BARBARA BRANNON  SPUR

Author, editor, and educator Barbara Brannon, PhD, is executive director of the Texas Plains Trail Region, the award-winning heritage tourism initiative of the Texas Historical Commission. Working with volunteers, community leaders, elected officials, and travelers in fifty two West Texas counties from I-20 to the top of the Panhandle, she promotes historic preservation and economic development on the local, regional, and state levels. A board member of the Lubbock Heritage Society and a graduate of Leadership Texas, she lives in Spur, Texas, the Tiny House Capital of America.

SUE MORRIS LAZARA  LINDEN

Sue Morris Lazara, a Cass County native, co-founded the Linden Heritage Foundation and remains involved as the organization’s Vice President of Preservation and Education. A 1970 Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Southern Methodist University, Sue worked in the early 1970s for the Los Angeles Times and pursued graduate studies at the University of Southern California in theoretical mathematics and statistics. Her career led to a Vice Presidency at Diagnostic Research International, which has since been absorbed by international marketing giant WPP London. Sue has long supported the arts, nature conservation, and preservation initiatives. She founded the Glendale Youth Orchestra, and played a lead role in multiple public restoration and adaptive use projects in Southern California, including the Eastlake Glendale Doctors’ House, the Greco-Egyptian Alex Theatre, the Queen Anne Goode House, and La Canada’s Craftsman Lanterman House. She has received state level awards in California and Texas, including the Preservation Texas Clara Driscoll Award.

GARY WILLIAMS  EL PASO

Gary L. Williams has served in the nonprofit sector for over forty years and currently serves as the Senior Program Officer for the El Paso Community Foundation, where has worked since 1998. Gary is responsible for providing staff support to the Burkitt Foundation, a supporting organization of the Community Foundation, and is Coordinator of the Pass of the North Heritage Corridor Project. This project is designed to preserve and showcase the historical, cultural, and natural legacies of the El Paso area, and to collaborate with others on the development of tangible outcomes in the areas of historic preservation, heritage tourism, and heritage education. He has a B.A. in Anthropology/Sociology from the University of Texas at El Paso and a Masters of Social Work from the University of Utah. Gary and his wife Cindy have two children and love living in El Paso and exploring the Southwest borderlands.
This has been a busy year, reinforcing the value of making strong grassroots connections across the state through education and advocacy.

We learned from one another at our successful three-day Summit in Waco in February and our day-long gathering in San Angelo in May. We worked together to prevent House Bill 3418 from undermining local preservation ordinances. And we have forged new friendships through collaborative work to save endangered places across Texas. We look forward to reinforcing these relationships at next year’s Summit in Brownsville, working with local partners to share the remarkable heritage of the Lower Rio Grande Valley with you.

Our goal as a statewide organization is to ensure that our programs are reaching all of Texas. The annual Honor Awards and Most Endangered Places list are effective programs that provide the opportunity to bring statewide attention to issues and projects large and small. As you read about them in this issue, think of other places at risk in your own community and let us know about them. We are dependent on our members for information about what is endangered, and when we are able to recognize great projects with Honor Awards we can point to them as models for others to learn from.

As the year draws to a close, we will be launching our Annual Fund campaign with a goal of raising $25,000. We cover a lot of ground with a small organization, and the unmet needs in our state for preservation education and advocacy are great, particularly in our smaller cities and towns. A successful Annual Fund means that we will have the resources to respond and extend our programs to save our irreplaceable heritage. Thank you for your continuing support.

Evan Thompson
Executive Director
MOST ENDANGERED PLACES UPDATE

MOST ENDANGERED: NATIONAL AWARENESS

Two Preservation Texas Most Endangered Places have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.
Two sites that have been included on our Most Endangered Places list have been formally added to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service. This designation will make the properties eligible for historic preservation tax credits that will help reduce the cost of rehabilitation.

Dr. James Lee Dickey House

Waco native James Lee Dickey (1893-1956) graduated from medical school and moved to Taylor in 1921. He was the city’s only African-American doctor and provided medical care for African-Americans in Williamson County and the surrounding area. Dr. Dickey later opened an emergency hospital.

Dr. Dickey emerged as a local leader in community health and in the advancement of civil rights. In 1952 he was named “Most Outstanding Citizen” by the Taylor Chamber of Commerce, the first African American so honored. This story made national news, landing him a seven-page article in the Saturday Evening Post. On his death, the Texas Legislature passed a resolution honoring his lifetime of achievement and service.

