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THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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The Past Meets the Future

By Jann Patterson, DCHC Member

On October 28, the Dallas Architecture Forum, the City of Dallas and Preservation Dallas partnered to present a discussion of planning issues related to the City of Dallas and the CITY OF DALLAS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN—the first comprehensive land use and transportation plan proposed for the city of Dallas.

Presenters included Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, John Fregonese, Principal with Fregonese Calthorpe Associates of Portland, Oregon, who has been contracted to prepare the plan for Dallas, and David Dillon, author and architecture writer for the Dallas Morning News. Karen Walz, President of the Greater Dallas Planning Council, moderated the panel.

Local preservationists were particularly interested to hear Richard Moe's comments and ideas for how historic preservation can play a role in the future development of the city. Moe emphasized that livability is key for the success of any city plan and historic preservation can play an active role in achieving a desirable quality of life in urban centers. Historic buildings play

an active role in generating a sense of place and in forming the character of a city. Additionally, historic preservation is more than just "pretty old buildings." Historically important buildings help maintain a city's connection to its past and, consequently, help citizens feel connected to the place in which they live. The individual character and atmosphere that historic buildings evoke are in direct contrast to the "generic" of retailers that appear in cities across the nation.

Moe's comments were backed by statistics that make a strong case for historic preservation as an effective tool for economic development. According to Moe, for every \$1,000,000 invested in the rehabilitation of historic properties, \$850,000 is generated in resulting income. Furthermore, per \$1,000,000 invested in historic rehabilitation, twelve more jobs are produced than as a result of new construction.

Moe praised Dallas for its richness and variety of historic neighborhoods and buildings, particularly Fair Park, the "M streets," and Munger Place. He encouraged members of the audience and city leaders to carefully integrate the city's historic gems into the Comprehensive Plan, leveraging the city's assets while balancing the need for growth and rejuvenation.

Throughout the upcoming months the City of Dallas is hosting community planning workshops in different parts of the city. These workshops are open to all and will be conducted in an interactive format that will enable participants to work with city staff, other citizens and design professionals. The goal of these workshops is to devise a variety of alternative development options that will address problems and opportunities in Dallas. More information about the locations and agendas for these sessions can be found on the City of Dallas Comprehensive Plan website at forwarddallas.org.

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Sachse Cemetery Marker Dedicated

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

Rain had been in the forecast, but the morning of October 30 turned out to be beautiful at the dedication ceremonies of a Historic Texas Cemetery Marker for the Sachse Cemetery. The honor was the result of efforts by the Sachse Cemetery Foundation and its president, Mr. Joe J. Stone.

Dallas County Historical Commission Chairman Buddy Frazer presented the marker, and Sachse Mayor Mike Felix accepted it for the city. Mollie Grissom, the oldest living grand daughter of William Sasche, was unable to attend the ceremony for health reasons, but her grandson, Brian Ligon, represented her. Reverend Hal Hinkley, Pastor of the Sachse Christian Church, gave the invocation and benediction.

William Sachse donated the land for a cemetery and church in the 1890's. A Christian Church was later built. Mr. Sachse was the first to be buried in the

cemetery on December 23, 1899. His heirs received all of his holdings, which included the cemetery property, and continued the work to establish the cemetery. The property was not officially recorded until 1920. Legend has it that the reason for the delay was due to the distance from Sachse, which is in far northeast Dallas County, to the courthouse in downtown Dallas. Church Street originally ran through the property, but it was later absorbed into the adjoining lots.

In 1973 and 1981 the Cemetery Foundation purchased additional land to bring the cemetery to its current size of

a little over four acres. The goal of the Cemetery Foundation is to establish perpetual care for the site.



Sachse Mayor Mike Felix (left) and Sachse Cemetery Foundation President Joe Stone at the marker.

The Sachse Cemetery Foundation contributed to this article.

New Book on Sarah Cockrell Published

Dallas author Vivian Anderson Castleberry has recently published a book on the life of Dallas pioneer Sarah Cockrell entitled *Sarah—The Bridge Builder*.

