

WALKER COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2010

January – Annual meeting reports given and goals set for the year.

February- A Preservation Award was given to Candy and Dale Dixon for their work on the Davis House on Ave. O.

March- The commissions 29th annual Texas Independence Day and General Sam Houston birthday celebration was held with the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, The City of Huntsville, and the History Dept. at Sam Houston State University. On March 6th the Gibbs-Powell House was one of the places in Huntsville that made use of the students from Sam Houston State University Bearkats-All Paws- In Day. Students cleaned windows and worked in flower beds. On March 10th local 3rd grade students toured the Gibbs-Powell House and other historical sites in Huntsville. The commission was awarded \$4000.00 from the city thru HOT funds and \$4000.00 from the county for the painting of the Gibbs-Powell House.

April- On April 9th an event sponsored by the Huntsville Main Street Program, Huntsville Community Theater, and the Historical Commission was held at the Gibbs-Powell House and the J. Phillip Gibbs Performing Arts Center. Huntsville's own...Richard Linklater presented the Huntsville opening of his new movie "Me and Orson Wells". The commission received \$2,267.43. Walker County was awarded a 'Preserve America Community Award'...one of only 21 presented nationwide. James Patton and Connie Heiland attended the statewide preservation conference in Houston in late April.

May- the County Commissioners court presented the commission with the Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission. On May 11 the commission was included in the Cultural District. There were many tours for the area. The city received media attention. May 2nd the Gibbs-Powell House was open for the Airing of the Quilts and General Sam Houston Folk Festival and a fundraiser lunch was held.

June-Member Beverly Hansen was presented with a 30 year membership certificate.

July- Members Connie Heiland and Beverly Hansen attended a workshop on 'Small Museums'. The commission received a \$1000.00 grant from Entergy. The check was presented by Stan Foley. The Gibbs-Powell House began open for visitors on Saturday and Sunday. The exterior of the Gibbs-Powell House was painted in July with funds received from the city and county. The commission worked with the city to celebrate the 175 birthday. There was a parade, speakers and a cake cutting.

August

September- Chairman Patton attended a meeting in Chappell Hill on Museum Education. The commission sponsored a workshop on applying for Historical Markers. A historical marker was approved for the Harmony Grove Missionary Church. The commission helped with the annual Raven Ride on Sept 25th and received \$250.00 for helping out. Larry Johnson was presented a Historical Award for the restoration of the original shutters for the Gibbs-Powell House.

October- Preservation awards were presented to the West Sandy Community Association for the restoration

of the 1940's San Jacinto Schoolhouse. Mr. and Mrs. Pool received an award for the restoration of the 1901 Rich Farris Farm in the West Sandy Community. The commission worked with the Webb Society at Sam Houston State University on a tour of Oakwood Cemetery on the evening of Oct. 30th. The tour was well received and over 100 people attended. The Gibbs-Powell House was open during Fair on the Square. The WCHC presented a photograph of Dr. Clark to the Sam Houston Memorial Museum for its collection of directors that made a difference.

November- On Nov. 19th a seated dinner was held in conjunction with the Wynne Home. 26 people attended and the proceeds were split between the two homes. On the 20th a workshop was held to create Homemade Holiday Gifts. This was done in conjunction with the Wynne Home. Demonstrations of crafts and homemade items were on sale. The Sam Houston Weavers and Spinners Guild of Huntsville exhibited their craft.

December- the Gibbs-Powell House was awarded a matching grant from Huntsville Main Street Program for the restoration of the 26 year old sign. The museum was

opened on December 4th for the annual Christmas Parade and on Dec. 5th the museum was part of a historical homes tour working with the Jr. Service League.

1227 visitors signed the guest book

More than 2727 volunteer hours were reported

Markers pending for 2011 are Rogersville and the First Baptist Church on 10th St.

Connie Heiland and Lee Murrah attended a workshop in late summer sponsored by Texas Heritage Trails group.