

BPAC Report
February 21, 2025
Submitted by Barbara Black
Historical Advisory Committee Chair

October, November, December, and January the Historical Advisory Committee responded to requests from Charlsa Bentley. Charlsa's requests were for the placement of Boren family donations to Russell Farm and the transfer of the original Texas 1871/73 map.

October 2024, Charlsa Bentley donated the front page of newspapers from Austin, Houston, Fort Worth and ten pages torn from a *Life* magazine. Charlsa's request was for recommendations of how best to share these donations with the public. These pages cover history from 1961 to 1981. The Historical Advisory Committee's main concern was the possibility of these items becoming damaged. The recommendation of the Historical Advisory Committee was to place the front pages of the newspapers, and the *Life* magazine pages under an acrylic display on the library table in the historic farmhouse with a docent overseeing the items.

Other donations were a fan that had belonged to Fannie Jane "Jenny" Elkins Boren, a photograph of Jenny, a writing by Charlie Boren "Christmas 1999" about Jenny, and a photo of Charlie's sculpture "Facing the Prairie" he created to honor Jenny. The Historical Advisory Committee member's recommendation to Charlsa was to frame these items for display in the Dairy Barn/Charlie Boren Gallery for the display rather than the farmhouse. Members felt the Gallery is about Charlie Boren rather than the farmhouse which is about Martha Russell.

October 2024, Charlsa Bentley met with the Texas State Library and Archives relating to archival care of the original Map #02220a, "Ross" New Connected County and Railroad Map of Texas and Indian Territory. The map is the original Texas 1871/73 map found on the living room wall in the farmhouse at Russell Farm. Following the meeting, Charlsa requested the Historical Advisory Committee consider and vote on the following matters and pass the decisions to her.

1. Consider the request to transfer the Texas 1871/73 map from Russell Farm Art Center to the City of Burleson or for the map to remain at Russell Farm Art Center.
2. Consider the request for the City of Burleson to transfer the original Texas 1871/73 map to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in Austin, Texas or to transfer the map to the General Land Office in Austin, Texas for archival care.

November 2024, the Historical Advisory Committee gave approval for the transfer of the original Texas 1871/73 map to the City of Burleson and upon transfer of the map to the City of Burleson for the City of Burleson to transfer the original Texas 1871/73 to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in Austin, Texas. A letter, stating the approval of both considerations by the Historical Advisory Committee of Russell Farm Art Center, was prepared and sent to Jen Basham, Director of Burleson Parks and Recreation, and to Charlsa Bentley.

December 2024, the City of Burleson agreed to donate the original Texas 1871/73 map to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. As part of the donation agreement the Texas State Library

and Archives Commission will provide the City of Burleson with a high-quality, color, actual-size print of the map for placement on the Russell Farm living wall in the farmhouse.

January 2025, the City of Burleson received the Deed of Gift document from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for the Texas 1871/73 map.

February 17, 2025, The Burleson City Council will meet for discussion of the transfer of the 1871/73 map to the City of Burleson from Russell Farm, the transfer of the 1871/73 map to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and the Deed of Gift.

The Historical Advisory Committee will continue to promote history and art at Russell Farm Art Center. The addition of Boren family donations, historical newspapers, and magazine pages help to continue Charlie and Louise Boren's wishes for history and art at the farm.