



El Paso County Historical Commission
819 Sunset Rd.
El Paso, TX 79922-2146

3 June 2009

County Clerk
County of El Paso
800 E. Overland
Ste. 208
El Paso, TX 79901-2427

Subject: Departmental Report – County Historical Commission

Executive Summary:

Our CHC held regularly schedule monthly meetings at both the El Paso Museum of History Our subcommittee involvement with numerous organizations around the County continues as will be reported below. Our membership in my estimation is the best yet. We have several new members who have contributed to our continuing efforts of reaching out to the community and beyond.

Mission Statement:

“County Historic Commissions have state mandated statutory responsibility to initiate and conduct programs suggested by the County Commissioner’s Court and the Texas Historical Commission. Additionally, the CHC’s are charged to preserve Texas’ heritage for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations. The CHC’s are responsible for the preservation of countless historic buildings and districts, artifacts, documents and other pieces of Texas history. CHC’s are responsible for reviewing all applications for state historical markers before they are delivered to the THC. They also serve as advisors to their commissioner’s court on matters of historic preservation. In addition, they often operate county history museums, develop archival collections, promote local history celebrations and heritage tourism, publish books and brochures dealing with the county’s history and historic sites, undertake surveys of cultural and historic resources, conduct oral history projects and all other manner of preservation programs.”

Highlights of Current, Recent, and Future Activities:

The brand new “El Paso’s Visitor Channel” has been well received in the market place. We have several of the hotels who have agreed to “spool” this in their guest rooms

We continue to work out the bugs for our signage regarding the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. The signage at Keystone Heritage Park should begin construction within the next month and additional sites not long thereafter. (see attached)

Our sign package that was completed in cooperation with the CARTA Group (Camino Real consortium), National Park Service, Groundwork El Paso and the Community Foundation is moving forward. We have submitted the official request with the IBWC and are awaiting their approval. The El Paso Parks and Rec. management team is on board and very happy to assist us with this as is the IBWC. Once their upper management gives us the okay, we'll begin installing the nine signs that we have in storage. (See attached)

The Mission Valley Transportation Terminal is being voted on the first Tuesday of June by City Council. Once approved, the construction plan will begin. It'll be very important that the Mission Trail Assoc and other groups get involved right away to assist planning exhibits and theme. We'll do our best to facilitate this with the interested parties.

Progress on Major Projects:

The new "Nature Tourism Brochure" is out and has been received very well. We're recommending that the next reprint match the size and configuration of the previous similar brochures to better fit the racks that we have been supplying around the County and elsewhere.

Our collaboration with the Texas Mountain Trail on the "Birding Trail" map and brochure continues to move forward and looks to be finished fourth quarter 2009. We now have the Texas Parks and Wildlife as a team member whose expertise regarding wildlife and artwork will be utilized for better costs and accuracy.

We recently unveiled the Old Fort Bliss Marker at its new location. We owe a large debt of gratitude to the HCAEP and its staff. Great articles appeared on the print media as well as the on the broadcast media. Although the El Paso County Historical Society received credit, it was indeed the County Historical Commission that worked with the construction crew at HACEP. We also owe a thanks to the folks at Sun Metro cleaned and painted the stop next to the marker an even matched the color of the wrought iron fence.

Budget Analysis/Financial Status:

We continue to make sure that the funds that the "Court" has so generously approved are spent in a manner that will best represent what El Paso County has to offer the heritage and cultural visitor.

Major Projects: SEE; Board, Advisory Board, or Commission Status

Grant Status: We were recently turned down for a \$5,000 grant from the Hunt Foundation to assist us in the production of a video about the life of Tom Lea. We did receive a \$3,000 commitment from an interested donor in East Texas.

Contract Status:

The EPCHC does not at this time have any contracts to oversee.

Performance Summary:

Our performance over the last year was recognized recently by the Texas Historical Commission at their annual conference with a "Distinguished Service Award". We had amassed more than 120,000 combined volunteer hours, when we took into account our support of the many different heritage related groups throughout the County.

