

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## HISTORICAL MARKER APPLICATION EVALUATION PROCEDURES

(Pursuant to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 21,  
Subchapter B, Rule 21.9, effective August 28, 2003 and amended May 18, 2009)

- (1) Age - 5 pts. max.
  - Structures eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old. Older structures may be awarded additional weight. Historical events must be at least 30 years old and historic individuals must be deceased 10 years.
- (2) Historical significance/Architectural significance - 10 pts. max.
  - Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a structure for the RTHL designation. It must have an equally significant historical association, and that association can come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community. Structures deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
- (4) State of repair/Integrity - 10 pts. max.
  - Structures not considered by the commission to be in a good state of repair are not eligible for RTHL designation. The commission reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers. Subject marker topics placed at the appropriate site (site integrity) or topics that are documented and understood by the public maintain a high degree of integrity.
- (5) Diversity of topic for addressing gaps in historical marker program - 10 pts. max.
  - This criterion addresses the extent to which topic relates to an aspect or area of Texas history that has not been well represented by the marker program.
- (6) Value of topic as an undertold or untold aspect of Texas history - 15 pts. max.
  - This criterion addresses the extent to which topic addresses undertold facets of Texas history and increases the diversity of history and cultures interpreted through the marker program.
- (7) Endangerment level of property, site or topic - 10 pts. max.
  - This criterion addresses the extent to which the property (RTHLs), site or story is in danger of being lost if its history and significance are not addressed through the marker program.
- (8) Available documentation and resources - 10 pts. max.
  - This criterion addresses the quality and balance of the research and documentation for the application.
- (9) Diversity among this group of candidates - 10 pts. max.
  - This criterion addresses the extent to which this topic represents an undertold story of Texas history among the applications received during that year's marker cycle.
- (10) Relevance to other commission programs - 5 pts. max.
  - This criterion addresses the extent to which the topic coordinates with other significant programs and initiatives of the agency.
- (11) Relevance to the commission's current thematic priorities - 15 pts. max.
  - This criterion addresses the extent to which the topic coordinates with the thematic priorities set by the Commission each year (varies by year).