



**NATIONAL TRUST**  
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

# SOUTHWEST PRESERVATION NEWS

A Newsletter from the National Trust's Southwest Office

November 2007

[www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)

Volume 15, Number 1

## Southwest Office

500 Main Street, Suite 1030  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
817/332-4398

[swro@nthp.org](mailto:swro@nthp.org) (e-mail)

## Proudly Serving:

Arkansas, New Mexico,  
Oklahoma and Texas

## Staff:

Daniel Carey, Director  
Denise Alexander, Program Officer  
Wendy Ossoinig, Program Administrator  
Beth Wiedower, Field Representative  
Sandra Smith, Director, Villa Finale

## Calendar:

### **October**

30 Daniel in Houston, Texas  
30-31 Daniel in Albuquerque, New Mexico

### **November**

3 Denise in Galveston, TX  
8-10 Denise/Daniel in Little Rock, AR  
16 Denise in Houston, TX  
29 Daniel in Helena, AR

### **December**

10-11 Daniel in Arkansas  
12-13 Daniel in Tulsa, OK  
13-14 Daniel in Oklahoma City, OK

## Southwest Advisors

**AR:** Cheri Nichols, Debbie Shea

**NM:** Ernest Ortega

**OK:** John Mabrey, Mary Ellen Meredith

**TX:** Sam Collins, Veletta Lill

## Statewide Partners

[Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas](#)  
[New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance](#)  
[Preservation Oklahoma](#)  
[Preservation Texas](#)

## Main Street

[Main Street Arkansas](#)  
[New Mexico Main Street](#)  
[Oklahoma Main Street](#)  
[Texas Main Street](#)

## Acoma "Sky City"

On September 11, 2006 the Governor of the Pueblo of Acoma and the President of the National Trust signed an agreement making Acoma "Sky City" the 28th National Trust Historic Site. This new relationship was celebrated by public officials, tribal officers, trustees, staff, and the press in Acoma in May of 2007.

Acoma "Sky City" is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the United States, dating back to about 1150 A.D. The Pueblo of Acoma is located about 60 miles west of Albuquerque (12 miles south of Interstate 40). "Sky City" is the ancestral home of the Acoma people and it sits atop a 367-foot sandstone mesa.

The adobe houses, church, plazas, and walkways have been in continuous use by the people of Acoma for nearly a millennium. Several families live on the seventy-acre mesa throughout the year. "Sky City" was documented by the Historic American Building Survey in 1934, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1960, and became an official project of Save America's Treasures in 1999. The San Esteban del Rey Mission Church, (completed about 1640) was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1970.

Decisions regarding "Sky City" and its operations are made by a collection of tribal leaders: both secular and non-secular. Six thousand members are enrolled in Acoma. The Acoma clan system annually appoints a governor, lieutenant governor, a secretary, and an interpreter, who operate with the approval and support of the existing tribal council. The National Trust does not own or operate Acoma "Sky City," but has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Pueblo similar to those with other historic sites, such as the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York City and Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island.



Hour-long tours of "Sky City" are offered throughout the year. Guided by Acoma residents, they provide an introduction to the history and culture of the Pueblo as well as an exploration of the church, plazas, and residential areas on the mesa. Tours begin at the new Sky City Cultural Center and Haak'u Museum, which includes exhibits, a museum store, theater, café, and restrooms. Local artisans offer their pottery and other crafts for sale, both on the mesa and at the Cultural Center.

National Trust members will be able to visit Acoma "Sky City" on a regular public tour for free with the presentation of their membership card. Fees may be charged for other activities, including photography, special events, and ceremonies. Acoma "Sky City" is closed to the public for religious holidays and community events at various times throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.skycity.com](http://www.skycity.com) and look under "attractions."

## Return of Deep Eddy

Deep Eddy is the oldest public swimming pool in Texas. Ask anyone from Austin and the surrounding community about Deep Eddy, and the reply is that they all remember swimming there as a kid and now they take their children there.

Deep Eddy began simply as a swimming hole in the Lower Colorado River that flows through Austin. Cold springs rose from the river banks and people swam in the river where a large boulder formed an eddy.

In 1915, A.J. Eilers, Sr. bought the land surrounding the swimming hole and built the concrete pool. A pool, which features a deep end for lane swimming and a large shallow section for waders and children, opened in the 1920s, and soon became famous for its carnival-like atmosphere.

