

**THF July Newsletter 2022**

Texas Historical Foundation <admin@texashistoricalfoundation.org>

Fri 7/29/2022 1:48 PM

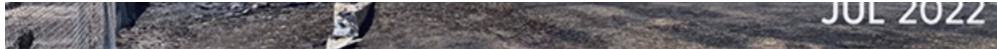
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**TEXANS PRESERVING TEXAS - JULY 2022**



**DR. JAMES DICKEY HISTORIC HOME DESTROYED;  
SUSPECT ARRESTED**





This graphic shows the evolution of the project to restore the home of Dr. James Dickey, which was destroyed by fire in early July. Photograph from the [Dickey Museum & Multipurpose Center website](#).

It was just last month that we reported a fifth THF grant to the Dickey Museum & Multipurpose Center in Taylor to support work to save the home of Dr. James Dickey. Sadly, the historic residence was destroyed by an early morning fire on July 10. A local man has been arrested for suspected arson of the structure, home to the African American doctor who helped address the community's public health needs and led an effort against a typhoid fever outbreak in the 1950s. The house was set to open as a museum in the summer of 2023.

Undeterred by the tragedy and electing to focus on the future, Jennifer Harris, who spearheaded the restoration project, noted that the house was empty at the time of the fire and that none of the artifacts were lost. In an interview with local media, she said, "Even though the fire might have destroyed the house, it didn't destroy the history." Local preservationists are already fundraising to construct a new building on the grounds of the original structure.

To learn more about Dr. Dickey and become part of the rebuilding effort, visit <https://dickeymuseum.org/>.

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## THF DIRECTORS ADVOCATE FOR DICKEY HOUSE PROJECT



THF directors Laura Wahlquist Stockdale and Judy Davis attended a Taylor City Council meeting on July 14 to speak on behalf of the town's Dickey Museum & Multipurpose Center and to support the group's efforts to move forward with their plans to honor Dr. Dickey, despite a devastating fire that destroyed the historic structure.

THF Directors Judy Davis, left, and Laura Wahlquist Stockdale, right, applauded the efforts of the Dickey Museum & Multipurpose Center at a Taylor City Council meeting.

Calling the Taylor preservationists “poster children” of fundraising excellence, Davis noted that

the Texas Historical Foundation had given \$30,000 to date to support the restoration. Stockdale explained the mission of THF and said that [the Foundation’s most recent \\$5,000 grant](#), originally intended for the purchase of windows, would now be repurposed to facilitate clean up and rebuilding at the site, following a vote by the THF board at its meeting in late July.

THF President Sylvia Tillotson said, “While THF is not usually involved in politics, we do support historical preservation in whatever way we can. And because the Foundation has a long association with this project, we were pleased that two of our directors could speak about the work being done by Taylor preservationists.”



## ARCHITECT NICHOLAS CLAYTON LEFT HIS MARK ON TEXAS

Nicholas J. Clayton, an Irish immigrant, was one of the first professional architects to establish a practice in Texas, following a move from Cincinnati to Galveston in 1872. He would eventually design more than 150 buildings, although many were built of wood and no longer exist. Examples of his work in Texas, including St. Mary’s Cathedral in Austin (1884), pictured here, the Bishop’s Palace in Galveston (1886), and the capitol city’s St. Edward’s University Main Building (1907) display Clayton’s devotion to



the Neo-Gothic style or Gothic Revival that defined his body of work.

Learn more about one of the state's most acclaimed architects in an article by Charles Peveto and Ted Eubanks in the next issue of Texas HERITAGE magazine. All members receive a copy of the publication each quarter, and registration is secure and easy on the [THF website](#).



The intricate detail of the east side of St. Mary's Cathedral in downtown Austin is highlighted in this sunrise photograph by Ted Eubanks



## TEXAS ARCHEOLOGIST TO BE HONORED AT OCTOBER EVENT



“He just had to make something happen because he knew what would be lost if he didn’t.” Those are the words Karen Collins used to describe the motivation for what would become her husband Dr. Michael Collins’ life work at the Gault archeological site in

Central Texas.

What Collins and his team found on those 30 acres near Florence would change the state's historical record—and shake up the archeological world. But the journey was filled with personal and financial risk and skepticism from many professional colleagues. Ultimately, Collins' hunches proved right, and the ground at Gault revealed artifacts that have changed theories about the settlement of the New World. It's a modern-day story that is as big and bold as Texas itself.

Help honor Dr. Collins by [purchasing a ticket](#) or [becoming a sponsor](#) of a THF event that will recognize his vision and commitment on Friday, October 28, 2022, at the Sheraton Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center.

Use this button link below to help celebrate this extraordinary Texan.

[Purchase Tickets or Sponsor](#)



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