

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2010 County Historical Commission Annual Report

1. County: Gregg
2. CHC Chair Name: Amanda Nobles
3. How many years has this person been CHC Chair? 2

ORGANIZATION:

4. How did your CHC report 2010 activities to your county officials?
(check all that apply)

- ☒ Attended county commissioners court
- ☒ Presented to county commissioners court
- ☒ Submitted CHC bylaws
- ☐ Submitted CHC meeting minutes
- ☒ Submitted a CHC budget
- ☐ Gave CHC treasury reports
- ☒ Informal meetings with the County Judge
- ☒ Informal meetings with County Commissioners
- ☒ Provided suggested appointments
- ☒ Other: Formal presentation to Commissioners Court on Action Plan with Program of Work for 2011 and Gregg County Heritage Site Marker Program

PARTNERSHIPS — *To develop networks, build alliances, engage in cross-functional activities, collaborate across boundaries and find common ground with a widening range of stakeholders, use contacts to build and strengthen internal support bases.*

5. Briefly explain how you partner with the organizations below.

City officials Support City of Longview's CLG efforts through GCHC member volunteers

County officials Present programs to the Commissioners regarding GCHC projects and work with County Commissioners on marker locations and refurbishings. We also work with the County's department heads for: Budget, Web Site, Records Retention and Management.

Nonprofit organizations (heritage group, visitor bureau, etc.) Invite participation in GCHC meetings and presentations on projects, fund raisers, etc.

Educational institutions (school districts, community colleges, universities) GCHC volunteers work with Junior Historians and with 7th grade history projects

Landmark commissions _____

Museum boards GCHC volunteers serve on all Gregg County historical museums' boards

Cemetery associations GCHC volunteers work with cemetery associations, provide answers when possible to inquiries regarding historic cemeteries and their protection

Local historic design/review boards _____

Main Street managers and/or board members Gregg County Main Street Managers serve as ex-officio members of the GCHC and provide information on projects and programs sponsored by their cities

Tourism organizations Gregg County tourism officials serve as ex-officio members of the GCHC and make presentation to the GCHC on projects and programs occurring in the county

Texas Archeology Stewardship Network (steward/stewards) GCHC volunteers attend the GCH Museum's archeology workshops

Archeological societies/associations _____

We don't partner with any organizations _____

Other: _____

6. How does your CHC manage its money? (check all that apply)

- ☒ County treasury
- ☐ Private bank account
- ☐ Nonprofit partner
- ☐ Other: _____

7. Please list the amount of money and/or services provided to your CHC next to the source.

- Annual county allocation: \$6,525
- Additional items from county (one-time amount, special project, etc.): \$ /
- Partner/Nonprofit: \$
- Private donations: \$
- Grants: \$
- Museum annual operating budget: \$
- Other Funds (explain)
- In-kind Services — List all goods and/or services provided to your organization at no charge, i.e., utilities, postage, grounds keeping, graphic design, copying, office supplies, internet, etc.): Budget Officer serves as the County Liaison officer to the GCHC. The County also provides postage, copying/printing, office supplies, web site hosting and climate controlled records retention storage and duplication of those records for the public, and THC marker refurbishing labor and supplies.

8. Do you have a work plan? (A document defining project tasks, participants, time estimates and a schedule.)

☒ Yes ☐ No

9. How often is your work plan updated? We consider this to be a 3-5 year plan with a program of work established each year for the following year. We make adjustments to the program of work based on the priorities established by the GCHC members or the County Judge and Commissioners. We should update the plan every 3 years. This is the first year we will be operating under our Action Plan and Program of Work which was approved by the County Commissioners in the fall of 2010.

10. Other than your CHC Chair, who participates in your CHC planning process? Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, GCHC members and County officials (liaison officer).

11. In 2010, did you work to improve your CHC in any of the following areas? Explain.

(check all that apply)

- ☒ Bylaws: We reviewed the bylaws based on the Action Plan
- ☒ Membership: We added new members to replace members who resigned
- ☒ Preservation Education for Appointees: We provided education opportunities for existing and new members and offered support for attendance at the THC conference
- ☒ Partnerships: We established in the Action Plan ways to work with our partners in historic preservation
- ☒ Projects: We established a new program at the request of the County Judge to develop a program for Gregg County Heritage Sites
- ☒ Community Outreach: We made presentations to community civic groups
- ☒ Relationship with County Commissioners Court: We made presentations to the Commissioners Court and worked closely with the County Judge
- ☐ Other: _____

MEMBERSHIP:

12. Please list all of your official 2010 CHC MEETING DATES. *To be official, meetings must be posted according to the Open Meetings Act, and have a quorum in attendance.*

(Click the gray boxes for a drop-down menu)

	Month	Day	Quorum Present
1.	February	9	Yes
2.	May	11	Yes
3.	August	10	Yes
4.	November	9	Yes
5.	-none-		Yes
6.	-none-		Yes
7.	-none-		Yes
8.	-none-		Yes
9.	-none-		Yes
10.	-none-		Yes
11.	-none-		Yes
12.	-none-		Yes

