



ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 1, 2013–MAY 31, 2014

MISSION

The Heritage Society (THS), a 501(c)(3) non-profit museum complex at Sam Houston Park, collects, preserves, exhibits, and celebrates the diverse history of the Houston region. The Heritage Society's unique setting in Sam Houston Park offers visitors a hands-on experience during which history comes alive to impart its story.

SAM HOUSTON PARK

Construction for the Sam Houston Park Master Plan was completed and the park reopened to the public on October 1, 2013. The master plan improvements included reconfigured sidewalks and parking, improved lighting, a children's play area, and the relocation and restoration of both the c. 1866 4th Ward Cottage and the Bandstand, a 1963 replica of the park's original bandstand. Additionally, electrical service in the park was upgraded, public restrooms were added, and landscaping was greatly enhanced.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

In 2013-2014, The Heritage Society continued to offer a wide variety of educational programming driven by the principle that through learning of our shared past, the community can build a shared future.

Guided Tours of Historic Structures and Museum – Even though park construction prevented THS from conducting guided tours for four months during the program year, tour and museum visitors totaled 12,069. An additional 50,000 visitors came to Sam Houston Park for festivals, athletic events, and civic celebrations during 2013-2014. In addition to local and regional visitors, The Heritage Society hosted tours for international students, consular groups, and tourists from around the world. During 2013-2014, 30% of all visitors were children ages 18 years or younger; 58% were adults ages 19-64; and 12% were senior citizens. Of the total attendance, 30% were identified as tourists or business visitors.



John P. McGovern Heritage Tours for Children – Thanks to the generosity of the John P. McGovern Foundation, free tours were provided to students and their chaperones. Tours involved viewing an interactive video about pioneer life and visiting Duncan Store, the 1823 Old Place, the 1905 Staiti House, and the 1890 St. John Church. Children were challenged to compare and contrast pioneer life with early 20th century lifestyles as they toured these historic buildings and exhibits.

Cell Phone Tours – One thousand three hundred and twenty five (1,325) visitors learned about the diverse cultural history represented by the ten historic buildings during the eight months of the program year during which cell phone tours were available to the public.

51st Annual Candlelight Tour – Nearly 2,200 visitors experienced Houston's history through vignettes that incorporated historical events and/or former residents of the historic buildings into the storylines. *Candlelight Tour* also served as the public grand re-opening of Sam Houston Park. In conjunction with *Candlelight Tour*, THS sponsored a Holiday Tea, with two seatings. This educational program included a talk on



Emma Richardson Cherry as an artist and Houston resident, showcasing her painting tools and traveling tea set from The Heritage Society's permanent collection.

Traveling Trunk Shows – Traveling trunk shows introduced children to the region's history through presentations at public libraries, local schools, and Boy and Girl Scout day camps. The trunk shows demonstrated some of the same kinds of objects that children who visit THS would see on a tour. Costumed volunteers entertained and delighted children with stories about pioneer life, dress, and play. During 2013-2014, trunk shows were presented to 1,117 children.

Adult Community Outreach – Adults who were not able to visit Sam Houston Park experienced Houston's history through The Heritage Society's adult outreach programs. During 2013-2014, outreach programs were presented to 286 adults at retirement homes, assisted living facilities, churches, and community centers.

Heritage Family Days – Four Heritage Family Days were hosted by The Heritage Society in 2013-2014. These family-friendly events are designed to provide an educational and entertaining Houston History experience for both children and adults. Heritage Family Days are held in conjunction with Museum Gallery exhibitions and incorporate hands-on activities, performances, and tours of the historic structures.

Seventy-seven individuals attended the **Juneteenth Heritage Family Day** held on Saturday, June 15, 2013. The event was held in collaboration with Descendants of Olivewood Cemetery. A framed copy of the Emancipation Proclamation from the THS



permanent collection was displayed, and all guests received a copy of the proclamation. Music was provided by Project X. There were educational stations that presented information on Freedmen's Town, Emancipation Park, Juneteenth, and De-Ro-Loc. The Clayton Genealogical Center had information on family history research. SAM presented a video display of the cemetery mapping

project. There were children's crafts and refreshments.

