



THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

Spring 2000

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County Historical Commission 2000 Projects

By Jeff Dunn, DCHC Chairman

The Dallas County Historical Commission started the year 2000 by winning the Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission. This award recognizes the commission's activities for 1999, including the inauguration of the Children's Trunk Show and the Texas Automobile Centennial Tour. DCHC member Charlene Orr was present at the Annual Historic Preservation Conference in San Antonio, held on May 5, 2000, to receive the award on behalf of the commission from Texas Historical Commission Chairman John Nau and Lieutenant Governor Rick Perry.

On February 24, 2000, DCHC members were present at the Texas Historical Commission's quarterly meeting and dinner held at the Hall of State at Fair Park.

The DCHC website, found on the Internet at www.dallaschc.org, has been updated by DCHC member Buddy Frazer. Issues of the County Chronicle from 1999 are now posted on the website along with links that will enable anyone to download and

print out the latest Texas historical marker applications and guidelines. There are also links to major historical organizations in Dallas and statewide.

The first of Dallas County's Official Texas Historical Markers to be dedicated in 2000 was unveiled in February in front of the First Baptist Church of Farmers Branch. Markers expected to be dedicated later this year include the John Shelby Wisdom marker (Boy Scout encampment), grave marker for Confederate officer Trezevant Calhoun Hawpe (Pioneer Cemetery, Dallas), the Joffre-Gilbert House (Irving), Ross Avenue Baptist Church (Dallas), White Rock Chapel (Addison), Oak Cliff United Methodist Church (Dallas), and the First United Methodist



Dallas County Historical Commission member Charlene Orr (center) accepts a Distinguished Service Award from Texas Historical Commission Chair John Nau (left) and Texas Lieutenant Governor Rick Perry (right).

Church of Dallas. Other marker applications now pending and expected for dedication include Bear Creek Cemetery (Irving),

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Upcoming Events

- **June 24: Carrollton Volunteer Day**
See page 2
- **June 24: Kennedy Memorial Rededication**
See page 2

Kennedy Memorial Rededication to Mark Memorial's 30th Anniversary

A public rededication of the Kennedy Memorial, located in downtown Dallas, is scheduled to take place at 10 a.m. on June 24, 2000, the 30th anniversary of the original dedication of the Memorial.

The renovation and preservation work on the Memorial has been a joint effort by The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, Dallas County and the City of Dallas. Ten construction companies donated services and materials to complete the work. Phoenix I Restoration and Construction, Ltd served as the general contractor. When the project was put up for bids, it was esti-

mated that it would cost approximately \$70,000 to complete.

First dedicated in 1970, the Kennedy Memorial, which was designed by renowned architect Philip Johnson, had suffered weather, vandalism and other deteriorative effects in recent years at the same time millions of visitors have been drawn to the site. The Sixth Floor Museum took the lead in bringing the various elements involved in the restoration and preservation project together.

In addition to cleaning, repairing and restoring the Memorial to its original state, the renovation and preserva-

tion project included installing new panels to help answer some of the questions posed by visitors to the site. The panels detail the history of the Memorial and help explain its symbolic significance. The public program will include brief addresses by a number of dignitaries and special guests.

For additional information call The Sixth Floor Museum at (214) 747-6660 or consult the Museum's Web Site at www.jfk.org. The Museum is located at 411 Elm Street at Houston, near the Memorial, and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Carrollton Volunteer Day 2000 Set for June 24

Carrollton Volunteer Day is an opportunity for people interested in the betterment of Carrollton to volunteer a few hours of their time on Saturday, June 24, 2000, from 8:00 A.M. until 12:00 noon.

This year's activities will be kicked off with a breakfast in Old Downtown Carrollton from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 A.M. Key community leaders will be invited to the breakfast, includ-

ing Carrollton's mayor and city council.

Following breakfast, all participants will proceed to their project sites to complete their projects. One of this year's projects has a historical theme, including the completion of the third phase of the Carrollton Black Cemetery. This project will result in the placement of an appropriate entry sign and sprucing up the cemetery. The

Carrollton Black Cemetery is located approximately one mile west of the intersection of I-35 and Belt Line on the south side of Belt Line next to the North Church. The sign will cost approximately \$900. Donations are needed to cover this cost. U.S. Flags will be provided to prepare city subdivisions for the Fourth of July. Contact Andy Olivo, Carrollton Volunteer Day Chairperson at 972/417-1945 for additional details.

Mesquite Landmark Named to National Register of Historic Places

Dallas Historical Commission members Patricia Randolph Antonelli and Charlene Orr attended ceremonies held April 21 in Mesquite in honor of the S.D. Lawrence Farmstead being named to the National Register of Historic Places. The farmstead is located on 12 acres of land in the Opal Lawrence Historical Park.

