



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION®

SOUTHWEST PRESERVATION NEWS

A Newsletter from the National Trust's Southwest Office

June 2007

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Southwest Office

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Sandra Smith, Director, Villa Finale

Calendar:

June

22-23 Daniel in Clinton & Duncan,
Oklahoma

July

11-13 Daniel in Austin, Texas

August

14-15 Denise in Jasper County, Texas
25 Daniel in Austin, Texas

Southwest Advisors

AR: Cheri Nichols, Debbie Shea

NM: Mary Jane Garcia, Ernest Ortega

OK: John Mabrey, Mary Ellen Meredith

TX: Sam Collins, Marcel Quimby

Statewides

[Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas](#)
[New Mexico Heritage Preservation Alliance](#)
[Preservation Oklahoma](#)
[Preservation Texas](#)

Main Street

[Main Street Arkansas](#)
[New Mexico Main Street](#)
[Oklahoma Main Street](#)
[Texas Main Street](#)

Texas Rosenwald School To Open as Museum

For nearly 50 years, travelers driving down Highway 35 in East Columbia, TX., just south of Houston, whizzed by a national treasure without knowing it.

In fact, the wood barn, used to store hay for decades, is a Rosenwald School built in 1921. This spring, workers are finishing its \$80,000 restoration.

Five years ago, Columbia Historical Museum President Emma Womack learned from a local historian that the hay barn

on Highway 35 was in fact an old Rosenwald School--one of 5,300 built in 15 southern states between

1917 and 1932 as part of an initiative by Sears, Roebuck & Co. President Julius Rosenwald and black educator Booker T. Washington to build schools in the rural south for black students.

Rosenwald Schools were hubs of rural African American life in the 1930s and 40s throughout the South. So few have survived that in 2002 the National Trust for Historic Preservation put them on the list of the country's *11 Most Endangered Historic Places* and soon after launched the *Rosenwald Initiative* to establish a unified effort to uncover and restore the forgotten buildings.

In mid-June, the relocated, restored East Columbia School will open to the public as a permanent, walk-in exhibit at the

Columbia Historical Museum.

The majority of the funding for the project has come from local industries and organizations, including BASF Corp., Dow Chemical Co., and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Local residents who attended the East Columbia School donated the original teacher's chair and three desks and have formed an alumni association. They have also been interviewed several times by

Gensler Inc., the Houston-based architectural firm that has assisted Bill Womack with the restoration, so that the school is as authentic as possible.

"We want to make it so that it matches the building as it was first constructed," Bill Womack says.



The school closed in 1949 when its students transferred to West Columbia. It was sold

and moved to the pasture, where it was forgotten.

Emma Womack and Morris Richardson, the historian, convinced the owners to donate it to the museum. In 2004, with money from the county, they were able to move it from its East Columbia location to its current location on a plot of land behind the museum, which is in West Columbia.

"We are terribly excited to have it here with us," Emma Womack says.

From Preservation Online: The magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation http://www.nationaltrust.org/Magazine/archives/arc_news_2007/032107.htm

A True Preservation Happy Ending

"WE'RE COMPLETING OUR JOURNEY from the pit to the palace," says Samuel Collins III (Southwest Office National Trust Advisor).

After years of sacrifice, he and his wife, Doris, are preparing to move into an historic estate in Hitchcock, Texas.

Once

owned by Confederate Army lieutenant and horticulturist Henry Martyn Stringfellow, their new 12-room house has four bedrooms and sits on 9 1/2 acres--which should be plenty of room for the couple and their three kids: Torin, 11; Dallas, 9; and Joseph, 7.

So how Sam and Doris Collins bought the property, which wasn't for sale, and have started to turn it into a home for their children is 'divinely orchestrated,' he said.

One day, while driving down state Highway 6, Collins said that he stopped to read the historical marker at the entrance to Stringfellow. Growing up in Hitchcock in the 1970s and 1980s, he remembered the estate and private driveway when he was younger, but was never interested in seeing it.

In June 2004, Sam finally got the courage to drive onto the property. He said he knew then that this was where he wanted to plant his family's roots.

Although the 125-year-old house was still standing, restorations

were needed outside and inside the residence. Weeds and trees needed to be cut. Work had to be done before the home was livable for three kids and two adults.



Before



After



JoAnn Robinson, president of the Hitchcock Heritage Society, said that the organization was ready to offer its support to

the Collins family and was glad to see a "hometown guy" buy it.

Robinson said that the group was concerned that developers would buy the land and sell it off.

"The family that had it didn't really have much to say about what happened to it", she said. "But we're very happy that someone bought the house and would restore it".

Last summer, while the Collins' 125-year-old home was being renovated, they opened the estate for a weekend of community events to mark June 19 or Juneteenth, the day in 1865 that slaves in Texas learned they were free.