Seventy-three visitors attended the **Heritage Family Day** on Sunday, September 15, 2013. Guests celebrated **Hispanic Heritage** month with entertainment by the Ambassadors International Ballet Folklorico from Ripley House and by making papel picado banners. Educational materials on the origin of cattle ranching culture in Texas and Spanish/Hispanic words used in cattle ranching were displayed as were the national flags of four of the Latin American countries that celebrate their independence on September 15. Participants also celebrated the *Bitters, Brews and Beyond: Houston History in a Bottle* exhibit by making soda bottle alligators and bottle trees.



The February 23, 2014 **Homestead Houston Heritage Family Day** held in conjunction with the Archaeological Institute of America, Houston Society (AIA) was a big success with a total of 239 visitors. AIA volunteers guided children through hands-on activities



such as dig boxes, bone sort, seed sorts, a penmanship exercise, and a Cherokee bead craft. Musicians from the Houston School of Irish Music provided entertainment, and re-enactors from Jones Park interpreted pioneer life in Old Place. Representatives from the Clayton Genealogical Center were also present to provide information about tracing family roots.

One hundred seventeen visitors attended the **Celebrate Texas Heritage Family Day** held on May 18, 2014. Interactive musical entertainment was provided by Celtaire String Band. Seventeen volunteers from Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo's History Live Team assisted with the event. Some came dressed as historic personalities and rodeo clowns, and others engaged the visitors with line dancing and roping demonstrations. Children's authors Mary Dodson Wade, Laurie Cockerell, and Debra Winegarten discussed and signed their respective biographies on famous Texans. Travel author Lucinda Freeman discussed the various historic day trips in and around Houston she features in her book, *Historic Houston: How to See It*. There was an educational display on cattle brands and ranching heritage. Texas-themed craft activities were available, and refreshments were served.



Jerry and Marvy Finger Noontime Lecture Series – Eleven noontime lectures were held on the third Thursday of each month in The Heritage Society Tea Room. Lecture topics during the year were:

Maude Brown's Baby, A Historical Mystery by Richard Cunningham (June 20, 2013)



Houston's River Oaks by Ann Becker (July 18, 2013)

The History of First Presbyterian Church by Jo Ann Petty (August 15, 2013)

Giving a Girl Her Chance: The Harris County Training School for Girls by Sarah Jackson (September 19, 2013)

1940 Air Terminal Museum by Michael Bludworth (October 17, 2013)

Discovering Buffalo Bayou by Trudi Smith (November 21, 2013)

Oilfield Photographers by Jeff Spencer (January 16, 2014)

The History of African Americans in Houston by Ronald Goodwin (February 20, 2014)

Texas County Courthouses by Pat & Don Townzen (March 20, 2014)

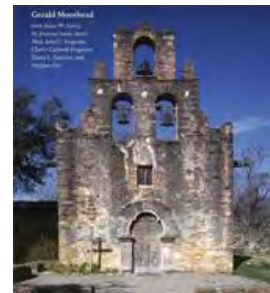


Your Beautiful 1910 Courthouse by Will Howard (April 17, 2014)

Three Ballparks: Pre-WWII Baseball in Houston by Mike Vance (May 15, 2014)

The **Building Arts Lecture Series** began in 2011 and continues to be well received by historians, architects and those interested in the building arts. Three lectures took place during 2013-2014:

Buildings of Texas was presented by Gerald Moorehead (August 21, 2013). Mr. Moorehead discussed his recently published book, *Buildings of Texas*, the first in a two-volume set that will document – in its entirety and with expert scholarship – Texas' architectural heritage from pre-statehood days to the present. *Buildings of Texas* is part of *Buildings of the United States*, a 58-volume series produced by the Society of Architectural Historians and published by University of Virginia Press, that celebrates the extraordinary variety and virtuosity of our nation's architectural achievements.