National Register listing for the 1926 house recognizes the significance of Dickey’s contributions to his community and to his state as the Jim Crow era faded and the modern civil rights era emerged.

Future plans call for the house to become the Dickey Museum & Multipurpose Center. The total cost of rehabilitation, led by Jennifer Harris and the Blackshear/O.L. Price Ex-Student Association of Taylor, is expected to be over $500,000. In June, Williamson County Commissioners approved a grant of $100,000 toward the project. Additional grant funding is expected from the U.S.D.A.

Panhandle Inn

The Panhandle Inn was constructed in 1924 in Panhandle, the seat of Carson County. It met the need for lodging, meeting and social space as the region’s oil economy boomed. The distinctive structure was designed in the Pueblo Revival style by Amarillo-based architect E. F. (Emmett Floyd) Rittenberry (1887-1964).

With its central location, the Inn served as “Panhandle’s Meeting Place” even as the town fell into decline. It closed its doors in 1970 and stood vacant for over thirty years until the Panhandle Inn Foundation was formed in 2011 to facilitate its restoration. The Foundation’s mission is “to preserve, restore and maintain the historic Panhandle Inn for the educational and historical benefit of current and future generations.”

Inclusion of the Panhandle Inn on the National Register recognizes its contribution to the “economic, civic and social life of Panhandle” as well as its importance as the last surviving example of a large commercial building in the Pueblo Style in the area. In 2016, the Foundation spent $250,000 to-
The East El Paso Fire Station (No. 5) in 1916, eight years after its construction.

On July 26, 1924, Dr. Lawrence A. Nixon (1883-1966) was denied the right to vote in the Texas Democratic primary because he was black. He attempted to cast his vote at East El Paso Fire Station (No. 5), located at 2317 Texas Avenue in El Paso.

This building still stands and should be considered for National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation. It meets the criteria outlined in the National Park Service’s Civil Rights in America: Racial Voting Rights theme study (2007).

Dr. Nixon and the United States Supreme Court

The El Paso chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. brought a successful lawsuit on Dr. Nixon’s behalf, *Nixon v. Herndon* (1927), in which the United States Supreme Court ruled that the 1923 Texas law stipulating that “in no event shall a negro be eligible to participate in a Democratic primary election held in the State of Texas” violated the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution.

In response, the Texas legislature passed a new law that empowered political parties to independently ban blacks from participating in party primaries. The following year, on July 28, 1928, Dr. Nixon again tried to vote in the Democratic primary in El Paso and was denied a ballot because he was black. Dr. Nixon returned to the Supreme Court, resulting in a decision in *Nixon v. Condon* (1932) that ruled that the new version of the state’s discriminatory legislation also violated the Constitution.

These two Supreme Court cases were the first of the “White Primary Cases” that laid the legal and political framework for the ultimate repudiation of black disenfranchisement in political primaries through a 1944 Supreme Court case, *Smith v. Allwright*, that originated in Houston. And that landmark case provided the legal basis for desegregating public schools ten years later in *Brown v. Board of Education*. The moral courage of Dr. Lawrence A. Nixon and the El Paso N.A.A.C.P. to defend the rights of African-Americans to participate in our democracy is a civil rights legacy of national significance.

In 1999, Congress directed the National Park Service (NPS) to document the national significance of civil rights sites in the United States. A subsequent National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Theme Study completed in 2007 focused specifically on “Racial Voting Rights.” The study noted the “opening rounds” of the White Primary legal challenge in El Paso represented by both *Nixon v. Herndon* and *Nixon v. Condon*. The report concluded that sites proposed for NHL designation “Must be acknowledged to be among the nation’s most significant properties associated with the constitutional right to vote between 1865 and 1965 … [and] a direct and meaningful documented association with an event or individual.” The denial of Dr. Nixon’s right to vote in 1924 and 1928 that precipitated two Supreme Court cases are two such events.