On Saturday, June 16th they did it again with more than 200 people from several coastal communities joining in the celebration.

Please follow the link below to see what you missed: <http://www.guidrynews.com/story.aspx?id=1000002932>



Oklahoma City Icons are Back

When the Colcord was built in 1910, it was the city's first skyscraper. The Skirvin was built one year later; it was the city's most prestigious hotel until its demise in the 1980s.

Both the Colcord and the Skirvin have been painstakingly renovated and have been receiving guests once again.

In April the National Trust was happy to announce the Skirvin Hotel and Concord Hotel as two of the newest members of the National Trust Historic Hotels of America program.

A program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Hotels of America is a membership-based marketing association. To qualify for membership, hotels must be at least 50 years old, listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or recognized locally as hav-

ing historic significance. Established in 1989 with 32 original hotel members, Historic Hotels of America recognizes and promotes these hotels for their historic integrity, architectural quality and outstanding preservation efforts made by owners and managers.

<http://www.historichotels.org/>



Rural Heritage Development Initiative



Arkansas Delta RHDI Transitions into Product and Program Development in Year Two of National Pilot Program

The Arkansas Delta Rural Heritage Development Initiative (RHDI) is moving full steam ahead in its second year (of three) focusing on tangible products and visible program development. Early efforts include the successful launch of the new regional image and brand, Arkansas Delta: Soil and Soul, with a Delta-wide media blitz in early May. Communities and organizations across the region are adopting the image and adding all or parts of it to their publications, logos, websites, signage, etc. As more and more join the effort, we continue to “connect the dots” up and down the region and begin defining the Arkansas Delta as a distinct destination with a unique and significant heritage. Several new brochures and maps directing visitors throughout the Delta and highlighting the hidden treasures of our natural and cultural landscape will debut this summer, and don’t miss our two new websites, www.arkansasdeltabyways.com and www.arkansasdelta.org.

It is hard to keep up with the many ongoing preservation projects in the 15-county Arkansas Delta. Mississippi County is home to several with movement proceeding on the creation of the Delta Gateway Museum to be housed in the historic Kress Building on Main Street in downtown Blytheville. Just blocks away, restoration work is underway on the exterior of the Greyhound Bus Station as we get a step closer to opening the city’s official visitors’ center. And great news from Dyess— the city has purchased the Dyess Colony Administration Building and has received emergency intervention funds from the Clarice Hunter fund for Arkansas to begin stabilization of this incredible structure. Plans for reuse include housing city offices, the Dyess Public Library and a museum dedicated to the interpretation of both the Dyess Colony and its most famous resident, Johnny Cash.

The NTHP’s Southwest Office was also critical to the preservation of the Pickens Baptist Church structure on the grounds of the Desha County Museum in Dumas. Knocked off its foundation and damaged by the February 2007 tornado that ravaged the town, the church building has been lifted and placed on new piers and repairs have begun. The structure is one of several locations in Dumas to be developed as the Arkansas Gospel Institute and a key site on the RHDI’s Arkansas Delta Music Trail for its association with the rich gospel music heritage in the Delta.

National Historic Landmark Photo Contest

National Historic Landmark Photo Contest Entries are now being accepted for *Imaging Our Heritage*, the 8th annual National Historic Landmarks Photo Contest. These landmarks can be actual sites where significant historic events occurred, places where prominent Americans lived or worked, as well as sites that represent the ideas that shaped the nation.

Print and digital formats will be accepted and must be post-marked or e-mailed by June 30, 2007. Winners will be announced in September and the top photos will be compiled into a 2008 calendar.

Please visit <http://www.nps.gov/nero/nhlphoto/> for official entry rules and form and also to view winning photos from previous years. To learn more about National Historic Landmarks, or to search for a landmark near you, please visit <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/>

For questions and comments, please contact Lisa Kolakowsky, National Park Service, Northeast Region, at lisa_kolakowsky@nps.gov or (215) 597-7946.

Book Spotlight

Preserving Resources from the Recent Past

Love them or hate them, there’s no question that “modern” buildings of the post-war era (1940s to ’60s) transformed cities, towns, suburbs, and landscapes throughout the country.

Preserving Resources from the Recent Past, a new Preservation Book by Jeanne Lambin, looks at the historic context of the post-war building boom, the special challenges of preserving this legacy, and some case studies of community successes.

\$8.00 plus shipping & handling
\$6.00 plus shipping & handling for Forum and Main Street members
\$7.20 for members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Order no. 2B23

Contact:
Wendy Ossoinig at
wendy_ossoinig@nthp.org
for ordering information

Identify this Historic Structure...



Keep up with the Southwest Office!

