

HISTORIC WAXAHACHIE, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 22, WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS 75168

No. 2 June 30, 2015



Coming Event
Ice Cream Social
July 12, 6:30-8:30 pm
Home of Jim and Becky
Kauffman

Historic Waxahachie Inc. Receives Funds for a Professional Survey of our National Register District Downtown

I'm pleased to announce that we have received funding from the Texas Historical Commission Texas Preservation Trust Fund for a two-part project for the City of Waxahachie. Historic Waxahachie, Inc., [HWI], has asked Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc., to prepare a survey plan for the City of Waxahachie to be carried out at a later time, and do a pilot survey of historic resources of the downtown area.

The Texas Historical Commission will award Waxahachie \$12,620 to do the projects. Matching funds of \$12,620 will be provided by the City of Waxahachie. The total project will cost \$25, 240.

The preparation of a survey plan for the City of Waxahachie and the Pilot Historical Resources Survey of the downtown area will be done by Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc., a firm specializing in historic preservation planning and management. HHM is a highly regarded firm of historic preservation specialists that conducted surveys in Waxahachie in 1985 and again in 2003. HHM has done work with many prominent historic sites around Texas, and recently completed a survey for the Texas Historical Commission of the historic resources along the route of the Bankhead Highway, which crosses Texas from Texarkana to El Paso. For more information about the company, see <http://hhminc.com>.

Phase I will develop a plan to set priorities and methods for doing "a comprehensive historic resources survey within the current city limits of Waxahachie." Phase I will include a "review of existing historic and/or cultural resource surveys and local histories," "historic map research and GIS [Geographical Information Systems] Analysis." Then, a Historic Resource Survey Plan will be developed.

Phase II will be an intensive survey of the downtown area. The Waxahachie Historic Resources Survey will include historical research about the Ellis County Courthouse Historic District and the downtown area, using local data and various other resource studies on file at the THC and/or TxDOT. Using the context of this research, HHM "will identify themes related to the significance of the area, such as the development of highways like the King of Trails, and will reevaluate the boundaries and periods of significance for potential historic districts" within the downtown area.

They will produce a final report summarizing the results of the survey, updating the documentation of the historic properties downtown, and reviewing eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The report will summarize "trends seen in the survey results, as well as future recommendations, such as updating the nomination for the National Register Ellis County Courthouse Historic District..."

Extensive data, such as an inventory of historic resources, historic photographs and maps, will be collected in indices, and encoded in a database customized specifically for the City of Waxahachie. Data "will be linked with a GIS [Geographic Information Systems]-based program (ArcMap) to allow integration with Waxahachie GIS and/or Ellis CAD information." The database promises to be very user-friendly, and can be used to generate a variety of reports, including Texas Historic Sites forms.

This two-part project, a professional plan for a survey of the historic resources of the entire city, followed by an in-depth survey of the downtown, will prepare us for a phased in-depth survey of the entire city. It is timely to prepare for a survey for Waxahachie because it has been well over 10 years since the last one was done. Historic resources do not stay the same; some are renovated, some are "remuddled," some deteriorate and some disappear through neglect or demolition. The first step of the project, the survey of the downtown will give Historic Waxahachie and the city valuable information about our existing downtown resources, their condition, and priorities for historic preservation, and will highlight resources needing immediate attention that are in danger of being lost. The survey report will be a valuable and up-to-date resource for anyone who is interested in knowing more about the history of Waxahachie.

Nancy Post, HWI President

Historian Ellen Beasley Relocates to Galveston



Waxahachie Daily Light, July 27, 2007 WAXAHACHIE - Waxahachie is full of treasures in plain sight. We live, work and play in them, drive, walk and bicycle past them. Sometimes, we may even stop and look at them. A new book in the works will dust off the priceless gems of architecture and history of many Waxahachie buildings and sites and put them on display for all of the world to see. The currently titled "Waxahachie Architecture Guidebook" is being researched by historians Ellen Beasley and Margaret Culbertson and will be modeled after an architectural guidebook Beasley co-wrote on Galveston to make that town's significant places known and appreciated. The book began as an idea and a phone call from Waxahachie native Dr. Burke Evans, known in his Waxahachie days as Ernest, to Shannon Simpson, director of the Ellis County Museum. "I'm interested in Waxahachie architecture and I was raised in Waxahachie until I was 17," said Evans, retired chief of orthopedics at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. "I think Waxahachie has a beautiful cross-section of architecture."

