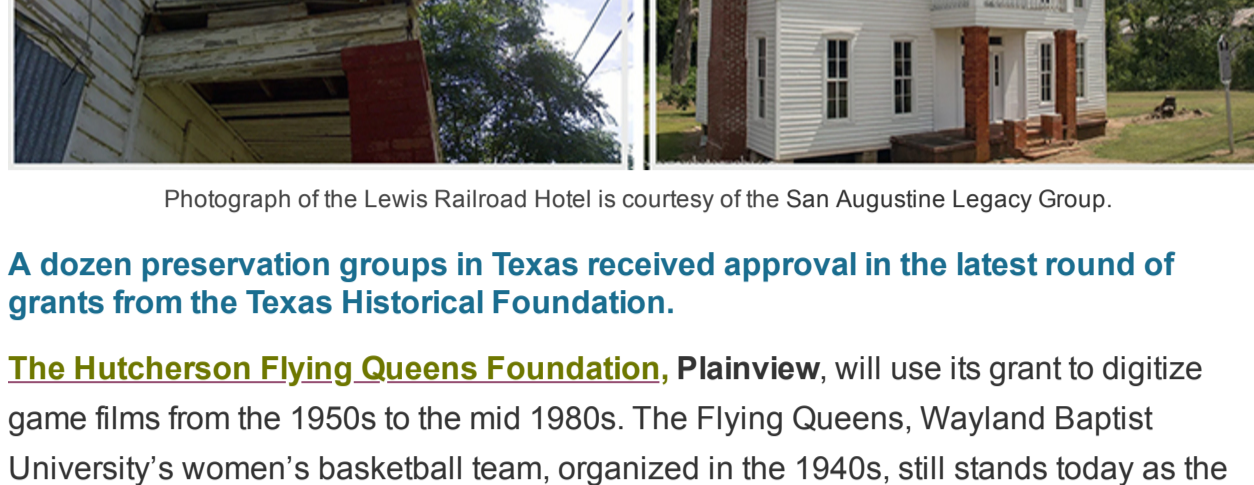




Grants Spotlight

Twelve (Yes, Twelve!) Grant Awards Given in January



Photograph of the Lewis Railroad Hotel is courtesy of the San Augustine Legacy Group.

A dozen preservation groups in Texas received approval in the latest round of grants from the Texas Historical Foundation.

The Hutcherson Flying Queens Foundation, Plainview, will use its grant to digitize game films from the 1950s to the mid 1980s. The Flying Queens, Wayland Baptist University's women's basketball team, organized in the 1940s, still stands today as the winningest team in women's college basketball.

The Doss Heritage and Culture Center of Parker County, Weatherford, will use grant funds to help restore the 1850 Strain Cabin, which sits with four other 19th-century cabins on the property, each telling a part of the story of the settlement of the North Central Texas area.

The American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions, San Antonio, received an allocation to purchase archival storage for artifacts, documents, and photographs for its Texas Heritage Project. AITSCM collects, preserves, and exhibits archives, artifacts, and photographs relevant to the Indigenous/Latino populations that contributed to the South-Central Texas region.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Foundation, Edinburg, secured grant funds to help produce the publication *Exploring Ancient Landscapes of South Texas*, expected to be published late in 2022, part of an educational package for students in the Rio Grande Valley.

The Tom Lea Institute, El Paso, will use its grant to fund the mobile website for the Texas portion of the Tom Lea Trail, to be housed on the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Time Travel web page. The path connects the regional histories of 19 communities in Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico through the El Paso artist's writings and murals.

The San Augustine Legacy Group Inc., San Augustine, won approval for a grant to assist with labor and construction materials to refinish the downstairs floors at the Lewis Railroad Hotel. The William Lewis family opened the doors of their family home in the early 1900s to Black travelers who, because of segregation, had no other lodging available.

Friends of Cibolo Wilderness, Boerne, secured assistance for a project to paint, repair the historic rainwater system and fix the heating and air conditioning at the Herff-Roselle homestead. Now on the National Register of Historic Places, the Herff Farm was built by physician Dr. Ferdinand Ludwig van Herff, who immigrated from Germany in the mid 1800s.

Starr County Historical Foundation, Rio Grande City, will repair and upgrade the fire sprinkler system and gutters at the 1899 La Borde House with its grant. The structure, now used as a hotel, was built by a French immigrant in a Parisian style that is unexpected in a Texas border town.

