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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PRESENTS THIS


2023

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

TO

NAVARRO COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

IN RECOGNITION OF ITS ACTIVE
AND WELL-BALANCED PRESERVATION PROGRAM



DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR
PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

MAY 1, 2024

DATE



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION** 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES



Navarro County Historical Commission
Summary of 2023 Projects and Accomplishments
Distinguished Service Award Presentation
June 24, 2024

Dr. MaryJane McReynolds, Chair

Faith Boyd, Vice Chair; Stephen Farris, Secretary, Margaret Thomas, Sheryl Hicks,
 J. Nicole Jackson, Preston Bonner, Kit Herrington, Bruce McManus, Danny Combs

The Navarro County Historical Commission was awarded a 2023 Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in acknowledgement of efforts and accomplishments that demonstrate our well-rounded history and preservation programs that enrich our County. These include:

- **Tri-County Railroad Symposium** -collaboration with Limestone and Freestone County Historical Commissions to celebrate our rich railroad history. Chosen by the State as one of the top 2023 County Historical Commission projects. The Symposium will be featured in the THC's annual Project Spotlights, and showcased on their website and announced via their listserv.
- **Park High School/Navarro County Training School, Goodlow**-a Rosenwald funded school for African American children. Three Rosenwald Schools were built in Navarro Co., 1923-1926. The school at Goodlow, built in 1925, is the only school with an existing original building. Researched and submitted Historical Marker application and we are working with Goodlow community to preserve the structure.
- **Pelham Community History Museum**-documents this community of Freedmen who settled here after the Civil War
- **GW Jackson Legacy Park Dedication and Historical Marker** honoring the pioneering educator and civic leaders who served as the founding principal of Fred Douglas School.
- **Derrick Days**- shared heritage tourism brochures and information about our county history.
- **Cemetery Preservation** - met with cemetery associations or individual caretakers of these sacred sites, monitored the physical condition, and assisted with applications for Historic Texas Cemetery designation and Historical Markers.
 - Friendship Baptist Church and Cemetery-near Eureka
 - Zion's Rest Cemetery-N. Beaton just outside city limits
 - State Home Cemetery-Corsicana
 - Good Hope Cemetery-Powell
 - Grange Hall Cemetery-north of Barry
 - Pleasant Hall Cemetery-Streetman/Winkler area
 - White Church Cemetery-Blooming Grove
 - Ingram Cemetery- Rural Shade
- **Historical Markers**
 - White Church Cemetery - assisted with preparation of Historical Marker application for White Church Cemetery at Blooming Grove. Application was approved by the State and marker is in production phase.
- **Historical Marker Dedication** - We dedicated the **Merrit Drane** marker on Nov. 4th, 2023; the **GW Jackson** marker will be dedicated at Legacy Park on August 10th and you are all invited to the ceremony. The **Bethel AME Church** marker will be also be dedicated later this year.