13. How many CHC members have completed Open Meetings/Records* training? 16

**Open Meetings/Records training is a free training offered by the Texas Attorney General's office. The THC recommends that all appointees take advantage of this training.*

14. How many volunteer hours did your CHC log in 2010? *(Be sure to include time spent at meetings, events and travel to and from meetings and events, for more tips on counting service hours see page 19 of the September/October 2010 edition of The Medallion at:*

http://www.thc.state.tx.us/medallionmag/medallionPDFs/md_09_10.pdf)

634 Hours

TRAINING/EDUCATION:

15. Please list any preservation education opportunities your CHC appointees attended in 2010.
(Mark how many attended each educational opportunity)

2 THC Annual Historic Preservation Conference

8 THC Marker Workshop

1 THC cemetery workshop

_____ THC oral history workshop

_____ THC Archeology Steward workshop/ training

_____ THC/Friends of the Texas Historical Commission grant writing workshop

5 THC/Texas Archeology Month event

_____ THC/Texas Association of Museums (TAM) workshop

_____ Texas Heritage Trails Program sponsored educational opportunity

1 Texas Main Street Program sponsored educational opportunity

_____ Texas Association of Museums (TAM) educational opportunity

_____ Texas Archeological Society (TAS) educational opportunity

_____ Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) educational opportunity

_____ American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) educational opportunity

_____ National Trust for Historic Preservation conference

_____ Preservation Texas (PT) event

3 Local/Regional historical association educational opportunity (specify organizations below in the "Other" space below)

_____ Regional meeting of one or more CHCs (specify participating counties below in the "Other" space below)

_____ Other: Caddo Indian Conference; Tulsa Museum; Indian Mound Educational Tour; Boston, MA Educational Bunker Hill Tour

16. Do you use the CHC Handbook and/or the CHC tools page on the THC web site to educate or improve the organizational aspects of your CHC?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ I didn't know there was a handbook or tools web page

17. To help us provide better service to you, please let us know how the computer you use most is connected to the internet?

☐ Dial-up phone connection

☒ DSL phone connection

☐ Cable connection

☐ Satellite

☐ I don't know

☐ Other: _____

CORE PRESERVATION:

18. Chapter 318 of the Texas Local Government Code notes the work assigned to CHCs. It also notes that CHCs should participate in programs and projects suggested by the THC. Please indicate the programs and projects in which your CHC was actively involved in 2010. (check all that apply to your 2010 body of work)

- ☒ Reviewed marker applications
- ☒ Periodically reviewed and assessed markers
- ☒ Cleaned or repaired markers

- ☒ Developed/maintained inventories for designated properties (NR, HTC, RTHL, or SAL)
- ☐ Periodically reviewed and assessed the condition of designated properties

*(These items refer to surveys that inventory historic resources – designated or non-designated – and their level of historic significance. It is **NOT** referencing typical county property surveys.)*

- ☐ Initiated/supervised a survey of county historic resources
- ☐ Maintained/updated inventories for these surveyed properties
- ☐ Used inventories of surveyed properties to promote rehabilitation through grants and/or tax incentive programs

- ☐ Met regionally with other CHCs to share experiences and efforts
- ☒ Initiated projects to diversify CHC membership
- ☐ Hosted a THC-affiliated workshop in 2010

- ☒ Initiated projects to diversify interpretation of historic and cultural resources
- ☒ Promoted historic and cultural sites to develop and sustain heritage tourism initiatives
- ☐ Coordinated a regional preservation or tourism event (Texas Archeology Month event, history conference, cultural heritage festival, etc.)

- ☒ CHC appointees volunteer with a museum
- ☐ CHC operates a museum
- ☐ CHC operates a museum that adheres to professional standards in the care, collection, management, and interpretation of artifacts

- ☐ County Visionaries in Preservation
- ☐ County Certified Local Government
- ☐ Reviews and makes recommendations for historic site tax exemption requests filed with the county

CHOOSE 3 PROJECTS that best represent your CHC's 2010 accomplishments. Select projects that have had the most/best impact on your community for the cause of preservation.

To be eligible for a **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (DSA)**, you **must** provide the following in your description:

- 1 to 3 sentences describing the project
- 1 to 3 sentences noting the partnerships involved in the project
- 1 to 3 sentences describing how the project educates the public about preservation/county history
- 1 to 3 sentences to explain the project's impact on the community's perception or appreciation of preservation/county history

If you are having difficulty choosing 3 projects, refer to your answers for question #18 and choose work that can be expanded upon in this section.

19. Project #1: *(please provide a **brief** description below)*

Our newest project is a County Heritage Site Marker program. We initiated this at the request of the County Judge who wanted to give County residents an opportunity to have their historic site recognized for its contribution to the heritage of Gregg County. We have opened up the opportunity to get a county heritage site marker to any of our partners who have a previously officially marked or recognized historic site or structure. The recognition must be by the National Trust, the Texas Historic Commission, Preservation Texas, Texas Department of Ag, or any other official agency that has a historic recognition program. We hope that this additional recognition will encourage the public to learn about our historic sites and the impact they have had on the development of Gregg County and the importance of preserving and honoring our heritage sites. This gives us another opportunity to promote these sites in the media so that more individuals will be exposed to our historic preservation projects and goals.