Vivian Anderson Castleberry, multiple award-winning retired journalist, is a writer and public speaker who seeks, through her work, to give women a presence and a voice for their incredible accomplishments throughout history. *Sarah—The Bridge Builder* is her third published book, following *Daughters of Dallas* and *Texas Tornado*. Married since 1946 to Curtis W. Castleberry, she is the mother of five adult daughters, five sons-by-marriage to her daughters and has 13 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

In *Sarah—The Bridge Builder*,

Castleberry describes Sarah Horton Cockrell as an “old maid” of 27 when she arrived on the Texas frontier in 1844, the fifth of 11 children of a pioneering family from Virginia. Married at 29 to dashing opportunist Alexander Cockrell, she “took over Dallas” after he was killed in a gun battle on a main street of the village 10 years after their marriage.

Sarah amassed a series of firsts that staggers the imagination. Among other things, she erected the first iron bridge across the Trinity River, built the first major downtown hotel and its first high-rise office building, established a milling operation, and was the first woman to testify before the Texas State Legislature. She became Dallas’ first millionaire while successfully



Vivian Anderson Castleberry

rearing her four children. The biography of this extraordinary woman is a blueprint for women today.

Much of this article is quoted from www.viviancastleberry.com and is used with the author's permission.

Preservation Texas 2005 Calendar Released

Preservation Texas, a statewide nonprofit membership organization, has created a 2005 calendar, filled with artistic images of significant sites in Texas and preservation-related events.

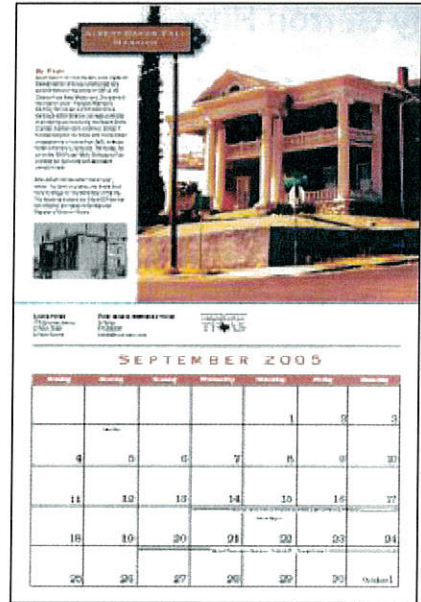
The images used for the calendar are a sampling of restored courthouses, endangered historic properties and exemplary historic preservation achievements. The calendar also outlines events for Preservation Texas, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Texas Historical Commission. This first year of the calendar, only three organizations' activities were featured. Next year, Preservation Texas hopes to include all Texas preservation, conservation and historically oriented organizations.

The courthouses on the calendar owe their restoration success to the Texas Historical Commission's Courthouse Preservation Program that provides matching grants to historic courthouses.

The funds were made available by the Texas legislature. The Texas *Most Endangered Places* are from the first list released by Preservation Texas in 2004 that was patterned after the NTHP's 11 Most Endangered List. Two of the colorful calendar's pages highlight Treasures of Texas awards, presented annually by PT for historic preservation projects of merit.

"We think it is important for those of us with common goals, preserving and protecting our shared heritage in Texas, to coordinate our educational seminars and events," said Julianne Fletcher, executive director of Preservation Texas.

"We know that state and national organizations in the preservation field, are working to assist local and regional groups. By providing a calendar, we hope local and regional organizations will be able to schedule effectively and include state and national organizations in their tours, seminars and other events. By planning together, we



can all support one another for the greater good."

Calendars are \$13.50, each including postage, and may be ordered by contacting Preservation Texas at 512.472.0102 or by printing an order form from their website at www.preservationtexas.org.

Information for this article was provided by Preservation Texas

Bryan Family Recognition Studied

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

The Dallas County Historical Commission (DCHC) completed its assignment to look into issues related to the John Neely Bryan Cabin in October. Earlier in the year, the County Commissioners asked the DCHC to advise them on the issues of where the Bryan Cabin should be located after the redevelopment of Founders Plaza is completed, and on whether the Bryans had been properly recognized for their role in Dallas history.

In August, the DCHC held a public hearing to receive citizen input on both issues. Following the hearing, the

DCHC recommended that the cabin be kept in the vicinity of the Old Red Courthouse, preferably within the new Founders Plaza.

