

The Future Looks Bright for Bolivar Point Lighthouse



Bolivar Point Lighthouse, photo courtesy of the Bolivar Point Lighthouse Foundation

The Bolivar Point Lighthouse, built in 1872, stands on Point Bolivar in Galveston Bay. Historically, the 117-foot structure is an important part of Texas' past because it was the beacon spotted by ship captains, crew, and passengers as they entered the bay. Some of those individuals were immigrants arriving in the United States through the Texas port city.

Now—almost 150 years later—the structure is in dire need of repairs before the iconic cupola falls and the structure is lost forever. Thankfully, the lighthouse has passionate advocates who are tirelessly working to ensure that this never happens, including Amy Maxwell Chase, executive director of the [Bolivar Point Lighthouse Foundation](#) (BPLF), and the grand-niece of E. V. Boyd, who purchased the lighthouse in a 1947 private sale. The Texas Historical Foundation also recognized the value of saving this historic site and [awarded a grant](#) to BPLF to assist with some of the needed work.

THF staff member Jennifer Solomon spoke with Chase recently and wrote about that conversation in THF's [December blog](#).

Texas HERITAGE

The East Texas Architecture of Diedrich Rulfs

Diedrich Rulfs, a German immigrant, changed the face of modern-day Nacogdoches. Even though he passed away in 1926, Rulfs designed more than 50 noteworthy buildings that still stand today in the East Texas city.



Zion Hill Baptist Church, photo courtesy of the City of Nacogdoches

One of those, the Zion Hill Baptist Church, home to an early African American Baptist congregation, engaged Rulfs to create a new house of worship in 1914. The architect designed a wood-frame structure with two corner towers, combining Victorian styling with Gothic Revival detailing

that included elements from the Atens (Germany) Church where he was married. After 73 years, Zion Hill found a new home in 1987, but now a city-managed restoration of the historic property is underway. When it is complete, the structure will have new life as a community gathering place and a museum celebrating the neighborhood's African American history.

Read more about Diedrich Rulfs and other East and West Texas history stories in the final 2022 issue of Texas HERITAGE magazine when you [join as a THF member](#).

Note: The colorful trefoil (graphic form composed of the outline of three overlapping rings) glass above the transom is an original feature of the Zion Hill Baptist Church.

THF News

Nurturing the Next Generation of Preservationists

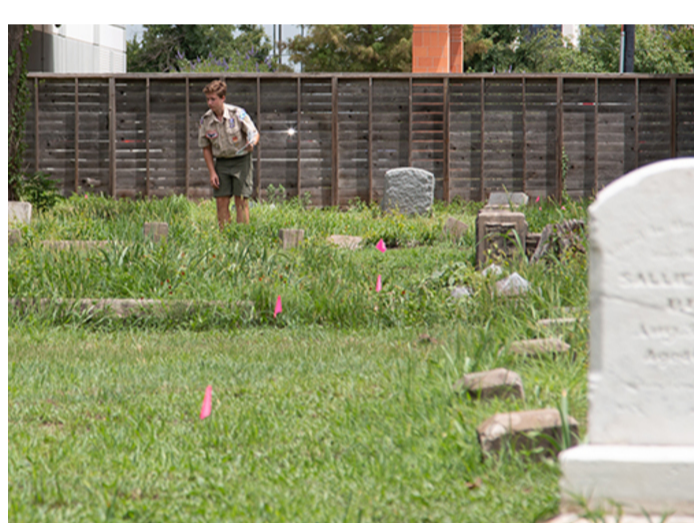


Photo courtesy of J. Hudson

THF takes seriously its responsibility to educate and promote future preservationists. Now, a cemetery project led by a Houston teenager has come to our attention that deserves recognition.

Though high schooler James Hudson already knew about the city's Olivewood Cemetery, founded in 1875, it was a conversation during a chance encounter in that burial ground with a Descendants of Olivewood board member that sparked an idea for him. In that unanticipated exchange, Hudson learned that the cemetery group needed help identifying gravesites. At the same time, the young man was searching for a worthwhile service project required for him to achieve Eagle Scout rank within the Boy Scouts. This would be it, he decided.

Moving quickly after securing the necessary approval, Hudson put out a call for volunteers then led a group of 40 who surveyed 182 Olivewood burial plots in late August. They recorded the plot locations, the last and first names of the deceased, the individual's veteran status, and the condition of each site. In the end, more than 200 interments were identified, and the data was compiled into a digital index that will guide visitors and future researchers.

Jim Hudson, father of the young man who led the effort, pointed out another important, though intangible, benefit of the preservation project, which recorded details of some of Houston's early citizens and founders. "Working at Olivewood helps youth recognize [that] we are the beneficiaries of the actions of those memorialized here." He was right, of course. Ensuring that future generations know about the men and women who came before them is a responsibility all of us bear.

Read more about the Olivewood cemetery preservation project [here](#).

Director Spotlight

Cavender Family Featured in *Life and Land* Magazine



The Winter 2022 edition of *Life & Land* Magazine includes an article on the Cavender family and the history of [Cavender's](#) written by Texas Historical Foundation Executive Director David Preziosi. On March 24, the family will be honored by THF at its [2023 Star of Texas event](#) for their exceptional contributions towards preserving the state's culture and inspiring its future.

Read the full *Life & Land* article [here](#).

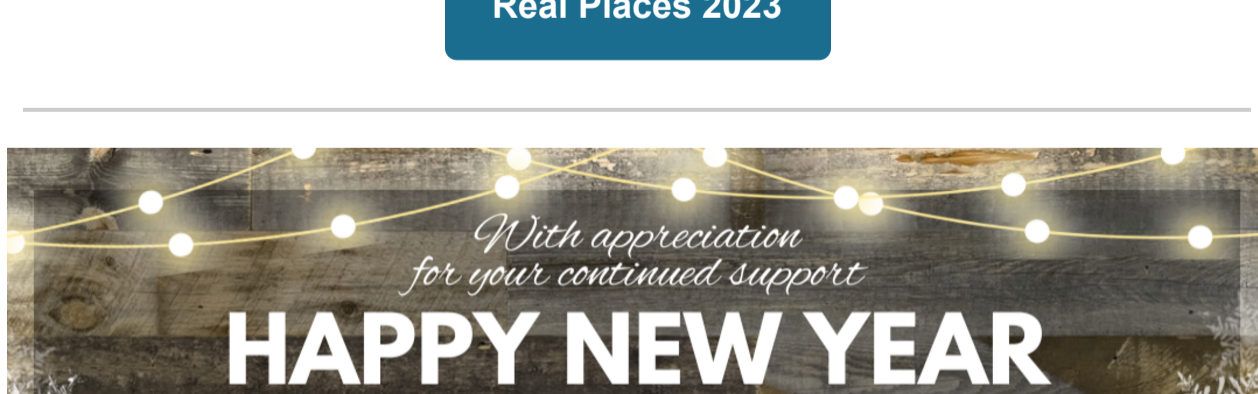
TEXAS Preservation

Historic Preservation Conference is Just Around the Corner



The deadline is quickly approaching for those interested in registering for the 2023 Texas Historical Commission's Real Places Austin conference, which will take place both virtually and in person February 1–3. Once again, the Texas Historical Foundation is joining the state agency as an event partner. Click the button below to learn more, download a program, and get connected.

[Real Places 2023](#)

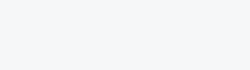


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