

2007

ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTHWEST OFFICE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

“The difference that one can make...” is no better personified than through the deeds of Sam Collins—a National Trust Advisor and owner of the Stringfellow House in Hitchcock, Texas. Sam and his wife Doris shunned Houston’s suburban sprawl and, instead, took on a labor of love in restoring the Stringfellow House. When the National Trust talks about “people saving places,” we’re talking about people like Sam and Doris. Let their story be inspiration to you. Even if you can’t personally rescue an historic house, you can support the Southwest Office and enable us to help others do what the Collins’ have done.

“WE’RE COMPLETING OUR JOURNEY from the pit to the palace,”

says Samuel Collins III. After years of sacrifice, he and his wife, Doris, are preparing to move into an historic estate in Hitchcock. Once owned by Confederate Army lieutenant and horticulturist, Henry Martyn Stringfellow, their new 12-room house has four bedrooms and sits on 9 1/2 acres--which should be plenty of room for the couple and their three kids: Torin, 11; Dallas, 9; and Joseph, 7.

How the Collins’ bought the property, which wasn’t for sale, and turned it into a home for their children is “divinely orchestrated,” according to Sam.

One day, while driving down state Highway 6, Collins said he stopped to read the historical marker at the entrance to Stringfellow. Growing up in Hitchcock in the 1970s and 1980s, he remembered the estate and private driveway when he was younger, but he was never interested in seeing it.

In June 2004, Sam finally got the courage to drive onto the property. He said he knew then that this was where he wanted to plant his family’s roots.

Although the 125-year-old house was still standing, much repair work was needed on both the outside and inside. Weeds and trees needed to be cut. Electrical work needed upgrading. Plumbing needed to be repaired. And refinishing and repainting interior and exterior finishes meant that there was work to be done before the home was livable for three kids and two adults.



JoAnn Robinson, president of the Hitchcock Heritage Society, said that the organization was ready to offer its support to the Collins family and was glad to see a “hometown guy” buy it.

Robinson said that the group was concerned that developers would buy the land, carve it up and sell it off in subdivided lots.

“The family that had it didn’t really have much to say about what happened to it,” she said. “But we’re very happy that someone bought the house and would restore it”.

Last summer, while the Collins' 125-year-old home was being restored, they opened the estate for a weekend of community events to mark June 19 or Juneteenth, the day in 1865 that slaves in Texas learned they were free. On Saturday, June 16, 2007 they did it again with more than 200 people from several coastal communities joining in the celebration. The National Trust celebrates having Sam Collins in our ranks as someone who “walks the walk.”

For more information about the Collins project:
<http://www.guidrynews.com/story.aspx?id=100002932>

Funding for Preservation in the Southwest

ARKANSAS

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

\$2,500 (Arkansas Fund/Hughes Fund) to **Main Street Helena** to help secure architectural and engineering plans and a phase-one environmental study for the Boston Store Building along Cherry Street. (1904)

\$300 (Arkansas Intervention Fund) to the **Desha County Museum** for a visual inspection by an engineer to survey the structural stability of the Pickens Church in Dumas after it was damaged by a tornado. (1900)

(1) Dyess Colony Administration Bldg., Dyess
\$1,000 (Arkansas Intervention Fund) to the **City of Dyess** for an emergency stabilization report for the Dyess Colony Administration Building. (1934)

NEW MEXICO

\$2,000 (New Mexico Fund) to the Couse Foundation for elevation drawings of the **E.I. Couse Home and Studio in Taos** to create a plan for future preservation needs and potential adaptive uses of the complex (c.1830-1936)

\$7,500 (Favrot Fund) to the Ohkay Owingeh Housing Authority for a rehabilitation plan of the **Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo**, using both traditional and computer techniques to develop a master plan for rehabilitation of this adobe structure. (c.1540)

\$4,000 (Bonderman Fund) to the Aztec Motel, LLC for a conditions/structural assessment of the

Aztec Motel in Albuquerque, along Route 66 east of downtown. (c.1940)

\$3,000 (Bonderman Fund) to the National Park Service to hire consultants with the Urban Policy Research Center at Rutgers University to conduct an **economic impacts assessment of heritage tourists traveling Route 66**.

\$4,064 (Bonderman/Thorne Fund) to Main Street Roswell for a stabilization plan of the **Chihuahuita Community Center in Roswell**. The adobe building was damaged by severe wind and rain this past spring. (1940)

(2) Sands Dorsey Building, Tucumcari
\$1,359 (Thorne) to Main Street Tucumcari for an emergency stabilization report of the **Sands Dorsey Building in Tucumcari**. (1909)

OKLAHOMA

\$1,000 (Mayo Fund) to the **Oklahoma City Foundation for Architecture** for the production of a publication celebrating Central Oklahoma's 100 years of architecture in the state's Centennial year.