A wooden bathhouse was added, but it washed away in a flood in 1936. It was rebuilt the same year, becoming Austin's first Works Progress Administration project. Dan Driscoll and Delmar Groos,

former lifeguards and young graduates of the University of Texas school of architecture, designed the bathhouse in the "art moderne" style, with simple, horizontal lines. For years the pool's constant 76 degree waters provided a cool respite to thousands of bathers who came here to swim in Texas' hot summers.

In the 1950s, the popularity of public swimming pools dropped, perhaps because of concerns over the polio epidemic. In the 1960s, the city turned two-thirds of the bathhouse into a nature center...converting the changing cabanas in the women's room to animal cages.

When a new nature center opened in the 1980s near Zilker Park, the city's aquatics department briefly occupied the old bathhouse. After it moved out, crews boarded up the building and it was essentially forgotten.

The \$1.5 million renovation was completed in the summer of 2007 thanks to a cooperative project between the Friends of Deep Eddy, and the City of Austin (with help from a \$11,000 planning grant



from the National Trust). The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is an Austin Historic Landmark.

For more information, call the pool at 472-8546 or go to the Friends of Deep Eddy Web site at [www.deepeddy.org](http://www.deepeddy.org).

## Partners for Sacred Places...in Texas!

One short year ago, Partners for Sacred Places launched the Texas Regional Office in Fort Worth. Based in Philadelphia since 1989, the organization introduced to Texas a proven approach to helping congregations care for their historic properties. Today, Partners is actively involved with 29 churches in Fort Worth, Dallas, and Central Texas.

Partners for Sacred Places is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization that provides information, training, grant support, and other resources for congregations in historic houses of worship. As its name suggests, the organization focuses on creating and leveraging partnerships. The core program, *New Dollars/New Partners*, helps congregations connect with community groups, historic organizations, public and private agencies, funding sources, policymakers, architects and technical experts, or religious organizations. Along the way, participant congregations recognize their

own assets and the value they bring to the community.

In addition to hand-on assistance to congregations, Partners also engages in creative collaborations to strengthen the community's understanding of the importance of maintaining sacred places. These collaborative initiatives may take the form of convening services, in-kind participation, national contacts, specialized expertise, and small seed funding for such projects. The goal of the Texas Office is to accomplish one such initiative each year.

The Western Religious Heritage Initiative, in the works for 2009, connects the knowledge and resources of preservationists, architects, academics, historians, and church leaders to document the sacred places in Texas that form the state's religious heritage. The steering committee defined the work as Texas Sacred Places Project. Components of the Texas

Sacred Places Project include an interactive Web site, a publicly-accessible database of sacred places in Texas, a documentary survey and oral history resource, a heritage tourism element, and shared expertise between the academic, historical, architectural, and religious communities.

For more information about Partners for Sacred Places please contact Ruth Ann Rugg, Director, Texas Regional Office at 817-965-5072. Direct e-mail inquiries to [rarugg@sacredplaces.org](mailto:rarugg@sacredplaces.org).



## New Life for Historic Texas Dance Halls

The local community of Gruenau suffered a tremendous loss when the Gruenau Hall burned to the ground on January 17. The members were committed to resuming their local tradition through personal efforts and the support of the community.

At their annual meeting in 2007, the Gruenau Turn and Schuetzen Verein voted to rebuild. Now with the help of Texas Dance Hall Preservation, Inc., a 501(c)3 membership organization, endangered historic dance halls such as this have a chance for a new life.

The mission of Texas Dance Hall Preservation, Inc is the development of informational programs to promote public awareness and use of Texas dance halls

as living venues for community assembly, music, and social dancing. As well, the group documents and pub-

lishes the history of Texas dance halls, for

assistance in the listing of dance halls on the National Register of Historic Places. They will also assist in the completion of grant applications for preservation projects. Financial and organizational assistance will be provided for the restoration, rehabilitation, and preservation of these endangered historic dance halls.

By sending photos and location information, date of construction and stories about these historic halls to Texas Dance Hall Preservation, Inc you can be a part of a new project called "Google Back to Texas". This project will map all of the known historic dance halls in the state of Texas. Over 100 dance halls have been documented to date.

To find out more about Texas Dance Hall Preservation, Inc., "Google Back to Texas" and the book signing of Gail Folken's new book "Texas Dance Halls" follow the link below.

<http://www.texasdancehall.org/>



the purpose of education and outreach.

