



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

SOUTHWEST PRESERVATION NEWS

A Newsletter from the National Trust's Southwest Office

March 2007

www.nationaltrust.org

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Southwest Office

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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:

March

1-2 Daniel in Washington, DC
2 Daniel in Grapevine, TX
7-8 Daniel and Maria in Austin, TX
13-14 Daniel in Santa Fe, NM
20-22 Daniel in Kentucky (RHDI)
22-25 Denise and Wendy in Marfa, TX
28-30 Denise in Roswell, NM
31 Daniel and Denise in Houston, TX

April

5 Denise in Houston, TX
12- 14 Daniel and Denise in Austin, TX
19-21 Daniel in Knoxville, TN
20 Denise in Brownwood, TX

May

3-6 Daniel in Albuquerque, NM
23 Daniel and Denise in Austin, TX

June

11-15 Daniel, Denise, and Wendy in
Washington, DC
13-15 Daniel in Austin, TX

Southwest Advisors

AR: Cheri Nichols, Debbie Shea
NM: Mary Jane Garcia, Ernest Ortega
OK: John Mabrey, Mary Ellen Meredith
TX: Sam Collins, Marcel Quimby

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](#)

Help Save Enhancement Funding in Texas and Beyond

The Southwest Office would like to inform you of a very troubling development in Texas. If you don't live in Texas and think this doesn't affect you, think again because this could be "coming to a theater near you" soon enough.

Transportation Enhancements funding — federal transportation dollars set aside for local projects — has been a powerful tool for communities across the country to fund projects that enhance historic places.

For 15 years, hundreds of communities have used the Enhancements program for downtown streetscape projects, visitor centers, historic preservation projects and hike and bike trails. In Texas alone, more than \$40 million has been spent on historic preservation projects — from courthouses to depots and Main Street streetscape improvements

However, this program is in jeopardy. In response to the Federal Highway Administration's rescissions of unobligated highway funds to the states, the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDoT) is halting the transportation Enhancements program.

Last fall, TXDoT was told it wouldn't get \$305 million in expected federal funding because Congress needed the money for continued hurricane response and the war in Iraq. Texas

chose to target the Enhancement program which had been budgeted to receive \$450 million over the six-year life of the current federal highway bill. Effectively, TXDoT is turning back \$266 million in funding for Enhancements.

Texas is the only state to "raid" all such funds, and the results mean negative effects for historic preservation efforts across the Lone Star State. The Enhancements program encourages diverse modes of travel, increases community benefits to transportation investment, strengthens partnerships between state and local governments, and promotes

citizen involvement in transportation decisions.

The risk of losing this source of funding is too great to sit idly by, and the National Trust is working with our statewide



Fort Concho National Historic Landmark, buildings restored with enhancement funding.

partner, Preservation Texas, to ensure that these funds remain available to Texas communities. We need your help to save this important program. A personal letter to Governor Perry would tell him how much you care about saving this program and might make a difference. Use this link,

<http://www.governor.state.tx.us/contact>
and the Transportation Commissioners
http://www.dot.state.tx.us/contact_us/
(Select TXDoT Administration).

For more information on the importance of Transportation Enhancements see http://www.nationaltrust.org/issues/transportation/transportation_enhancements.ht

February Preservation Fund Grants Announced

ARKANSAS

\$1,650 (Arkansas Fund) to the **City of Norfolk, Arkansas** for an Evaluation of the **Horace Mann Public School** campus buildings to determine the feasible uses and prepare a plan for the restoration and preservation of the structures. (c.1930s)

OKLAHOMA

\$2,500 (Mayo Fund) to the **Town of Lima** to secure an architectural review for the **Rosenwald School**. The review will determine the extent of damage to the building and provide the groundwork for seeking building funds to restore the building. (c.1921)

\$7,000 (Kirkpatrick Fund) to the **William Fremont Harn Gardens, Inc.** for a feasibility study of the **Harn Homestead buildings** in Oklahoma City. The findings will be used for upcoming strategic planning to prioritize the care, restoration and preservation that might be needed for this site. (1904, NR)



TEXAS

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Armstrong County Museum, Inc.** to secure fundraising consultative services to assist in acquiring the needed funding for the restoration of the **Charles Goodnight House** in Claude. (c.1887)

\$500 (Fondren Fund) to **Historic Tyler, Inc.** for a **Historic Tax Credit seminar** which will explain the finer details of using the federal tax credits and their requirements for downtown commercial buildings in Tyler.

