

2006

ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTHWEST OFFICE
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

December 2006

Dear Friends,

Have you heard the story about the little bird? A man came upon a little bird, lying on its back with its feet in the air. "Little bird," said the man, "what are you doing?" "Can't you see," responded the little bird, "the sky is falling, and I'm trying to hold it up with my feet." "That's ridiculous," the man shot back. "You can't hold the sky up with your little feet." The bird looked directly at the man and said, "I do what I can."

Well, the little birds at the Southwest Office often feel the same way. Regardless of how desperate the situation, we are always ready to put our feet in the air for you. The good news is, what we're doing must be working because the sky hasn't fallen yet! And with that in mind, let me thank and recognize the talent, determination and strong legs of our staff: Denise Alexander, Wendy Ossoinig and Beth Wiedower. They, along with you our partners, do great things on behalf of preservation throughout the year.

But we still need your help. Raising more than half of our annual operating support, as we must, is challenging. We do it because we know that it makes a difference. We know that being able to travel, meet you in person, give advice, provide technical assistance, lend organizational support and, in some cases, award a grant means we have a fighting chance of saving our shared heritage.

This brief annual report outlines our successes in 2006. I hope you agree that it has been a terrific year. From saving damaged historic buildings in East Texas after Hurricane Rita to establishing the Rural Heritage Development Initiative in the Arkansas Delta, and from increasing grant activity in New Mexico to helping Preservation Oklahoma defeat a measure that would have hampered local historic designation efforts, the National Trust has been there with you and for you.

As you consider making a gift in support of the Southwest Office this year, I urge you to follow the example of the little bird and do all you can. We certainly are. Many thanks, in advance.

Sincerely,



Daniel G. Carey
Director

P.S. The Wilson Challenge Grant is still in effect. New gifts of \$250 or renewing gifts over your previous highest total will be matched 1:1 by Mr. Robert Wilson. Please use the enclosed form to send us your gift.

Staff Activity in the Southwest

Leading the Preservation Movement

For only the second time in the SWO's history, we expanded our ranks to include a new staff person to provide field services to the region. The **Rural Heritage Development Initiative (RHDI) in the Arkansas Delta** is a pilot program funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. The RHDI uses a preservation-based economic development approach by advancing heritage tourism, Main Street and other sensitive approaches to helping this 15-county region along the Mississippi River. We hired Elizabeth Wiedower of Little Rock. Beth is a preservationist with several years of experience in the fields of community revitalization and cultural heritage development. Beth coordinates this initiative out of the Delta Cultural Center in Helena, Arkansas.



SWO Director, Daniel Carey, helped lead a two-day *Your Town: Designing Its Future* workshop in Eureka Springs, Arkansas in August of 2006. In cooperation with the Arkansas SHPO, the City of Eureka Springs and the NEH, Daniel made presentations on the adaptive use of "White Elephants," heritage tourism, and short- and long-term strategic planning to the group of 30 local officials from Eureka Springs.



Daniel Carey was named to the **Advisory Board of the new Texas Regional Office of Partners for Sacred Places**. This national organization, based in Philadelphia, helps congregations protect and use their historic resources. Daniel will help the Texas Regional Office provide training and advice on preservation projects to area churches and temples.

Little Rock hosted the Spring Meeting of the **Southwest and Mountains/Plains**

Advisors and Statewide/ Local Partners, and it was a great success with over 55 people attending from 12 states. Preservationists from Utah to Arkansas participated in a series of meetings concentrating on fundraising, organizational development, disaster planning and other historic preservation issues. In addition, two study tours were offered in conjunction with the meeting: an Urban Track focused on successful strategies in Little Rock/North Little Rock; a Rural Track focused on the Arkansas Delta and the work of the Rural Heritage Development Initiative. Former Arkansas Advisors, **Carl Miller Jr., Charles Witsell and Scott Mosley** and current Advisors, **Cheri Nichols and Debbie Shea**,



played key roles and offered generous hospitality in making this meeting a rousing success.

The Southwest Office completed an extensive **Strategic Planning Process with Historic Tyler, Inc.** in Tyler, Texas. The plan included a community and organizational assessment, goals-setting retreat and two reports that yielded a three-year work plan for this small but enthusiastic local preservation organization. Wendy Ossoning, Denise Alexander and Daniel Carey worked together in polling Historic Tyler's members and board, conducting community leader interviews, examining HTI's organizational structure, facilitating a board retreat and recommending changes. HTI is now an official Local Partner of the National Trust.

Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. was selected to participate in a pilot **State Advocacy Capacity Building Program**, which included intensive technical assistance from our Policy Department and the SWO. Through on-site training and monthly calls, the National Trust helped POK strengthen its e-network which was used immediately in helping pass a state tax credit bill and defeat a bill that would have thwarted the designation of local historic districts.