The farmstead was established in the 1870's, and the house was enlarged in the 1880's. Opal and Onyx Lawrence lived there until 1995.

Historic Mesquite Inc. (HMI) is raising money for the renovation of the

property which includes the house, barns and other outbuildings. Ms. Orr, who is also HMI Executive Director, says HMI has raised about \$200,000 of the \$650,000 needed. She expects tours of the project to begin in October 2001.

Ms. Antonelli said the house and grounds are wonderful and indeed a precious piece of history for the City of Mesquite.



Patricia Randolph Antonelli of the County Historical Commission with Mesquite Mayor Pro-Tem John Heiman, Jr. (left) and Duncanville City Manager Larry Shaw (right). (Photo courtesy Cedar Hill Sentinel)

Dallas County Historical Commission Endorses Shawnee Trail Designation

The Dallas County Historical Commission at its April 2000 meeting became the first Dallas area historical group to endorse the initiative seeking state legislative support for marking and designating the Shawnee Trail as an Official Texas Travel Trail. The Shawnee Trail is the name associated with the first and easternmost cattle trail that led longhorns from south Texas into Missouri from the late 1840s until the late 1860s. The route passed through Austin, Waco, and Dallas, following roughly the present route of Interstate 35E to Ellis County, and the Lancaster Road from Waxahachie

through the southern part of Dallas County. From present downtown Dallas the trail headed north to the Red River via Preston Road, crossing at a site that is now on Lake Texoma.

The effort to designate the Shawnee Trail supplements the effort initiated by Douglas Harman, president and CEO of the Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau, to mark and designate the Chisholm Trail. The Chisholm Trail was the successor to the Shawnee Trail, commencing in the late 1860s and operated until the 1880s. This trail departed from the old Shawnee Trail at Waco and headed north through Fort

Worth, crossing Red River at a place west of Preston. The marking and designation of both trails would give visitors and residents alike the opportunity to drive the famous cattle trails that played an important role in the economic and social development of north Texas. The route through Fort Worth would feature the stockyards, whereas the route through Dallas County would focus on the longhorn sculptures at Pioneer Park.

A state legislative subcommittee is currently studying this proposal and is expected to vote on the feasibility of this project by November 2000.

Historical Commission in 2000

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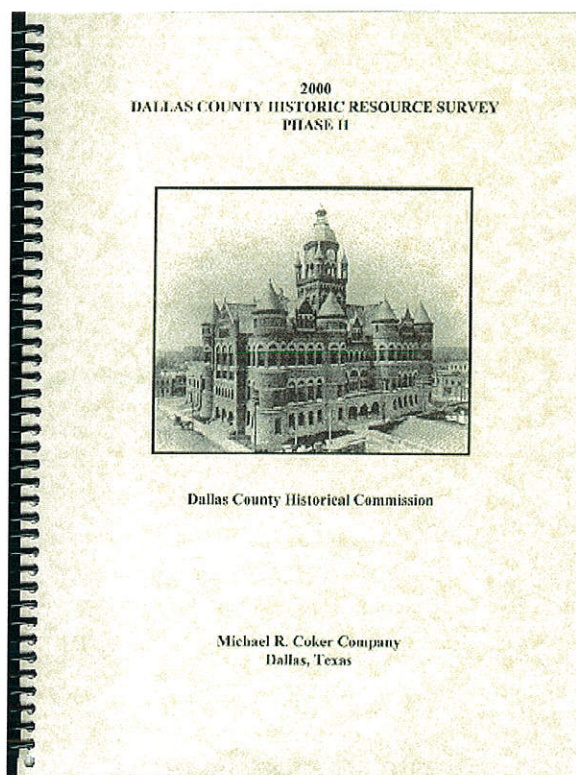
Cliff Temple Baptist Church (Dallas), Hensley Field (Dallas-Grand Prairie), Frank Rutherford Veterinary Clinic (RTHL), Tripp Baptist Church (Sunnyvale), Straus-Canady House (Cedar Hill), One Nonesuch Road (Dallas), First Christian Church Garland, Cox Cemetery (Dallas), and Trees Cemetery (Cedar Hill-Duncanville).

DCHC member Jon Eric Simmons is the commission's liaison on the county's Historical Plaza Development Committee. This committee is now meeting periodically to discuss plans for the redevelopment of the plaza where the John Neely Bryan cabin now stands. The commission is also working with the county and the Friends of Old Red in the on-going efforts to restore the historical Old Red Courthouse. Regrettably, this effort suffered a temporary setback when the Texas Historical Commission decided not to fund any of the county's \$4 million request under the courthouse improvement program funds allocated last year by the state legislature.

Phase II of DCHC's Historic Re-

source Survey is now completed. This project documents historic structures in the Town of Addison and the Cities of Mesquite, Richardson, and Irving. The DCHC is now considering plans for implementing the third and final phase of this project, which will cover the cities of Grand Prairie, Highland Park, DeSoto, Duncanville and Garland. Once completed, the entire county outside of the City of Dallas will be surveyed, offering a valuable resource for historic preservation.

