

**Log Crib:** The authentic circa 1904 double log corn crib with dog trot was constructed with hand hewn logs which were joined with simple saddle notching. A central passageway down the middle allowed for easy loading/unloading of wagons to or from a crib on either side. The Log Crib was donated by Hilda Fajkus and Sylvia Ratcliffe of Cistern. It was moved to the site by Kana Brothers Moving Company and restored by brothers Ed, Ernest, David and Robert Vasek of Plum and Robert Stall of Smithville with replacement logs donated by Vickie Matocha and Jeb Pape.



**Janak Barn & Texas Czech Agriculture Museum:** This replica of an original early 1900s barn was built in the fall of 2013. Funding was made possible by grants from Rita Huebner Janak, Sanford Schmid, and the City of La Grange Economic Development. The Barn also houses the *Texas Czech Agriculture Museum* and was dedicated in October of 2014. The Janak Barn is an example of the productivity and prosperity for a Texas-Czech farm family. The displays tell about early farming practices and show how the barn was the center of the farm.



**Sanford Schmid Amphitheater:** Thanks to an initial grant by the LCRA and a matching grant by La Grange resident Sanford Schmid, the amphitheater was built in 2000. The 5,500 square foot facility is built in a Texas Czech style and includes an open stage, dressing/meeting rooms, restrooms, and prop storage area. Music is very special in the life of Czechs. The Czech saying “*Muziky, Muziky*” adorns the top of the stage which means “*Music, Music*”. The facility is available for rent and used for musical performances, theatrical plays, presentations and outdoor weddings.



*Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the history, language, culture, and heritage of Texans of Czech ethnicity.*

*The Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, Inc. is a non-profit 501c(3) corporation; its success is dependent upon annual sustaining gifts and memorial contributions from individuals and businesses, and organizations that are interested in preserving the rich heritage of Texas Czechs for future generations.*

We thank all of our patrons for their contributions:  
volunteer labor, monetary, and physical.

*VITAMÉ VÁS  
WELCOME*



**A WALKING TOUR OF  
THE TEXAS CZECH  
HERITAGE &  
CULTURAL CENTER**



*Caitlin Orsak*

*Miss Texas Czech Slovak Queen 2012  
First Runner Up National Miss Czech  
Slovak Queen USA 2013  
Sponsored by the Czech Heritage Society*



**TOURS ARE WELCOME:**

Please schedule in advance for groups of 10 or more.

\$3 per person - Main Center Tour only.

\$5 per person - Full Tour: includes Main Center and Village.

Lunch is offered for scheduled tours only. Call for details.

Contact us for scheduling: TCHCC, P. O. Box 6, La Grange, Texas 78945

1-888-785-4500 email: info@czechtexas.org

No Pets Allowed in the Buildings.

## TCHCC Main Center/Office/Library/Museum/Archives Building.



The Koliba Lobby invites visitors in to the TCHCC Main Center building which houses the offices, Hanslik Hall Dining & Meeting Room, the Willie and Mardi Kopecky Gift Shop, KJT Conference Room, the



Bill and Betty Melnar Library, where genealogy and historical research can be accomplished, and the *Nas Novy Domov (Our New Home) Museum* which displays the many artifacts and memorabilia that have been donated to TCHCC and tells the story of the early Czech-Texans. This Main Center building, designed by architect Roger Kolar, was completed in October of 2009. The building has a contemporary glass entrance representing the beacon of light that attracted the settlers to Texas and also brings to mind the 19th century farm houses, halls and buildings, but is not a duplication of them. At the entrance, paving stones, brick memorials and the Immigrants' Wall honors family and friends. A memorial brick walk leads to the three flags which our Czech ancestors treasured: the United States Flag, the Flag of the Czech Republic, and the State of Texas Flag.



*Kopecky Gift Shop*

## Kalich House & Czech Music Museum of Texas:

Development of TCHCC began when the Kalich House, restored by volunteers, became the first TCHCC Visitors' Center. This historic 1890s Texas-Czech farm house was donated by Peggy Kalich of Schulenburg. The house was moved to the site on June 22, 2000 by Kana Brothers, Inc. House Leveling and Moving and then transformed into the Visitors' Center which temporarily housed the office, gift shop, library and display area. Coordinated by Marvin Marek, the restoration efforts took approximately 3,109 hours with some eighty individuals ranging in age from two to eighty volunteering their time toward this effort. Major restoration of the roof and porches was done by Robert Slovak Construction and volunteers from Ennis. It served as the Visitors' Center until 2009 when the main building was completed. It is now TCHCC's *Czech Music Museum of Texas* displaying music memorabilia in four separate musical genres: Classical Music of Czech Composers, Spiritual/Liturgical Music, Folk Music and Dance, and Polka/Czech Brass Music.



## Wallachian Bell and Belfry:

In 1995, the Czech Republic participated in the annual Festival of American Folklife in Washington, D.C. The materials were transported from Roznov, Czech Republic to erect the belfry at the festival site. The Czech Republic decided that the belfry should be given to the CHS of Texas which in turn donated the belfry to TCHCC. The belfry was placed on the grounds in 2003. In 2014, the bell, which was casted in 1995 in the Czech Republic, was removed from the tower, cleaned and placed in a showcase in the TCHCC Melnar Library for viewing. A replica bell was then hung in the tower.



**Hospoda (tavern) and General Store:** The main building was donated by Roy Bucek of Schulenburg and a side room for a general store was added on by volunteers. A tavern and store was part of an early Texas-Czech village and displays the place where immigrants would meet, get mail and information of the outside world and purchase necessary staple goods.



**Hoelscher Haus:** This house, built in 1880 by Anton & Elizabeth Bruese Hoelscher, was a bedroom/parlor addition to their original house. Donated by Henry & Esther Hoelscher of Houston, the house was moved to TCHCC for the home of the Polka Lovers' Club of Texas Museum. It can be viewed by appointment only.



**Hluchanek-Salas House:** This house was donated and moved to

TCHCC by Donald and Betsy Chovanec in 2008. Frank Hluchanek built this house in the Holman area of Fayette County in 1890. In 1915, he converted the old combination kitchen-dining room into a dining room and added a new kitchen. He sold the house to Anton and Mary Spacek Salas in February of 1940. They updated the kitchen and added a bathroom in the enclosed porch. Restoration of the house was done by the Salas family along with volunteer Carolyn Sumbera Heinsohn. The kitchen and dining room was completely renovated. The house was furnished and decorated to reflect the lifestyle of a middle class rural Texas-Czech farm family from 1890-1930s.



**Zapalač Sawmill:** This 1895 De Loach No. 1 Mill was owned and operated by the Vinc B. Zapalac family from the Ellinger area on the Colorado River in Fayette County. Donated by Donna Zapalac Mueller, the mill represents the industrial businesses and entrepreneurs of the Czechs. The project was funded by a grant from the Dickson-Allen Foundation along with various versions of help from others. The mill restoration was completed in 2015, and is a working original maintained by the South Texas Wheel Spinners & Crank Twisters Antique Farm Equipment Club. The display also showcases early life on the Zapalac family farm.



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**Migl House:** The Migl house was constructed in 1890 by the family of Frantisek and Johana Migl, with additions being made in the 1920s. In 2000 Jim Jasek, one of the Migl descendants, obtained ownership of the house and donated it to TCHCC. The Migl family restored the house and moved it to the current site. The house displays Migl family memorabilia along with authentic furniture and items and is maintained by the Migl family.