Sign up to receive our e-letter send an email to swro@nthp.org OR Visit our website: www.nationaltrust.org/southwest/index.html

2007

11 Most Endangered

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, N. Mex. --

The earliest Euro-American trade route in the United States, the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, known for its austere physical beauty, rural solitude and remote isolation, is threatened by a \$225 million commercial Spaceport, a venture planned adjacent to one of the most pristine and sacred segments of the Trail.



How you can make a difference:

- Visit the [El Camino Real International Heritage Center](#)
- Get involved in the [Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS) public hearings

Historic Route 66 Motels, Ill. To Calif. --



Affectionately called "The Mother Road," Route 66 is known for quirky roadside attractions and unique mom-and-pop motels, constructed between the late 1920 and late 1950s and often clad in neon. In recent years, Route 66 motels in hot real-estate markets have been torn down at record rates, while in cold real-estate markets, motels languish and are being reclaimed by the forces of nature.

How you can make a difference:

- Get off the Interstate and stay in a [vintage Route 66 motel](#).
- Learn more about the [Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program](#).
- If you see a neglected Route 66 motel, [contact local official](#) about what might be done to encourage continued or adaptive use of the motel.

[Support our efforts](#) to save these 11 Most Endangered sites and others like them throughout the country.



Rally with likeminded preservation advocates to celebrate triumphs, regroup after loss, pat one another on the back, reaffirm your commitment and plan the strategy for your next steps.

The conference brings together experts and practitioners in the diverse specialties that contribute to preservation—architecture and cultural landscapes, historic sites and heritage tourism, heritage education, smart growth and regional planning, downtown revitalization, neighborhood revitalization and housing, organizational management, public policy, real estate development, and more. And it pulls all these topics together in the context of a national advocacy movement. No other national conference covers so much.

By registering before July 31, you can save up to \$175.

<http://www.nthpconference.org/>

Funding Opportunities...

As the **federal government** improves its electronic grants procedures, the www.grants.gov site gets more useful. Check out the links, and consider signing up for the "Receive Grant Opportunity Notification" option.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP), has grant programs that preserve the state's historic resources.

For more information:

www.arkansaspreservation.org/preservation-services/grant-programs/

Heritage Tourism Grants

Government and nonprofit organizations within active Texas Heritage Trails Program regions can apply for matching grants when funds are available.

For more information:

www.thc.state.tx.us/grantsincent/grah.html

Tribal Preservation Programs

To determine what financial assistance is available from an Indian tribe, contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or officials identified in the National Park Service Native American Consultation Database at <http://www.nps.gov/history/ailo/ailohome.htm>

Local Preservation Programs

To determine what financial assistance is available from a local government, contact the historic preservation commission or agency, if one exists. Otherwise, check with the planning agency, community development agency, or other appropriate branch of local government. For contact information for CLGs, visit

http://www.achp.gov/docs/BRAC/Historic_Preservation_Assistance_Programs-

Donate to the National Trust Southwest Office

As the only private, national organization dedicated to historic preservation, the National Trust relies on contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations. With your donation you'll be joining thousands of preservationists who enable our staff to save historic places and revitalize communities.

Gifts to the National Trust are tax-deductible in accordance with the law.

For more information contact:

Wendy Ossoinig at

wendy_ossoinig@nthp.org

June Grants Announced

ARKANSAS

\$2,500 (Arkansas Fund/Hughes Fund) to **Main Street Helena** to secure architectural and engineering plans and a phase one environmental study for the eventual rehabilitation of the **Boston Store Building**. (1904)

OKLAHOMA

\$2,500 (Mayo Fund) to the **McAlester**

Scottish Rite Masons for a master plan that will



provide guidance for the **McAlester Masonic Center** by setting priorities, describing deficiencies, suggesting methods of repair along with materials which will keep the restoration within historic preservation guidelines. (1930, NR)

\$3,500 (Mayo Fund) to the **Poteau Main Street Matters, Inc.** for a preservation architect who will prepare a conditions assessment and restoration plan for the **Lowery Hotel**. (1922)

NEW MEXICO

\$2,000 (New Mexico Fund) to **The Couse Foundation** in Taos, NM for elevation drawings of the **E.I. Couse**

Home and studio and related buildings to



create a plan for future preservation needs and potential adaptive uses of the structures. (1830-1936, NR)

\$7,500 (Favrot Fund) to the **Ohkay Owingeh Housing Authority** for a **rehabilitation Plan for Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Phase 3** using both traditional and computer techniques to develop a master plan for its rehabilitation. (1540, NR)

TEXAS

\$4,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **Historic Bridge Foundation** for a **web enhancement program** that will redesign the home page to provide the information that will make the site more "user friendly" and provide weekly updates to provide timely information.



\$2,500 (Fondren Fund) to the **City of Palestine, Texas** for a Preservation Workshop that will educate citizens, tenants, and property owners about historic preservation.

