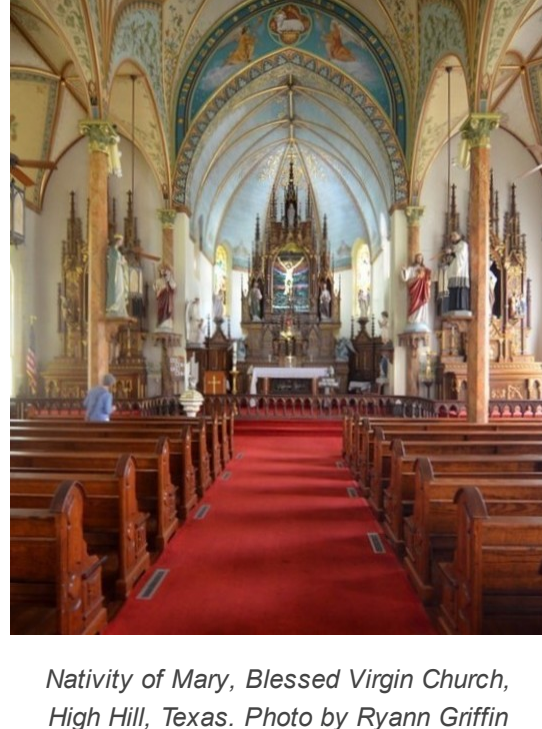


## Painted Churches of the Texas Hill Country



*Nativity of Mary, Blessed Virgin Church, High Hill, Texas. Photo by Ryann Griffin*

Within a ten-mile radius of I-10 in Central Texas' rolling hill country, one can find a series of churches, open to the public, built by Bavarian and Bohemian immigrants in the style of their homeland. Constructed between 1877 and 1906 during a wave of arrivals from present-day Germany and Czech Republic, the church exteriors bear hallmarks of the small-town chapels of all denominations that dot the Texas countryside.

It is once inside that they depart from the quaint protestant austerity common in the region; white-washed bargeboard gives way to bombastic pastels, imitation gold leafing, immense stained glass windows, and, famously, the hand-painted flights of design that adorn the vaulted ceilings of the sanctuaries.

Though only miles apart on a nexus of farm-to-market roads, each church is imbued with its own distinct character, running the gamut from ornate solemnity to joyous whimsey. In each, period craftsmanship and design flourishes build upon one another to establish an intimate portrait of the group of men and women that worshipped there, far from home but close in tradition to the European churches of their youth. Indeed the churches and the towns in which they are a part remain places out of time, somehow untouched by the homogenous sprawl of the surrounding interstate corridors.

Texas Historical Foundation was fortunate to explore these beautiful historic structures to create a photo essay featured in our May blog post, where you will also find a route chartered by Texas history writer and hill country native Judy Davis for those who wish to tour the churches.

[READ MORE](#)

## TEXAS Preservation

### North Central TX Regional Preservation Summit 2023



*Crazy Water Hotel in Mineral Wells*

Preservation Texas held its first regional Preservation Summit of the year in the North Central Region in Mineral Wells. People from all over the North Central Texas region and from beyond attended the afternoon event at the Crazy Water Hotel.

The Summit started off with lunch followed by an update from Preservation Texas on their programs around the state. With the Summit being regional, there were great presentations focusing on the history of Mineral Wells, the Bankhead Highway which

traversed North Texas, tabernacles in North Central Texas, the Preservation Plan for Tarrant County, and the history of the West Texas Utilities Power and Ice Plant in Abilene. The day ended with the unveiling of Preservation Texas' new Most Endangered Places list, which you can find out more about [here](#), followed by a rooftop reception with wonderful views of Mineral Wells.

The Summit was a great way to learn more about the preservation work in the area and a great way to network with others in the preservation field. Future regional summits will take place in Tyler (Northeast) September 7, San Marcos (Central) September 21, and Beaumont (Southwest) November 16. The Summits are great for everyone from volunteers to professionals to those that love historic preservation.

## Texas HERITAGE

### THF Celebrates Magazine Milestone

Texas HERITAGE, the quarterly magazine of the Texas Historical Foundation, commemorates 40 years of publishing excellence this year. Begun in 1983 as a tabloid-size publication, Texas HERITAGE has grown to a 32-page, award-winning color magazine recognized by both business and historical organizations. Special expanded issues of Texas HERITAGE on topics such as state flags, currency, and maps have included never-before seen images and are available [on our website](#).

*Members who support preservation through the Texas Historical Foundation receive the magazine in their mailboxes each quarter. To get a copy delivered to you, [join THF today](#), or give a gift membership to the Lone Star enthusiast in your family.*



## THF News

### 2024 Duda Preservation Award Submissions

#### Open Tomorrow



Starting tomorrow, prospective nominees for the 2024 Michael C. Duda Preservation Awards can submit their applications on the Texas Historical Foundation [website](#). Nominations for the Awards will be open from **June 1 through August 1, 2023**.

Through these Awards, THF seeks to recognize excellence in historic preservation, offering a \$100,000 prize towards the completion of the top project.

Eligible nominees are 501(c)(3) nonprofit or government organizations pursuing ongoing historic preservation projects in the field of architecture or archeology. You can view full eligibility details [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 download the Phase I Essay Section form.

**First Place \$100,000**

Winner of the 2024 Duda Preservation Award will receive \$100,000 towards the completion of their preservation project

**Second Place \$30,000**

Second highest score will be recognized with an Honor Award and \$30,000 toward project completion

**Third Place \$20,000**

Third highest score will receive an Honor Award and \$20,000 towards the completion of their project.

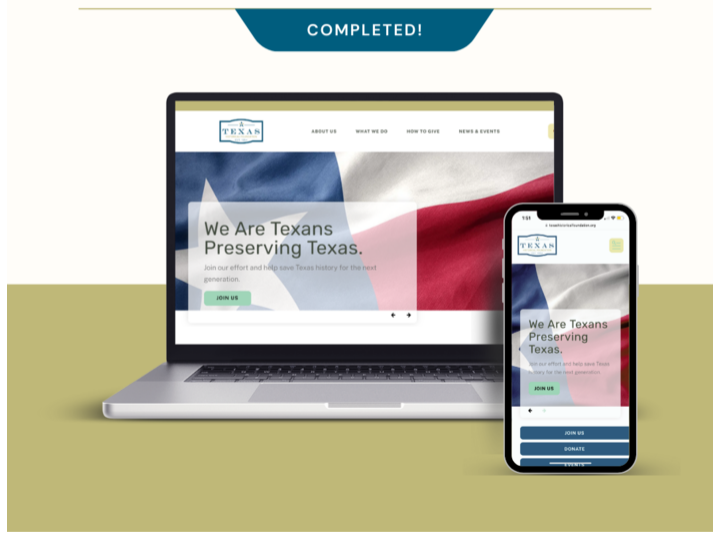
### THF Website Gets a Makeover

Our new website design is complete! Staff has made needed updates to THF's website to increase design compatibility with mobile devices and to improve visitor experience. We will also be integrating Neon, our new constituent and member portal, during the first week of June. Neon will streamline membership sign-ups, renewal processes, and donor transactions. It will also provide a convenient way for users to manage their accounts and see past giving history. We are so excited to improve the online experience for visitors to our website, and we invite you to check out our new look today at [texashistoricalfoundation.org](#).

TEXASHISTORICALFOUNDATION.ORG

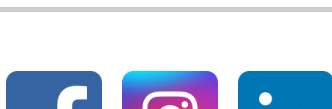
#### Website Updates

COMPLETED!



JUNE 01

## GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE



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