Saving Historic Places

As part of hurricane recovery efforts in Louisiana (**Hurricane Rita**), Daniel Carey, and Advisor, Marcel Quimby, FAIA of Dallas, traveled to Lake Charles to work with FEMA officials and the Calcasieu Preservation Society in assessing damaged buildings and developing preservation-based plans for the Louisiana Recovery Authority to select and fund.



The **Kraigher House in Brownsville, Texas (11 Most Endangered in 2004)** is safe! Thanks to a little pressure from the SWO and the vision of Brownsville's mayor and the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College), this 1936 icon (designed by Richard Neutra) is undergoing rehabilitation for use by the University.

With help from an **\$8,000 grant from the SWO, the Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF)** created an innovative new program called the **Code Compliance Fund** to assist low-to-moderate homeowners in making much needed repairs to their historic homes. GHF is working with historic property owners to prepare scopes of work, secure bids and monitor the repair/rehabilitation projects in diverse historic neighborhoods on the Island.

The historic **Gulf Oil building in Odessa, Texas** was deemed unsafe in 2005, and the City of Odessa had plans to demolish the building unless a preservation plan could



be agreed to and executed. Using a grant from the National Trust's Thorne Intervention Fund, Denise Alexander and representatives of the Texas SHPO helped develop and pay for an architect to calculate new cost estimates for rehabilitation of this c.1930 building.

Funding Activity in the Southwest

ARKANSAS

\$500 (Hughes Fund) to **Argenta Community Development Corp.** to produce a historic property owners resource guide for the Argenta neighborhood in North Little Rock.

NEW MEXICO

\$2,500 (McCune Fund) to the **City of Santa Rosa, NM** for emergency electrical repairs to the 1919 state and locally designated Pecos Theater.

\$2,500 (McCune Fund) to the **St. Joseph Apache Mission** in Mescalero, NM towards a restoration plan for the c.1920 St. Joseph Apache Mission restoration project (National Register-listed).

\$5,000 (Mitchell Fund) **Cornerstones Community Partnerships** to assist with the preservation of murals on the interior walls of the c.1912 Fountain Theater in Mesilla.

\$5,000 (Bonderman Fund) and \$1,000 (NM Preservation Fund) to **Cornerstones Community Partnerships** to partner with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division for a series of three Adobe Basal workshops in Hatch.

OKLAHOMA

\$2,000 (Hughes Fund) to **Main Street Cordell, Inc.** for an adaptive use study of Cordell's historic buildings for use as studio and living space by local artists.

\$3,700 (Mitchell Fund) to **Preservation Oklahoma** for an interior finishes study of the c.1903 Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City (Nat. Register-listed).

\$1,000 (Mayo Fund) to the **Friends of Peter Conser Historic Site Society** for a historic structures report of this c.1894 historic site in Leflore County (Nat. Register Listed).

\$1,200 (Mayo Fund) to **The Beck-Hildebrand Mill Museum** for a cultural resources survey of the c.1892 Beck-Hildebrand Mill in Flint (Nat. Register-Listed).

\$1,239 (Mayo Fund) to the **Okmulgee County Multi-cultural Heritage Association** for a preservation plan for the c.1922 Okmulgee Black Hospital (Nat. Register-Listed).

(1) Cross S. Ranch, top right

\$1,600 (Mayo Fund) to the **Western**

Trail Historical Society for a feasibility study of the c.1891 Cross S. Ranch headquarters in Altus (Nat. Register-Listed).

TEXAS

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Dayton Independent School District** for the 1927 Annie E. Colbert Rosenwald School Restoration Project.

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **City of Nacogdoches** for a restoration plan for the c.1835 Durst-Taylor House (Nat. Register-listed)

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Nacogdoches County Historical Foundation** for the restoration of the c.1914 Zion Hill Church .

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **YWCA - Beaumont** for a mold survey for the c.1918 YWCA building.

\$2,274 (Fondren Fund) to the **Keystone School** for architectural Fees for Renovation of the c.1907 West Hall on the Keystone School Campus in San Antonio.

\$2,500 (Fondren Fund) to the **Burton Cotton Gin & Museum, Inc.** for a structural engineer report for the c.1916 Burton Auto Company.

\$2,500 (Fondren Fund) to the **City of Pharr** to undertake five structural surveys of historic buildings ripe for adaptive use plans.

\$2,500 (Fondren Fund) to the **Muleshoe Heritage Foundation, Inc.** for planning and design services of the c.1900 Muleshoe Heritage Center's campus.

\$2,500 (Fondren Fund) to the **Heritage Society of Austin** to present a luncheon with featured speaker Roberta Gratz on the topic of guiding appropriate development in downtown historic districts.

