NASA: Modifications Threaten Integrity

"Houston...this is tranquility base." With these words, Americans bore witness to one of this nation's most historic moments—the successful landing on the moon.

The 1960s and early 1970s were an exciting time for the American space program. The Apollo flights were stealing all the headlines, and Americans were united in their support of space exploration. Houston, as the control center for all lunar missions, was in the midst of the national fervor. A whole country focused attention on that city and the historic events that were making it famous.

The mid 1970s brought changes to the space program, however. Space travel was considered among the most historically significant structures not just in this country but in the entire world.

The THC hopes to work with NASA officials to see that federal regulations are protecting the historical significance of this facility as reflected in its original design, said Stan Graves, AIA, director of the THC's Division of Architecture. "Along with launch complex 39 at the Kennedy Space Center, the Mission Control Center most fully symbolizes this nation's space accomplishments...it is considered among the most historically significant structures not just in this country but in the entire world."

NASA officials in Houston contacted the Texas Historical Commission about proposed changes to mission control. It was the first meeting between NASA and the THC since the designation of the sites as NHLs in 1985.

"During the course of our tours and discussions, it became apparent that major modifications are being planned for the mission operations wing of the Mission Control Center, and little, if any, consideration appears to have been given to protecting the historical significance of this facility as reflected in its original design," said Gravens, AIA, director of the THC's Division of Architecture.

...continues on page 2

Deadlines Near for Awards

Deadlines are approaching for various Texas Historical Commission awards. County Historical Commission members and other interested readers should note the following dates:

December 31: Deadline for T.R. Fehrenbach Publications Contest nominations.

January 1: Deadline for Museum Awards nominations.

January 31: Deadline for these county award nominations:

- Distinguished Service Award
- Award of Merit
- Best Program of Work
- Best County Historical Commission Newsletter
- Outstanding Chairman of a County Historical Commission
- Outstanding Committee Chairman of a County Historical Commission
- Outstanding Member of a County Historical Commission

February 28: Deadline for Ruth Lester Award nominations.

February 28: Deadline for Texas Award for the Preservation of Historic Architecture nominations.

February 28: Deadline for John and Joyce Karr Award nominations.

Nominations are urged to submit all nominations as early as possible to assist the THC in the judging process prior to the April preservation conference, where award winners will be recognized.

End of story: For more information on awards criteria, contact the THC, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711, 512-463-6100

THC Seeks Sites for '88

Would your community or preservation group like to host a regional preservation workshop in 1988?

The Texas Historical Commission, Preservation Texas, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Texas/New Mexico field office in Fort Worth will sponsor a series of 12 preservation workshops across the state next year.

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Public Support May Restore Federal Grants

The Texas Historical Commission is conducting a needs assessment project that, if successful, could lead to the return of an important federal assistance program.

The federal development grant program, which has not been available since 1983, has benefited Texas properties in the past by providing assistance with planning or construction projects. If reactivated, the grant program could once again aid public or privately owned historic buildings across the state.

Preservationists or property owners interested in this type of assistance are encouraged to request and fill out a simple form available from the THC's Division of Architecture. All forms must be returned to THC offices by December 15. Prompt response is vital to the success of this effort.

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On Gutters & Downspouts...

Throughout the course of this series, we have discussed maintenance concerns relating to the greatest preservation threat of all—moisture penetration. Numerous recommendations have been presented to combat the damaging and even disastrous effect of water on historic building fabric. Remaining to be examined, however, are the issues of roof guttering and downspout drainage.

Historically, a significant number of pitched roof buildings in Texas were equipped with roof gutters constructed from wood or a variety of metal materials. Most recently, the popularity of such devices has increased because they keep water from falling on walls and porch surfaces. Gutter designs vary, but downspouts, especially leader head elements, are often viewed as important historic building details and should be carefully preserved.

Gutters and downspouts, although they are a building's strongest line of defense against water runoff, can cause serious problems if allowed to deteriorate. Gutter and downspout failure occurs when debris (such as leaves and dirt) restrict the necessary flow of water through a gutter system. Built-in or cove trough gutters, while aesthetically advantageous, are particularly prone to clogging and overflows, which could cause interior walls and ceiling damage.

On the northern part of the state, flat-roofed buildings, generally encompassed by parapet walls, should be maintained in a similar fashion. Emergency overflow scuppers associated with flat-roofed buildings require periodic inspection to ensure survivability. Internal (hoden in wall cavity) downspouts need more attentive maintenance following extended drying periods of either artificial ice and snow or prolonged drought.

Gutters and downspouts should be inspected each autumn for debris deposits. They should be kept clean to prevent water ponding and gutter deterioration. Once clear of debris, gutters should be flushed with a garden hose to identify leaks that could lead to more serious material deterioration. Should leaks be discovered, immediate steps should be taken to repair or material patch affected areas (be careful to match original material type).