For the period 1900 to 1941, the NPS reiterates the significance of the “prominent legal battle that lasted almost three decades [that] took place between Texas and the U.S. Supreme Court over the ‘white primary,’ and that ‘a property associated with an event from this era may be eligible under Criterion 1 if the event made a significant contribution to … interpreting the constitutionality of restrictions that kept Democratic primaries in the South open only to whites.’” Yet in its discussion of specific sites, the NPS study authors (1) could not identify a polling place associated with a 1915 Oklahoma case from this period; (2) noted that the polling place associated with Smith v. Allwright (1944) had been demolished; and (3) made no reference to polling places in El Paso tied to the two Nixon cases, presumably because it did not know that Dr. Nixon’s 1924 polling place was still standing.
The Fire Station

The East El Paso Fire Station (No. 5) has architectural significance apart from its association with *Nixon v. Herndon*. Completed in 1908, Preservation Texas has documented that the station was designed by the leading architectural firm in El Paso at that time, Trost & Trost. On 31 July 1907, the *El Paso Herald* reported:

*The principle new work undertaken by Trost & Trost was plans for the new fire stations for the El Paso fire department, one for the hill district and one for East El Paso. This work is being rushed and as soon as completed bids will be asked for.*

By the end of August, the city was considering bids for construction. *The El Paso Herald* reported on 29 August 1907:

*Five bids from contractors for the erection of fire stations in Sunset Heights and East El Paso were received, but were laid aside until a future meeting, at which time they will be accepted or rejected. The consensus of opinion among the alderman this morning was that all the bids were too high, the lowest bid being that of J. C. Huff, for $8,464. The stations are designated as Nos. 4 and 5, No. 4 being in Sunset Heights and No. 5 in East El Paso.*

Early the next year, the *El Paso Herald* could report on 26 February 1908 that:

*The East El Paso fire station is practically completed as far as outward appearances go, although the doors and windows are not in yet.*

The East El Paso Fire Station (No. 5) is worthy of national recognition for its role in the early Civil Rights movement in Texas and in the United States.
THEMATIC SPOTLIGHT: HISTORIC BARNs

A look at the structures that symbolize our rural landscape and define the state’s agricultural history.
Historic barns of various forms, sizes and materials built for a range of uses can be found throughout much of Texas, and many of those that survive are in serious disrepair and slowly collapsing. Barns represent our agricultural heritage and reflect 19th and 20th century ethnic and regional building practices. Across rural Texas, the construction of a barn incorporated the innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of Texas farmers and ranchers.

The loss of historic barns dramatically alters the cultural landscape of rural Texas and erases the evidence of our diverse agricultural traditions.

**Incentives for Barn Preservation**

The rehabilitation of a National Register-listed historic barn used for agricultural or other income-producing purposes can be eligible for federal historic preservation tax credits. Similarly, as income-producing property, barns listed on the National Register or designated as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks may be eligible for the state historic preservation tax credit. These financial incentives support an economically-feasible alternative to simply allowing old barns to collapse and be replaced by factory-made metal buildings lacking in character or historic association.

**Barn Documentation and Architectural Study**

Organizations like the National Barn Alliance provide encouragement and educational programs to support barn preservation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation’s former Barn Again! program, established in 1987, was the impetus for the creation of many statewide programs. Special statewide interest groups dedicated to barns have formed in different parts of the country, such as the Michigan Barn Preservation Network and the Iowa Barn Foundation. Through this endangered listing, Preservation Texas hopes to awaken similar statewide interest in documenting the history of barns and encouraging their rehabilitation in Texas.

A statewide focus on the documentation, designation and rehabilitation of historic barns in Texas will protect the rural character of the state. Incentives for barn owners can be put to work, improving the condition of these fading resources and sustaining rural tourism initiatives along Texas’ backroads.

**Existing Documentation and Surveys in Texas**

A handful of National Register nominations and resource surveys have identified eligible barns, including historic resource surveys in Comal County and Hays County; the National Register-listed Westphalia Rural Historic District in Falls County; and the Agricultural Theme Study for Central Texas conducted for the Texas Department of Transportation. The few barns individually listed on the National Register or as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks can be found through the Texas Historic Sites Atlas, such as the Dairy Barn at Texas Tech University.
MOST ENDANGERED PLACES 2017

[Images of various endangered places]
Since the first Most Endangered Places list was announced in 2004, over 150 individual sites and themes have been included, but only seven of those sites have been lost.

The Most Endangered Places list raises statewide and national awareness of at-risk historic places, encouraging Texans to take action in support of our vanishing heritage. A total of 11 individual sites and themes, including East El Paso Fire Station (No. 5) and Historic Barns, are included on Preservation Texas’ 2017 Most Endangered Places list. For more information, please visit preservationtexas.org.

