

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: WILLIAMSON Name of CHC chair: Bob Brinkman

1. How many members currently serve on your commission? 27
2. How many meetings did your commission hold in 2007? 10, in Georgetown, Walburg and Weir
3. How do you inform the public about your meetings and activities? Meetings posted publicly at the county clerk's office, and our new web site (<http://www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/>)
4. When were your CHC's bylaws last reviewed and updated? Oct 2005
(Please provide a current copy to the THC.)
5. How many volunteer preservation hours did your commission members work this year? 1200, including David Hollingsworth 400, Wayne Ware 150, Chris Dyer 80, George Meyer 70,
6. Does your commission sponsor or work with young people in your county? Yes No

If yes, please list and describe such activities: Commission members made presentations to students in Florence and Georgetown
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: The CHC office and Williamson County Historical Museum are both housed in the county-owned historic Farmers State Bank building at 716 S. Austin Avenue in Georgetown on the courthouse square. The county also provides utilities and other costs.
8. Does your commission have other sources of funding? Yes No

If yes, please briefly describe sources and amounts of such income: Sale of county history books, cemetery maps, and other items through the Williamson County Historical Museum gift shop.

9. Please check all that apply to your commission:

- Members attended the 2007 Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Lakeway
How many? 1
- 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): Texas Archeological Society, Texas Old Missions and Forts Restoration 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)? Georgetown, Taylor
- Certified Local Government – Which city or county? Cedar Park, Georgetown, Round Rock
- Visionaries in Preservation Program – Which community? _____
- Texas Heritage Trails Program – Which trail region? Brazos, Hill Country
- 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 type="checkbox"/> National Preservation Week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black History Month
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Texas Archeology Month	<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic Heritage Month
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): <u>Historical marker dedications, museum exhibits</u>	

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

If yes, when was the inventory last updated? 2000

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).

The Bryson Homestead (Pioneer's House, RTHL 1970) has been encroached upon by construction of the toll road 183A. The Williamson CHC has been actively involved in negotiations to document and protect the rural homestead and the landscape. The CHC is also involved with early coordination for other new construction projects in the county, including new roads, transmission power lines and wastewater treatment plants. The CHC has a standing infrastructure committee to coordinate these projects, with secretary David Hollingsworth as chair.

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.

In the past year, the Williamson CHC has been active in helping secure state historical designations, including Official Texas Historical Markers (Corn Hill, Daniel Harrison, St. John Lutheran Church of Thrall, and a replacement marker for Mankins Crossing), and Historic Texas Cemeteries (Easley-Sloan, Oxley and Rocky Hollow). Four marker applications were submitted for 2008 (Connell Cemetery, Granite Industry in the 1880s, Rocky Hollow Cemetery, and St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Georgetown). The CHC hosted the THC for an endangered cemetery statewide initiative launch in October at Union Hill Cemetery. The ensuing newspaper, radio and television coverage has resulted in several inquiries and new volunteers willing to document, preserve and restore Williamson County cemeteries. The Williamson CHC has been more successful this past year than in previous years in being a consulting party for new development in the county, and is becoming known for guidance and expertise for historic resources.

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

The CHC plans to continue its focus on endangered cemeteries, historic schools, oral histories, and underdocumented resources.

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.

The Williamson CHC membership is well divided by gender, and includes members from most cities and communities in the county. We continue to seek more diverse membership and interaction with residents of all ages and ethnicities. Even when such diversity is not reflected in the membership, we strive to represent different viewpoints in local history, archives, exhibits in the county museum and other resources.

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

The Williamson CHC continues to utilize the guidance of the THC in local history programs, especially regarding cemeteries, museums, historical markers, CLG and Main Street.



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.



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CHC web site address: http://www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/

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. Thank you.

Please return by February 28, 2008, to:



Texas Historical Commission
History Programs Division
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