They will serve as a clearinghouse for information that can facilitate the preservation of Texas dance halls. While providing

## Welcome our New Texas Advisor

Veletta Forsythe Lill was recently appointed to the Board of Advisors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A well-known civic volunteer in Dallas, Veletta has been a strong advocate for preservation, urban planning, and sustainable development for years. Most recently she completed 8 years of service on the Dallas City Council.

Veletta twice led the effort to update Dallas' historic landmark ordinance, and she enhanced Dallas' preservation tax incentive program and sponsored the

effort to update local building codes to encourage renovation of older structures. In addition to her public policy efforts, Veletta has also assisted in local fund raising efforts for Preservation Dallas (Local Partner).

Veletta also serves on the boards of the Parkland Foundation, the American Institute of Architects-Dallas Chapter, and the Greater Dallas Planning Council. She has been honored with a number of awards including the American Planning Association's 2006 Distinguished Leadership

Award for an Elected Official, Honorary Membership in the Texas Society of Architects, Preservation Texas' Public Service Award, and the Dorothy Savage Award for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation by Preservation Dallas.



## A Victory for Old Sixth Ward

On Wednesday, August 1, 2007 Houston City Council approved amendments to the Historic Preservation Ordinance to create the city's first protected Historic District.

The amendments culminate almost ten years of diligent work by the residents of the Old Sixth Ward Historic District. Now approximately 25 square blocks are a protected historic district. Included are new Design Guidelines to help guide

future appropriate development within the boundaries of the newly designated district.

The Old Sixth Ward was Houston's first neighborhood listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is widely recognized as having the largest concentration of late 19th and early 20th century architecture in Houston.



*Photo Credit: Historic Houston*

## Honor Awards

The Arc Arkansas (based in Little Rock) received the prestigious National Preservation Honor Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in St. Paul at the National Preservation Conference in early October.

Over the past ten years, the Arc has successfully rehabilitated several notable buildings, including Trinity Hospital (c. 1911), the old Little Rock High School (c. 1905), and West Side Junior High (c. 1917). In January 2006, it completed its conversion of the Hot Springs High School building that was in use when President Bill Clinton was a student there. The structure, a Gothic Revival building erected in 1914, had stood vacant for many years and few options were available for productive reuse. The Arc rescued the building by securing a \$4.2 million financing package and creating 32 apartments that afford the maximum amount of accessibility and livability to its residents.

Guided by the principles of universal design, the Arc creates living environments that are usable for all people without the need for additional modification. These cutting-edge strategies have gone on to serve as a model for other housing organizations nationwide.



When it opened in 1958, Oklahoma City's **Gold Dome Bank** was such a dazzler that pilots used it to get their bearings. The building, inspired by the geodesic domes of futurist R. Buckminster Fuller, is both one of Oklahoma City's most recognizable and most beloved architectural icons. Located along a stretch of historic Route 66, the Gold Dome Bank also harkens to an era when vernacular roadside architecture sought to inject a sense of fun and frivolity into the American landscape.

It isn't easy to lose something so big and shiny – but this futuristic structure was almost lost to the wrecking ball. In fact, the threat was so serious that the Dome appeared on [\*America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places\*](#) in 2002. When demolition plans were announced, local preservationists launched an energetic campaign to garner support for saving this eye-catching piece of the recent past.

Amid the hoopla, a heroine emerged. **Dr. Irene Lam** purchased the Gold Dome and used the rehab tax credits to support a thorough rehabilitation. Today, the gleaming structure houses a mix of tenants – including a multicultural center and the Oklahoma Main Street Program – and is an anchor for the city's newly designated Asian District.

## Preservation Book of the Month

*Establishing and Operating an Easement Program* is a new edition of Preservation Books that includes updated information on the charitable giving rules as applied to easements and an expanded discussion on issues relating to the operation of easement programs. It also provides a useful discussion on the legal concepts behind easements, the tax benefits available to donors of easements, and key considerations in establishing an easement program.

Forum/Main Street Members: \$7.50

Non-Members: \$10 retail, plus shipping and handling



Contact Wendy Ossoinig [wendy\\_ossoinig@nthp.org](mailto:wendy_ossoinig@nthp.org) if you would like to order one of these wonderful books.

## Funding Opportunities...

As the **federal government** improves its electronic grants procedures, the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) site gets more useful. Check out the links, and consider signing up for the "Receive Grant Opportunity Notification" option.

**The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP)**, has grant programs that preserve the state's historic resources.

