



Fire Destroys Royse City Methodist Church, a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark



Photo courtesy of Royse City Methodist Church

The town of Royse City in northeastern Texas lost one of its most historic buildings to fire on Tuesday, May 28 during a severe storm that was moving through the area. Royse City Methodist Church was a beloved fixture in the historic downtown and, for so many, it was a fundamental part of what made the small town so special. Longtime residents and new transplants alike loved the old yellow church, and it was always a joy to see when rounding the curve along Highway 66.

Royse City Methodist Church was not individually listed on the National Register, but its historic and architectural significance was denoted as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL).

While Texas has over 16,000 historic markers around the state, only around 3,800 of them have RTHL status. The church itself dates to 1887 when the congregation met in a schoolhouse until land was purchased from the McCasland family a few years later. The building was completed in 1904.

Visit our blog to read more about the church, its Dallas-based architect, and the importance of recording our historic structures to aid future historical research...

[Read More](#)

Grants Update

Ten Texas Non-Profits Chosen to Receive Texas Historical Foundation Grants



Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, Texas Historical Commission

Texas Historical Foundation is excited to announce that ten non-profit organizations across the state have been selected to receive grant funding for historic preservation projects in our Spring 2024 grant cycle. Below is a summary of each project:

- **Brenham Heritage Museum**, Brenham, received support for their upcoming “European Immigrants to Washington County” exhibit, exploring the cultural roots of the hill country community.
- **The Grace Museum**, Abilene, will apply their grant towards creating immersive visitor experiences in their exhibit “Full Steam Ahead: The Texas and Pacific Railway”, transporting museum-goers back to the heyday of the storied rail line with a replica ticketing booth and railcars.

- **Center for Big Bend Studies**, Alpine, will use grant funds to study and archive artifacts discovered at the Tranquil Rockshelter site in West Texas, continuing the chain of discoveries in this archeologically rich area that challenge preconceived ideas about the peopling of North America.
- **Baylor University**, Waco, received funding for research utilizing molecular analysis to search for signals of early human presence in Texas' Trans-Pecos region, work that explores the exciting potential of biomarkers to provide critically needed information without disturbing fragile archeological sites.
- **Reedy Chapel AME Church**, Galveston, was awarded funds for their annual Juneteenth event, celebrating emancipation in the cultural home of Juneteenth in Texas by retracing the steps of the historic 1866 procession.
- **Caddo Mounds State Historic Site Friends Association**, Alto, will apply granted funds to a class and film series introducing a new generation to traditional Caddo pottery techniques.
- Four nonprofits received funding to pursue National Register of Historic Places inclusion for endangered rural African American heritage sites. These groups include:
 - **Jean Mills Jefferson Memorial Fund**, Brenham, for the 1905 Brenham Normal and Industrial College, once a school for children of emancipated families in Washington County.
 - **Meetinghouse Revival**, Corsicana, for the Wesley Chapel CME, originally founded in the mid-1800s to serve enslaved congregants in the town's now-historic East Side community.
 - **Dabney Hill Missionary Baptist Church**, Somerville, for Dabney Hill Lodge, a former fraternal lodge and sole remaining institutional structure associated with the Dabney Hill Freedom Colony.
 - **First Independent Baptist Church**, Corsicana, for the church of the same name, originally founded by emancipated congregants in 1886.

Congratulations to all of our Spring 2024 grant recipients! We look forward to seeing these projects completed and we celebrate the impact they will have on preserving Texas history.

Want to learn more about our grants?

Since 1954, the Texas Historical Foundation has supported historic preservation and education projects across the state, empowering communities to preserve their own pieces of Texas' history.

[Learn More](#)

Cemetery Preservation
Meets Blackland Prairie
Conservation



THF presented their recent grant to **Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery** for their Constellation of Living Memorials program, supporting their effort to restore native Blackland Prairie plants to historic cemeteries. The groundbreaking project offers a novel solution to two pressing needs – the preservation and maintenance of Texas' 2000+ historic cemeteries, and the preservation of our native Blackland Prairie, diminished to just 5,000 of its original 12

million acres in recent years.

This conceptual partnership has driven investment in participating cemeteries, with successful implementation at East Dallas' Warren Ferris Cemetery serving as proof of concept for the experiment. THF funds will provide matching grants to participating cemeteries, aiding in the purchase of native plants and tools for the removal of invasive species.

70
TEXAS
HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
EST. 1954

SEPTEMBER 01

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

CLICK HERE

NOW ACCEPTING REQUESTS FOR UP TO \$8000



Braniff History and Architecture Conference: When You Got It, Flaunt It

September 14, 2024 | Dallas, TX



Tickets are now on sale for the fourth Braniff History and Architecture Conference to be held in Dallas on Saturday, September 14. An impressive list of entertainers, speakers, and Braniff employee group interviews will be presented at the most popular Braniff event of the year. The Braniff Airways Foundation will also present the new Hall of Fame inductees for 2024.

The history portion of the conference will feature: Braniff and the Dallas Cowboys, The Braniff Employees of Military Airlift Command Discussion, The Braniff Employees of the Latin America Division, the new Braniff Panagra travel posters line, and the current line of travel posters. The architecture section will feature plans for Love Field, the Architecture of the Braniff International Hotels in Latin America, Braniff Architect Mr. Alberto Menacha and the Braniff Hotel architecture for Braniff's Peru and Tucson properties, Braniff Drive-In Ticket Office at Dallas Love Field, and Braniff Exchange Park Complex. There will be never-before-seen Braniff films and TV commercials, and the Braniff Boutique will be open with exciting Braniff products and gifts.

[Info & Tickets](#)

2024 Bryan Museum History Symposium

June 15, 2024 | Galveston, TX

The Texas Historical Foundation is proud to present the first-ever Bryan History Symposium, taking place June 15 2024 in Galveston. This new, annual event explores topics in Texas history with leading scholars from across the state.

The 2024 symposium examines the lives of Texans of Mexican descent during Texas's most volatile era in conjunction with the opening of the Bryan Museum's special exhibit *Tejanos of Revolutionary Texas* (June 15 - July 7, 2024). Among the impressive list of speakers is THF Board Member Frank de la Teja, who will speak



about Erasmo Seguin and the Creation of Mexican Texas.

Registration is \$40 for members of the Museum, \$75 for non-members, and \$25 for teachers, students, and current TBM volunteers.

[Register](#)

Partner

Roseann Bacha-Garza

Contributing

Victoria Clow, Josip Galetovic, John Leeney
David Preziosi, and Marsha Prior

Institution

Texas Tech University, Preservation Austin, Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Documentary Arts, The Williamson Museum, Mexican American Museum of Texas, The Brass Maiden, Lake Jackson Historical Association, and Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum

A BIG TEXAS-SIZED

Thank You

TO OUR NEW
AND RENEWING
MEMBERS



www.texashistoricalfoundation.org



3003 SWISS AVENUE | DALLAS, TX 75204 | PHONE/FAX: 512.453.2154 | EMAIL:
ADMIN@TEXASHISTORICALFOUNDATION.ORG

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using [TrueRemove](#)®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

3003 Swiss Avenue
Dallas, TX | 75204 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.