



## A Note From The President

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2016. We hope you like our updated, device-friendly format, with thanks to our new editor, Craig Hargrove.

Historic Waxahachie has been busy keeping up with changes happening in the community! You will find lots of items of interest about our work in this newsletter.

One major change points to the need to stay involved. The historic Viaduct, a part of the landscape in Waxahachie since the 1920's, will be replaced by a modern bridge, beginning in 2018. The traffic will follow two routes, one going north along the current route and one going south, down what is now Madison Street. [For more information, see our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/historic-waxahachie-inc](http://www.facebook.com/historic-waxahachie-inc) ]

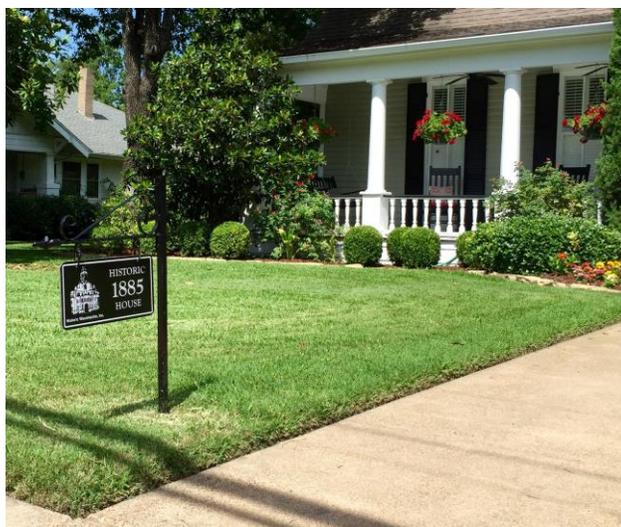
Historic Waxahachie has been monitoring this project, and making our comments to the Texas Department of Transportation, TxDOT. The changes will not be as drastic as some cities have undergone. Still, with each stride into the future, we feel the need to protect the treasures of our past more urgently.

Historic Waxahachie has received a grant for a survey from the Texas Historical Commission, with funding matched from the City of Waxahachie, to capture the history of our historic places. The survey will help us focus our advocacy on our most valuable resources as the pressures of change continue. You will be hearing more from us about this survey.

You can help! Get involved. Come to our programs, join a committee, add a historic marker to your house, advocate to your government officials for preservation. Visit our website, [historicwaxahachie.com](http://historicwaxahachie.com), check us out on Facebook, or email us, at [historicwaxahachie@gmail.com](mailto:historicwaxahachie@gmail.com) for information about what Historic Waxahachie is doing, and share your time and talents. This place matters!

Nancy Post, President

Historic Waxahachie, Inc.



### [Is your house eligible for a beautiful sidewalk sign?](#)

Increase the visibility of your historic home with an HWI Sidewalk Sign. To get your sign started, submit a Historic Marker Application along with check to HWI." For further information, contact Melissa Chapman at [melissacbaird@yahoo.com](mailto:melissacbaird@yahoo.com).

### Preserving those forgotten



When Dale Ellington found his way to it, The Prince Hall Fraternal and Wakefield Cemetery had for too long sat neglected between Graham Street and Finley. The overgrown grass served to cover all but the tallest of headstones, while the others remained buried beneath turf and the mud.



Men and women of honor and service, children, ministers, important citizens, and just plain ole' folks are buried in this cemetery, and it only seems appropriate that these people be given the most basic amount of dignity; the maintenance of their burial sites. It is for this most simple of things that Dale Ellington ventured to our city.

Dale and a crew of local men worked for weeks to get the cemetery in the state you see today. Through cutting grass, sawing and hauling branches, digging up head stones, and battling snakes and rodents, Dale and his crew were able to bring the cemetery into a manageable state. His work ought be deeply appreciated, and his contribution to our historic fabric is very tangible. Yet, for now, Dale has moved on to other cemeteries, and this improved site faces the real threat of quickly falling back into disrepair.

Long term, it lacks the money and organization required to keep a cemetery maintained. Immediately it needs no less than 20 truck loads of clean fill dirt, and a careful skid-steer operator. In order to efficiently mow the property one must level the sunken graves. These tasks will require someone to step forward with money or materials to make this project an ongoing reality. The project seems worthy of praise for the outside assistance of Mr. Ellington, and the focus of the Waxahachie community to see that his efforts not be in vain.

If you or someone you know have any of the things mentioned above, or have the excess time and energy to volunteer in the upkeep of these beautiful grounds, please feel free to contact me (Craig

Hargrove) directly at [craighargrove84@gmail.com](mailto:craighargrove84@gmail.com). Let's see if we can insure that these folks receive the dignity they deserve.

