

# PRESERVATION TEXAS

## Press Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2016

### RESTORATION OF HISTORIC COURTOOM IN SAN ANTONIO TO RECEIVE 2016 HONOR AWARD

Austin, Texas — Preservation Texas, Inc. has announced that the circa 1896 Bexar County Courtroom will receive a 2016 Honor Award for Restoration on February 18, 2016. The Honor Award will be presented at a special ceremony at the historic State Theatre on Congress Avenue as part of the Preservation Texas 2016 Summit.

The original Bexar County Courthouse, located at 101 West Nueva Street in San Antonio, included a pair of two-story courtrooms. Over time, they became lost within the building giving way to four smaller, single-story courtrooms. Once vacated, the rooms were gutted down to the original masonry walls. The intermediate floor was then removed, revealing a raw shell of the original double-height courtroom.

A photo from a 1914 murder trial proved vital in determining the original courtroom configuration, wainscot details and light fixture locations. Court minutes described a segregated balcony, the reconstruction of which allowed designers to conceal the room's air conditioning. Original plaster capitals found in the attic were laser scanned in place to create an exact replica for the restoration. The capitals were hand painted, along with coffered ceiling, using period colors.

“Historic courthouses are iconic public buildings,” said Preservation Texas executive director Evan Thompson. “The dramatic restoration of the Bexar County courtroom proves that through historic preservation, historic courthouses can provide a dignified architectural backdrop to the important functions of local government.”

The award-winning project team included Bexar County and Fisher Heck Architects.

*Founded in 1985, Preservation Texas is a member-supported non-profit historic preservation advocacy and education organization based in Austin, Texas. The organization does not receive any government funding.*

*For more information, visit [www.PreservationTexas.org](http://www.PreservationTexas.org) or call 512-472-0102.*