Since 2007 Ellen Beasley has contributed her time and talents in sharing her research with presentations for the Ellis County Museum, the Rotary Club, the WISD Light House for Learning as well as other organizations interested in history and preservation.

After completing her research from census records, old newspapers, obituaries, mechanics liens, and even graveyards, Ellen moved at the end of May to Galveston. There she will compile and complete the Waxahachie Architectural Guidebook filled with current pictures of commercial, residential, institutional and public buildings that will include a little history about each one.

Ellen was a consultant for HWI where she lent her expertise and passion for preservation at the monthly meetings of the Board members. She was always ready to answer questions and share ideas for projects. She will be greatly missed and HWI wishes her the best and a quick return.

Preservation Texas Welcomes Evan Thompson as New Leader
UT Law graduate brings expertise to Texas statewide non-profit
Saturday, April 05, 2014

Austin – Preservation Texas announced this week that Evan Thompson of Charleston, South Carolina assumed leadership duties as executive director for the Austin-based statewide organization on April 1. Thompson previously served as executive director of the Preservation Society of Charleston and Historic Beaufort Foundation in Beaufort, South Carolina.



Thompson, a graduate of The University of Texas School of Law, brings nationally-recognized leadership to Preservation Texas. In 2011, his innovative advocacy and programming was recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation with its inaugural Aspire Award, recognizing an emerging leader who has made significant achievements in preservation.

“I look forward to working to ensure that historic preservation is widely recognized in Texas as a valuable contributor to the state’s economy,” said Thompson. “Thousands of jobs and nearly one billion dollars of economic activity are tied to historic preservation in Texas.”

Founded in 1997, Preservation Texas is the only private, nonprofit membership organization in Texas that is dedicated to being a full-service statewide preservation organization. It preserves historic resources through education, communication, advocacy, and collaboration.

On May 6, 2015, Evan Thompson accompanied Ellen Beasley on a tour of Waxahachie which culminated at the home of HWI President Nancy Post. Several board members met with him to discuss local preservation issues and recommendations for HWI future plans and goals benefitting the city.

He pointed out some areas to address such as the loss of the historic viaduct, being aware of zoning changes, the city comprehensive plan, and any ordinances that effect preservation, the parks plans and actions and the plans and actions of the Heritage Preservation Commission.

He gave a number of suggestions for the board to implement in long term visions for the future of Waxahachie preservation.



A Big Thank You from the Ellis County Historical Museum to all the HWI members who helped to make the 2015 Gingerbread Trail a success.

Without the homes, there would be no Trail so special thanks to HWI Board members Mendy Autry and Peggy Cole and their families and to member Claudia Morris.

HWI Board member Beth Young served as the Trail Committee chairman and she and her committee worked many hours to make it go smoothly. In addition to the Committee, many members served as hosts and hostesses in the homes and provided Ellis Court House tours both days.

It takes dedicated people to welcome visitors to our city and show what a wonderful place it is.

Historic Waxahachie's Archive of Oral History – did you know it exists?

Over the last 20 years or so, Historic Waxahachie, Inc. (HWI) has recorded interviews with local citizens. These individuals reflect a unique perspective of Waxahachie due to their lifelong presence in Waxahachie or because of their association with historic events or institutions located in or affecting the city. Many of these individuals are no longer living but have shared through these recordings their remembrances of bygone times of which most current residents have no firsthand knowledge. Through the HWI Oral History Project these perspectives and remembrances have not been lost, but have been saved for their historical value and for the enjoyment of people who treasure history.

Some interviews are topical, such as the Cotton Mill, the World Wars, and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Many are individual stories of people who grew up in Waxahachie and provide a picture of the town prior to World War II, including the depression era and a time where the center of ALL activity was the downtown courthouse square. Many of the businesses, personalities, and activities mentioned are long gone, and will never be again. But through audio recordings of people who had these experiences, we can at least get a picture of how things were in an earlier time.