\$5,000 (Fondren Fund) to the **First Presbyterian Church of Galveston, Texas** for a Stained Glass Assessment. The assessment

will consist of a detailed project description condition analysis and report, restoration recommendations, prioritization of needs, timetable for restoration, list of recommended contractors, and cost estimates of the stained glass in the Presbyterian Church. (1873, NR)



\$2,700 (Fondren Fund) to the **Texas Downtown Association** to underwrite a keynote speaker and workshop speaker for the **Texas Downtown Association/Texas Main Street Annual Conference**.

\$4,462 (Fondren Fund/Hughes Fund) to the **Rufus F. Hardin, Inc.**

in Brown Wood, TX to assist in acquiring supervisory architectural services for full restoration of the **Rufus F. Hardin Museum**. (1917, NR)



What's Happening in the Southwest

ARKANSAS

LITTLE ROCK—Main Street Arkansas will present the findings of its **"First Impressions" assessment of Heber Springs** at 6:15 p.m. on *Tuesday, June 26*, at Heber Springs City Hall at 1001 W. Main St., For more information contact: Mary-Margaret Couch at (501) 258-6632 or at mmcouch@sbcglobal.net, or contact Tyson at (501) 324-9880 or cary@arkansasheritage.org.



NEW MEXICO

Pecos Conference Reception/Santa Fe
Wednesday, August 8th
For more information contact: 505-476-1250 or penny.teehee@state.nm.us



OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Indian Nations Pow Wow
August 4th - 6th
Traditional Native American dancers in



all their regalia, along with other entertainment. For more information: http://www.elreno.org/calendar/event_view.asp?eventid=612

TEXAS

Summer Movie Series
July 8th
SBC Theatre, Mayborn Museum Complex
For more information: Sherri Jurls /254-710-1108 sherri_jurls@baylor.edu



Southwest Office Interventions continued

The **Robertson County Historical Commission** in Calvert, TX was awarded \$2,000 for emergency foundation repairs for the **Katy Hamman Stricker Library**

(c. 1909, NR). Due to years of soil buildup around the perimeter the building

experienced severe drainage issues that allowed rain water to flow through and under the building.



The **City of Dyess, AR** received a grant of \$1,000 for an emergency stabilization Report for the **Dyess Colony Administration Building**. The Dyess Colony Administration Building (1934, NR) has been vacant since the early 1990's, and has now benefited from the preservation-focus of the stabilization assessment and

report. Plans for reuse include housing city offices, a public library and interpretive space to highlight Dyess Colony history and its most famous resident, a young Johnny Cash.

The **San Antonio Conservation Society** will use \$10,000 for documentation of **85 Historic Farms and Ranches in Bexar County**. Funding will help survey and list historic farm and ranch complexes on the National Register.

The **City of Muskogee, OK** was awarded \$1,500 for emergency stabilization of the **Severs Block**. Emergency stabilization



was needed for the Severs Block after a fire damaged the building.

The City of Muskogee was forced to close the surrounding streets and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation would not re-open the street until shoring to the structure was done.

Cornerstones Community Partnerships Three traditional adobe basal work-shops

were conducted to help local contractors and residents in Hatch, NM learn how to repair homes heavily damaged by floodwaters. A **\$6,000** grant helped support these efforts and purchase replacement adobe bricks. Most of the homes in the flooded area of Hatch, NM are constructed of sun-dried clay and sand.



The Green Revolution

Buildings are universal and shelter virtually every aspect of our lives—we work, live, learn, govern, heal, worship, and play in buildings. As a result, buildings have a significant impact on energy use and the environment. According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, homes and commercial buildings use 71% of the electricity in the United States and this number will rise to 75% by 2025. Opportunities abound for reducing the enormous amount of energy consumed by buildings. Below are a few ways you can participate in the green revolution. And remember, “The greenest building is an existing building.”

- 1. Change All Your Light Bulbs to CFLs** Replacing just one regular incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb will save 150 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. www.energyfederation.org/consumer
- 2. Use Less Hot Water** Install low flow shower heads, and do your wash in cold or warm water instead of hot. Think twice the next time you go to turn on the hot water.
- 3. Adjust Thermostats** In any building space where you do not have carefully monitored temperatures for collections (etc), move the thermostat down just 2 degrees in the winter and up 2 degrees in the summer.
- 4. Reduce Architectural Lighting** This lighting adds thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year to the environment. Turning the lighting off just one night a week will make a huge impact.
- 5. Turn off Electrical Devices** Turning off your computers, lights, air conditioning when you're not using them will save thousands of pounds of carbon dioxide a year.
- 6. Buy Energy Star Appliances** Look for the Energy Star label on new appliances, light bulbs and equipment models when making new purchases. www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product
- 7. Minimize Use of Equipment** Try not to use large equipment during the peak hours of 3pm to 7pm.
- 8. Switch to Green Power** The Green Power Network is a good place to start to figure out what's available. www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying_power.shtml