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Trish Johnson photo

Tall weeds at Katy's Heritage Park show neglect while the Katy Heritage Society is in transition.

## Members of historical group in Katy to decide what to do next

**By TRISH JOHNSON**  
Chronicle correspondent

A group organized to promote the history of Katy and its surrounding area soon may become history itself.

Current, former and prospective members of the Katy Heritage Society are being asked to meet at 7 p.m. Thursday to determine the future of the organization.

Dr. Mark Bing, whose term as heritage society president expired in January, hopes attendees can agree either to reorganize the society and nominate and elect officers, or to dissolve the society.

"As it stands right now, we don't really have officers and we don't really have members, if you talk about dues-paying members," Bing said. "We need to either start having events, or we need to disband the Heritage Society."

The Heritage Society owns the land, buildings and contents at

Heritage Park in the 800 block of East Avenue, which includes the Wright House and Museum, the Featherston House, and the Old Post Office. It also owns the red New Haven railroad caboose at Katy Park.

"We still need to do a lot of restoration to the Wright House," Bing said, "and that's going to include some good, old-fashioned millwork that isn't cheap. And the caboose needs repainting."

Life member Roberta Rylander, 81, said the Heritage Society was formed about 1977.

"I'm interested in it and I think it's a good thing," Rylander said, adding that because of her age it's difficult to contribute the same level of energy and work that she once did.

The historical group was established "to preserve the historical artifacts and memories of those who were instrumental in the organization and growth of this town from a small farming and railroad community to what it is today," Bing said.

The three buildings at Heritage Park were moved to their present location with an eye toward establishing an historical park to which other buildings could later be added. One of the buildings, the J.A. Wright Home, belonged to Rylander's grandparents.

"The Featherston Home was built in 1898 on the corner of Second Street and Avenue A," writes Rylander in her 1991 book, *Applauding the Past of Katy, Texas*. It served as a home and rooming house.

"There was talk, at one time, of moving the buildings into a configuration to create an old town square, with a courtyard area which could be used for events," Bing said.

Currently, Heritage Park appears unkempt and unused. The meeting is set to be held in the Wright House and Museum at 815 East Ave. Those interested in the Heritage Society may contact Bing via e-mail at mbing-prodigy.net.