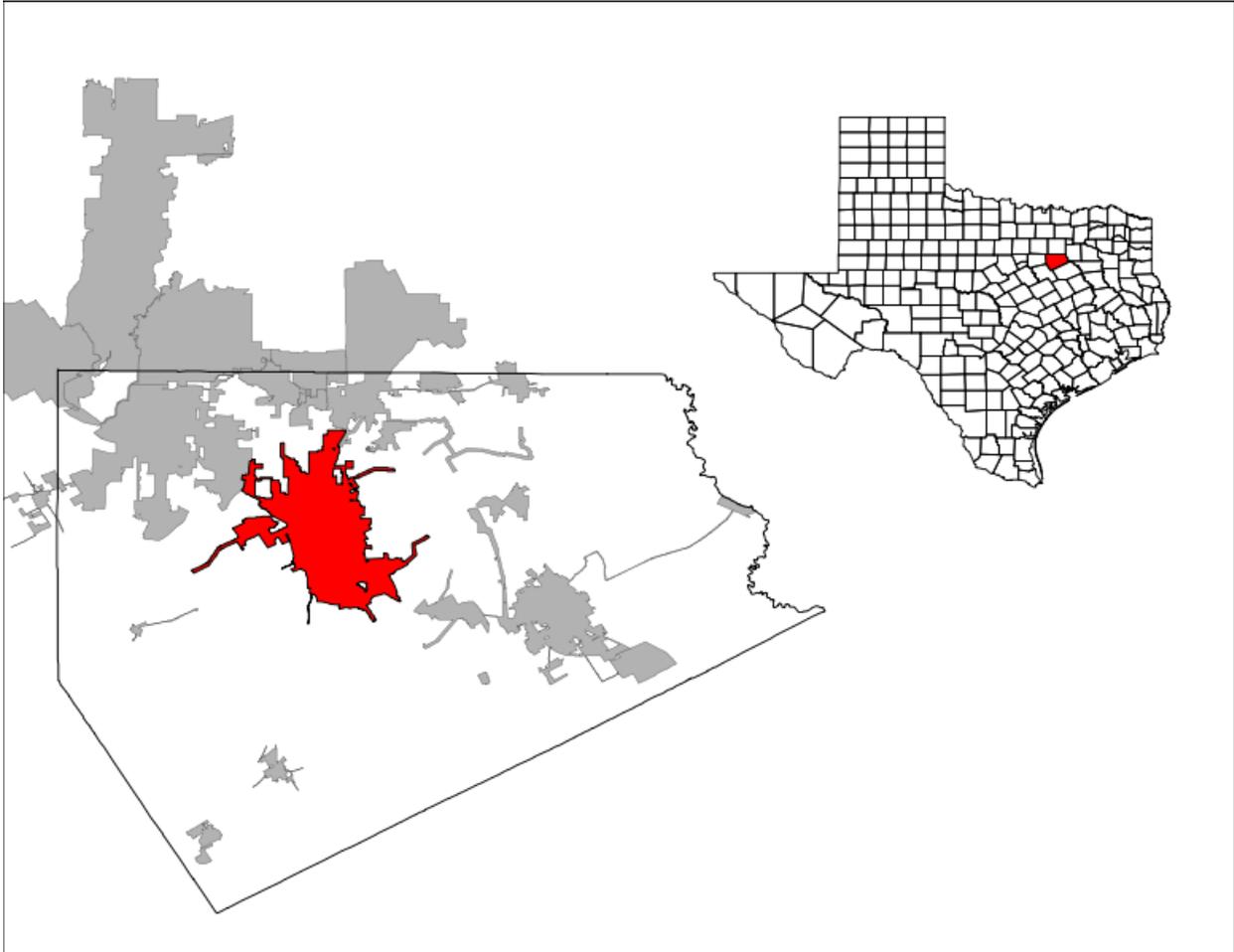




## Congratulations!

To Anita Brown and The City of Waxahachie for their recognition by the Texas Historical Commission as a Main Street Community. This is a testament to value many of us share in preserving our historical assets. Read more here....[Waxahachie Daily Light](#)

## Downtown Survey



Waxahachie is recommencing the process of surveying our Historic Downtown, and possibly, the entire city. The last time Waxahachie had a city-wide survey was in 1984, and since then our city has seen incredible growth. We have watched new buildings be erected, old buildings torn down, and neglected properties given new life. All of these things make an updated survey a useful tool when determining how current conditions impact our important resources. Further, it gives us a framework with which to properly guide our development to minimize the adverse effect growth has on these resources.

A great crowd gathered at City Hall on Thursday, March 24th to hear representatives from Hardy-Heck-Moore discuss the City's Historic Resource Survey Plan and Pilot Historic Resource Survey of Downtown. David Moore and Erin Tyson, who are leading the survey, discussed the approach they are taking and benefits such a survey provides.

