



## *Preserve Granbury*

10-YEAR REPORT  
2005 – 2015

### Preserving Historic Properties

1. Purchased Granbury College President's House to preserve and rehabilitate the late-19<sup>th</sup> century Granbury Historic Landmark.
2. Organized and held volunteer clean-up of house and yard, including demolition of non-historic interior features. More than 15 members of Preserve Granbury worked during clean-up day.
3. Prepared Preservation Plan for President's House, planning for rehabilitation in five phases.
4. Funded and completed Phase I rehabilitation of President's House, which included foundation work—leveling house, installing additional piers, and framing walls.
5. Donated \$14,000 to City of Granbury for rehabilitation of historic buildings at Lambert Branch Park.
6. Coordinated completion of Master Plan for Lambert Branch Park and Preservation Plan for historic buildings located in the park. Invested \$4,600 in professional time and \$1,500 toward cost of plan.
7. Donated \$26,000 toward rehabilitation of Gordon House and other historic buildings at Langdon Center.
8. Led and coordinated a community-wide fundraising drive that raised \$672,285 in donations and pledges to purchase the St. Helen's Building and donate it to the City of Granbury for expansion and improvement of the Granbury Opera House. Invested \$5,275 in professional staff time to coordinate drive and more than \$1,000 in materials.
9. Established Preserve Granbury's first Preservation Revolving Fund, which will be used to save and rehabilitate endangered significant historic resources and resell them.
10. Met with staff of Galveston Historical Foundation to learn about their preservation revolving fund. Beginning plans to establish a Preserve Granbury Preservation Revolving Fund, which will provide funding for purchasing and rehabilitating locally endangered historic properties.
11. Worked with Granbury Association of Realtors, giving them professional advice on their 2012 "Realtor Redo," which is the rehabilitation of a historic house on Granbury's North Side.
12. Provided Hood County and its historic preservation architect an authentic wood shutter from the courthouse windows so they could use it as a prototype for reproduction.
13. Created and erected two interpretive signs explaining courthouse restoration project goals and discoveries.
14. Furnished Yeats Cabin with historically appropriate furnishings.
15. Obtained Determination of Eligibility to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places for the A.P. Gordon House in the Langdon Center. This will enable the City of Granbury to seek grants for rehabilitation of the house.
16. Assisted the City of Granbury in researching and writing a grant application for the Texas Department of Transportation's Enhancement Program. If awarded, the grant would provide \$630,167 to rehabilitate the A.P. Gordon House at the Langdon Center as Granbury's Visitor Center and complete a system of hike-and-bike trails that will connect city beach to all of the historic attractions and Lambert Branch Park, where it will connect with existing trails that lead to the airport.
17. Worked with City of Granbury on preservation materials, methods, and procedures for historic properties at Langdon Center and at Lambert Branch Park.
18. Supported owner of Brazos Drive-In in her efforts to purchase new digital equipment for the drive-in and keep it economically vital and open for residents.
19. Arranged for community-wide meeting to discuss sale of Brazos Drive-In and ideas to keep it open and contributing to the community's tourism industry and economy. Worked with owner of drive-in to obtain publicity for sale of drive-in.
20. Advocated for preservation of the Art Deco-style Brazos Motel and its sign. After demolition was approved, salvaged historic 1950s' architectural materials from old motel manager's office.

## Advocating for Historic Preservation

21. Attended bi-weekly progress meetings on restoration of Hood County Courthouse. Advocated for Hood County's acceptance of supplemental funding to install acoustical plaster in the courtroom and paint the courthouse roof. Offered \$2,000 to Hood County – \$1,000 for use in painting the courthouse tower and roof and \$1,000 for appropriate acoustical treatments in restored courtroom.
22. Ran a vertical half-page ad in *Hood County News* encouraging locals to shop Granbury's historic downtown. Letter was entitled *An Open Letter to Residents of Hood County: When You Shop Downtown Granbury You Preserve Our Heritage*.
23. Attended monthly meetings of City of Granbury Tourism Advisory Board.
24. Advocated for preservation of several historic properties in Granbury.
25. Urged the City of Granbury to accept The Dora Lee Langdon Cultural and Educational Center from Tarleton State University, which council voted to do in November 2011.
26. Reviewed agendas for City Council, County Commissioners, and Historic Preservation Commission meetings.