Jhonny Langer, of Source Historical, presented *Layers of History: Paint Analysis at 4th Ward Cottage* (November 20, 2013). Exterior restoration of 4th Ward Cottage began in August and led to some exciting discoveries. The c.1866 cottage, which has undergone numerous additions and alterations, contains layers and layers of history. During his paint analysis, Mr. Langer discovered many interesting things about the original construction of the cottage and changes that were made over the years.



Grace Cynkar of SWCA Environmental Consultants presented *Fighting Fire with Hope: The World's First Shriners Burns Institute* (February 26, 2014). In 1966, the first Shriners Burns Institute opened at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) on Galveston Island, Texas. It offered state-of-the-art facilities and treatment to severely burned children without any charge to the families. Cynkar's presentation discussed the historic events, trends, and people that led the Shriners to select Galveston as the first location of their revolutionary treatment center. Ms. Cynkar's firm was involved in the HABS documentation of the building before it was demolished to make way for a new facility.



The Heritage Society's *Best Little Workshop in Texas*, a professional development program for teachers of 7th grade Texas History, was held on June 17, 2013.



The seventh annual workshop focused upon the era of Manifest Destiny, an exciting and complicated period in Texas history. Each of four new speakers presented a different aspect of this theme followed by a Strategy and Resource session during which workshop participants were provided primary documents and teaching tools in support of the speaker's presentation. The

specific presentations included *King Cotton Comes to Texas* by Dr. W. Caleb McDaniel, *The Republic is No More: The Annexation of Texas* by Scott McMahon, *Texas and the Mexican War* by Dr. Richard Bruce Winders, and *Manifest Destiny and Texas' Native American Population* by Dr. Raúl A. Ramos.



Exhibitions – In addition to the permanent displays inside The Heritage Society Museum Gallery, temporary exhibitions were also on view during 2013-2014:

Bitters, Brews and Beyond: Houston History in a Bottle
(July 2 – October 26, 2013)



Before plastic containers became available, all types of household liquids were sold in glass bottles. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Houston was home to dozens of different soda bottlers, several breweries, and numerous dairies. Local drug stores and pharmacies dispensed medications, offered a variety of toiletry items, and sold over-the-counter medicinal products – including bitters – all in glass bottles.

Up until the mid-nineteenth century, these bottles were actually hand-blown just as they had been for centuries. This exhibition featured a wonderful collection of glass bottles ranging from soda, milk and beer bottles, to medicine bottles from Houston pharmacies, to flasks, sauce bottles, canning jars and more. Glass containers have become a highly collectable form of material culture. Many of the bottles in this exhibit, both on loan and in the Heritage Society's Permanent Collection, were found as they were exposed during site preparation for building projects at downtown Houston locations.

Women at Work in Your Community: The Houston Junior Forum

(November 5, 2013 – January 18, 2014)

This exhibition, in partnership with the Houston Junior Forum, featured an historic profile of Houston Junior Forum service projects and assembled thirty of the former HJF Presidents' skirts created over the past six decades. Each year the HJF President is honored for her leadership with an amazing one-of-a-kind skirt that is truly a work of art and a labor of love. Depending on the complexity and size of the design, completing a skirt can require months of work by up to 30 volunteers. In the spring each year, the presentation of the skirt is a festive moment eagerly awaited by the president and the membership. This exhibit captured the selfless spirit of community service and the exquisite beauty of hand crafted works of art.



Exploring Houston's Green History; Sam Houston Park 1899 – 2014

(January 30 – May 31, 2014)



As Houston's first municipal park, Sam Houston Park has seen many changes since it was established in 1899. This exhibit celebrated the park's 115th anniversary and chronicled its use and changes over the years. The exhibit also showcased The Heritage Society's 60-year history of caring for this beloved city park.

