

W. C. Williams building gets marker

Staff Reports

The historic W. C. Williams Building, built in 1909, was recognized as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) during a ceremony in Palacios on Saturday, July 30.

The building has been a cornerstone and anchor of the commercial and cultural life of Palacios and Matagorda County for 107 years.

The ceremony was sponsored by the Matagorda County Historical Commission (MCHC). Attending the ceremony were members of the commission, including Ona Lea Pierce, Chairman and David Holubec, County Marker Chairman. Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald, Palacios Mayor Glenn Smith, Pam Oliver, Executive Director of the Palacios Chamber of Commerce and the Rev. Eric Young, Pastor of Agape Family Outreach Church, also took part in the ceremony. As an additional bonus, Dreanna Belden and Jake Mangum, representatives of the University of North Texas (UNT) Library System and the UNT Digital Projects Unit were also present.

In addition several descendants of the Williams and Gillett families were in attendance.

The UNT Digital Projects Unit recently completed a scanning project of the Palacios Beacon newspaper back to 1911. The Beacon project and the UNT sponsored Portal to Texas History provided much of the historic research leading to the Williams Building RTHL designation.

The building was built by W. C. "Billy" Williams, a childhood friend of well-known western author, Charles Angelo Siringo (1855-1928). Siringo mentions several references to W. C. Williams, whose nickname was Billy, his wife, Martha Alice Franz Williams (1860 - 1952), and his father, John Aaron Williams (1816 - 1865), in his book, A Texas Cowboy or Fifteen Years on the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony (1886).

Billy Williams and Charlie Siringo were born and grew up on Matagorda



Contributed photos

W.C. Williams Building historic marker ceremony participants: Jake Mangum and Dreanna Belden with the UNT Library System, David Holubec, Marker Chairman of MCHC, Ona Lea Pierce, Chairman, MCHC, Nate McDonald, County Judge Matagorda County, Donna Christensen, Paul Christensen, Glen Smith, Mayor of Palacios, David Kocurek, City Manager of Palacios, Barbara Reece, District Director for State Representative Cindy Burkett, District 113 and Eric Young, Pastor of Agape Family Outreach Church.

Island in a section called Dutch Settlement (German Settlement). As they grew older, both young men remained infatuated with their childhood friend, Martha (Martha Alice Franz Williams (1860 - 1952). As it turned out, Billy got the girl and Charlie got the cowboy and Pinkerton detective career.

Over the years the building has hosted various businesses including Palacios Hardware, Traylor Hardware, Golden Rule Grocery, Price Cash Hardware, Dr. Joseph Wagner,

Lawson Hardware, a Vocational Training Program for the Palacios ISD, Palacios Area Fund, Lacey Lowry CPA, as well as a private residence.

It has been 12 years since the last

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) Marker was dedicated in Palacios, TX. More information on the Williams Building history and the restoration is available at www.williamsbuildingpalacios.com.



Donna and Paul Christensen unveil the new W.C. Williams Building marker.



On behalf of Texas State Representative, Dennis Bonnen, District 25, Barbara Reece, District Director for State Representative Cindy Burkett, District 113, presents Paul and Donna Christensen a Texas Flag that was flown over the Texas State Capitol.




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NOW SHOWING!	HELD OVER!	
WED (AUG 3-10)	4:30 7:00	
SUN-TUE, THU	2:00 4:30 7:00	
FRI, SAT	2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30	
LIGHTS OUT		(PG13)
NOW SHOWING!	HELD OVER!	
WED, THU (AUG 3-4)	1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30	
FRI, SAT	5:30 7:30 9:35	
SUN-THU (AUG 7-11)	5:30 7:30	
ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE		(PG)
3RD WEEK!		
WED (AUG 3)	1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15	
THU (AUG 4)	1:15 3:15 5:15	
FRI-THUR (AUG 5-11)	1:30 3:30	

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