\$5,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Galveston Historical Foundation** for a conditions assessment for three key buildings in the **Strand National Landmark District**. (c. 1850's—1920's, NHL, NR District)



\$3,000 (Fondren Fund) to **Fort Concho National Historic Landmark** for an assessment plan for the many maintenance and repair issues surrounding the **Fort Concho Building** in San Angelo. (c. 1867, NHL, NR)

\$2,500 (Fondren Fund) to the **McCulloch County Historical Theater Society** for a feasibility study of the second phase of the **Palace Theater** restoration project. (c.1927)

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to **The Faison Preservation Society, Inc.** a communication plan for the **Faison House** which will raise public awareness, develop a case for public support. (c.1850's)



\$1,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Rockdale Historical Society** for the purpose of securing an electrical engineer to evaluate the electrical needs of the **Great Northern Railroad Depot**.

State Rehabilitation Tax Credit 2007 Arkansas Legislative Session

The Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas has partnered with other organizations in the state to promote the adoption of a State Rehabilitation Tax Credit in the 2007 Arkansas Legislative Session. House Bill HB2259 (sponsored by Rep. Clark Hall) would allow for a 25% credit against state taxes for qualified rehabilitation expenditures on National Register properties, either individually listed or contributing structures in a district. The proposed legislation would also be available to non-income producing, or residential, properties that do not currently qualify under the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit. Additionally, the credits would be freely transferable to other parties, expanding on the accessibility of credits for the average homeowner and increasing the appeal to developers of larger projects. The proposed legislation is modeled after the Missouri State Tax Credit which has proven to be one of the most successful state tax credit programs in the nation.

Paul Dodds, President of the Alliance, believes "the adoption of this tax credit would dramatically help preserve our state's historic neighborhoods and commercial cores. State tax credits are proven to be a significant contributor to economic growth and development in other states and we believe these successes would be replicated here in Arkansas." A recent study on the economic impact of historic preservation in Arkansas produced by Rutgers University estimates that, for every dollar invested in tax credits by the state, \$2.22 would be returned in increased income to Arkansas families and \$0.18 would be recouped in state and local taxes, while one new job would be created for every \$12-15,000 in credits.

The Alliance encourages its members and National Trust members in Arkansas to contact the governor's office and their state representatives and senators to voice their support for this important piece of preservation legislation. For more information, please contact the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas at 501-372-4757 or visit their website www.preservearkansas.org.

Rural Heritage Development Initiative

As we close in on the completion of the first year of the Rural Heritage Development Initiative (RHDI), it has been a productive one - from consultations and assessments to workshops and technical assistance for communities up and down the Arkansas Delta region. This year, the Arkansas Delta RHDI has hosted a Visitor Experience assessment, Imaging and Branding consultation, "White Elephant" workshop, Economics of Historic Preservation seminar, Entrepreneurial and Small Business analysis, and an Eco- and Agritourism workshop, as well as numerous individual property consultations. As we prepare to enter the initiative's second of three years, we will see a concentration on the creation and implementation of many recommendations from this year and the delivery of products and services throughout the Arkansas Delta.

Two early successes include the receipt of a \$100,000 Preserve America grant awarded to the RHDI for development and implementation of the Delta Music Heritage Trail, and our selection to participate as one of six organizations in the Association for Enterprise Opportunity's (AEO) *Regional Flavor* grant program.

AEO's *Regional Flavor* grant program provides technical assistance and programming funds for the development of local initiatives aimed at supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs, as well as capitalizing on the products, services, and heritage which make the region unique. The RHDI will focus its *Regional Flavor* grant on the creation and promotion of a DeltaMade branding program.

Finally, the Arkansas Delta RHDI has continued to receive great coverage for our preservation-based economic development efforts. RHDI partner Main Street Arkansas and RHDI Advisory Council Chair, Mary Gay Shipley, was featured in a session at the National Preservation Conference in Pittsburgh last November.

Become involved with the RHDI's preservation-based economic development strategies and mission. Advisory Council members and volunteers are actively engaged in taskforces working on the development of heritage trails to the preservation of historic theaters. For more information, or to get involved, contact Beth Wiedower, RHDI Field Representative, at 870.816.0774 or elizabeth_wiedower@nthp.org.



What's Happening in Arkansas?