For more information:

[www.arkansaspreservation.org/preservation-services/grant-programs/](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/preservation-services/grant-programs/)

### Heritage Tourism Grants

Government and nonprofit organizations within active Texas Heritage Trails Program regions can apply for matching grants when funds are available.

For more information:

[www.thc.state.tx.us/grantsincent/graht.html](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/grantsincent/graht.html)

### Tribal Preservation Programs

To determine what financial assistance is available from an Indian tribe, contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or officials identified in the National Park Service Native American Consultation Database at

[www.cast.uark.edu/other/nps/nacd/](http://www.cast.uark.edu/other/nps/nacd/).

### Local Preservation Programs

To determine what financial assistance is available from a local government, contact the historic preservation commission or agency, if one exists. Otherwise, check with the planning agency, community development agency, or other appropriate branch of local government. For contact information for CLGs, visit

[www.cr.nps.gov/hps/clg/clgquest.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/clg/clgquest.htm)

## Donate to the National Trust Southwest Office

With your donation you'll be joining thousands of preservationists who enable our staff to save historic places and revitalize communities.

Gifts to the National Trust are tax-deductible in accordance with the law.

For more information contact:

Wendy Ossoinig at

[wendy\\_ossoinig@nthp.org](mailto:wendy_ossoinig@nthp.org)

## October Grants Announced



### TEXAS

\$3,700 (Meadows Fund) to the **Malakoff Historical Society** for a feasibility study of the **Old Rock School** (c. 1930).

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **North Fort Worth Historical Society** for a neighborhood master plan to preserve and protect **Oakhurst** in the face of: 1) federal highway expansion near the neighborhood; 2) commuter rail and station location development near the neighborhood; and 3) urban village development near the neighborhood.

#### 1) *Light Guard Armory, Houston*

\$4,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Center for African American Military History, Inc.** for architectural/engineering drawings of the **Houston Light Guard Armory (c.1925)**, the drawings will be presented to members of the Greater Houston Partnership for financial support to obtain the facility to become

the new museum site of the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum.

\$1,000 (Fondren Fund) to **Historic Fort Worth, Inc.** for consulting services to lead HFW's board in developing a new strategic plan for the organization.

\$3,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Giddings Economic Development Corp.** for a Grant Opportunities Initiative designed to leverage and diversify funding for **Giddings' Historic Railroad Depot Complex Renovation Project** (c. 1871).

#### 2) *1914 Oakwood Cemetery, Austin*

\$2,360 (Fondren Fund) to the **Save Austin's Cemeteries** for structural condition assessment of the **1914 Oakwood Cemetery Chapel** to identify major structural issues and the overall condition of the structure, to create a master plan for the building's rehabilitation for public use (c. 1914, NR).

#### 3) *Triangle Motel, Amarillo*

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Old Route 66 Association of Texas** for a structural report to aid the rehabilitation of the **Triangle Motel** in Amarillo. The report will include a preservation analysis, conditions assessment, and rehabilitation recommendations (c. 1945).

#### 4) *Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Houston*

\$5,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Christ, Inc.** for a planning grant for the services of an architectural engineer to assess the structural integrity of the **Antioch Missionary Baptist Church bell tower** in Houston (c. 1875).

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Woodland Heights Civic Association** in Houston to hire a design consultant to help plan and execute desired improvements to the **Woodland Park Community Center**.

## New Hope for Rosenwald Schools

The **Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation (LCEF)** is partnering with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to support the preservation of significant public properties with a **\$1 million grant** dedicated to the rehabilitation and restoration of Rosenwald Schools. Grants are intended to further preservation efforts by providing funding for construction expenses. Grants of up to \$50,000 will be made; approximately 10 to 20 grants will be funded across a 14-state region, including Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

To be eligible, the project must involve the rehabilitation or restoration of a Rosenwald School building. Eligible applicants are limited to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, school boards/districts and government agencies. Applicants that have received previous financial assistance from the National Trust for Historic Preservation are eligible provided that all grant requirements are current.

## The Kirkpatrick Preservation Fund

The National Trust for Historic Preservation invites public agencies and non-profit organizations in **Oklahoma County** to apply for preservation planning grants made possible by a generous gift from the Kirkpatrick Foundation, Inc. **The Intervention Fund for Endangered Properties in Central Oklahoma** provides matching grants up to \$10,000 for preservation planning and educational efforts. Grant funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archaeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fundraising, organizational development and law as well as to underwrite educational programs to engage the public. For more information and an application, send an email to [swro@nthp.org](mailto:swro@nthp.org) or call 817-332-4398