\$3,000 (Mayo Fund) to the **City of Vinita** for a feasibility study to help determine space allocation, structural requirements, and cost estimates for the rehabilitation & restoration of the historic Craig County Courthouse. (1920)

\$1,500 (Mayo Fund) to **Preservation El Reno** for the rehabilitation of the Masonic Orphanage Building in El Reno for future educational use.

(3) El Reno Carnegie Library, El Reno
\$4,580 (Mayo Fund) to the El Reno Carnegie Library for construction

documents that will be used in the roof stabilization of the **El Reno Carnegie Library**. (1904)

(4) Boley Water Tower, Boley
\$1,500 (Mayo Fund) to the **Town of Boley** for a detailed analysis of the needed repairs and costs of restoring the Boley Water Tower...a symbol of the tenacious people who built this early African-American town. (1911)

\$3,000 (Mayo Fund) to the **Saline Preservation Association** for a detailed architectural documentation of the Saline County Courthouse and adjacent springhouse. (1884)

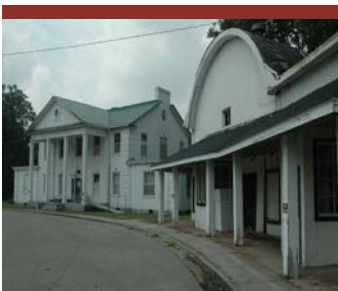
\$2,500 (Mayo Fund) to the **Town of Lima** to secure an architectural assessment of its Rosenwald School. The review will determine the extent of damage to the building and provide the groundwork for seeking funds to restore the building. (c.1921)

\$7,000 (Kirkpatrick Fund) to the William Fremont Harn Gardens, Inc. for a feasibility study of the **Harn Homestead buildings in Oklahoma City**. (1904)

\$2,500 (Mayo Fund) to the McAlester Scottish Rite Masons for a master plan to provide guidance for the **McAlester Masonic Center** by setting priorities, and suggesting methods of repair. (1930)

\$3,500 (Mayo Fund) to the **Poteau Main Street Matters, Inc.** for a preservation architect who will prepare a conditions assessment and restoration plan for the Lowery Hotel in Poteau. (1922)

\$1,500 (Thorne Intervention Fund) to the **City of Muskogee** for the emergency stabilization of the Severs Block after a fire nearly destroyed it.



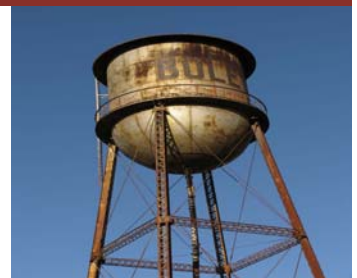
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More Funding for Preservation in the Southwest

TEXAS

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to **Preservation Texas** to help with a planning seminar in preparation for the 2008 Preservation Summit in Austin. The planning event used focus groups and recorded exchanges to develop topics and priorities for the Summit.

\$5,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **City of Sinton** to perform an analysis and assessment of the Rialto Theatre, addressing safety, potential uses of the property, and costs associated with restoring the building. (1930)

\$2,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Armstrong County Museum, Inc.** to secure fundraising consulting services to assist in acquiring the means to restore the Charles Goodnight House in Claude. (1887)

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

(5) Strand NHL District, Galveston

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

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

\$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. The study will provide additional information regarding the level of financial support necessary to complete the restoration. (1927)

(6) Faison House, Faison

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

(7) Great Northern Railroad Depot, Rockdale

\$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. (1906)

\$4,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Historic Bridge Foundation** for a web enhancement program that will redesign their homepage to provide the information that will make the site more user-friendly and provide weekly updates.

\$2,500 (Fondren Fund) to the **City of Palestine** for a preservation workshop that will educate citizens, tenants, and property owners about historic preservation.

\$5,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **First Presbyterian Church of Galveston** for a stained glass assessment. The assessment will produce a conditions analysis and report, restoration recommendations, prioritization of needs, and cost estimates for the stained glass. (1873)

\$2,700 (Fondren Fund) to the **Texas Downtown Association** to under-

write a keynote speaker and workshop speaker for the Texas Downtown Association/Texas Main Street Annual Conference in Fort Worth.