Gutter and roof gutter anchorage devices should be conducted regularly to ensure gutter system integrity and properly sloping flow lines. Extra careful gutter anchorage inspection should follow repair of leakage conditions (common for most of the state's far west).

With roof gutters again seasonally serviced and the historic home or business effectively weathered through the winter, it should feel good to be able to look forward to the holidays. Be assured that your time and money have been well-invested.
**Festivities Enliven Holidays**

During the holiday season, many traditional festivities are scheduled across the state. A sampling of upcoming activities is listed below.

**AUSTIN—Christmas at the French Legation**, December 6. A property of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the French Legation is a unique cultural legacy from the era of the Texas Republic. For information, contact John Cleary, 512/478-1177.

**BRENHAM—Downtown Christmas Stroll**, December 3. Take a stroll down festively decorated historic Brenham. Featuring tours of the historic homes, the stroll is from Santa, and free wassail in all downtown shops. Free admission. Call 409/356-4477.

**CORPUS CHRISTI—Christmas Floral Designers’ Showcase**, December 5, 12, 13. A project of the Corpus Christi Area Chamber of Commerce, the showcase features arts and crafts, music, and food. For information, call 512/997-6523.

**GALVESTON—Dickens on the Strand**, December 5-6. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Strand’s celebration of Christmas, which is known as “the most Victorian town in the United States.” The festivities will include the Strand’s annual Dickens on the Strand parade and local performers. For information, call the Galveston County Historical Foundation, 201 Strand, Galveston, TX 77550.

**GOLIAD—Christmas in Goliad**, December 5. Sponsored by the Goliad County Historical Commission, this event will include arts and crafts, an old-fashioned sleigh ride, Christmas caroling, and local performers. For information, contact the Goliad Visitor Center at 817-645-2680.

**GRANBURY—Granbury Christmas Candlelight Tour**, December 5. The event includes a walking and driving tour of Granbury’s finest 19th-century homes. For ticket information, contact the Granbury Visitor Center at 817/573-5458.

**HOUSTON—Candlelight Tour**, December 10-12. This year marks the 25th annual tour hosted by the Harris County Heritage Society. Five homes and a church will be decorated to reflect early Texas celebrations. A historical toys collection will be on display at the Museum of Texas History. This event is free to the public. For information, call 713/759-9271.

**JEFFERSON—Jefferson Christmas Candlelight Tour**, December 4. The halls of four historic homes will be decorated with traditional decorations during this sixth annual event. The tour will feature diverse styles of architecture and a showcase of trimmings for the holiday season. An added attraction will be Christmas music presented by a different church each evening, ending in the United Methodist Church. For information, contact Dorothy Sain, 214/665-8390.

**LAMPSAS—The Carol of Lights**, December 4. A memorable event with caroling parading on music and on the bandstand during this annual event. Other activities will include a live nativity scene. Call 512/556-3641.

**MARSHALL—Ghosts of Christmas Past Home Tour**, November 27-28. Two homes, featuring four rooms each, will be available. A tea will be offered. For information, call 903/756-7756.

**MONTGOMERY—Christmas in Old Montgomery**, December 12. This tenth annual tour of century-old homes, antiques stores, and two old churches will commemorate the 150th birthday of the community. For information, call Reba Laughter, 409/597-3604.

**RAYNE—Christmas Candlelight Tour**, December 5-7. Hosted by the Fort Bend County Museum, the festivities will include a tour of the John M. Moore House, which is designated a National Historic Landmark. For ticket information, call Cathy Turton, 713/342-6478.

**SALADO—Salado’s Country Christmas Weekend**, December 4-6. The village will be aglow with luminarias for this event, which will feature a historic home tour, an antique quilt show, and a visit from Santa. For ticket information, call 817/947-8846.

**TAYLOR—Taylor Parade of Lights**, December 3. This annual parade kicks off local Christmas festivities. All parade entries will be lit in some way, and many will feature lights that are designed specifically for the event. For information, call 512/352-6364.

**WACO—Christmas on the Brazos**, December 5-6. Already in its eighth year, the highlight of this event will be a tour of Waco’s stately museum houses, which will be decorated for the holiday season. Also included in the celebration is the famous Christmas Bazaar, which will feature crafts, food, and authentic stagecoach rides. For ticket information, call 817/753-5166.