To complement the park exhibit and celebrate another important anniversary,

Port of Houston Celebrates 100 Years was installed in the walled cases of the museum. The Allen Brothers believed that Houston could use Buffalo Bayou as a link to the Gulf of Mexico in order to enhance its economy. In 1837, they arranged for a small steamship, the *Laura*, to travel up Buffalo Bayou to Allen's Landing. The *Laura*'s voyage proved that Houston could be reached by water, and regular steamship service to the city began that same year. The first wharf was built in 1840 and soon after, the Port of Houston was officially created by a city ordinance. The exhibit was on view from April 1 to May 31, 2014.

The Heritage Society also mounted the following exhibitions in the first floor rotunda of Houston's historic City Hall:

Landers Shoe Shop (May 3 – Aug. 3, 2013)

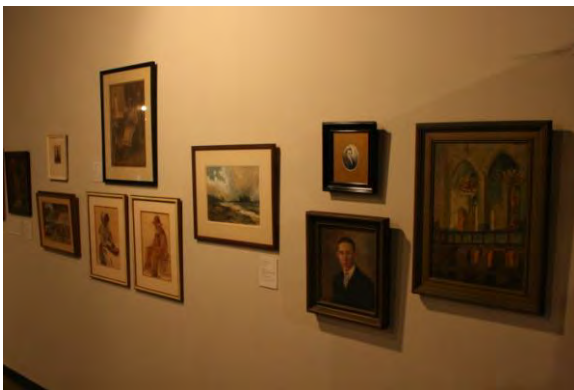
Get Your Eyes Checked (August 4 – December 4, 2013)

Patent Medicines (December 5, 2013– June 30, 2014)

COLLECTIONS

The Heritage Society's permanent, teaching, and exhibit support collections include nearly 22,000 items, each carefully preserved and used to tell the story of Houston and its place in Texas History. A few of the items added to the permanent collection during 2013-2014 were:

A bequest to The Heritage Society from the Estate of John Corley Silvey, Jr. added significant Treasury Warrants and Republic of Texas currency to the existing collection. Among other items, the Silvey bequest includes Texas Civil War Treasury Warrants, Republic of Texas Red Bonds, Republic of Texas Bonds, an enlistment paper, a Texian loan #91 Triplett, and a TNA 1980 Medal.



An important collection of 13 paintings by Penelope Lingan, a contemporary of Emma Richardson Cherry and a teacher of Grace Spaulding John, was donated by Jeff and Julia Bailey. The paintings include Houston City Market, New Orleans Church Interior, Cathedral in Chicago, Self Portrait, Fisherman, The Cook, The Knitter, John Welch, Old 1st Presbyterian, Thunderstorm, Jimmy Lingan, Portrait of Patrick Bailey and a miniature self-portrait.

A collection of 400 postcards was donated by Mike O'Connor. The postcards date from 1910 to 1940 and greatly expand The Heritage Society's existing Houston postcard collection.



An important collection of materials relating to Camp Logan was donated by Russell Szopa. Most notable in the collection is a felt banner of the 124th Field Artillery. Other items in the collection include pamphlets and a 1919 War Saving Certificate.

PRESERVATION

Construction documents for a multi-phase stabilization project for the **1847 Kellum-Noble House** were finalized in early 2014. This work will enable THS to preserve the house, which is Houston's oldest structure on its original site, for future generations. Phase I of the 1847 Kellum-Noble House restoration, specifically for the foundation stabilization, electrical work, and ducting for new HVAC systems is expected to commence in the Summer of 2014. Subsequent phases of the restoration will encompass window repair and replacements, new cedar shake roof with fire protection, reconstruction of the deteriorated second-floor porches, exterior brick re-pointing and repair, re-plastering of walls, interior and exterior painting, and new HVAC equipment. By May 31, 2014, more than \$800,000 had been committed towards the project budget of \$2,106,221.

