

Wichita County Historical Commission

Preservation News



Wichita Falls Traction Company Marker Re-Dedication

This company, founded by Frank Kell and J. A. Kemp in 1909, played a major role in Wichita Falls' growth during the early 20th Century. After purchasing undeveloped land between the city limits and Lake Wichita, the company stimulated demand for it by building an electric streetcar system to the area. With the new ease and speed of travel, what formerly had been the city's outskirts became a convenient place to live. The city grew rapidly along the streetcar route and the company profited from its real estate speculation. Buses replaced the streetcars in 1933.



Join us as the Wichita County Historical Commission and the City of Wichita Falls re-dedicates the Wichita Traction Company Texas Historical Commission Marker on Thursday, March 19th at 2:00PM at its new location, Bridwell Park, 1200 Harrison Street.

Wichita County
Archives
Carol Rudd, Archivist

Hours of Operation:
Wednesday,
Thursday,
and Friday
10:00am - 4:00pm
720 Indiana

Wichita County
Texas
Archives is on
Facebook

Program
Downtown Post
Office Tour

MEETING
First Thursday of the
Month
12:00 Noon - 1:00pm
Museum of North
Texas History
720 Indiana

Got a call from Scott Boyer who lives in Kansas. He has a Spudder oil rig that he will give away. He and his Dad worked on and off on the rig for years. But Dad died and Scott said "it just isn't the same without my Dad." The Spudder has all the parts and is in good condition. All you have to do is go to Kansas and pick it up. If you're interested, I've got the phone number.

Jessica Johnson, an art teacher at Legacy High School, called to ask if the Archives would be willing to loan a few of the Eastside quilts. She also invited Brenda Jarrett to explain the history of quilts and then the story of the five Eastside quilts.

After listening to Miss Johnson plan, I delivered all five of the quilts and picked them up in a week. It was a great experience for Legacy.

If you have some spare time, we are asking for help in the Archives. The Anniversary Files need some work.

The Golden Jubilee 1932, The Texas Centennial 1836-1936,

The Diamond Jubilee 1957, The Centennial 1882-1982,

and the Bicentennial 1776-1976. It doesn't have to be all day.

One or two hours would be great.

February 5, 2026 - Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Co-chairman John Yates called the Historical Commission to order at 12:00 noon.

Attendance Members: John Yates, Bryce Blair, Paula Elmore, Laurie Cruse, Douglas O. James, Celia Moseley, Robert Palmer, Billy Clark, Joe Ross, Suzanne Darr, Julia Eriksen, Becky Trammell, Carol Rudd.

Attendance Guest: Karen Montgomery-Gagne, Josh Scott, Rose Wallace, Rachel Patterson, Theresa Gilmore.

Program: Joe Ross of Joseph A. Ross, Architect Inc. did an outstanding job of letting the Historical Commission hear the story and see the plans of beautiful homes of the early oil boom. Most of the homes were built by Stanley Field, a native of Kansas City. On Brook St. side by side homes were large, lavish and ready to entertain 800 friends while the youngsters had their get-togethers in the basement. Later Indian Heights--nicknamed Millionaires Row--became the place to build. Later, Morning Side was developing beautiful homes for beautiful people. The next time Joe speaks at the Commission, the topic will be "Courthouses and Schools."

Approval of Minutes: The approval of the February minutes was approved by Doug James and seconded by Bryce Blair.

Chairman Reports:

Program: Get ready to go on a field trip to the Downtown Wichita Falls Post Office. We will meet out front and start the tour at Noon.

Cemetery: John Yates made an appeal to take a moment to stop by a cemetery and take a good look at the markers. Is the headstone in good shape or does it need repositioning? Is there a marker missing, or has it been vandalized. Let somebody know.

Website: The Commission has several ways to get the message out to the public: Facebook, Wichita County Historical Commission. Org.

Markers: Three markers have been approved to moved to a different location. Thirteen markers have been approved.

Old Business: On behalf of the commission, Bryce Blair presented a plaque commemorating Robert Palmer's 15 years of service to the Historical Commission.

New Business: Where will we have our meeting?

All of us agree that parking in front of the Museum is a problem. Below are three options on the table. Be ready to vote at the next meeting.

1. Move to the Kemp Center of the Arts.
2. Move to the Clarence W. Muehlberger Travel Center.
3. Move to the Pickers Loft

Adjournment: At 1:08 pm Bryce Blair made the motion to adjourn and Carol Rudd seconded.

Agenda - March 5th

- Call to Order:** Becky Trammell
- Attendance Members:**
- Attendance Guest:**
- Program:** Downtown Wichita Falls Post Office Tour - **Meet at POST OFFICE**
- Approval of Minutes:** February
- Chairman Reports:**
- Program:** Douglas James & Shannon Morton
- Cemetery:** John Yates:
- Website:** Becky Trammell and Elizabeth Hawley
- Markers:** Spring cycle begins March 1, 2026.
- Old Business: Meeting location; day/time; yearly report; Archive needs**
- New Business: Open meetings training; Pomeroy Marker Training;**
- Adjournment:**



Ralph Harvey volunteering for the Archives.

Do you have an hour a week to give to the Archives? We need you. There are many projects that need sorting, filing, and recording. Please, give an hour to the Archives. Promise you will learn something and help those who come to the Archives to do research.



Chair Emeritus Robert Palmer Honored

The Wichita County Historical Commission honored retiring Chair Robert Palmer during their February meeting. Bryce Blair, former Wichita County Archivist, presents Robert with a plaque commemorating his leadership of the Wichita County Historical Commission.

Online CHC Appointee Orientation Course

The interactive learning module provides an overview of the responsibilities of appointees, preservation services provided by the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the role of local preservationists in federal review processes, and the goals of the statewide historic preservation plan.

[LINK HERE](#)

Open Records Training for CHC Appointee

Open Meetings Act training is offered by the Texas Attorney General's office on their website. CHC appointees are required by state law to receive training in Texas open government laws.

[TRAINING HERE](#)

Spring Marker Cycle

March 1st marks the beginning of the Spring 2026 Marker Cycle. Applications are submitted online until May 15th.

Got an idea, let's work on it!

Commission Meeting Location Options

1. Picker's Loft. Lunch is available and a private meeting room with A/V for free. We would suggest, if Picker's is chosen, that you either plan to arrive early or eat after the meeting.
2. Clarence Muehlberger Travel Center Conference Room. We can meet for at the Wichita Falls Travel Center for free. A/V equipment is also available.
3. Kemp Center for the Arts. A/V available. Require \$75 Membership.

Downtown Post Office Tour

On Thursday, March 5th at 12:00 noon, we'll meet in the lobby of the Downtown Post Office and make contact in room 115. We'll defer all business to the April meeting.

NOTICE: This will be a walking tour.

Women's History Month

Every year since 1995, presidents have issued a proclamation designating March as Women's History Month. But before it was Women's History Month, it was Women's History Week, and before that it was only a day. Explore the slides to learn more about the history of Women's History Month and how it was established originally to combat the absence of women in educational texts and to bring women's history into the mainstream nationwide.



[Click here to see local activities](#)

