

Polly Texas Pioneer Association

P.O. Box 761027, San Antonio, TX 78245

Polly's Schoolhouse Restoration



Polly's Schoolhouse, 1892
Bandera, Texas

About Polly Texas Pioneer Association



1897, Gerodetti Homestead

Nestled in the romantic Texas Hill Country, sits the small Polly, Texas settlement. Its located 3.5 miles southeast of Bandera, Texas and thirty minutes from San Antonio. J.P. 'Polly' Rodriguez founded the settlement in 1858. He was a famous Army Scout, Surveyor, Texas Ranger, Rancher, Judge and Minister. It consisted of 30 Tejano ranching families along with several European settlers. The settlement included Polly's Fort, Schoolhouse, General Store, Post Office and Chapel. It is one of a few historical Tejano towns still remaining in Texas. It has gone unrecognized for its part in early Texas history.

Founded in 2013, Polly Texas Pioneer Association received its 501.c.3 from the IRS. Its mission is to preserve and conserve the heritage of Polly, Texas and all the pioneers of that era. The goals of the group are to educate the community and bring awareness of our Tejano history. We provide exhibits, restoration projects, publications and online communications to do this. The voluntary board of directors provides support and direction for all programs.

In 2013, the group began to raise \$60,000 to restore Polly's Chapel, a Texas Historical landmark. Family, friends and the business community made contributions to support this restoration. Plus, our fundraising efforts helped to secure the needed funds and were pleased to rededicated the chapel in 2014.

In 2015, the Methodist Church transferred the Chapel and its four-acre site to the association. They also transferred the one acre historical Polly's Cemetery. Then, plans for future internments and ingress and egress were completed. The cemetery continues to serve the community and family. The association provides for security and maintenance of the facilities.

In the last three years, we have placed historical outdoor signage at major landmarks in Polly, Texas, bought a storage building for supplies and equipment, installed a new solar powered fourteen-foot security gate and a brand new association website.

In 2016, after the transfer of Polly's Schoolhouse from Bandera ISD, we will begin fundraising for the restoration of the school. We'll also have it registered as an official Texas Historical landmark. Our board members conduct these and other projects and improvements on an annual basis. They are responsible for the conditions and proper operation of our facilities and programs for the benefit of our community.

Polly Texas Pioneer Association



pollytexaspioneerassociation.org

P.O. Box 761027, San Antonio, Tx 78245

Dear friends,

The Polly Texas Pioneer Association is a non-profit 501.c.3 organization dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of the historic settlement of Polly, Texas in southeast Bandera County. Founded by our namesake, this village is one of the last historical Tejano towns still remaining in Texas.



1892 Polly's Schoolhouse

Although our group is fairly new, it has already acquired and restored the famous Texas Historical Landmark "Polly's Chapel" and four acre grounds along with the historical "Polly's Cemetery." Very recently, it requested and was transferred the historical lime stone "Polly's Schoolhouse" by the Bandera Independent School District. We are very excited about our newest acquisition and look forward to working with the community and others to restore the small one room schoolhouse. The schoolhouse will serve as a community center and micro museum and provide an outdoor interactive learning center

To this end, we are seeking funding and support for this very worthwhile community project. Although our goals are funded by annual fundraising and contributions from family and friends we are in need of other partners to achieve our goals. We respectfully ask that you consider our request and helps us restore the legacy and heritage of J.P. 'Polly' Rodriguez and the other settlers while contributing to the well being of the community. Please find enclosed pertinent information on how you can support this worthwhile community project. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Mr. Rudi Rodriguez or Mr. Vincent Tavera at (210) 673-3584 or visit our web site at pollytexaspioneerassociation.org.

Regards,



Anna Lunoff

Ms. Anna Lunoff
Chairwoman
Polly Texas Pioneer Association

Historical Background

In 1892, the state of Texas enacted laws to provide free education for all Texas students. Unfortunately, they didn't have the funds to buy land, build schools or hire teachers. Community leaders came together to focus on providing these things.

In the case of "Polly's Schoolhouse", in 1892, Jose Policarpio "Polly" Rodriguez; a founder of Bandera and Polly Texas, donated to the State of Texas one acre of his land for the location of a school. Later he contributed limestone for the construction of the school. His son, Louis, supplied the lime for the mortar and others supplied cedar timbers for roof framing, roofing and doors and windows. The original school was one story and measured 20 feet by 30 feet long.

Later, an enclosed section and a roof area was added to accommodate more students. As mentioned, the 18" thick walls were of limestone quarried from the nearby creek. A nearby kiln was used to burn limestone to produce lime for a mortar mix.

The floors were made of tongue and groove pine nailed to wooden floor joist. Three wooden windows were placed on both each east and west walls. There was also a wooden entrance door on east and west walls. Also, there was a wood burning fireplace on the north wall along with supply shelves built into the wall. On the south wall a door was installed to access a later addition.

