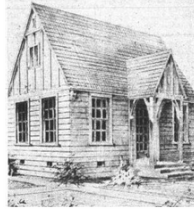


# Baytown Historical Preservation Association



*We regret much of what we've built; we regret much of what we've torn down.  
But we've never regretted preserving anything. —Daniel Sack*

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The Baytown Historical Preservation Association urgently needs your help to save the historic 1937 Highlands Library, which was recently sold by the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce, from demolition.

This beloved landmark—once a branch of the Harris County Public Library—currently sits at 127 San Jacinto Street in Highlands. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to relocate the building to our living history museum at the Republic of Texas Plaza Park, 5117 North Main Street in Baytown.

Funds raised will be used to cover the cost of moving the structure and essential restoration work, including running electricity, repairing and replacing windows, exterior painting, installing a new roof and alarm system, adding air conditioning and heat, and other necessary improvements. Once restored, the library will house historic books, photographs, documents, abstracts, maps, and rotating exhibits that celebrate our community's rich heritage.

The Harris County Public Library system was established in 1921 to serve rural communities and schools. The Highlands Library began in 1927 as a small station inside a local store, then moved to a brick building provided by the Tyrrell-Garth Company. In 1936, the Highlands Garden Club began raising funds for a permanent home.

Harry K. Johnson, Sr., founder of the Houston North Shore Railway, which connected Houston with Baytown and Goose Creek and served the Goose Creek oilfield and the Humble Oil and Refining Company refinery, generously donated the land and matched the Garden Club's fundraising efforts. Citizens of the Tri-Cities—Baytown, Goose Creek, and Pelly—also contributed.

Designed in an English style by the late renowned Houston architect Joseph W. Northrop, Jr., who volunteered his services, the charming 15 x 25-foot library features knotty pine-paneled walls and a vaulted ceiling that welcomed generations of readers. It was dedicated on March 13, 1937, with W. L. Pendergraft, then editor of The Daily Sun (now The Baytown Sun), serving as master of ceremonies.

For decades, the library served students in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District, providing books, study space, and educational programs until its closure in 1966, when Harris County built the Stratford Branch Library, and then became the home of the Highlands-Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce.

Preserving the Highlands Library ensures future generations have access to local history and educational resources. It will also enrich visits by GCCISD third graders, students from other districts, and homeschoolers who participate in our living history programs.

We hope you will join us in saving this unique architectural treasure by choosing one of the following ways to contribute: (1) complete and return the attached form with your check in the self-addressed envelope, (2) make a secure online donation through the PayPal Giving Fund at <https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/1972386>, or (3) use Zelle at [info@baytownhistory.org](mailto:info@baytownhistory.org) or the Zelle QR code below.

Donors who contribute \$500 or more will be honored on a permanent plaque inside the restored library, listed in order of contribution. All donors will be recognized in project publicity and invited to a special reception once the library is relocated and safe to enter.

Every gift—large or small—brings us closer to preserving this irreplaceable piece of history that represents a bygone era in Highlands and Baytown.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and support.



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