The DCHC continued to discuss the recognition issue at subsequent meetings and forwarded its conclusions to the Commissioners Court in a letter dated October 24. That letter said in part, "The DCHC believes that John Neely Bryan and the Bryan family have received proper recognition for their contribution to Dallas's history. The recognition includes naming a street and a school for Mr. Bryan and

recognition on three State Historical Markers in the Old Red Courthouse area. Also, most historical publications recognize Mr. Bryan as the founder of Dallas. However, the DCHC also believes that as changes are made in the Old Red Courthouse and Founders Plaza, there may be additional opportunities for further recognition of the Bryan and other pioneer families."

The Commissioners Court will consider these recommendations when it begins discussing the Founders Plaza redesign.

Volunteers Needed for R.I.P. Project

By Gerron Hite, Texas Historical Commission History Programs Division

The initials R.I.P., once commonly found carved on tombstones, bid the deceased an earthly wish for eternal “rest in peace.” Today, it also has another meaning relevant to cemeteries — it denotes the new Texas Historical Commission (THC) cemetery survey program: Record, Investigate, Protect (RIP).

In 2000, the Texas Department of Transportation awarded the THC a grant to expand and enhance the existing Texas Historic Sites Atlas by including historic cemeteries. The Atlas is a database of approximately 238,000 sites documenting Texas history. This database, available through the THC’s web site, contains documentation on each site. Currently, only cemeteries with state historical markers — a small percentage of cemeteries in Texas — are in the database.

An Atlas listing could save some of the state’s endangered cemeteries, since accurate information about a resource is vital to its preservation. A comprehensive and organized database of the state’s historic cemeteries, numbering in the tens of thousands, helps planners and preservationists develop strategies for their protection.

“Cemeteries are important reminders of early settlement patterns, especially where communities no longer exist,” said Cynthia Beeman, director of the THC’s History Programs Division. “They reveal

information about historic events, lifestyles, religion, genealogy, and even artistic and architectural trends.”

Historic cemeteries are also vulnerable resources. Cultural threats include commercial and agricultural encroachment, theft, vandalism and neglect. Many cemeteries are poorly marked and maintained, while others are missing grave markers, original landscaping and other key features.

Over the years, efforts have been made to record cemeteries, usually at the community or county level, and today, information about historic cemeteries is available in county history books, cemetery surveys and web sites. There is, however, no comprehensive statewide database.

“Texas is losing some of its most important cultural resources before they can even be located,” said THC Executive Director Larry Oaks.

Locating the cemeteries is the first step in the RIP survey process.

Phase one of the RIP project began in October 2001 with the hiring of data entry personnel to locate all the cemeteries on U.S. Geological Survey topographical maps of Texas and record them in the Atlas. At the end of phase one, THC staff had entered data on nearly 9,000 sites.

Phase two began in January 2002, when two historians were added to the RIP team. They are currently surveying and publishing resources on cemeteries in 107 of the state’s fastest growing counties — those most vulnerable to development. They have already discovered the location of several thousand previously unmapped cemeteries.

Scheduled to begin in summer 2003, phase three of the RIP effort will involve on-site documentation to enhance the maps and the earlier survey work. The RIP team will photograph the cemeteries, compile site data forms and record sites through use of global positioning system equipment. Data will include accessibility, approximate size, identifiable cultural links, cemetery features, surrounding land use, overall conditions and gravestone materials. The Dallas County effort will start in December 2004 and continue in 2005.

The RIP program is a four-year project, scheduled for completion in 2005. The resulting comprehensive survey database, one of the first of its kind in the nation, will be an invaluable planning tool for preservationists and developers alike. The cemetery information on the Atlas will serve as a starting point for broader preservation efforts, from designations and interpretive efforts to educational curricula and heritage tourism.

While there will be no “rest” for the RIP staff in the next few years, the program will leave a legacy that will endure.



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Volunteers are needed to help identify cemeteries, verify directions, and obtain access.

If you would like to help, call Buddy Frazer at 972-387-1918 or Gerron Hite at 512-475-4167.