The DCHC is planning a historical organization leadership group, an essay contest for children and teenagers, Freedman's Cemetery brochure, and other projects. The commission has also endorsed the second annual Dallas History Conference and will be serving as a co-sponsor of that event to be held later this year.



The Second Phase of the Historic Resource Survey covers Addison, Mesquite, Richardson and Irving

Spirit & Splendor: Texas & The Path to Independence

The Dallas Public Library is now featuring an exhibition, entitled *Spirit & Splendor: Texas and the Path to Independence*. The high point of this exhibition is the Texas Declaration of Causes—a gift to the City of Dallas and the Dallas Public Library from the Friends of the Dallas Public Library, Inc. in celebration of the Library's 50th Anniversary, 1950-2000. The exhibit is open to the public March 13—August 27, 2000 in the Fine Books Study Room, 7th Floor of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street. *Spirit & Splendor* continues a rich tradition of Friends-sponsored exhibitions that bring heightened awareness to the treasures of the Dallas Public Library.

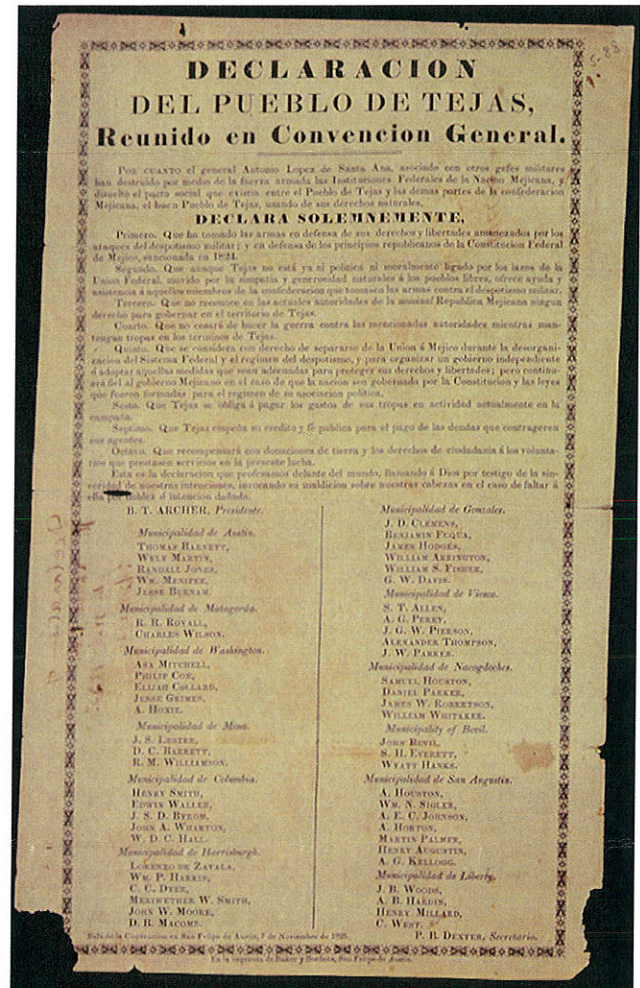
The newest treasure, the *Declaration of Causes* (in Spanish), is a rare strategic document which lists the causes that justified Texas in taking up arms against Mexico. Adopted by the provisional government of Texas on November 7, 1835, it precedes the Texas Declaration of Independence by four months and is a seminal document in the movement towards Texas independence from Mexico.

The exhibition also features other historic documents drawn from the Library's Special Collections division (Fine Books and Texas/Dallas History and Archives) and explores the path to Texas independence. It recounts from the first Spanish explorations through the reminiscences of men who fought on both sides of the revolutionary conflict. The works in the exhibition illustrate the deep traditions of Spanish and Mexican culture—including language, law and religion—that are part of Texas today.

Only six copies of the Spanish language version of the *Declaration of Causes* are known to exist, and this copy is the only one owned by a public

library.

The exhibition will be open Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 9 pm;



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The Dallas County Historical Commission is a county board appointed by the Dallas County Commissioners Court. The Dallas County Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the DCHC for historical groups in Dallas County and the general public. This edition was edited by Buddy Frazer and published with the assistance of The Sixth Floor Museum. Contributions should be sent to Jeff Dunn, via email at jddunn@flash.net, or by mail to Dallas County Historical Commission, 411 Elm Street, 3rd Floor, Dallas, TX 75202-3301.

Friday and Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm, and Sunday 1 to 5 pm. An illustrated catalog will be available (in limited quantities) featuring major works in the exhibition and describing their significance. All Dallas Public Library events and exhibits are free and open to the public. For more information, call 214-670-1400.