## Building Community Visibility for Preservation and Preserve Granbury

27. Began setting up Preserve Granbury's first public office in contemporary garage at Granbury College President's House.
28. Organized and hosted six annual membership meetings and preservation picnics.
29. Judged the Granbury Middle Schools' student history fair for three years and provided a \$250 award in 2014 and 2015.
30. Developed quarterly membership e-newsletters and sent them out to members since 2010.
31. Increased number of members to from 5 in 2005 to more than 80 in May 2015.
32. Created Preserve Granbury Web site and Facebook page.
33. Wrote and printed a tour booklet for Comanche Peak.
34. Hosted grand opening reception for Bridge Street History Center.
35. Taught a Public History Class each year for undergraduate and graduate students from Tarleton State University.
36. Sponsored eight-week exhibit at Langdon Center's Gordon House entitled "Comanche Nation: The Story of Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker."
37. Presented four educational seminars in conjunction with Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker Exhibit, featuring authors Glen Frankel, Tom Crum, and Paul Carlson, and local historian Doug Harman.
38. Partnered with Hood County Historical Commission and Hood County Friends of the Library to present three events featuring author and professor Carla Kaplan, who wrote *Miss Anne in Harlem, the White Women of the Black Renaissance*, which features Granbury's Josephine Cogdell.
39. Conducted professional preservation training sessions for members of Granbury's Historic Preservation Commission.
40. Published *Historic Hood County*, a newly updated local history covering from prehistoric times to the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Sold several hundred copies of the book.
41. Developed a history of Hood County presentation and delivered to more than 30 local groups throughout the community. The power-point presentation features old photographs donated by residents.
42. Presented 22 preservation awards since 2010.
43. Presented 25<sup>th</sup> annual Candlelight Tour, which opened 25 historic or historically reproduced homes and public buildings to approximately 1,000 guests and 400 volunteers.
44. Developed and printed membership brochure to solicit new members to organization.
45. Co-hosted "Granbury Then and Now" programs on local educational television.
46. Co-sponsored a "Preservation 101" conference on the restoration of wood windows taught by Brent Hull of Fort Worth, free to local residents.
47. Applied for and received two scholarships from the National Preservation Institute to send City of Granbury employees to a three-day professional workshop on Historic Property Management.
48. Conducted historical tours of Hood County for residents of The Estates.
49. Applied for and received two scholarships from the National Preservation Institute to send two City of Granbury employees to a three-day professional workshop on Historic Property Management.

### Raising Funds for Historic Preservation Work

50. Coordinated six annual fundraisers known as Party on the Peak, which opened Comanche Peak to thousands of attendees and raised thousands of dollars for Preserve Granbury's projects.
51. Received three planning grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to hold strategic planning sessions.
52. Received three grants from the Inge Foundation: \$5,000 in 2009 for capacity building (hiring a consulting executive director); \$10,000 in 2010 for rehabilitation of buildings at Lambert Branch Park; and a \$20,000 pledge for rehabilitation of the Granbury College President's House.
53. Received \$26,000 in donations from the Gordon family for rehabilitation of the Gordon House at the Langdon Center.
54. Joined Kroger's Community Rewards Program.
55. Partnered with Acton Elementary School and applied for a \$10,000 "Save Our History" grant from the History Channel.
56. Applied for a \$70,000 grant from the 1772 Foundation for Preserve Granbury's revolving fund.
57. Applied for a \$30,000 grant from the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Preservation Trust Fund for rehabilitation of the Granbury College President's House.

### Developing an Effective Preservation Non-Profit Group

58. Increased number of directors from 5 in 2005 to 13 in 2015.
59. Held three strategic planning sessions led by a professional.
60. Developed and approved a 2012 to 2015 Strategic Plan for Preserve Granbury.