

# Fort Griffin State Historic Site Exhibit Design, Fabrication, and Installation

*Albany, Texas*



The Texas Historical Commission hired the 106 Group to update exhibits at Fort Griffin State Historic Site near Albany, Texas. Exhibits at the site's museum were installed in the 1980s and, therefore, required rethinking and refreshing. The project's greatest challenge was meeting the needs for exhibit space, office space, and support space in less than 1,000 square feet on a relatively tight budget.

As part of the design process, we involved staff and community stakeholders in the planning process by facilitating two design workshops. This process ensured interpretive experiences were designed to meet the needs of visitors, staff, and the local community.

Our approach to the indoor exhibits at Fort Griffin was to stress real people's stories and to integrate exhibit elements and retail space. The exhibit environment is dominated by large images of people with objects, such as guns, railroad ties, and barbed wire, used as tangible connections to key storylines. Walking through the exhibit, visitors will meet Colonel S. D. Sturgis, a soldier who fought in the Buffalo Wars, a Tonkawa scout, Lottie Deno "The Poker Queen," and a Comanche leader. Through artist's renderings, the outdoor exhibits help visitors understand the layout of the original fort, which is now a vast plain with few archaeological remnants.



At Fort Griffin, exhibits provide visitors with a sense of history and connectedness to the past. Exhibits are relevant to the lives of visitors, accurate and authentic in content, and respectful and balanced in honoring varying points of view. They also convey engaging messages and are physically and intellectually accessible to a broad audience. In the end, our work is creating an enjoyable, enriching experience for visitors.