**HISTORIC GAS STATIONS**
*Statewide*

These modest early to mid-20th century structures are ideal for adaptive use. A new statewide Field Guide to Gas Stations in Texas (2016) supports efforts to designate these distinctive roadside structures as historic resources, making them eligible for tax credits and other incentives.

**HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL WOOD WINDOWS**
*Statewide*

Cheap, disposable “window systems” are replacing high-quality, old-growth wooden window sashes in the name of “sustainability.” But there is nothing greener than preserving existing materials, and historic wood windows can be easily maintained while ensuring a comfortable interior climate in old Texas houses. The loss of character-defining historic windows not only wastes valuable resources but offers false promises of “energy savings” which take several decades to recoup, in some cases longer than the new windows will last.

**HISTORIC DAMS**
*Statewide*

Across Texas, there are nearly 7,400 dams, most of which are of an age that would make them potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Only a handful have been so listed. Programs such as the National Fish Passage Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service threaten to destroy historically-significant dams, such as the National Register-eligible Cape’s Dam (1867) in the San Marcos River. Texas needs to develop reasonable standards for dam removal based on clear criteria for evaluating the significance of historic dams. Case studies from other parts of the country can inform recommendations for appropriate mitigation.
FAIR PARK
Dallas, Dallas County

While local officials debate the future management structure for Fair Park, the finest collection of Art Deco exhibition buildings in the United States, designated as a National Historic Landmark, is in need of millions of dollars of rehabilitation to address a long list of deferred maintenance issues. This fall, voters in Dallas will be given an opportunity to support a bond initiative that will provide funding to begin to address the backlog of critical repairs needed to renew this nationally-significant site built for the 1936 Texas Centennial.

LIONS MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE
Austin, Travis County

This 141-acre public golf course in Austin (designed 1924) was in 1950 the first course to be desegregated in the South. Because of its civil rights legacy, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2016. Owned by The University of Texas, proposed plans for its redevelopment for mixed commercial and residential uses threaten to destroy the site, which also provides much-needed open space in an densely-developed city. “Muny”, as it is known locally, is also on the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s 11 Most Endangered Places list.

AMARILLO HELIUM PLANT
Amarillo County

Located northwest of downtown Amarillo, from 1929 to 1943 the Amarillo Helium plant produced nearly the entire world’s supply of helium. Closure of the plant began in 1998, and it was auctioned in 2007. Privately owned, the site’s historically significant industrial buildings are in need of major rehabilitation investments, which could be supported by state and federal tax credits. The adaptive use potential for the plant in a growing area offers an exciting opportunity to renew a Panhandle landmark.
FORT BROWN EARTHWORKS  
Brownsville, Cameron County

Completed in 1846, the original Fort Brown Earthworks are the remains of the only such fort in the United States built for the U.S.-Mexican War. The Fort was later expanded nearby and recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 1960. Over the years, much of the earthworks have been lost, but a portion remains and needs to be protected and interpreted. Local and regional organizations support transfer of the site from the International Boundary and Water Commission to the National Park Service, so that it can be managed appropriately in conjunction with other area 19th century battlegrounds.

AUSTIN STATE HOSPITAL  
Austin, Travis County

Formerly known as the Texas State Lunatic Asylum, “ASH” is the oldest mental health institution west of the Mississippi. Construction of the original building began in 1857, but this National Register-listed structure is in desperate need of restoration. And nearly a dozen other historic structures and features on the ASH campus that would contribute to a National Register historic district are in need of complete rehabilitation. Proposed plans to replace most of the structures with a new, monolithic, one-story structure with a footprint larger than the Bergstrom Airport Terminal has raised the alarm for the future of this nationally-significant site. As we go to press, restoration of the original 1857 structure’s iconic early 20th-century portico has begun.

