

Wood County Historical Commission

PRESS RELEASE

The Wood County Historical Commission (WCHC) has appointed Jim Phillips as the Marker Chair for the WCHC. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) requests that only **one person** in each county serve as the contact person to whom all marker-related correspondence is addressed. That person will be authorized to sign applications and marker inscription approvals on behalf of the county historical commission.

Jim Phillips, recently retired history teacher from Mineola and chairman of the Mineola Landmark Commission, has been appointed by the Wood County Commissioners Court for a two-year term to the WCHC. In previous years, Phillips served on the WCHC and was active in applying for Texas State Historical Markers and also in sponsoring award-winning Junior Historian groups. In retirement he now has more time to devote to his lifetime passion, researching and writing about local history.

A 1980 graduate of Mineola High School, Phillips returned to his hometown to teach history at both the junior high and high school levels for 30 years. He will now serve WCHC as the chair of the Historical Marker Committee and will be available to advise individuals who are seeking state designation for topics of historic significance in the county and then guide them through the application process.

The three major steps to complete a THC historical marker application are: contact Phillips at woodcountyhist@gmail.com, research, document, and write the story, and fill out the application form. THC has three different application forms for markers: buildings and structures, cemeteries, and all other topics such as individuals, events, communities, and institutions.

Photo caption: Phillips met recently with Ulna McWhorter, chair of the Archives Committee, and other WCHC members at their office building to discuss organizing rural school documents and compiling that information into formats easily accessible and useful to those interested in the history of early day common school districts.