Little Rock

Step Back Saturdays

March 1st - September 3rd

Historic Arkansas Museum

Ellen Korenblat

(501) 324-9351

info@historickansas.org

*Dozen Distinctive Destination
Announcement for 2007*

March 7th

For more information go to:

<http://www.nationaltrust.org>

SANDWICHING IN HISTORY

April 6

For more information go to:

<http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/tour-s-events-workshops/sandwiching-schedule/>

Osceola

*9th Annual Osceola Heritage Music
Festival*

May 11th & 12th

Osceola Courthouse Square

Beau Butler

(870) 563-6177

Food vendors, kids' carnival, motorcycle poker run, plus blues, country and rock music.

mainstreetosceola@sbcglobal.net

Bentonville

*Historic Home & Garden
Tour/Plant Sale*

May 12th

(479) 273-9664

flower@mynewroads.com

<http://www.peelmansion.org>

Book Spotlight

Contact:

Wendy Ossoinig at

wendy_ossoinig@nthp.org

for ordering information

Getting Started in Heritage Areas

The heritage area movement has been growing strong over the past 20 years, with 19 congressionally-designated National Heritage Areas and countless state and local heritage areas.

All of these groups combine preservation, recreation, economic development, heritage tourism, and heritage education to interpret and promote their region's distinctive landscape. *Getting Started in Heritage Areas*, examines how these areas got started and ingredients for their success. Written by Brenda Barrett and Carroll Van West, this 20-page booklet also provides step by step advice for regions that want to launch their own heritage area.

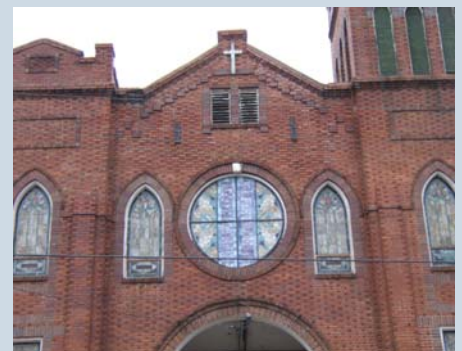
Item # : 2B18

Non-member Price : \$8.00

Standard/Main Street Member Price : \$7.20

Forum Member Price : \$6.00

Identify this Historic Structure...



Keep up with the Southwest Office!

Sign up to receive our e-letter send an email to swro@nthp.org OR Visit our website: <http://www.nationaltrust.org/>

San Antonio Update

In the year since Walter Mathis's death, we have continued to make great strides toward turning Villa Finale, his beloved home in San Antonio's King William District, into the museum that he dreamed of for so many years. During the last several years of his life, Mr. Mathis was generous enough to allow a National Trust employee to work with him on a daily basis. Lorie Rombro visited Villa Finale daily and inventoried and photographed each object in his massive collection, and interviewed Mr. Mathis about his collecting.



The collections staff has been working tirelessly, evaluating the collection. Each of the approximately 12,000 objects is being cleaned, and each will have its identification number applied to it.

In addition to processing the collection, we are moving forward on many other fronts. We have leased a neighborhood building designed by famed Texas architect O'Neil Ford for use as Villa Finale's Visitor Center; the building will house exhibits, a museum shop, and offices for the staff. Visitors will park in the building's parking lot and be shuttled to Villa Finale in small groups.

This fall, a landscape preservationist inventoried each of the plants and trees on Villa Finale's beautiful grounds, and is in the process of preparing a manual for its maintenance. We are also preparing to undertake some repairs to Villa Finale itself, including the repair of a number of windows that have suffered due to moisture issues. In addition, we'll need to undertake a structural survey on the rear addition to the house, as well as repairs to the limestone façade.

In upcoming newsletters, I will provide updates on the status of these projects, as well as the many other exciting things happening here at Villa Finale.

--Sandra Smith, Director, Villa Finale

What's Happening in San Antonio?

March

23rd

Publication Awards, Yturri Edmunds Historic Site, 128 Mission Road, 10:30 a.m. The free awards presentation is followed by a \$20 per person luncheon. Luncheon reservations required and can be made by calling 210-224-6163. www.saconservation.org/events/publication_awards.htm

April

24th—27th

NIOSA, 59th presentation of a Night In Old San Antonio. www.niosa.org/

May

Cinco De Mayo

Battle of Puebla between French and Mexican forces is celebrated at Market Square. Call (210) 207-8600 for more information.

May

Floating Feast-ival

To benefit the performing arts, the Floating Feast-ival is a gourmet progressive tasting of fine food on the river cruisers circling San Antonio's River Walk. Call (210) 226-2891 for more information. www.artssanantonio.com/performances/viewevent.asp#5366

19th

Historic Preservation Month Celebration, Brackenridge Park, Joske Pavilion, 10 am – 2 pm. www.saconservation.org/events/historicweek.htm

30th

Historic Preservation Month Celebration, Yturri Edmunds Historic Site, 5:30 – 8 pm. www.saconservation.org/events/historicweek.htm

Funding Opportunities...

As the **federal government** improves its electronic grants procedures, the 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/

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/grant.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/.

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

Donate to the National Trust Southwest Office

As the only private, national organization dedicated to historic preservation, the National Trust relies on contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. 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