20. Project #2: *(please provide a **brief** description below)*

The on-going interactive website marker location map and photo project continues to be an important part of our promotion of Gregg County historic sites. By partnering with our museums and historic county organizations, we continue to gather information and photos of our sites. Because this is a web-based interactive digital project, we believe that we can attract a younger audience to investigate our markers and therefore some of Gregg County's history. The information on the site contains a summary of the marker information which educates the public about our history. We have had many compliments on the website, and we expect to continue to expand the information on the site as we add projects, giving our citizens a broader understanding of our historic sites and their value.

21. Project #3: *(please provide a **brief** description below)*

We have identified as a new project this year the preservation of an existing Rosenwald School. We are working with private sector partners as well as with other preservation organizations in Gregg County and the church which currently owns the building and wants it to be relocated. We are working with the City of Kilgore to identify city-owned sites appropriate for the building if we cannot convince the church to allow the building to remain on its site. This is an important project because it is the first project we have undertaken to preserve a school that was constructed to serve the black citizens of Gregg County, an untold story in our county. It will be a great way to tell this story to our citizens and recognize those who attended not only this but other Rosenwald schools in Gregg County.

Thank you for taking time to share the 2010 body of work provided by your CHC. We would like to provide an opportunity for you to share information with us that has not been submitted in this report, or to expand on projects or issues for which you have additional information. Please feel free to share challenges or success stories with our staff in the space below.

If the THC staff can provide you with any additional information or assistance, please contact the CHC Outreach staff at 512/463-5853 or email history@thc.state.tx.us. Thank you again for your time and effort!

Please return by February 1, 2011, to: Texas Historical Commission
History Programs Division
PO Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
Fax: 512/475-3122
Email: history@thc.state.tx.us

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (DSA) Criteria Reference Sheet	
<i>This table lists DSA Criteria and associated statutory citations from the Texas Local Government Code (Chapter 318); answers to CHC Annual Report questions will provide all necessary information to determine DSA eligibility.</i>	
Statute Citation	Work that should be included in CHC Annual Report in order to be eligible for a DSA.
ORGANIZATION	
318.008a	Turn in an CHC Annual Report
318.008a	Make annual report of activities to county commissioners court
318.008	Submit CHC meeting minutes AND/OR submit proposed CHC budget for recommendations from commissioners court AND/OR meet with the county commissioners court
318.009	Secure money AND/OR in-kind services from county
318.0101	Provide CHC plan for work or customize statewide plan for individual CHC needs
318.0101	Partner with at least 3 different organizations in your county or region
MEMBERSHIP	
318.003a	Have at least 7 county residents appointed to CHC
318.003d	Provide updated appointment list to the THC in odd-numbered years
318.005a	Report dates of at least 4 CHC meetings during the year of service
318.005b	State that at least one appointee has taken Open Meetings training
	Report total volunteer hours that average out to at least 50 hours per appointee
TRAINING/EDUCATION	
318.0102b	CHC representative attends at least 2 preservation education opportunities (THC or local speakers/events)
318.0102c	Utilize THC web presentations to educate your CHC or provide your own training
318.007	Provide or partner in some sort of project/effort to educate community
CORE PRESERVATION	
CHC must report 3 projects that reflect any statutory assignment noted in this section to be eligible for a DSA.	
318.006a	Continuing survey of county historic resources
318.006b	Develop and maintain inventories for surveyed properties
318.006c	Establish a system for periodic review and assessment of the condition of designated properties
318.010a	Review marker applications
318.010b	Establish a system for periodic review, assessment, and maintenance of markers
318.010c	Promote historic and cultural sites to develop and sustain heritage tourism
318.010e	In operating museums, the CHC shall adhere to professional standards in the care, collection, management, and interpretation of artifacts
318.012	Review and make recommendations for historic site tax exemption requests filed with the county
	Each example of active participation in a program or project under 318.002 counts as 1 project toward the 3 projects required for eligibility in this section.
318.002	THC programs and projects suggested to CHCs:
	County Certified Local Government
	County Visionaries in Preservation
	Hosting a THC workshop
	Coordinating a regional preservation or tourism event (Texas Archeology Month event, history conference, junior historian program, etc.)
	Meeting regionally with other CHCs to share experiences and efforts
	Projects initiated to diversify membership and/or interpretation of historic and cultural resources
**Special consideration in regards to DSA eligibility is given for CHCs that go above and beyond DSA criteria and/or perform service in extraordinary situations; a specific example would be disaster response work by a CHC.	

Highlights indicate updates to 2010 CHC Handbook pages 9-9 and 9-10; online version of handbook has already been updated.