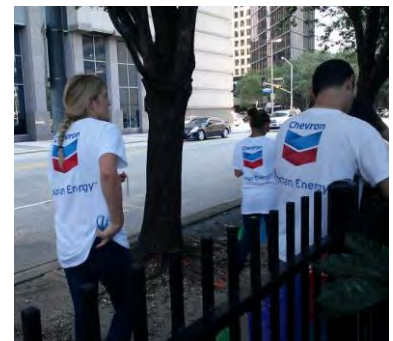


After the **c. 1866 4th Ward Cottage** was relocated and placed on newly constructed piers, exterior restoration was completed. Existing siding on the primary façade was retained, and the remainder of the exterior received new sinker cypress siding. Deteriorated porch decking and posts were replaced, and new front porch steps were constructed along with understated modern stair railings that are distinguishable from the historic material. All windows were restored to operable condition and repaired as necessary, and one window was replaced. The exterior was repainted based on a paint and finish analysis completed by Johnny Langer of Source Historical. Additional plans include interpretive signage and development of a plan for interior preservation. Features such as the ghost of a removed staircase, layers of paint and wall coverings, and evidence of other alterations will be used to tell the story of the Cottage's rich past. This architectural archeology exhibit, which was planned in lieu of a traditional house museum interpretation, will be a first for The Heritage Society.



VOLUNTEERS

During 2013-2014, 977 individuals volunteered at The Heritage Society, contributing 5,843 hours of service. Members of the Board of Directors devoted their time to governance, developing policies, evaluating programming, raising funds, helping preserve and expand the collections, and planning for the future. Tour and Museum Guides provided invaluable information to visitors about the historic buildings and exhibitions. Other volunteers participated in Candlelight Tour, Heritage Family Days, workshops, outreach programs, cataloging and inventorying collections items, completing research, painting, and landscaping projects. Corporate volunteers from Ernst & Young devoted two half-days to help with preparations for the annual Candlelight Tour; more than 25 Chevron employees volunteered in Santa's Workshop; and 15 students from Rice University assisted with the Collections Curator's accession of several items into the permanent collection.



HOUSTON HERITAGE LUNCHEON



The annual *Houston Heritage Luncheon* returned to Connally Plaza on Wednesday, April 9, 2014. The luncheon celebrated the 60th anniversary of the founding of The Heritage Society and the beginning of historic preservation in Houston; the 115th anniversary of the acquisition of Sam Houston Park, Houston's first municipal park; and the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Port of Houston. Luncheon chairman Laura Gibson of Ogden, Gibson, Brooks, Longoria & Hall, L.L.P., Mistress of Ceremonies Lisa Hernandez of KHOU-TV, and

keynote speaker Janiece Longoria, Chairman of the Port of Houston Authority, provided guests with an entertaining and educational program dedicated to these important chapters from Houston's history. Ms. Longoria spoke about the foresight of John Kirby Allen and August Chapman Allen in choosing Houston as the site of their new community: "Consider the irony. Two land speculators from New York created the site that ultimately created the opportunity for Houston to surpass New York [in exports]. I doubt that they had any idea the scale of what would exist in the future." Luncheon sponsors



included John and Evelyn Boatwright, Brookfield, John P. McGovern Foundation, Port of Houston Authority, Cameron Management, Gensler, Houston First, Ogden, Gibson, Brooks, Longoria & Hall, L.L.P., H. Richard Walton, Houston Parks & Recreation Department, Mayor's Office of Special Events, Patricia and David Dewhurst, Shawn Stephens and James Jordan, Caroline and Bruce Hurley, Susan and Mark Worscheh, Minnette Boesel, Margaret Lawler, Alice Collette, and Margaret Justus. Members of Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo's *History Live* team greeted guests as they arrived and set the tone for celebrating Houston's history.

The Heritage Society thanks the following donors of \$1,000 or more during 2013-2014:

\$75,000 +

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