County line and Longview's Alpine Golf Course. It has about 190 known graves.

D. Education

No report.

E. Historical Markers

New Markers. Barbara Judkins shared an e-mail from THC concerning the four historical marker applications we sent in this year. These three have been approved:

22HS03 -- The Marshall Fire Department Fire Bell

22HS04 -- First Telegraph Office in Texas

22HS02 -- Cooperville Rosenwald School

The fourth application for Red Woodall's Cities Service Filling Station was still under review at the time of our meeting but was subsequently approved.

Travel Center Marker. Barbara also provided a report from Tom Speir on the old bronze marker in the roadside park on US80 in Scottsville. This is the marker from the 1936 Texas Centennial. It is labeled in our "Harrison County Historical Markers" booklet as Number 87.

Tom thinks that the question that arose about there being two markers in this roadside park is that the sign over the bronze marker might have been considered as a separate marker. Just as an FYI, this is the only marker in that roadside park.

The bronze marker could use some cleaning *if* the THC thinks we should. They may prefer that we leave the patina on it. Tom will get their advice.

The sign behind the bronze marker is in need of replacement, if we want to keep it in place. The message is barely legible. The letters are peeling off like decals. The edges of the sign are badly corroded.

Should this sign be replaced, or simply removed? If so, what should go in its place? I do not think it needs to be left up in its current condition, but I will wait until we hear from the THC on the subject of removal and/or replacement.

Tom said, "Thanks to everyone for your concern!"

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

No report.

G. Information Technology

Work is progressing on QR codes on some of our historic sites. Harrison County IT Director Charles Nenninger will add them on the county server. Steve McFarland of the Marshall Regional Arts Council will produce our codes. Both activities will be at no cost to the Commission!

H. Oral History

No report.

I. Preservation/Rosenwald Schools

There are two Union and Pacific sites that Tom Speir reports will need to be checked. Rev. Herman Garrison has purchased the Heard home at 511 E. Austin in Marshall and is interested in its history. He has been directed to the Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library for information and offered help for later consideration of any applications for any historic designations he may wish to pursue for the home..

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.

Tom has requested that our budget for the new year include funds to reprint the Stagecoach Trace brochures.

K. Tourism

Steve McFarland has put all of our historical assets in a form that will educate our visitors and attract even more. Preston Taylor reports that Marshall will host the Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards on October 13th to 16th. Around 200 visitors are expected. Ancillary events are planned to attract a wide audience.

L. Goals

No report.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Barbara Judkins noted that the awards were given out and there was good newspaper coverage of the awards.

V. Partners in Preservation Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

Courthouse Endowment Board. Barbara Judkins shared the following report from Christiana Anderson:

"I serve as president of the Harrison County Industrial Development Authority Board (HCIDA) Board of Directors (most often referred to as the Courthouse Endowment Board).

"The Board members include myself as president, Marshall Fire Chief Reggie Cooper as vice president, Harrison County Tax Assessor Veronica King as secretary, and Eric Neal as treasurer. Other members are: Dr. Blair Blackburn, Commissioner Jay Ebarb, Jack Redmon, Commissioner Zephaniah Timmins, and Amanda Wynn. Richard Anderson serves as volunteer Courthouse Manager, assisting the work of the Courthouse Endowment Board.

“The Courthouse Endowment was established in 2009 when Judge Anderson was serving as Harrison County Judge. The endowment was established following the completion of the restoration of the 1901 County Courthouse and is the only Courthouse endowment of its kind. The Texas Historical Commission asked Richard to make a presentation at this year’s THC annual conference in Austin about the endowment since it serves as a model to other counties on how an endowment can assist a county with the ongoing preservation of a restored historic courthouse.

“The HCIA Board has the two-fold mission of a) preserving, protecting and growing the endowment established in 2009 and b) assisting Harrison County with the ongoing preservation of the restored 1901 Courthouse in perpetuity.

The current focus of the work of the HCIDA Board is the completion of the work with a structural engineer to determine the recent hail damage to the 1901 Courthouse roof and dome. Once the insurance issues are resolved, the board will move forward to working with the County on any repairs and replacement to the roof and dome that will need to be made.”

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Barbara Judkins also shared a report from Christiana Anderson regarding the Texas & Pacific Depot:

“As you may know, the 2022 Marshall Depot Board Annual Fundraising campaign is currently underway. I chaired the fundraising campaign for the Depot in 2021 and am chairing the fundraising campaign again in 2022. Our theme for the 2022 fundraising campaign is “With your support, the future is bright for the Marshall Depot!” We are grateful to Depot Board member Alan Loudermilk for allowing us to use the gorgeous photo that he took last year of the Depot with two beautiful rainbows over it.

“The Marshall Depot is one of the few stations on the Texas Eagle route that is not operated by the city it serves. Instead, the Depot is operated by a volunteer board who is charged with raising the funding needed to pay for the annual electricity, liability insurance, water, sewer, trash, security, fire safety, elevator inspection, and other monthly and annual expenses for the operation of a working Amtrak stop and crew change stop and the T&P Railway Museum and Gift Shop. I’ve attached a fact sheet entitled “Did You Know? Important Facts

about the Marshall Depot” that provides more information about the benefits that the Depot provides our city, county, community, and region.

“The board is in the process of making a number of upgrades and improvements to the Depot such as the repair of the interior elevator, establishing new telephone and wi-fi service, facilitating the donation of new furnishings in the waiting room, and other improvements.

“We will be glad to share more details about the current improvements underway at a later time.”

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

Barbara Judkins reported that the Starr Family Home State Historic Site just got the gutters replaced and that work will start on porch.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

The Hoover Watercolor Society, Inc. 64th Annual Spring Exhibition at the Michelson will have its opening reception on Thursday, July 14th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

See IV. M. Annual Preservation Awards (above)

Jay Carriker of Wiley could not be with us. He 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 T.C. Lindsay Store is surviving well. John Fortune brought by a supply of Rose Mary Magrill’s book (see **IV. J. Publications** above p. 6) The store has already sold 10 or 15. The store is featured in the upcoming August issue of *Texas Highways* (pp. 56-57). It was suggested that Rose Mary might come to the Christmas Open House at the store to sign books. The store is also in the East Texas Telephone Book that just came out,

VI. Other

No report.

VII. Administrative

Barbara Judkins relayed Tom Speir's report that our Commission has once again earned a Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission!! He sends thanks to everyone for their help with this achievement!!

VIII. Adjournment

Barbara Judkins announced that the next meeting will be September 8th 2022 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill