



The History of the Western Texas Border



The Rio Grande River Gorge in Taos (2023) by Jennifer Solomon

Did you know that the western border of the Republic of Texas (1836-1845) once extended all the way to the Rio Grande River in northern New Mexico and Colorado?

The Republic of Texas formed in April 1836 following the Tejano's victory in their fight for independence from Mexico, and the boundaries of the newly formed sovereign state were declared soon after. The eastern boundary along the Sabine River and northeastern boundary along the Red River remained the same since they were already under the Republic's control, but Texas lawmakers

extended the western border into parts of modern-day New Mexico and Colorado where the land was disputed with Mexico. The Rio Grande river formed a natural boundary for this declaration.

Read more in our July blog post.

[READ MORE](#)



THF Summer Board Meeting Held on July 22nd

Texas Historical Foundation Directors held their Summer meeting on Saturday, July 22 in Taos, New Mexico. July marks the beginning of our fiscal year, and we said

goodbye to several long-serving directors while welcoming new ones onto the board, as well as elected officers for the new fiscal year.

THF gives our profound thanks to outgoing directors Kitty Boyle, Deborah Cartwright, Barbara McMahan, John Meadows, Margaret Purvis, and Bill Strother for their many years of service to the Foundation and the expertise they have provided.

Several new directors were elected at the board meeting. We extend our warmest welcome to new THF directors Dallas Cothrum of Dallas, Paul Phillips of Fredericksburg, Sharron Rogers of Grapevine, Norma Schmelling of Fair Oaks Ranch, and returning director Sam Coats of Dallas.

New board officers were elected and include President Jay Minmier, Vice-President Brian Costanza, Chairman Michael Marchant, Treasurer Neill Taylor, and Secretary Carol Lipscomb.

It will be another fantastic year for THF, and we can't wait to tell you about the many grants that were approved for various preservation projects around the state very soon.



THF Directors at the Taos Pueblo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Historic Landmark

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.

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.

Grants Update

THF Presents Grant to North Texas Masonic Historical Museum and Library

On Friday, July 28 THF directors presented their grant to the North Texas Masonic Historical Museum & Library in Downtown Plano in support of their efforts to preserve monuments and markers in the Masonic section of the historic Plano Mutual Cemetery. The cemetery, dating from 1852, is one of the oldest in Collin County and is the final resting place of many of the region's early pioneer settlers. Early deeds show sections for the Masons, Knights of Pythias, and the Woodmen of the World, among others, each of whom had purchased tracts for the benefit of their members. Nearly a century later, Plano's Masons continue to maintain their section of the historic cemetery, among their other civic-minded endeavors.



THF directors present grant to NTMHM&L at the Plano lodge in Downtown Plano

Texas HERITAGE

Texas Citrus Production Spotlighted in Next Issue of Texas HERITAGE Magazine

Did you know that the South Texas citrus industry contributes more than \$200 million to the current state economy? Though citrus has been growing in that area since 1871, production began in earnest in the early 1900s, when Nebraska businessman John Shary began acquiring capital to purchase vast swaths of land and planning distribution and irrigation systems. Today, 85 percent of the

state's citrus production acreage is in Hidalgo County.

Current THF members receive the magazine in their mailbox each quarter. If you would like to join THF, please [visit our website](#).



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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](#).

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