Heritage Site Preservation: Our next program will be to work in conjunction with the City Historic Preservation Officer, the Landmark Commission and the THC to develop a more comprehensive inventory of assets to include buildings and sites.

Heritage Brochures: We will be reprinting several brochures whose supplies have dwindled.

Mexican Revolution: Our meetings continue as we draw closer to the "Revolution" celebration. Meetings are occurring several times per month to make sure we capitalize on this momentous occasion.

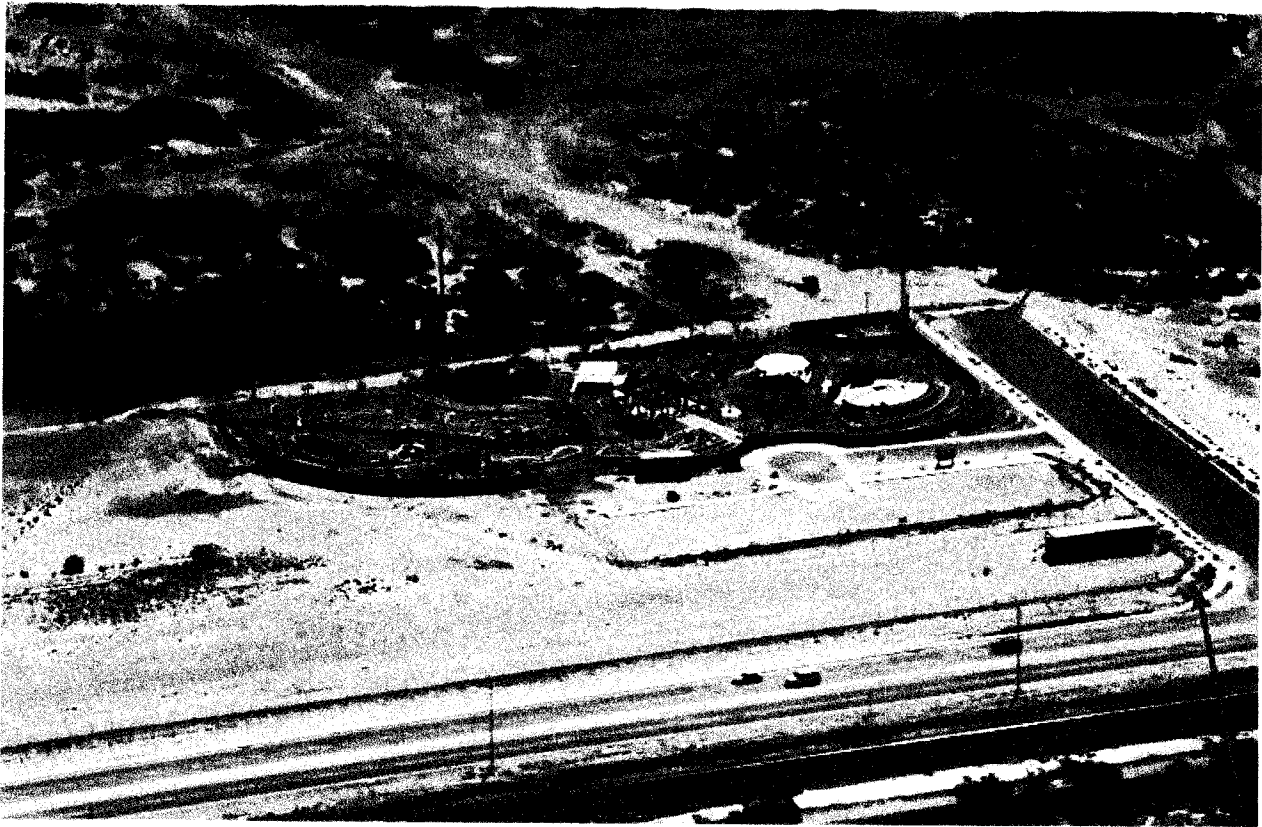
Board, Advisory Board, or Commission Status

We currently have 21 Board Members on the County Historical Commission, with the "life members", appointee's, representatives of related organizations and affiliates we top off at more than 30.