(8) Rufus F. Hardin Museum, Brownwood

\$4,462 (Fondren Fund/Hughes Fund) to the **Rufus F. Hardin, Inc. in Brownwood** to assist in acquiring supervisory architectural services for full restoration of the Rufus F. Hardin Museum. (1917)

\$10,000 (Summerlee Fund/Bonderman) to the **San Antonio Conservation Society** for documentation of 85 Historic Farms and Ranches in Bexar County. These complexes are threatened by suburban sprawl, as Bexar County undergoes rapid growth and highway construction. As a first step to protection, this funding will list historic farm and ranch complexes on the National Register

\$2,000 (Summerlee Fund) to the **Robertson County Historical Commission in Calvert** for emergency foundation repairs of the Katy Hamman Stricker Library (c.1909).

\$1,353 (Summerlee Fund) to **Texarkana Main Street** for an engineer's visual inspection of the Broad Street Buildings.

\$3,750 (Hart Fund) to the **Trinity Independent School District** to restore the Old Red School Building to its original splendor with its unique workmanship and materials of construction/architecture. (1915)

\$3,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Texas Friends of PIT** for a Ground Penetrating Radar Workshop in Lufkin. Attendees received hands-on experience collecting underground archaeological data.



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Making a Difference in a Big Way

The Arkansas Delta Rural Heritage Development Initiative (RHDI)

continues to implement its aggressive three-year work plan of preservation-based economic revitalization strategies for this rural, depressed region in eastern Arkansas. The Southwest Office supervises the field representative running this project. Leveraging local and national funding, the RHDI and its partners, Arkansas Delta Byways and Main Street Arkansas, have successfully developed numerous projects and programs aimed at preserving, promoting and revitalizing the Arkansas Delta.



One such program, **Arkansas DeltaMade**, was launched in October 2007. Highlighting unique, locally made products, the Arkansas DeltaMade branding and promotional program is providing access to new regional and statewide markets for entrepreneurs and providing technical services and assistance to help locals grow and expand their business. Check out the program and its great products at www.arkansasdeltamade.com.



To aid in the development of the Arkansas Delta as a visitor destination, the RHDI completed a redesign of the regional tourism website, as well as creation of several brochures and maps to guide the visitor to significant sites, attractions and landscapes in the region. Of special note, the 2007 session of the Arkansas Legislature passed the **Delta Geotourism Tax Credit**, a 25% credit on the state income tax designed to spur the growth of heritage and nature-based tourism economies in the RHDI region.

The RHDI has targeted key iconic structures throughout the region for preservation, rehabilitation and reuse. The National Trust utilized the **Clarice Hunter Intervention Fund for Arkansas** to aid in this work. **Pickens Baptist Church** in Dumas, blown off its foundation and damaged in the February 2007 tornadoes that ripped through Desha County, was restored to its pier foundation and repaired thanks to the intervention funds immediately available via the Southwest Office. Likewise, the **Dyess Colony Administration Building**, the centerpiece of a National Register district in Mississippi County, was the beneficiary of intervention funds to secure a preservation architect and structural engineer as a first step towards saving this New Deal-era gem. The National Trust has also provided funds to hire a consultant to jump-start the reuse of the historic **Kress Building** in downtown Blytheville; planned use is to open a Delta Gateway Museum.

For more information about the Arkansas Delta Rural Heritage Development Initiative, visit www.arkansasdelta.org.

Route 66 is an icon of the American transportation experience in the 20th century. Its historic mom-and-pop motels—full of neon, glass and unusual designs—are prime elements defining its cultural, historic, and economic fabric. However, these motels are under imminent threat from both ends of the spectrum.



At one end, there is neglect and disinvestment. At the other, there is pressure to demolish and redevelop. In remote rural areas, the threat is disuse and isolation from major traffic routes. In sprawling urban areas, the threat is from accelerating property values and a push for higher density development. Add to that soaring insurance costs and aggressive city efforts to target “problem motels” with stiff fines and demolition, and the prospect of operating a vintage Route 66 motel dims quickly.



In front of the **El Vado Motel** in Albuquerque, Daniel Carey joined Mayor Martin Chavez, Kak Slick, Trustee Emeritus and New Mexico SHPO, and staff from the National Park Service’s Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, to announce that **Historic Motels of Route 66** were named to *America’s 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* list. A second announcement was made in Clinton, OK at the annual meeting of the Route 66 Preservation Foundation with 300+ in attendance. Both announcements received much local press and media attention along with appreciation and support from local advocates.

Since the *11 Most* announcement, the National Trust has awarded two grants, totaling \$7,000. We are working with a local motel owner in Albuquerque to hire a preservation architect to examine and recommend repairs to two historic motels, **the Aztec and Nob Hill**. And, in partnership with the National Park Service and American Express, we have contributed to an economic impact study of heritage travelers along the famous “Mother Road.”