**TAC Resolves Pending Issues**

Members of the Texas Antiquities Commission met in September to resolve several pending issues:

- Archeological sites in Travis, Comal, Harris, and Galveston counties were nominated for State Archeological Landscape status.
- Armour and Swift Plaza in Fort Worth were designated as a State Archeological Landmark (SAL). The plaza is located in the middle of the Cowtown National Register district.
- The Texas Army National Guard’s designee of the Trinity and Brazos Valley Railroad Depot in Cleburne. The building, which had suffered extensive fire damage in 1986 and wind damage in 1987, had become a safety hazard. The building
- A memorandum of agreement was reached between the TAC and the Dallas Landmark Commission to work together to preserve and protect SALs in the Dallas area.
- The committee’s sub-committee on Native American heritage represented the TAC in new conversations coming close to producing rules and regulations on the curation of artifacts recovered under TAC permits. A public hearing on the proposed rule was held sometime in 1988.
- TAC members accepted the staff’s fiscal year 1988 operating budget.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for November 13 in Austin.

**STATE REP. Glen A. Repp of Duncanville recently joined preservationists in the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker for Davy’s Ferry in Dallas County. Engraved in 1854 by Civil War veteran Alonzo Davy, the ferry served as an important route for citizens living on both sides of the Trinity River. Others attending the ceremony were (l-r) Frances James, vice-chairman, Dallas County Historical Commission; and Betty Agee, chairman.**

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

If private funding is approved, the south side of Elks Island in New York will be renovated for use as a conference/learning center, according to officials at the National Endowment for the Arts. The project is part of the NEA’s effort to increase public support for the arts. For information, contact the National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, DC 20506.
Women’s Week Designated

In tribute to those women who have made significant but often unrecognized contributions to this state, Gov. Bill Clements has declared November 9-13 as "Women in Texas Week."

In celebration of the event, special exhibits will be on display at the Capitol Building in Austin throughout the week. One exhibit, provided by the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, will illustrate the historical contributions of Texas women, and another will recognize outstanding women in Texas government, including Ann Richards, state treasurer; Myra McDaniel, former secretary of state; and Ada Simond, educator and historian.

In addition, 13 women will be inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame at special ceremonies in Austin on November 12. The 1987 inductees, chosen for their outstanding contributions to the state through their professional or public service, are Lucy Acosta, El Paso; Margaret Greer Harris Ansley, McGregor; Johnnie Marie Benson, Fort Worth; Tommie Clack, Abilene; Kim Dawson, Dallas; Brig. Gen. Lillian Dunlap (ret.), San Antonio; Elsie Hamilton Kirkland, Wimberley; Dr. Donna Logan, Austin; Ruth Sharp, Dallas; Katie Sherrod, Fort Worth; Dr. Donya E. Stephens, Nacogdoches; Nora Jean Strother, Ph.D., Fort Worth; and Mary Nan West, Bastrop.

All activities are sponsored by the Governor’s Commission for Women, the State Agency Liaison Group to the Governor’s Commission for Women, and the Texas Foundation for Women’s Resources. For more information on "Women in Texas Week," contact the Governor’s Commission for Women at 512/463-1782.

Preservation Calendar

NOVEMBER

6-19
COLUMBUS-Historical Walking Tour

9
LA GRANGE-Historical marker dedication for Soldiers’ National Cemetery

10-11
POKETTE-150th anniversary of 18th anniversary of San Antonio

12
CHICAGO, IL-Exhibition of American Historical Societies on Science, Industry, and Invention

13
AUSTIN-Local Historical Day at the Capitol

14
HAFSTAD-Annual Almanac Art Show

15
MARTIN-150th anniversary of Martin County

16
ELKHART-Local Historical Day at the Elkhart Art Show

17
DUNLAP-150th anniversary of Dunlap County

20
DALLAS-Historical Marker Dedication for American History, Civil War

21
MASON-150th anniversary of Mason County

22
HARWOOD-150th anniversary of Harwood County

23
TAYLOR-Local Historical Day at the Taylor County Courthouse

DECEMBER

1
AUSTIN-19th anniversary of Austin County

27
COLUMBUS-150th anniversary of Columbus

28
FREDERICK-150th anniversary of Fredericksburg

29
CORPUS CHRISTI-150th anniversary of Corpus Christi

30
RENEWAL-Local Historical Day at the Rehoboth Art Show

NOTE: Dates for all entries are subject to change. For more information on times and locations of other events, contact the Public Affairs Dept., Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711. 512/463-1600.

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READERS INTERESTED in Texas’ recent history can look forward to receiving next month’s special issue of The Medallion, which will focus on Texas during World War II. Topics to be covered include prisoner of war camps in Texas, historical markers around the state that relate to the war, documentation of the era, and life on the homefront. All articles will be prepared by Texas Historical Commission staff. Photo above: Prisoners of war relax in the recreation room of Camp Swift in Bastrop County.