Sincerely,

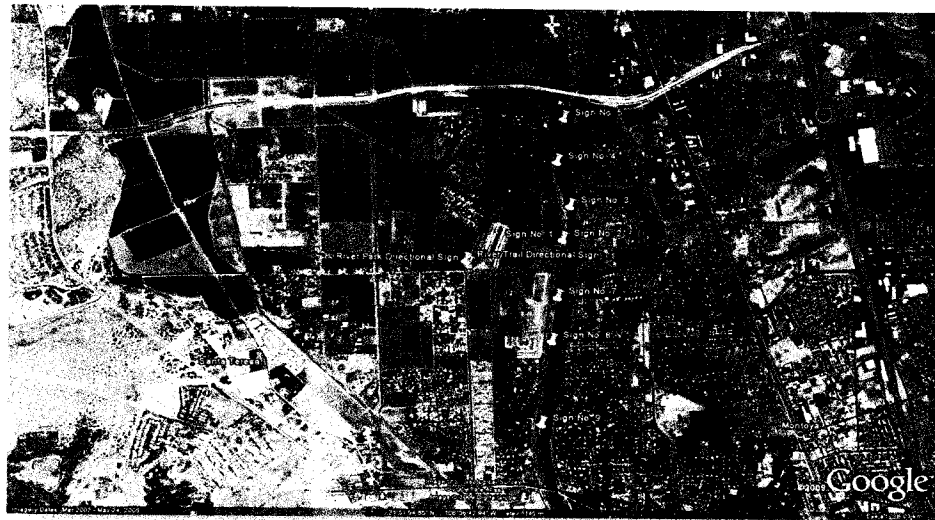
Bernard J. Sargent

Bernard J. Sargent
Chairman,
El Paso County Historical Commission



Sign Location

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Certified Site at Keystone Heritage Park



Over-View Sign Package for the River Park Trail

El Paso del Norte

Centros de la Comunidad

El Paso del Norte es un centro de la comunidad que se encuentra en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos. Es un lugar donde se encuentran las culturas de ambos países y se puede apreciar la diversidad de la región.

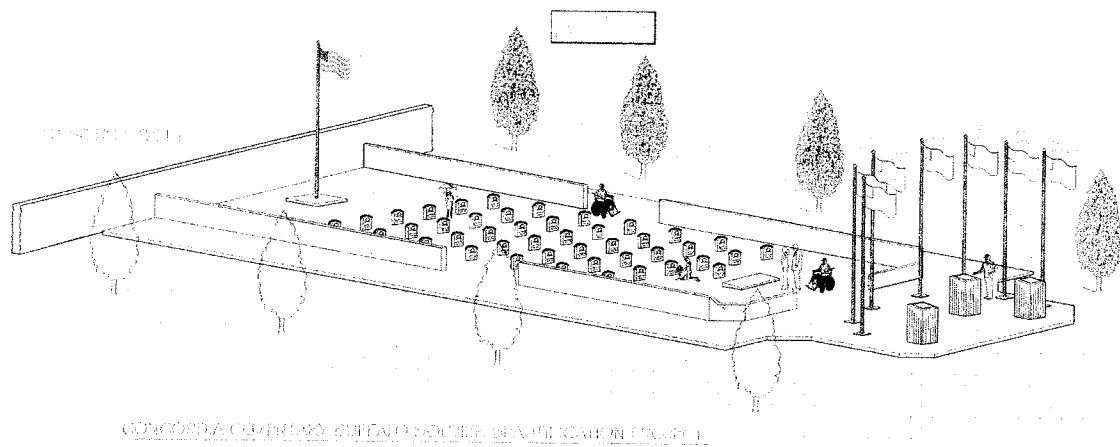
Cruce de caminos internacionales

El Paso del Norte es un cruce de caminos internacionales que conecta México con Estados Unidos. Es un lugar donde se encuentran las culturas de ambos países y se puede apreciar la diversidad de la región.

El Paso del Norte es un centro de la comunidad que se encuentra en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos. Es un lugar donde se encuentran las culturas de ambos países y se puede apreciar la diversidad de la región.

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Camino Real Signage location and example



Buffalo Soldier Memorial Concordia Cemetery