Lastly, the ceiling used 2 1/2" wide wooden beaded boards nailed to ceiling joist. Other amenities of the school were a in ground water cistern that was fed by a collection of water from the roof. This was made possible by the installation of gutters on the east side of the roof with a down spout leading into a stone sleuth running along the ground and then into the cistern. There was a pulley with a bucket attached to draw the water for the students and their horses. Also, towards the rear of the property there was the prerequisite "Out House".

This facility was the standard schoolhouse on the Texas prairie in the 1800's that served students of all ages and grades. In Polly, Texas, this school served the almost thirty Tejano families living in the settlement from 1892 to 1942 along with other Italian and Polish families. Mostly female teachers were hired. The teachers and students either rode horses, came in wagons and or walked to school.

During this era, the school also served as a place for community involvement for families during holidays and cultural and social events. The school's founder; Jose Policarpio "Polly" Rodriguez, committed to building a school so that the settlement children could receive an education and become better citizens and have a brighter future.

Today, the Polly Texas Pioneer Association consists of area residents and family descendants who are committed to reconstruct the little school building, provide a community use and help preserve and conserve the heritage of a historical landmark and its founders' role in it!

Polly's Schoolhouse Project

In 2015, we requested the transfer of Polly's Schoolhouse from Bandera ISD to Polly Texas Pioneer Association. We prepared a packet for the application and submitted it. Final surveys, title and deed work are being completed. We've already started planning and trying to secure funding for the restoration.

In the first phase (2016), we will focus on stabilizing the schoolhouse and grounds. This includes maintenance and minor repairs as well as cleaning of the surrounding grounds. Phase 2 (2017) will consist of exterior repairs and maintenance of the roof, walls, ceilings, fireplace, fence and gate. We will also begin landscaping improvements. Phase three(2018) will be primarily for the completion of maintenance and repairs. We will also install a new front fence and gate. We will also complete landscaping improvements.

Phase four(2018-19) will incorporate new construction and equipment. New restrooms and storage facilities will be installed. To add to the historical feel of the schoolhouse, we will also install antique desks and chalkboards. New lights, ceiling fans and heating will also be installed. Please note that our proposed restoration calendar depends on timely funding, please help support this project.

Schoolhouse Committee

Honorary Chair: Ms. Flo Hopkins, Chairwoman Emeritus, PTPA

Chairman: Mr. Rudi R. Rodriguez, President of TexasTejano.com

Co-Chair: Dr. Michel Rodriguez-Zuch, Dean/Lonestar College

Co-Chair: Mr. Roy Dugosh, Chair, Bandera Historical Commission

Co-Chair: Commissioner Jordan Rutherford, Bandera County, Pct. 4



1904 - Polly's Schoolhouse Students

Financial Projections

Initial Request to Bandera Independent School District

Research	
Architectural Plans	
Request Packets & Reproduction	
Power Point	
Sub-Total.....	\$ 2,000.00

Final Request for Transfer, Title & Survey

Application for submittal (-0-)	
Title Fees (\$ 1,500.00)	
Survey (\$ 1,000.00)	
Sub Total.....	\$ 2,500.00

Phase I

Stabilization.....	\$ 10,500.00
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Phase II

Restoration.....	\$18,000.00
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Phase III

Restoration.....	\$ 22,000.00
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Phase IV

New Construction & Equipment	\$ 12,500.00
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Grand Total.....	\$ 67,500.00
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Schoolhouse Sponsorship Levels

Polly Texas Founder Level: \$10,000.00

Your logo and name listed on plaque on interior wall that will list major donors
Name listed on website until project is complete
Name will be listed on all printed matter throughout campaign
Name to be listed for final listing of the program for opening of building
14"x20" vintage wood Polly's Schoolhouse commemorative plaque

Polly Texas Rancher Level: \$5,000.00

Name listed on plaque on interior wall that will list major donors
Name listed on website until project is complete
Name to be listed for final listing of the program for opening of building
14"x20" vintage wood Polly's Schoolhouse commemorative plaque

