

## Austin's last known remaining slave quarters at the Neill-Cochran House Museum to be restored



*The Neill-Cochran House Museum slave quarters in December 2022*

As one of the oldest surviving residences in Austin, the 1856 Neill-Cochran House is remarkable for many reasons. Its architectural significance is obvious - a Greek Revival style house which was designed by master builder Abner Cook and commissioned by Washington Hill, a relative to Texas' prominent Lamar family. It is also significant for a part of its history that has not been widely told and one that [Neill-Cochran House Museum](#) (NCHM) Executive Director Rowena Dasch and her staff have been working since 2016 to uncover - that of the small two-story structure in the back of the

main house, now understood to be the last known intact slave quarters in Austin.

The modest building is currently undergoing a restoration that was partially funded by a Texas Historical Foundation grant this past Fall, and it will be the subject of an upcoming exhibit called "Reckoning with the Past: The Untold Story of Race in Austin." THF staff member Jennifer Solomon recently wrote about a conversation she had with Dasch about the importance of contextualizing the slave quarter's history within that of the city of Austin, Texas history, and American history in [THF's January Blog](#).

## Texas HERITAGE

### The Texas Tale of a Hard-to-Find Marker

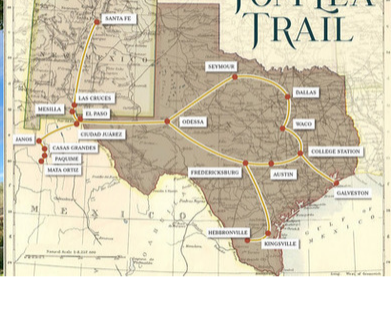
Just off a quiet country road in East Texas sits a nine-inch rectangle of granite about five feet high that tells a remarkable Texas history story. The sides of the marker are engraved "U. S.," "R. T.," and "Meridian boundary, Established A. D. 1841." This inconspicuous stone designates the international boundary between the Republic of Texas and the United States and is the only such marker in the United States today.



*Republic of Texas boundary marker (Atlas Obscura)*

Dr. Clark Wernecke, Ph. D., a Texas Historical Foundation board member, lays out the complicated story telling how the signpost came to be where it is and the future of the boundary marker in an article set to appear in the upcoming issue of Texas HERITAGE magazine, which this year celebrates its 40th year of publication. [Sign up now](#) to become a THF member and receive the quarterly journal in your mailbox.

## Grants Update



### Eleven Grants Approved at THF's Winter Meeting

Texas Historic Foundation Board of Directors approved funding for eleven organizations for the Winter 2023 round of grants. We will be telling you more about their projects in the weeks to come, and be sure to keep an eye out for grant presentation announcements.

The recipients are: The **African American Heritage Project** in Nacogdoches; the **Flower Hill Foundation** in Austin; The **Orange Show Foundation, Inc.** in Houston; the **Tom Lea Institute** in El Paso; **Texas Dance Hall Preservation, Inc.** in Austin; **Hemisfair Conservancy** in San Antonio; the **Council of Texas Archaeologists** in Cedar Park; **Mexican American Civil Rights Institute** in San Antonio; the **Bryan Museum** in Galveston; the **Rutherford B.H. Yates Museum, Inc.** in Houston; and the **Texas State Historical Association** in Austin.

Congratulations to all of the Winter 2023 grant recipients!

## THF News

### THF Approves a New Endowment

At the THF Board of Directors meeting this month in Rockport, a new endowment fund was approved to join THF's existing nine endowments. Our endowments provide the funding for our quarterly grants which fund a multitude of projects that help to preserve the rich and diverse history of Texas.



*Left to Right: David Preziosi, Sylvia Tillotson, Michael Marchant, Sharron Rogers, Doug Rogers, and Tom Doell*

The new fund was established by a generous gift from Sharron and Doug Rogers of Grapevine, Texas. Sharron's family goes back generations in Texas and she has a great love of the history of the state and wanted to see that history saved for the future. The new fund will provide a vital link to

the past by awarding grants for the preservation and restoration of significant and revered historic structures, landmarks, or sites within Texas. To be eligible for a grant, the structure or site must meet one or more of the following requirements:

- Has historic character or value as part of the heritage of a city, community, region, or the state;
- The location is the site of a significant historical event;
- The structure has connection to a historic person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and/or an important event in the State of Texas or the region in which the structure is located;
- Has archeological value of a historic or pre-historic time period.

THF is very excited to have this new endowment fund which will allow us to increase the number of grants we can give out each year to worthy projects that preserve the history of Texas. We greatly thank Sharron and Doug for their commitment to providing new resources to help preserve the important places that tell the story of Texas so they will be around for generations to come.

### THF Board of Directors Winter 2023 Board Meeting in Rockport



*History Center for Aransas County*

THF board members visited local landmarks and several past and present grant recipients in Rockport on January 19 - 21 during their Winter 2023 Board of Directors meeting. The trip opened with a Meet & Greet at the Texas Maritime Museum on Thursday, guests of which included numerous local historians and museum professionals.

We were honored to have local historian Pam Stranahan from Friends of the History Center of Aransas County (FHC) narrate the first half of our bus tour on Friday. The first stop was the History Center, where among the displays were publications supported by the FCH and past THF grants to the organization, including "Growing Up Vietnamese on the Texas Coast."

The next stop was the Fulton Schoolhouse Museum, which was a fascinating look at what it was like to attend school in the early part of the 20th century. The highlight of the trip was a tour of the Fulton Mansion. Completed in 1877, the mansion's unusual build and innovative mechanical systems are a testament to its forward-thinking designer, engineer George W. Fulton. The mansion now operates as a museum and state historic site run by the Texas Historical Commission.

After lunch, the Directors met Rockport Cultural Arts District staff and board members at the Rockport Railroad Depot to present their Fall 2022 grant, which will go towards continued restoration and expansion of the museum following extensive damage caused by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Our next stop was at the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center to view their moving exhibit on the impact of Hurricane Harvey on the area.

Finally, we capped off our tour at the Coastal Mercantile and heard a fascinating personal history of the building by Janie White, whose grandfather owned the mercantile when she was a young girl.

Our directors thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Rockport and learning about its history and historic sites. [Click here to view photos](#) of our visit.



## TEXAS Preservation

### Historic Preservation Conference Begins Tomorrow!



The 2023 Texas Historical Commission's Real Places Austin conference will take place both virtually and in person from Wednesday February 1st until Friday February 3rd. Once again, the Texas Historical Commission is joining the state agency as an event partner. THF Executive Director David Preziosi and Grants Director Ryann Griffin are attending, and they will present Friends of the Texas Historical Commission with a THF grant check awarded in Fall 2022 to support the conference. Click the button below to learn more, download a program, and get connected.

[Real Places 2023](#)

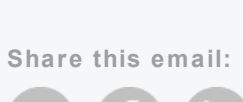


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