How many of us today know much, if anything, about “the mummy”, Happy Drummond’s hamburgers, “stroll” parties, Lawrence Welk’s visit to Waxahachie, how the Chautauqua was used in its heyday, or life in East Waxahachie in the first half of the last century? Did you know that Waxahachie once had a cotton mill and a CCC camp? These things and others have contributed greatly in making Waxahachie “historic” and the stories about them have been saved for future generations through our oral history recordings and transcripts.

Most of our histories were recorded using cassette tape and transcribed to document form. Those cassette tapes have been converted to digital audio and along with the transcripts are available for viewing or listening on the HWI website (www.historicwaxahachie.com). The quality of the audio is quite good. The transcripts often contain pictures or copies of documents supplied by the interviewee which add to the value of the interview. Go to the website and click on the “ORAL HISTORIES” tab to access the list of interviews available. The printed transcripts are available to the public at Sims Library and the Ellis County Museum.

The HWI Oral History Project is an ongoing endeavor. We are looking for future topics or individuals that would provide additional value to our oral history archive. But not only do we solicit ideas for interview subjects, we can also use your help in the actual interviewing process. It is especially helpful and puts the interviewee at ease if the interview includes someone they know. If you are interested in helping, have an idea for a future interview, or can provide other help with this project, contact John Wedel at 972-923-1897.

Available Oral History Interview Transcripts and Audios

The 1929 Jail and Law Enforcement

- o Sheriff Wayne McCollum*
- o **The Civilian Conservation Corps**
- o Arlin and Betty White*

The Cotton Mill

- o Cotton Mill – From start to demolition
- o Mary Wakefield* - Working in the cotton mill
- o **Downtown Waxahachie**
- o Downtown Waxahachie Business over the Years

Historic Preservation

Chautauqua HWI event April 6, 2005* - History of the local preservation movement

- o Sylvia Smith* - Development of the Ellis County Historic Commission

Living and Growing up in Waxahachie

- o Mattie Borders*
- o Horace Bratcher*
- o D. R. Butler*
- o The Davis Family*
- o Easter Butler Fleming*
- o Joe Jenkins*
- o Sam George*
- o Dorothy Graham*
- o Erma Faye Moore Newton*
- o Larry Stoffregen
- o Mattie Trigg*
- o Hooky and Clarice Wilson

Schools

- o Mary Ellen Dale* - Teaching in Waxahachie
- o Rosabel Herndon

World War I and the Army of Occupation

- o William Claud Bynum*

World War II Experiences

PFC David Reid* Partial Audio Available

*Audio of Interview Available

Information provided on the HWI Website **(www.historicwaxahachie.com)**

Introduction to HWI and its purpose

Membership application form

List of History Preservation Leadership Awards from 2003 to present

List of Historic Preservation Awards from 2009 to present

Oral History transcripts and the actual audio recordings

Descriptions of many things HWI provides the public

Driving, Walking and Courthouse Tours

Researching Your Historic Property brochure (downloadable)

Introduction to the Ellis County Museum

List of board members for each year beginning in 2009 to present

List of current year committees, their chairman and their purpose

Events page to list upcoming events

Links to all HWI Newsletters beginning with the March 2014 newsletter

HWI historic marker application along with program guidelines and instructions

Links to useful research tools and organizational links including:

- Ellis County Genealogy Website
- Ellis County Museum Website
- City of Waxahachie Website
- Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce Website
- Downtown Merchants Association Website
- Information on Tax Incentives for Historic Buildings
- Chautauqua Website
- Hardy-Heck-Moore surveys (1985 and 2004)
- Waxahachie Economic Development Strategic Plan (March 2012)
- Description of the city's C3 Master Plan
- Link to Preservation Texas and the Texas Historical Commission
- Link to the National Preservation Directory

Descriptions of HWI projects such as:

- Mural
- Wyatt and Calaboose Buildings
- Need to add the Caboose (nothing there yet but picture on home page)

Contact page to get more information (email goes to John Hamilton)

WHY JOIN HISTORIC WAXAHACHIE INC?

Do you care about the history of Waxahachie?

Do you want to combat community deterioration?

Do you want to help promote community pride?

Do you LOVE Waxahachie?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, you should become a member of Historic Waxahachie Inc.

Learn more:

www.historicwaxahachie.com



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@historicwaxtx



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#historicwaxahachie

Enter our Instagram photo contest by sharing pictures of why you LOVE Waxahachie. Use **#weloveWaxahachie**