Erin Tyson, of Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc., was kind enough to explain the project to me, and discuss in some detail the stages in which the project would move forward. The remainder of the article is a summary of what Mrs. Tyson and I discussed. At the time of print there are three basic phases to achieving a city-wide survey:

- Phase 1 – The development and demonstration of a detailed survey plan as to how Hardy, Heck, and Moore would go about surveying downtown, and then the remainder of the city. This phase has already been funded and completed.
- Phase 2 – The detailed survey of the Historic Overlay area. This would hopefully demonstrate the recommendations put forward in the survey plan, and would lend further justification to committing to survey the entire city. This too has been funded, and will take approximately five full days to complete.
- Phase 3 – Surveying of the entire city, and would most likely involve many of its own phases. This phase of the plan has yet to be approved or funded. It is hoped that the results from Phase 2 will motivate city leadership to approve moving forward, while funding from Texas Historical Committee grants would be used to help fund the remainder of the project.

A survey is particularly helpful to Historic Waxahachie Inc. in that it allows us to maintain an accurate inventory of our historical resources, and aids in identifying new areas that might be eligible for listing in places like the National Register of Historic Places. These certifications, along with the restoration of historic buildings, give property owners eligibility for specific tax credits and other benefits for maintaining the heritage of our community. The goal is for local governments to use the information in a current survey to properly plan for development in a way that creates growth while maintaining our history.

## Why Membership is Important

Recently you have received a letter reminding you that it is once again time to renew your membership with Historic Waxahachie Inc. We hope that all of you choose to renew, but more importantly we hope that more of you choose to get involved with the committees and activities of Historic Waxahachie Inc. There is much going on with our downtown, and with our city in general, that it is vital to recruit the service of people who truly care about maintaining the historic fabric that has built this great city. Below are some accomplishments that would have been impossible without your continued commitment as a member:

- Saved, by identifying with HWI markers, over 350 properties in Waxahachie “as worthy of preservation”
- Saved and moved the historic Wyatt Real Estate Office and the Calaboose, which was painted and placed at the MKT Train Depot.
- Purchased the eagles now perched on our beautiful courthouse
- Created pamphlets and a video about courthouse history used during tours conducted by HWI
- Developed Walking Tour guides of Downtown and historical Driving Tours of the city
- Created a “Research Your Property” pamphlet and presented “How To” programs for proper restoration
- Funded the Legends Baseball Mural on the Parks and Recreation Building

- Secured a grant for a professional survey update of our National Register Downtown District, as well as a survey plan for the rest of the city

As many of you know this list is far from comprehensive, but it will have a hard time growing without the commitment of your membership, and the volunteerism of folks like you. For further information, or to get involved please reach out to:

- Becky Kauffman ([beckykauffman@hotmail.com](mailto:beckykauffman@hotmail.com)/[972.489.2614](tel:972.489.2614) ), or
- Kathleen Bowen ([kpbowen2@att.net](mailto:kpbowen2@att.net)/[972.937.1575](tel:972.937.1575) )



## Viaduct Project



As many of you know the historic viaduct in downtown Waxahachie is scheduled to be torn down due to irreparable deterioration, and replaced with two new bridges and a completely reengineered traffic flow. Below is an overview of the project's historical impact.

**Overview:** The Waxahachie Viaduct is a Tee-Beam bridge built in 1931 to span across the Union Pacific Railroad and Waxahachie Creek. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and therefore requires proper mitigation by law.

**Mitigation:** Compensation, required by law, to be provided to a community when a significant historic resource is removed. Waxahachie will receive mitigation from TxDOT for the loss of the bridge.

**The Issue:** The TxDOT hearing at the Civic Center about the new bridge and highway through town showed the drawing of the mitigation planned by TxDOT. It is a small plaza south of the depot and caboose, with pictures of the old bridge and other transportation of the period. While the plan is well designed and attractive, Historic Waxahachie does not feel that it is adequate compensation for the loss of the Viaduct, a major historic feature of Waxahachie.

**What HWI Wants:** We feel that the mitigation should have equal and adequate impact on our downtown as the current viaduct. We would like to see a larger plaza area, more seating, and physical pieces of the bridge used rather than photos alone.

### *Did You Know.....*

There is a great website full of resources and information concerning historic preservation, building restoration and cultural resource management, and that Historic Waxahachie Inc. is listed as one the "Historical Societies and Preservation Organizations" in the great state of Texas? The website [PreservationDirectory.com](http://PreservationDirectory.com) has the goal of fostering the preservation of historic buildings, historic Downtowns and neighborhoods and cultural resources. Further, it promotes heritage tourism by facilitating communication among historic preservation professionals and the general public, and is full of hours and hours of interesting browsing for the historical junkie.