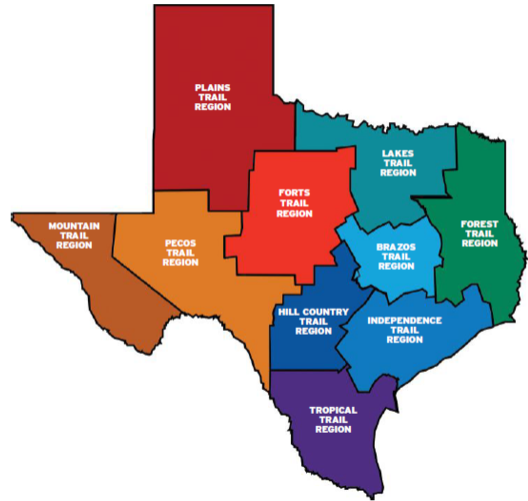


Texas Historical Commission Relaunches Travel Heritage Website



The 10 Heritage Trail Regions, image courtesy of Texas Historical Commission

Our February blog post is all about the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Time Travel website. The site is part of THC's Texas Heritage Trails Program, an initiative that was created in 1998 to highlight historic places across Texas and to promote education about our state history through travel. While the Texas Time Travel website is not new, program coordinator Teresa Caldwell explains that it was recently relaunched to "better highlight the regions themselves and the sites within them." After spending some time on the site, we can verify that it certainly accomplishes that goal.

There are 10 heritage trail regions in Texas, and it is fascinating to discover historic sites in your area that you may not have known about previously; however, you can also use the "Discover Your Cultural Heritage" feature. There you will find sites grouped by cultural groups – Hispanic, African American, American Indian, European, German, and Asian, making it easy to dig into your own cultural history or learn more about the heritage of the groups that built and settled our cities and contributed to Texas culture.

This is how we found the page for African American heritage sites in Texas. It is a wonderful resource for educators who may be searching for fresh topics to discuss for February's African American History month and beyond, and for anyone wanting to learn more about the diverse ways that black Texans have shaped our state's history.

[Click here](#) to continue reading about this wonderful resource on our blog.



Honorary THF Director Red McCombs passes away at 95



Sylvia and John Tillotson with Red McCombs in 2017

by Gene Krane, editor of Texas HERITAGE magazine.

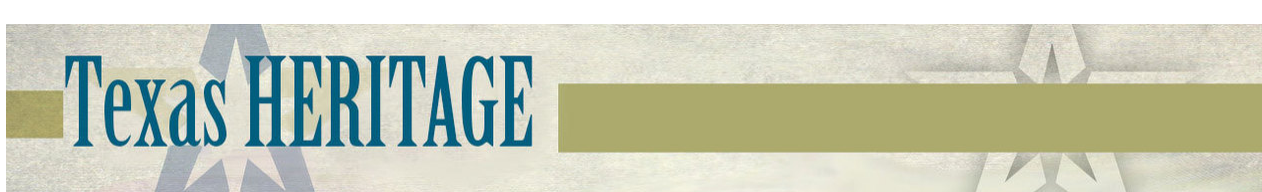
Texas lost a true son on February 19, 2023, when Red McCombs died at the age of 95. The native Texan had served the Texas Historical Foundation first as a director and later as an honorary director. Charline, his wife of 69 years, passed away in 2019. I had the good fortune to meet them both through my association with this organization (more about that later).

The self-made businessman built his wealth in the automotive and communications industries, but in between, he became owner of the San Antonio Spurs, the Minnesota Vikings, and was an investor in many other successful business ventures. Through their foundation, Charline and Red McCombs donated more than \$135 million to worthy organizations around the state. In their hometown of San Antonio, they were major supporters of the restoration of the city's 1913 Empire Theater.

The couple's generosity spread to this organization as well. In 2004, the McCombs Foundation provided seed money to establish an endowment providing funding for publication of THF's award-winning Texas HERITAGE magazine. In recognition of the pair's achievements, the Texas Historical Foundation honored Red and Charline McCombs with its 2017 Star of Texas Award, given to exceptional Texans whose contributions have changed the face of the Lone Star State.

Back now to meeting the man... He and I came face-to-face for the first time when I was writing an article about collectors for THF's magazine. He welcomed me warmly with a booming voice and talked knowledgeably about his 7,000-item assemblage of artifacts, which date back to the Spanish Colonial era. When I left San Antonio that day, he also gave me a copy of his autobiography that he inscribed "For Texas, I will."

As I reflect now on that meeting, I realize that he wrote his own epitaph that day. Those four simple words say it better than any of us could. — Gene Krane



Monumental Texas!

The 22 acres surrounding the Texas State Capitol are made even more beautiful by 19 monuments that commemorate the stories and people of the Lone Star State. The statues are part of the Capitol Historical Artifact Collection, under the supervision of the State Preservation Board. One of those monuments honors the Tejano settlers, who were key to developing the state's ranching and cattle industry.



Select Capitol statues, along with articles on the Republic of Texas boundary marker in East Texas and the life-like cement sculpture of Dionicio Rodriguez will be featured in the upcoming issue of THF's award-winning Texas HERITAGE magazine. The quarterly publication is your connection to historic preservation and the Lone Star past. [Join now](#) to become a member and start receiving the magazine today.

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