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COPIES

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
2007 Annual Report

You may download an electronic version of this form from the THC web site: www.thc.state.tx.us

Please use this form to report your 2007 county historical commission (CHC) activities to your county commissioners court as well as to the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Information from these forms may be used to report county and statewide historic preservation activities to the state legislature. Please complete this form and return by February 28, 2008. Thank you.

County: Polk Name of CHC chair: Josh David

- 1. How many members currently serve on your commission? 9
2. How many meetings did your commission hold in 2007? 11
3. How do you inform the public about your meetings and activities? Local Newspaper, Polk County Enterprise
4. When were your CHC's bylaws last reviewed and updated? 05
5. How many volunteer preservation hours did your commission members work this year? 375
6. Does your commission sponsor or work with young people in your county? Yes No

If yes, please list and describe such activities:
Museum Tours and Programs
Gifted and Talented Program for History Appreciation
Tours of Old City Cemetery, Downtown Livingston (Main Street)
May Day Festival for students
Pioneer Days for students
Sponsor Poster & Essay Contest

7. Does your county provide funds in its budget for your commission? Yes No
If yes, how much was your allocation in fiscal year 2007?

Does your county provide office space for your commission? Yes No
If the county provides other operating help, please list: Museum Maintenance, Bldg. & Grounds

8. Does your commission have other sources of funding? Yes No

If yes, please briefly describe sources and amounts of such income: Private Endowments, Hotel, Motel Tax, City of Livingston, \$5000 per year

## 9. Please check all that apply to your commission:

- Members attended the 2007 Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Lakeway  
How many? 2
- Member, Preservation Texas
- Member, Texas Historical Foundation
- Member, Texas Association of Museums
- Member, Texas Downtown Association
- Member, Texas Oral History Association
- Member, National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Member, American Association for State and Local History
- Member, Texas State Historical Association
- Member, other historical associations(s): East Texas Historical Association

## 10. Please check all areas in which your CHC worked actively to promote historic preservation:

- Historical marker(s)
- Historic cemetery preservation and/or designation
- History museum(s)
- National Register of Historic Places designation
- Main Street Program – Which town(s)? Livingston
- Certified Local Government – Which city or county? \_\_\_\_\_
- Visionaries in Preservation Program – Which community? \_\_\_\_\_
- Texas Heritage Trails Program – Which trail region? Forest
- Heritage tourism (other than or in addition to Texas Heritage Trails Program)
- Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program
- Military sites
- Advisor to commissioners court on matters related to history and preservation
- Survey/inventory of architectural resources
- Advocacy for the preservation of an endangered historic resource (see also question #12)
- Historic building rehabilitation
- Protection of archeological resources
- Texas Archeological Stewardship Network
- Oral history
- Archives
- School/educational programs
- Training workshops
- Local newspaper column
- Local history publication (CHC newsletter, county history book, brochures, etc.)
- Historical observances (check all that apply):
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County/city birthdays      | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's History Month          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Preservation Week | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black History Month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Archeology Month                | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic Heritage Month        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____            |   |

11. Does your CHC maintain an inventory of historic properties in your county?  Yes  No

If yes, when was the inventory last updated? 07

12. Please list any significant historic properties or sites (officially designated or not) in your county that are threatened or endangered, damaged or destroyed. If possible, provide photographs, address and a brief description of the threat or damage, as well as information regarding any ongoing local efforts to preserve the site(s).

County Courthouse Annex, 1905, National Register of Historic Places  
Old School Auditorium, Church Street Campus 1930's  
Greer Mercantile Building 1914 & Ford Building, South side of Courthouse - Roofs leaking

13. Please provide a brief narrative description of your CHC's successes over the past year, as well as its not-so-successful activities. (See also **Distinguished Service Award** information following question #16 on this form.) In particular, we would like to know about any specific plans for or programs dealing with diversity, both in terms of CHC membership and preservation activities in your county.

When Enbridge Pipeline of East Texas proposed to destroy a beautiful grove of oak trees known to be over 175 years old and located on the old Liberty-Nacogdoches Road, Commission member and Museum Curator, Wanda Bobinger, sprang into action.

Photographs of the trees were taken to the annual Preservation Conference at Lakeway and shown to Larry Oaks who asked Derek Satchell to review the project.

The trees on the historic "Colita's Trace" were determined by THC to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. We plan to work with the property owners in 2008 to mark and designate the trees.

Weekly newspaper articles "From The Archives" written by W. Bobinger, Curator, Polk County Museum.

Five new historical markers approved and new cemetery designations.

Replacement of the William Pettus Hobby marker.

Assisted with applications for Courthouse grant funds.

14. Please tell us about any significant preservation projects in your county, either currently underway or planned for the coming year.

1) The county will begin construction of a new Judicial Center on the south side of the 1923 historic Courthouse. Two older buildings (1914 Greer Mecantile) will undergo restoration to be utilized.

2) Livingston will celebrate 100 years of education in April with a State marker dedication planned as well as day long activities. It is hoped that this will provide interest in the preservation of the old endangered high school auditorium.

3) Ongoing preservation of the historical integrity of the Old City Cemetery.

4) Three more buildings in downtown have undergone restoration. (Main Street).

15. Please tell us about your efforts to recruit a diverse membership (age, race, gender, etc.) for your commission and how you are addressing issues of diversity in historic preservation in your county.

Participated in Multi-Cultural Festival held on Martin Luthur King's birthday.

Our Historical Commission is made up of young and older, male and female members.

16. Please tell us how the THC can be of greater assistance to you in carrying out your local preservation activities.

Continue to provide opportunity for counties to get grant funds until all Texas Courthouses can be restored.



**Distinguished Service Award – PLEASE NOTE**

If you wish for your CHC to be considered for Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recognition, please check the box above and provide details about your calendar year 2007 successes and accomplishments. Enclose a brief summary/description of each project, and enclose copies of supporting documentation if applicable. Recommendations for DSA recognition will be based on an overall evaluation of each CHC's achievements in historic preservation activities and programs for the year.

DSA recipients will be notified in advance and will be recognized at the opening session of the Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Corpus Christi in May 2008.

**Deadline for submission is February 28, 2008, along with this Annual Report.**



Name of person completing this report: Wanda L. Bobinger

Mailing address: 514 W. Mill Street

City:Livingston Zip:77351

Daytime phone (with area code): 936-327-8192

Email address: museum@livingston.net

CHC web site address: www.livingston.net/museum

If the THC staff can provide you with any additional information or assistance, please call 512/463-5853 or email [history@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:history@thc.state.tx.us). Thank you.

Please return by February 28, 2008, to:

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Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
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*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*