



February Historic Preservation Commission Monthly Update

Planning and Development Services Dept.

Historic Tax Exemptions:

- The HPC will consider all tax exemption applications for recommendation to Council at the May HPC meeting. Like last year, staff will begin completing property inspections in March and will upload applications to SharePoint for Commissioner review. As of February 3, 11 of the 52 anticipated applications have been received.
- Kerstin will reach out to new Commissioners about training and anyone else who would like a refresher about the inspection process.
- A copy of the Tax Exemption calendar is included as an attachment to this update.

HPC Training:

- Vice-chair Whitaker and Commissioner Conrad have been registered for the *Real Places* conference in Austin on April 8-10, 2026.
- Commissioners and staff are required to attend at least one training session per year as part of our Certified Local Government certification requirements. Please inform Kerstin as soon as you complete a training session so we can track your training for reporting purposes. Include the name of the training, host/organization, and time and/or send the certificate of completion if available.

Lunch and Learn/Events:

- The next Lunch and Learn *Trails, Tails, and Tradition: European Migration and Stagecoach Inn History* presented by Texas Brazos Trail Region Exec. Director (and former HPC chair) Pamela Anderson will be held on February 10 from 12:00-1:00pm at the Baca Center.
- The Williamson County Historical Commission presents Dr. Clark Wernecke in *A Toast to Our Past: The Galt Site and the Peopling of the Americas* on February 19 from 7-9 pm at the County Courthouse in Georgetown. \$20 admission includes refreshments.

Letter RE Historic Masonry:

- As recommended by Round Rock Preservation and in response to a number of inquiries relating to painting historic masonry (stone, brick, and/or stucco), staff distributed a letter to owners and a few tenants of historic properties in January 2026 informing them that painting or sealing historic masonry that was not originally painted is not appropriate and can cause irreversible damage to historic materials. The letter reminds owners/tenants that a Certificate of Appropriateness is required prior to completing work that changes anything on the exterior of a property, including paint color. The letter also includes additional resources on masonry care including where to find guidance on property repointing and mortar repair.
- A copy of the letter is included as an attachment to this update.



Downtown Mixed-Use Zoning:

- Staff created a new webpage dedicated to Downtown Planning. The adopted code amendments and additional information including a user guide to assist with navigating the new mixed-use zoning standards can now be found at <https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/downtownplanning>.
- Staff has discussed historic designation with the owners of 10 downtown properties, of which 5 or 6 are intending to pursue designation. One application was received before the end of 2025 and, if approved, may be eligible for the 2026 tax exemption.

Updates on administrative CofAs for properties with H Overlay:

- **103 E Main Street:** Staff has approved an administrative CofA to repaint a recently painted brick surface at the rear of the property with either Valspar 3011-6 Toffee Glaze or Valspar 8002-19G Vintage Lincoln.

Downtown

A ribbon cutting was held on January 29 to celebrate the opening of the recently completed Griffith Building and Paseo. These projects were reviewed and approved by the HPC under HP23-000015 at their meeting on August 15, 2023, to ensure the design was compatible with the National Register District. Staff processed 5 amendments to the original CofA.



Parks and Recreation Dept. (PARC)

- PARC is revisiting restoration plans for the Sansom House/Cantina next to the Stagecoach Inn to assess whether they are still applicable should funding become available in the future. A set of plans for restoration was last reviewed by the HPC in 2013.
- Staff are finalizing interpretive signage for Heritage Trail West. Staff are working with PARC to complete final reviews of interpretive signage for the trail.
- On February 8, 2024, City Council approved an agreement to continue the development of the Downtown Park (formerly Lawn at Brushy Creek). The Downtown Park agreement also encompasses the design and administration of the Town Green Project which



includes enhancements to the area around the water tower and the Johnson Building (gas station). Staff have received the 100% design plans for the Downtown Park and will be proceeding with construction documentation with the goal of submitting for permitting later in 2026. Construction of the Town Green Project, including the Johnson Building, has begun and is expected to be completed within 9 to 12 months. Utility conflicts have been identified and staff are evaluating what impact they may have on the construction timeline. The building permit for the Johnson Building is currently under review.

- A new sculpture of a tree with lights will be installed in Memorial Park by the spiral. Site work is complete. The sculpture is expected to be installed in late winter 2026.

General Services Dept.

The Palm House was relocated from 212 E Main Street to the Old Settlers Association grounds on January 30, 2024. Heimsath Architects developed a preservation program and restoration plan for the house which was reviewed by the THC. The HPC reviewed and approved the restoration plans with conditions at the April 15, 2025, meeting. The restorations plans have been finalized. The construction contract for the rehabilitation of the house is undergoing legal review and is expected to come before City Council in a few weeks. The 3-4 month construction period is expected to begin in early 2026 following Council approval. Preservation staff will review plans as submitted and issue CofAs for any products not specified in the approved CofA.

Round Rock Preservation (RRP)

RRP is publishing a monthly column about Round Rock history in the online publication, *Round the Rock*. Their column can be found at the link below:

<https://roundtherocktx.com/round-rock-history-by-round-rock-preservation>.