Polly Texas Ranger Level: \$2,500.00

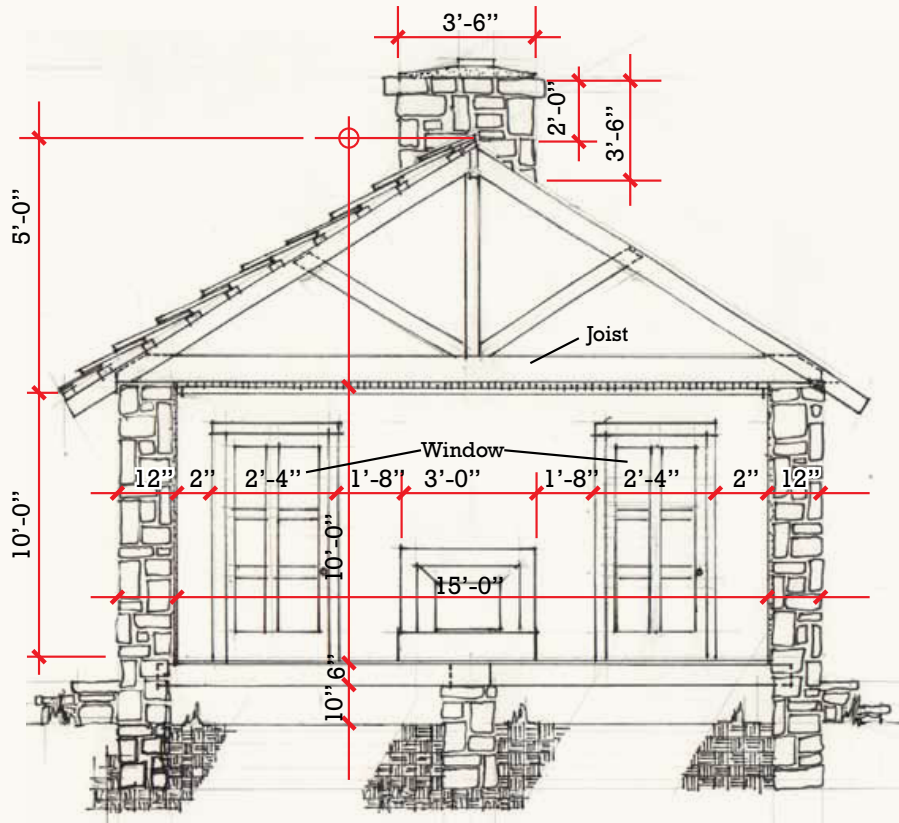
Name listed on plaque on interior wall that will list donors
Name listed on website until project is complete
Name to be listed for final listing of the program for opening of building
14"x20" vintage wood Polly's Schoolhouse commemorative plaque

Polly Texas Pioneer: \$1,000.00

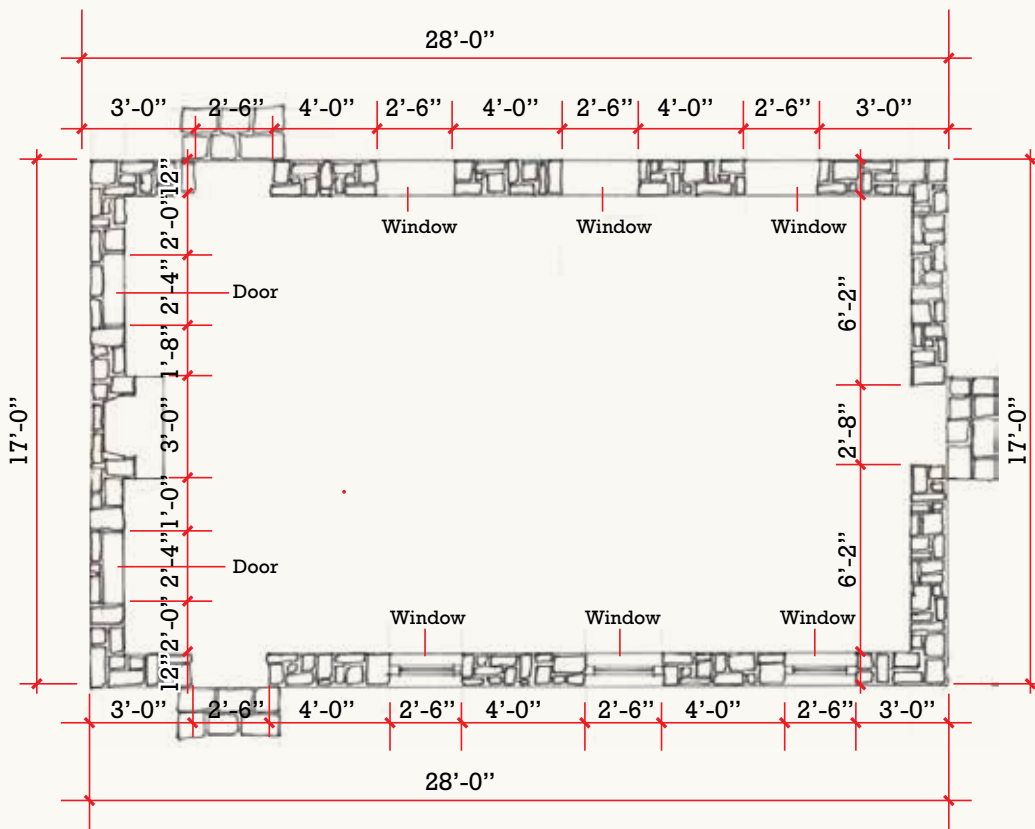
Name listed on plaque on interior wall that will list donors
Name listed on website until project is complete
Name to be listed for final listing of the program for opening of building
10.5"x13" vintage wood Polly's Schoolhouse commemorative plaque

Polly Texas Wrangler: \$500.00

Name listed on plaque on interior wall that will list donors
Name listed on website until project is complete
Name to be listed for final listing of the program for opening of building
8.5"x11" Certificate of Appreciation



Const. Sect.: nts



Floor Plan: nts