

Under The Lone Star

The Official Newsletter of the Texas Historical Foundation

The Royse City Futuro House



The Futuro house in Royse City (2023) by Jennifer Solomon

The landscape in the small town of Royse City in Rockwall County looks like most other rural communities in Texas with its acres of fields, farmland, cows, warehouses, two-lane highways and country roads slicing through it all. That was certainly the case when my family moved to this area in the early 1990s, long before the current building boom, so you can imagine my surprise the first time I spotted a deteriorating, seemingly forgotten spaceship on an overgrown lot along Highway 276.

Many have passed by without knowing the story behind this out-of-this-world structure, or its significance to a very specific point in history. In our June blog post, THF's Jennifer Solomon tells us about the quirky landmark that has delighted residents in her hometown for decades.

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Sharron and Doug Rogers Appreciation Reception

THF recently honored Sharron



Sharron and Doug Rogers with the THF Board of Directors at the event and THF Executive Director David Preziosi. Photo courtesy of City of Grapevine

and Doug Rogers for their incredible gift to establish the Sharron and Doug Rogers Preservation Fund at THF at a special celebratory event in downtown Grapevine, Texas. The event was packed with THF board members and friends and colleagues of Sharron and Doug. Mayor William D. Tate welcomed everyone to the event and gave a wonderful narrative of Sharron and her work with the City of Grapevine over many years as a Council Member. Highlights of THF's work followed with recognition of Sharron and Doug and what their gift means to THF.

Sharron is a sixth-generation Texan with a tremendous love for the history of the great state of Texas. She has a great desire to see the places that are a part of the historic fabric of the state preserved for future generations so they can learn about the history of the places and the people who have come before us and built Texas.

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 a 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 from a historic or pre-historic time period.

THF is very excited to have this new endowment, which will fund in perpetuity so many wonderful projects and increase the number of grants that THF can give out each year to worthy projects that preserve Texas history.

THF greatly appreciates and thanks 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.

Duda Preservation Award Deadline is August 1



Nominations for the 2024 Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards can be submitted through the THF website until August 1, 2023. This new award for THF seeks to recognize excellence in historic preservation, offering a \$100,000, \$30,000, and \$20,000 prizes towards the completion of the top preservation projects.

Eligible nominees include nonprofit or government organizations pursuing ongoing historic preservation projects in the field of architecture or archeology. Full eligibility details are available on our website. Nominations are open to the public, and any organization that meets the eligibility criteria is encouraged to apply.

To get started, visit the [Duda Preservation Awards landing page](#) to find out more about the award and submitting nominations. Winners will be announced at a special event at the George Bush Presidential Center on the SMU campus on April 20, 2024.



Coming up in Volume 3 of Texas HERITAGE Magazine

The latest issue of Texas HERITAGE magazine hit mailboxes last week, and the third quarter volume is already in the works, this one with a Texas coastal theme.

Norman Delaney, Ph. D., a retired history professor with a specialty in naval history, became intrigued with a blue three cents stamp issued in 1945 that featured 11 sailors who trained at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station. The South Texas aviator training base, known as the “University of the Air,” was established on December 21, 1941, a few weeks after the bombing on Pearl Harbor. Delaney’s detailed research of the story behind the stamp has resulted in an article that will be featured in the upcoming issue. Other pieces in the magazine will look at the ongoing restoration of the Bolivar Lighthouse and the Texas citrus industry.



Photo courtesy of the United States Library of Congress

Texas Historical Foundation members receive the award-winning publication four times a year. [Join now](#) to keep up with the latest history and preservation news across Texas.



2023 Save Texas History Symposium



This year's Save Texas History Symposium is scheduled for September 22-23, 2023. It will be held at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, and the title of the conference is "From San Fernando de Béxar to 'The Alamo City:' San Antonio and its History." THF Director Frank de la Teja will be giving a talk about Erasmo Seguín, San Antonio's postmaster in the lead up to the Mexican War of Independence. Seguín was accused of treason during the

occupation of San Antonio in 1813, exonerated, and later became alcalde of San Antonio in 1820.

Registration for the symposium is now open on the [Save Texas History website](#).

A promotional banner for a grant application deadline. The background is dark blue with a white diagonal shape. In the top left corner, there is a logo for the Texas Historical Foundation, featuring a star and the text "TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION EST. 1954". In the center, the date "SEPTEMBER 01" is written in white on a green rectangular background. Below this, the words "GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE" are written in large, bold, yellow-green letters. At the bottom center, there is a red circular button with the text "CLICK HERE" in white. A yellow megaphone is positioned in the bottom left corner, pointing towards the center.



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