

MAIN STREET LA GRANGE

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LA GRANGE MAIN STREET PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION HONOR FOR THE THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

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McKinney, Texas - The Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently recognized the City of La Grange as one of the 39 National Main Street Cities in Texas for the year 2001. The City of La Grange along with the following Main Street Cities were selected for recognition out of a group of 125 Main Street Cities across the State of Texas. Other 2001 National Main Street Cities selected in Texas include: Beaumont, Brenham, Breckenridge, Celina, Corsicana, Decatur, Denison, Denton, Electra, Elgin, Fairfield, Farmersville, Garland, Gatesville, Gilmer, Gladewater, Goliad, Gonzales, Irving, Kerrville, Levelland, Lufkin, Marlin, Mineola, Monahans, Nacogdoches, New Braunsfels, Odessa, Quannah, Rusk, San Marcos, Seguin, Shiner, Sonora, Taylor, Tyler, Weatherford and Whitewright.

The Cities were honored at the recent Texas Downtown Association/Texas Main Street Conference in McKinney, Texas. The Texas Downtown Association (TDA) is an Austin-based statewide organization dedicated to supporting and assisting organizations and individuals committed to revitalizing centers of large and small communities throughout Texas.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will honor these cities at the 2001 National Town Meeting on Main Street to be held April 1-4 in Indianapolis, Ind.. Cities chosen as National Main Street Cities must demonstrate above average performance in 10 categories. The selection criteria focus on planning, staff and volunteers, training and program assessment. “We are very excited and honored to have been selected a National Main Street for the third straight year, said Bill Jones, Chair, La Grange Main Street Advisory Board.” The City of La Grange completed its fifth year as a Texas Main Street City in October of 2000 and has entered into the sixth year of the program. Since the inception of the La Grange Main Street Program in 1996 there has been an estimated \$1.6 million dollars in reinvestment and improvements by the private sector into Downtown La Grange. “Once the Downtown Sidewalk Improvement Project is completed the \$1.6 million dollar reinvestment and improvement figures will exceed \$2 million dollars which is quite an accomplishment, said Scott Byler, Manager, La Grange Main Street Program.”

The THC’s Texas Main Street Program is a revitalization program for historic downtown and neighborhood commercial districts. It is based on a four-point approach – organization, design, promotion, and economic restructuring, all within the context of historic preservation. Implemented in 1981, the program has assisted more than 125 communities throughout the State of Texas.