\$3,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Chisolm Trail Heritage Museum, Inc.** for the restoration of the Knights of Pythias Building to establish a museum dedicated to preserving the legacy associated with the cattle drives of the Chisholm Trail area in Cuero (Nat. Register-Listed).

\$6,000 (Mitchell Fund) to the **Friends of Deep Eddy, Inc.** for the restoration of the 1936 National Register-listed Deep Eddy Bathhouse in Austin.



*(1) Cross S. Ranch
Altus, Oklahoma*



*(2) Thistle Hill Mansion
Fort Worth, Texas*



*(3) First Methodist Church
Rockwall, Texas*



*(4) Sagrado Corazon
Ruidosa, Texas*

Funding Activity in the Southwest continued...

TEXAS

\$4,000 (Fondren Fund) to **Texas Parks and Wildlife-Historic Sites Program** for a training workshop for state historic site personnel.

(2) *Thistle Hill Mansion p. 3*

\$2,000 (Bonderman Fund) to **Historic Fort Worth** for a conditions assessment to prioritize the repair needs of the 1903 Thistle Hill Mansion (Nat. Register-listed).

\$10,000 (Bonderman Fund) to **Preservation Dallas** for an Economic Impact Study of property values in conservation districts in Dallas.

\$15,000 (Houston Endowment, Inc. Equity Fund) to the **Avenue Community Development Corporation, Inc.** for the survey and nomination of the Near Northside Neighborhood to the National Register in an effort to fend off negative impacts from a nearby highway expansion.

\$8,000 (Houston Endowment, Inc.) to the **Galveston Historical Foundation** to help underwrite the newly established Code Compliance Fund.

(3) *First Methodist Church p. 3*

\$4,400 (Fondren Fund) to the **HIS Covenant Children, Inc.** to develop a preservation plan for the c.1913 First Methodist Church in Rockwall.

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to **Bishop Blue** for the rehabilitation of a 1929 historic home to accommodate the Bishop College Archival Center for the once-Historically Black College in Dallas.

\$4,500 (Bonderman Fund) The Southwest Office joined the **Texas Historical Commission** in securing funding for a structural engineer to specify bracing needs for the c.1880 Ingenhuett Store in Comfort (Nat. Register Listed).

(4) *Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Church p. 3*

\$5,000 (Bonderman Fund) to **Presidio County Historical Commission** for structural repairs and improvements to protect the c.1914 Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Church.

\$1,000 (Dodge Jones/Thorne Fund) The Southwest Office joined the **Texas Historical Commission** in securing funds for an architectural evaluation of

the c.1930 Gulf Oil Building in Odessa.

\$2,500 (Hurricane Recovery Fund) to **Christopher Grimm** for emergency roof repairs on the 1897 Olson-Teller Home in Port Arthur.

\$2,000 (Hurricane Recovery Fund) to the **Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church** in Port Arthur for stained glass and tile roof repair.

\$2,000 (Hurricane Recovery Fund) to the **San Augustine Historical Society** for roof repair to the 1848 China Grove/Sharp House.

\$1,500 (Hurricane Recovery Fund) to the **Historical Society of East Liberty County** for emergency roof repairs and conditions assessment for the 1900 G.W & Nettie Canter Pounds Home.

\$1,100 (Summerlee Fund) The SWO joined the **Texas Historical Commission** in securing an engineer for a conditions assessment for the 1875 Stonewall Saloon in Saint Jo.

\$1,500 (Summerlee Fund) to the **YWCA in Beaumont** for a mold survey of the 1918 building listed on the National Register.

\$2,100 (Thorne Fund) to the **Walker County Historical Commission** for a structural engineering inspection of the 1931 Old Huntsville High School. The study helped buy time to save the building and find a sympathetic buyer who will put the historic school to good use.

If you are interested in establishing or contributing significantly to an existing endowed Preservation Fund or Intervention Fund for your community or state, please contact Daniel Carey, Director of the Southwest Office in Fort Worth at 817-332-4398 or e-mail daniel_carey@nthp.org. Daniel would be pleased to discuss how you can receive tax advantages by naming the National Trust as a beneficiary in your will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy.

NTHP/HGTV Restore America Grants



\$50,000

The Arc Arkansas
Hot Springs, AR

Hot Springs High School was rehabilitated with the help of a NTHP/HGTV Restore America grant. This c.1914 building is listed on the National Register and is former President Clinton's *alma mater*. It features 32 loft style apartments for artists and studios, and includes two restored classrooms.



\$50,000

Austin Revitalization Authority
Austin, TX

A NTHP/HGTV Restore America Grant means the Juniper-Olive Historic District has 18 new units of affordable housing, including 10 rehabilitations and 8 infills. This historic neighborhood near downtown Austin is experiencing a renaissance and ARA's work ensures that gentrification is stemmed.