



NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL PRESERVATION SUMMIT

The Crazy Water Hotel Ballroom | Mineral Wells, Texas | May 11, 2023

12:00 LUNCH

12:30 WELCOME

Willis Winters, FAIA, Architect & Historian

Preservation Texas President-Elect Willis Winters will welcome attendees to the North Central Texas Regional Preservation Summit.

12:40 PRESERVATION TEXAS PROGRAM UPDATE

Evan Thompson, Executive Director, Preservation Texas

PT's Executive Director, Evan Thompson, will provide an overview of recent initiatives and programs underway including the 2023 Texas Legislative Session, the opening of three regional offices, the Texas Rural African-American Heritage Grants Program, Bassett Farms Conservancy, and upcoming events.

1:00 MINERAL WELLS REGIONAL HISTORY & CONTEXT

Carol Elder, Owner, Famous Mineral Water Company

Kelly North, Local Historian & Podcaster

Mineral Wells locals, Carol Elder and Kelly North will present the "crazy" history of their town - from the discovery of the waters and the boom that followed, making Mineral Wells the city "Where America Drinks its water to Health", to the development of Fort Wolters as the U.S. Army Primary Helicopter Center.

1:30 REDEVELOPING DOWNTOWN MINERAL WELLS

Tony Allender, Principal, Hawes Hill & Associates

Cody Jordan, CEO of Commercial Development, NSC Properties

Naina Magon, Principal, Hawes Hill & Associates

Economic development experts Tony Allender, Cody Jordan and Naina Magon will provide an overview of the recent progress which has been made towards preserving the historic and cultural resources of downtown Mineral Wells, discussing how partnership, local finance and creative thinking can be leveraged to bring ideas to reality.

2:25 SNACK BREAK

2:45 THE BANKHEAD HIGHWAY

Marcel Quimby, FAIA, Principal, Quimby Preservation Studio

In 1920, Texas State Highway 1, which connected Texarkana to El Paso, was designated as part of the Bankhead Highway - one of the nation's earliest transcontinental highways. Once known as the Broadway of America, the Bankhead Highway's impact on hundreds of Texas towns remains evident to this day. Marcel Quimby will discuss the story of the country's early highways and share information about the Bankhead Highway within several North Central Texas communities.

3:15 TEXAS TABERNACLES: A LOOK AT NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

Evan Thompson, Executive Director, Preservation Texas

Constructed across Texas in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, free-standing, open air wooden tabernacles served both religious and secular purposes in rural communities. Often associated with churches, tabernacles also hosted political speeches, school events, and veterans reunions. PT's executive director Evan Thompson will share some of his findings from his long-term project to document surviving tabernacles, with examples from across North Central Texas, discussing key characteristics, building types, and their significance.

3:45 THE POOLVILLE TABERNACLE: HISTORY, LOSS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Todd Phillips, Poolville Cemetery Association

The Poolville Tabernacle, over 120 years old, was destroyed by a tornado in March of 2023. Learn more about the significance of the Poolville Tabernacle including its history and future plans for the site.

4:00 TARRANT COUNTY PRESERVATION PLAN

Jaimi Parker, Historic Preservation and Archives Officer, Tarrant County

Tarrant County is one of sixteen Texas counties that has achieved Certified Local Government status. Its countywide preservation plan can set an example for others to learn from, particularly as major cities grow into formerly rural areas of their counties and neighboring counties. Jaimi Parker, Tarrant County's Historic Preservation and Archives Officer, will discuss the creation of Tarrant County's 2021 Historic Preservation Plan. Having taken her position after the creation and early implementation of the plan, she will also discuss the plan's challenges from a newcomer's perspective, as well as the benefits of having a comprehensive countywide preservation plan.

4:30 THE WEST TEXAS UTILITIES POWER AND ICE PLANT

Dixie Hoover, Board of Directors, Preservation Texas

Abilene's 1922 West Texas Utilities (WTU) Power and Ice Plant was designed by Dallas architect Wyatt C. Hedrick. The innovative design of the industrial space incorporated plentiful natural light, as well as a smokestack which remains a dominant feature of Abilene's skyline today. A pillar of the community, the Abilene plant served as a regional electricity provider from the 1920s through 2000, helping shape the 20th century energy industry and economy of North Central Texas. Preservation Texas board member Dixie Hoover will share the story of Abilene's WTU Power and Ice Plant, which was included on the 2022 list of Texas's Most Endangered Places.

4:45 MOST ENDANGERED PLACES LIST ANNOUNCEMENT

Preservation Texas Staff & Board of Directors will present the 2023 list of Texas's Most Endangered Places.

5:00 RECEPTION

Following the Summit, a reception will take place on the rooftop patio overlooking downtown Mineral Wells. A cash bar will be available.