1884 WHIPPLE TRUSS BRIDGE  
Clifton, Bosque County

This bridge over the Bosque River provided a vital transportation link for Clifton, and until its closure early in 2017 was one of the last such bridges open to vehicular traffic in Texas. A replacement bridge will impact its bucolic setting, and funding will be needed to restore the historic bridge so that it can serve a new purpose as part of a recreational trail.
At the 2017 Preservation Texas Summit in Waco, Honor Awards were presented to nineteen sites recognizing efforts to save historic places that had been individually included on our Most Endangered Places list or that were representative of statewide endangered thematic listings. Visit preservationtexas.org for more information.
Allen Water Station Dam
*Allen, Collin County*
Built 1874
Historic Dams (Statewide)
2017 Most Endangered Places thematic listing

Barker-Huebinger Rock House
*La Vernia, Wilson County*
Built 1871
2008 Most Endangered Places

Brackenridge Park Donkey Barn
*San Antonio, Bexar County*
Built circa 1920
Historic Resources in Municipal Parks (Statewide)
2016 Most Endangered Places thematic listing

First National Bank
*Stephenville, Erath County*
Built 1889
Small Town Banks (Statewide)
2005 Most Endangered Places thematic listing

John S. Harrison House
*Selma, Bexar County*
Built 1852
2006 Most Endangered Places

Hendley Building
*Galveston, Galveston County*
Built 1860
2008 Most Endangered Places
Hillcrest Cemetery
Canton, Van Zandt County
Laid out mid-19th century
Historic Texas Cemeteries (Statewide)
2006 Most Endangered Places thematic listing

Kyle Depot
Kyle, Hays County
Built 1917
Historic Railroad Depots (Central Texas)
2016 Endangered Places 2.0 thematic study priority

Magnolia Hotel
Seguin, Guadalupe County
Built c. 1850
2012 Most Endangered Places

Medina River Dam at the Landmark Inn
Castroville, Bexar County
Built c. 1850
Historic Dams (Statewide)
2017 Most Endangered Places thematic listing

Mulkey Theatre
Clarendon, Donley County
Built 1946
2011 Most Endangered Places

Piano Bridge
Dubina area, Fayette County
Built 1885
2011 Most Endangered Places
Sam Rayburn House Barn  
*Bonham, Fannin County*  
Built circa 1930  
Historic Barns (Statewide)  
2017 Most Endangered Places

Seaquist House  
*Mason, Mason County*  
Built 1891  
2014 Most Endangered Places

Texan Theatre  
*Greenville, Hunt County*  
Built 1934  
Historic Small Town Theatres (Statewide)  
2007 Most Endangered Places thematic listing

Texas Heroes Monument  
*Galveston, Galveston County*  
Unveiled 1900  
Historic Resources in Municipal Parks (Statewide)  
2016 Most Endangered Places thematic listing

Unity Lodge No. 37 of the Colored Knights of Pythias  
*Waxahachie, Ellis County*  
Built 1926  
2011 Most Endangered Places

Zedler Mill  
*Luling, Caldwell County*  
Built 1874  
2005 Most Endangered Places
SAVING A PLACE FOR PRESERVATION

Preservation Texas’s Bassett Farms becomes an education destination for the preservation community.
A historic gift to the future

The gift by the late Willie Ford (Bassett) Sparkman to Preservation Texas of Bassett Farms, a 2,400-acre farm and ranch in Falls and Limestone counties, northwest of Kosse, presents wonderful opportunities for historic preservation. Bassett Farms is a special place worth saving, and it can serve as a place of inspiration and education for decades to come. After several years of research and study, we have spent much of 2017 developing short-term architectural priorities.

Initial restoration work on the circa 1875 two-story brick Bassett House (Recorded Texas Historic Landmark) will be guided by early-20th century photographs, surviving architectural evidence and the results of investigation of the building by several architectural teams. This will allow us to accurately reconstruct the 1916 porch and install a period-appropriate wood shingle roof.

The house suffers from chronic rising damp issues, which will need to be resolved through the removal of concrete that was unnecessarily poured around the foundation in the 1970s. Improved drainage around the house will also reduce the impact of rainwater, which contributes to the problem.

We are documenting and developing restoration plans for the four historic outbuildings and our creek-side well. We have hired Dallas-based preservation craftsman Ron Siebler to undertake this planning work, which will provide a roadmap for the protection of these old farm structures.

A modern pole barn near the road adjacent to the farmstead has been identified for conversion into a meeting space and orientation center. PT staff has worked with board member and Amarillo-based architect Chuck Lynch and his son, architect Spence Lynch, to develop conceptual plans. The building, overlooking Sulphur Creek, would contain a flexible meeting space, kitchen, and restrooms. Showers would be included so that Bassett Farms could accommodate campers.

Bassett Farms is a gift to the future. Through its careful stewardship, restoration and development, it will enable Preservation Texas to educate and inspire Texans to appreciate their rural heritage and learn new preservation skills for generations to come. Your support as members and volunteers will be critical to its success.

