

By: Kleinschmidt

H.C.R. No. 45

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The development of Texas in the late 1800s and early
2 1900s was shaped in important ways by the railroad, with
3 communities all across the state being transformed by the arrival
4 of this revolutionary mode of transportation; and

5 WHEREAS, Sadly, many of the historic depots that were
6 integral to railroad operations have not survived the passage of
7 the decades, and the disappearance of these structures deprives
8 Texans of a tangible link to the state's past; and

9 WHEREAS, In certain places, however, residents have had the
10 foresight to preserve the vintage architectural treasures related
11 to train travel, and the town of Giddings stands at the forefront of
12 this trend; this historic crossroads in Central Texas has three
13 original depots, each of which has been restored and put to use in
14 ways that help illuminate the community's heritage; and

15 WHEREAS, The resurrection of these buildings is especially
16 fitting for Giddings, a city that was founded when the Houston and
17 Central Texas Railway was built through the area in the early 1870s
18 and that grew into an important rail junction; over time, the city's
19 downtown became home to three depots: Union Station, which dates to
20 the 1880s, a freight depot from the 1890s, and a brick passenger
21 facility, built circa 1920; all three had closed by the 1960s due to
22 the decline in train transportation, but each would survive to see a
23 brighter day; and

24 WHEREAS, A downtown revitalization plan drafted in the late

1 1990s called for the restoration of the depots, and work was
2 completed in 2009; today, Union Station houses the Rural Texas
3 Tourism Center and the Union Station Transportation Museum, the
4 brick passenger facility serves as the site of the Giddings
5 Economic Development Corporation and the Giddings Area Chamber of
6 Commerce, and the freight depot contains additional displays
7 related to railroad history and memorabilia; the revitalization
8 project also prompted the establishment of a walking tour of the
9 historic area in Giddings; and

10 WHEREAS, This admirable undertaking has once again made the
11 depots a focal point of the downtown area, sparking a broader
12 renaissance in the city and also publicizing the attractions of
13 other small towns in the state through the efforts of the Rural
14 Texas Tourism Center; moreover, the restoration of these historic
15 train facilities provides visitors with a unique opportunity to
16 gain deeper insight into the rich history of rail transport and the
17 ways in which it helped build Texas into the dynamic state we know
18 today; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
20 hereby designate Giddings as the official Depot Capital of Texas.