



The Children's Center, Inc

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: February 8, 2022

CONTACT: Marsha Wilson Rappaport, Director of Community Development,

TCCI, mwilson@tcc1878.org, Cell: 409-692-6332

**ALBERTINE HALL YEAGER HONORED BY TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Albertine Hall Yeager Receives Official Texas Historical Marker in Galveston

GALVESTON, TX—The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has recognized Albertine Hall Yeager as a significant part of Texas history by awarding it an Official Texas Historical Marker. The marker is part of the Undertold Marker program at THC. The designation honors Albertine Hall Yeager as an important and educational part of local history. The marker will be erected at

1111 32nd Street, on Galveston Island on the site where her original orphanage was built in 1917. The original building was replaced in 1974. However, Mrs. Yeager operated her orphanage and daycare at the exact location until her death in 1969.



thc.texas.gov

A dedication ceremony to commemorate the

installation of the marker and the official opening of the Albertine Yeager Youth Cultural Center will be announced later this year. The Galveston County Historical Commission welcomes the public to share in and witness this exciting historical event.

“The Official Texas Historical Marker program helps bring attention to community treasures and the importance of their preservation,” said Mark Wolfe, executive director of the THC. “Awareness and education are among the best ways to guarantee the preservation of our state’s history. This designation is a tool that will increase public awareness of important cultural resources,” Wolfe said.

Who Was Albertine Hall Yeager?

Albertine Hall Yeager, an African American woman founded the Yeager Children’s Home between 1917 and 1918 in Galveston, Texas. She had so endeared herself to the community that even after her death in 1969, when the new building opened in 1975, the ribbon cutting with Charles Yeager was officiated by then Mayor R.A. Apffel (Kirkpatrick, p. 1, 1975.) Said Apffel: “For if there was ever a project that which represented a cross-section of this community, this is it” (1975, p.1). The level of love and respect Albertine Yeager commanded in 1975 became



Albertine Hall Yeager founded the Yeager Children’s Home in 1917

Albertine Hall Yeager
(Rosenberg Library/Texas History Center-1880-2019
Collection, 2021)
Figure 1.

apparent when Texas State Senator Aaron “Babe” Schwartz, sponsored a congratulatory



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resolution – SR-507 for the New Yeager Children's Home (Schwartz, 1975). There were wires from the Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe; Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby, and United States Congressman Jack Brooks (Kirkpatrick, 1975, p.1). State Representative Andrew Z. Baker, a board member sent well-wishes (1975, p.1). Texas State Representative Ed J. Harris, whose wife had served on the board also acknowledged Mrs. Yeager's contributions (1975, p.1). Moreover, The City of Galveston passed a resolution declaring May 11 -17 "Yeager Home Week" (1975, p.1).

Research for the Untold Marker application revealed a rare story from a time when community unity across ethnic and racial lines was uncommon. As a result, this "Undertold" story is an opportunity to encourage community conversations about how much we all have in common, rather than what divides us.

The site at 1111 32nd Street has been continuously used by organizations that children from all backgrounds since it was conceived by Mrs. Yeager in 1917. The Children's Center, Inc., the current owner, assists homeless families, and runaway and homeless youth at the location. The Children's Center, Inc. is developing a portion of the site as the Albertine Hall Yeager Youth Cultural Center with a historic display and education center.

A subject qualifies for a marker if two basic criteria are met: historical significance and age. Historical significance is established by reviewing its role and importance in local history, and the age requirement depends on the topic. The THC's Official Texas Marker Policies are outlined in the Official Texas Historical Marker Procedures, which may be obtained by

contacting the History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission, at 512/463-5853 or visiting the web site at www.thc.texas.gov.

“It is vital that as we move forward, we do not forget our past. Not only will the Texas Historical Marker provide awareness in the community of our fascinating history, but it will become a building block for the promotion of local tourism,” said James T. Keel, CEO/President of The Children’s Center, Inc.

There are three types of Texas Historical Markers. Subject markers are posted solely for public education awareness and awarded more frequently than the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL), which is a legal designation for historic structures and comes with a measure of protection. Unlike subject markers, the RTHL must also meet a third criterion--architectural integrity. Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) markers identify cemeteries which have obtained the HTC designation and whose histories have been researched in detail.

Texas has the largest marker program in the United States with approximately 15,000 markers. Seventeen states have used the Texas program as a model: the THC reviews more than 300 marker applications each year. The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation. The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical, and cultural resources of Texas.

See the Yeager announcement on the THC website: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/state-historical-markers/undertold-markers>