Checks drafted in 1916 by Mrs. Willie Bassett for the construction of a 2-story porch.
A DAY OF PRESERVATION EDUCATION AT BASSETT FARMS.

1 Preservationists tour the Bassett House in March 2017.

2 The porch is an ideal place for lunch and a view of the pasture.

3 Dr. Jacob Morris conducts a window preservation workshop with Nicholas Bogosian (not pictured).
PLANNING FOR A FUTURE PRESERVATION CENTER AT BASSETT FARMS.

1 Existing storage building, which will become a meeting center.

2 The garage will be transformed into guest quarters for visiting preservationists.

3 Conceptual floor plan for proposed meeting center.

4 Conceptual exterior renderings of the proposed meeting center.
Bills that became law

**Historic Preservation Tax Credits and Insurance Premium Taxes**

Senate Bill 550 expanded the market for the 25% state historic preservation tax credit by allowing the credits to be applied against insurance premium taxes. The credit may also still be claimed against the state franchise tax. The bill is important because it provides a longer-term safeguard for the tax credit program should the legislature abolish the franchise tax in a future legislative session. The bill was signed by the Governor on May 4, 2017 and became effective immediately.

**Historic Preservation Tax Credits and Public Institutions of Higher Education**

House Bill 1003 enabled state-owned colleges, universities and institutions of higher learning in Texas to participate in the state historic preservation tax credit program. These public entities can sell tax credits earned upon completion of qualifying historic preservation projects on historic buildings until January 1, 2022. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 14, 2017 and became effective immediately.

**Transfer of the French Legation in Austin to the Texas Historical Commission**

House Bill 3810 transferred jurisdiction over, and management of, the French Legation in Austin to the Texas Historical Commission. Construction of the house began in 1841. It was intended to be used as the home of Alphonse Dubois, appointed as chargé d’affaires of France to the Republic of Texas, but he sold the house to a Catholic bishop before completion. The house had been managed as a museum by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 12, 2017 and became effective September 1, 2017.

**Expansion of the Texas Historical Commission**

Senate Bill 763 expanded membership of the Texas Historical Commission from nine to fifteen members. Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor, and the expansion will ensure that a broad range of expertise will be represented. The bill was signed by the Governor on May 18, 2017 and became effective September 1, 2017.

Bills that failed

The most important preservation victory during the 85th Legislative Session was the defeat of House Bill 3418. Introduced by Rep. Gary Elkins, whose legislative district in suburban Houston does not contain a single historically-designated building, the “bulldozer bill” would have made it more difficult for local communities to enact preservation ordinances, narrowing the definition of what is “historically significant” and making it easier to demolish previously-designated structures. Through Preservation Texas’s leadership and the support of local and regional preservation organizations from across the state, Texans flooded the House Urban Affairs Committee with e-mails and calls showing their support for strong local preservation ordinances. The bill was left pending in the committee after strong public testimony on April 11th at the Capitol. We expect some variation on this bill to return in 2019.

A bill that would have transferred ownership of the endangered Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin from The University of Texas to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department passed the Senate but failed to pass the House. Senate Bill 822, which we supported, would have ensured that the Civil Rights landmark would be protected from future commercial development.

Bills were also filed that would have transferred ownership of the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site and the associated Star of the Republic Museum to the Texas Historical Commission, but these bills did not get a hearing.

And for the second session running, a historical marker bill was filed that would enable an appeal of the “accuracy of the text of a historical marker that has been fabricated and installed.” It again failed to get out of committee.

Texas Historical Commission Sunset Review

The Sunset review process for the Texas Historical Commission has begun. The agency is one of those being reviewed for the 2018-2019 biennium. More information about the process and how you can provide your input is available through the Sunset Commission’s website, where you can also read the THC’s detailed Self-Evaluation Report, filed in September 2017.

https://www.sunset.texas.gov
A trove of license plates discovered in one of the barns at Bassett Farms.
2018 PRESERVATION SUMMIT

FEB 25 - 28 | BROWNSVILLE

Join us for the 2018 Preservation Summit February 25-28th in historic Brownsville. We will announce the 2018 Most Endangered Places list, celebrate the 2018 Honor Awards, and feature interesting preservation field sessions and educational programs.

An optional pre-Summit tour of Rio Grande City and Roma, and a post-Summit tour of Matamoros, Mexico are planned.

preservationtexas.org/summit