Night Heron Media, Fayetteville, will use funding to create six Texas history videos for 7th graders. Those include films about Caddo lifestyles, the Alamo defenders, sharecropping, and the Apollo 11 moon landing, among other topics. This is the second THF grant Night Heron Media has received for this ongoing project.

Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum, Inc., Houston, received a grant to purchase ultraviolet filtration units and hire lab staff for an archeology project in Freedman's Town. This is the third gift the museum has been awarded for this specific work.

Vision Historic Preservation Foundation, Rockdale, secured a grant to assist with Phase I of a project to restore the 1895 City Hall. Funds will assist with construction materials for the bell tower, the roofline, rebuilding the back stairs, removing stucco, and preserving the structure's original brick.

The Bryan Museum, Galveston, won a THF grant, the organization's fifth one, to support the creation, printing, and promotion of three new interactive student discovery guides to be used during field trips.

The next deadline for grant proposals is March 1, 2022.

[FIND DETAILS HERE!](#)

Director Spotlight

Marshall Doke Receives Lifetime Achievement Award in Preservation



The Texas Historical Commission honored THF Chairman Emeritus Marshall J. Doke, Jr., with the Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award at its Real Places 2022 conference on February 3. Due to weather, Doke was not able to travel to Austin to receive the award, but it will be bestowed when the Foundation board meets in McKinney in April.

A retired Dallas attorney, [Doke has been a Texas Historical Foundation director since 1993](#), serving as president of the organization from 2000-2004 and chairman of the board for the next four years. He single-handedly fundraised—and personally contributed his own financial resources—in support of THF's Texas Legal History Preservation Trust, designated for the preservation of materials related to the legal history of the Republic and State of Texas (the endowment now bears his name).

He also secured funding that established THF's Heritage Magazine Endowment, ensuring the future of the award-winning quarterly Texas history education publication.

In addition to his volunteer efforts with THF, Marshall Doke served on the advisory board of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco and as Texas History Chair, Dallas Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

Texas HERITAGE

An Undertold Texas History Tale

In the 1850s, two biracial families, the Webbers and the Jacksons, settled along the northern bank of the Rio Grande just after it was established as the international border between the United States and Mexico in 1848.

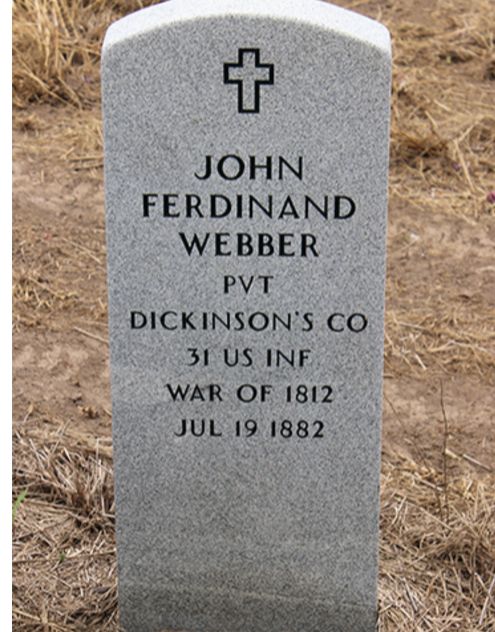
Each family purchased vast tracts of land upon arrival in Hidalgo County, Texas, operated licensed ferry landings on their properties, and played a role in assisting runaway slaves across the Rio Grande to freedom in Mexico.

Because those operations were secretive, few records exist to document the river crossings. Researchers have had to rely on family folklore, written reports, and oral history interviews to weave together this story that blends racial identity, different cultures, Underground Railroad-like activities, and extreme risk-taking—but ultimately helped many freedom seekers escape enslavement.

Roseann Bacha-Garza, a lecturer in anthropology at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, writes about this underexplored historic tale in the upcoming issue of Texas HERITAGE magazine, THF's award-winning quarterly publication.

To read the entire article and learn even more Lone Star stories

[JOIN TODAY!](#)



Website Update

San Antonio's First Neighborhood: La Villita



Today, shops, restaurants, and galleries make the downtown San Antonio area known as La Villita, but it's also the city's first neighborhood—the site of barracks for Spanish soldiers stationed at the Mission San Antonio Valero (the Alamo). Since that time, settlers from the Canary Islands, France, and Germany, transformed the area and left their own mark on the locale's architecture.

Join Lewis S. Fisher, AIA, a retired architect and THF scholar director, [on a tour of La Villita found in the latest THF website blog](#).

THF's mission is to promote and save Lone Star history; [check our website often to learn about how we accomplish that work—and how you can join the effort](#).



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