



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sam Houston Center Receives \$1 Million in State Funds to Address Critical Needs

AUSTIN, TX – A hub of Southeast Texas history for the past 36 years, the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center will receive \$1 million in state funds to address critical safety and security needs at its 114-acre complex in Liberty, Texas.

The 83rd Texas Legislature recently approved the funding request submitted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, which opened the Center in 1977 and continues to operate it. The Center complex includes the research library and museum, which houses historical records and artifacts from the ten Southeast Texas counties of the historic Atascosito district; the Jean and Price Daniel Home and Archive; and four relocated historic buildings.

“We are very grateful to the state legislature and the people of Texas for providing the means to make critical repairs at the Sam Houston Center,” said Manager Alana Inman, “which will allow us to provide the Center’s historic treasures with the protection and care they deserve.”

The appropriation will be used over the next two years and will enable the agency to make improvements to the facility and the grounds, including replacing important life safety systems, removing asbestos in the library and museum, installing exterior safety lighting, and constructing a parking area and handicap entrance for the Daniel Home.

One funded improvement that has been a maintenance challenge is correcting drainage issues across the property. Pooling water has damaged the center’s entrance road and led to foundation problems for the historic buildings, including the Gillard-Duncan House that was built in 1848 by Dr. Edward J. and Emma DeBlanc Gillard, early Texans of Creole origin.

Ed Seidenberg, TSLAC’s Interim Director and Librarian, acknowledged the support of local legislators and citizens: “We had supporters from Liberty and from the entire ten-county area we serve. Many historical societies and genealogy groups, private citizens, legislators, and local government officials made telephone calls or sent letters and emails in support of the Sam Houston Center and these necessary repairs. For that, we’re very thankful.”

A branch of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center serves as the official regional historical resource depository for the ten counties of Chambers, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson,

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*Preserving yesterday,
informing today,
inspiring tomorrow.*

Liberty, Newton, Orange, Polk, San Jacinto and Tyler. It is located three miles north of Liberty at 650 FM 1011, off of State Highway 146. For more information on the center, please call (936) 336-8821 or visit www.tsl.state.tx.us/shc/index.html.

PHOTO ATTACHED

Caption: Correcting drainage issues, such as this one at an entrance road to the Sam Houston Center, is one of several property improvements being funded by the state.

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ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION

Formed in 1909, TSLAC is committed to giving Texans access to information and programs they can use to improve their lives and communities. We provide historical and genealogical search assistance, federal and state government documents, electronic research and library services to all Texans, including those who are unable to read standard print material because of physical or reading disabilities. For more information, visit www.tsl.state.tx.us