



April Historic Preservation Commission Monthly Update

Planning and Development Services Dept.

Chair Anderson resigned from the HPC effective March 10, 2025. Vice-Chair Whitaker has automatically become chair and a new vice-chair will be elected at the April HPC meeting.

Preservation Month: May is National Preservation Month allowing local preservation and civic organizations to spotlight their preservation programs and heritage tourism. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's theme is *The Power of Place*. The Preservation Month schedule of events and activities is presented below.



Please attend the City Council meeting on May 8 at 6pm for the Preservation Month Proclamation. Also, volunteers are needed for Music on Main on May 7 and May 21. Please inform staff which date(s) you are available to volunteer.

Events:

- May 2, 6 pm-8 pm at Old Settlers Association - Chuckwagon Dinner (Sponsored Williamson Museum fundraiser) <https://williamsonmuseum.org/event/chuckwagon-dinner-and-play/>
- May 3, 10 am-3 pm, Old Settlers Association – Pioneer Day (Sponsored by Williamson Museum) pioneer-era crafts and activities <https://williamsonmuseum.org/event/19th-annual-pioneer-public-day/>
- May 7, 7 pm-9 pm, Prete Plaza – Preservation Month booth at Music on Main <https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/event/music-on-main/2025-05-07/>
- May 8, 6 pm, Council Chambers – Preservation Month proclamation at City Council
- May 13, noon-1 pm, Baca Center – Lunch and Learn presented by Randy Michna from the Old Settler's Association.
- May 15, 4 pm-6 pm, Baca Center – Reception for Center Art Club of Round Rock monthlong exhibit, "Celebrate Round Rock," spotlighting local history.
- May 21, 7 pm-9 pm, Prete Plaza – Preservation Month booth at Music on Main <https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/event/music-on-main/2025-05-21/>

Monthlong:

- Center Art Club exhibit "Celebrate Round Rock" on display in the Baca Center Lobby; exhibit opening on Thursday, May 15, from 4-6 pm.
- Round Rock Preservation antique embroidered handkerchiefs exhibit "Bygone Elegance" on display on the third floor of the library.
- Round Rock History Series banners on display at the library.

Awards: The City of Round Rock is the recipient of the 2024 Texas Historical Commission (THC) Award of Excellence in Media Achievement. The City will be honored at the THC award banquet held at the *Real Places* conference on Thursday, April 24.



HPC Training:

HPC Training Tracking: As part of our Texas Historical Commission requirements as a Certified Local Government (CLG), staff and Commissioners are required to complete training every year. The state requires staff to submit records of all training completed. Please inform Kerstin immediately following training completion 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.

- All Commissioners are registered for an upcoming NAPC webinar “Through the Pane: A Two Part Series on Historic Windows.”
 - “Part 1: Understanding Historic Windows: Evolution, Assessment & Repair” is on Thursday, April 17 from noon-1:00pm.
 - “Part 2: Managing Window Replacement: Lessons from Local Preservation Programs” is on Tuesday April, 29 from noon-1:00pm. All Commissioners will receive a confirmation email with a link to access the webinars.
- Vice-Chair Whitaker and Commissioners Parson and Ellam will attend the *Real Places* conference in Austin, TX from April 23-25, 2025.

Historic Tax Exemptions: The HPC will consider all tax exemption applications for recommendation to Council at the May 20 HPC meeting. Inspections are on-going. Every Commissioner has been assigned inspections. **All comments must be submitted by May 6.**

Local Legends:

- Commissioners adopted a goal to each solicit a new nomination this year. The nomination form and more information about the program can be found on the city website: www.roundrocktexas.gov/locallegends. Please share this program information. Note that the deadline to submit nominations is June 30.
- A news item promoting the Local Legend video that was debuted at the announcement of the 2024 Local Legends at City Council has been posted. Watch the video by following this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U16z1kjTv4Y&feature=youtu.be>

Downtown Mixed-Use Zoning:

- The City is reevaluating its Downtown Mixed-Use zoning districts which include many historic properties. Staff are currently summarizing all of the public input collected. Updates will be posted on roundrocktexas.gov/downtownzoning.
- As part of this project, PDS reached out the 125 property owners whose properties are older than 50 years but are not currently designated. The outreach had a 12% response rate. Staff are scheduling meetings with interested property owners to discuss the historic preservation program and designation process. As of 4/11, staff have met with 6 property owners and are coordinating meetings with an additional 5 property owners.



Updates on properties with H Overlay:

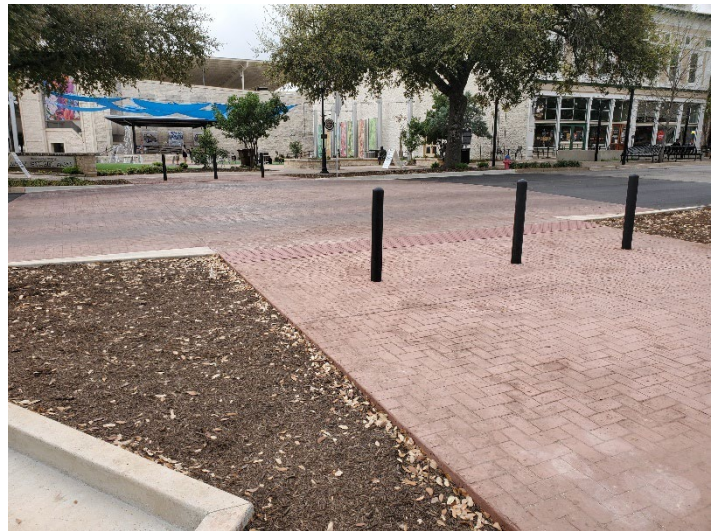
- **803 E Liberty Ave:**

- **#100:** A metal handrail was added to the front porch. The handrail was not required by code but requested by tenant.
- **#300:** The garage conversion from an office to an apartment was completed and received its Certificate of Occupancy.

- **609 E Liberty Ave:** A predevelopment meeting was held to discuss the proposal for a new garage with 2nd floor apartment. Staff anticipate a CofA application for the project within a few months.

- **206 E Main St:** The HPC approved the conversion of a back window to a door in HP24-000003. The work has been completed; however, staff do not believe the door meets the conditions of the CofA. Staff will be meeting with the contractor's representatives to discuss remedies.

- **216 E Main St:** The original CofA for the Griffith building (former library) was approved by the HPC on 8/17/23 and granted staff purview to review any alterations to the plans. Staff issued a minor amendment to the CofA for the mortar selection for the brick portion of the west and south elevation which changed from white to charcoal gray. The raised pedestrian crossing that connects Prete Plaza to the Paseo is now complete. This project was reviewed because the H overlay for the historic district includes the Main Street right-of-way.



Parks and Recreation Dept. (PARD)

PARD 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.

Heritage Trail West is now complete. The interpretive signage, which was originally included under this contract, will be placed under a new contract and will be completed in the near future. Staff are working with PARD to review the 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). These improvements are included under the same contract as the Downtown Park but will be completed at a later time. Construction of the Town Green Project, including the Johnson Building, is anticipated to begin this summer.

General Services Dept.

The Palm House was relocated from 212 E Main Street to the Old Settlers Association grounds on January 30, 2024. The house has been moved onto its new foundation piers and the chimney has been reassembled. Heimsath Architects developed a preservation program and restoration plan for the house which was reviewed by the THC. The HPC will review these plans at the April 15 meeting.

Round Rock Preservation (RRP)

RRP held their annual General Meeting on April 12.

RRP met with city staff to discuss the use of the Stagecoach Inn on March 5.