



HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) History Programs Division works with citizens, county historical commissions, museums, cemetery associations, local governments, state and federal agencies, and other interested parties to identify, evaluate, and interpret the historic and cultural resources of Texas.

What We Do

State Historical Marker Program

Official Texas Historical Markers provide Texans and visitors tangible links to the past. A vital part of the state's heritage tourism efforts, markers convey stories of local, regional, state, and national history. More than 16,000 historical markers dot the Texas landscape, many with the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation, which the state bestows on historic properties for architectural and historical significance. The other types of available historical markers are Historic Texas Cemetery markers for historic graveyards and subject markers, which interpret a wide variety of topics throughout Texas. Staff members work with property owners, county historical commissions, and other preservation organizations to place historical markers all across the state. Details concerning the program can be found on the THC web site.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places serves as an honor roll of properties worthy of preservation. Properties of national, state, or local significance may be listed for historical associations and architectural significance once the properties reach 50 years of age. Working in partnership with the National Park Service, division staff members assist citizens and property owners each year in researching the history and significance of historic sites to achieve this designation. Listing property in the National Register often bolsters a community's economic development efforts and heritage tourism programs.

Cemetery Preservation Program

The THC's Cemetery Preservation Program responds to public inquiries, manages the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation process, updates the THC's Historic Sites Atlas (Atlas), and focuses on providing technical assistance to help preserve and protect endangered historic cemeteries. The



The Fort House Museum in Waco is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

HTC designation was created in 1997, and today more than 1,600 historic cemeteries have been designated through the efforts of local volunteers, preservationists, and avocational and professional historians and archeologists. Abandoned or lost cemeteries may be recorded through HTC designation process and by filing a Notice of Existence of Cemetery form. Staff also provides technical assistance on maintaining historic cemeteries, creating cemetery master plans, and forming cemetery associations.

County Historical Commission Outreach Program

County historical commissions (CHC) are authorized by state law to carry out preservation activities in counties throughout the state. Volunteer CHC members are appointed by the county and act as stewards of historic and cultural resources in their counties. CHCs submit reports annually to the THC describing their ongoing preservation activities, and THC staff recommends agency programs, training, and services based on these reports. CHC staff also work with CHCs to highlight preservation through education and promotion of their projects and accomplishments.

Museum Assistance

Staff members consult with history museums throughout the state on the preservation and interpretation of museum collections. Services include email and telephone consultations; dissemination of educational and reference materials; and workshops dealing with such topics as strategic planning for museums, collections management, exhibit development, fundraising, and general museum operations.

Historic Resources Survey

Staff members maintain the Historic Sites Inventory which documents more than 100,000 historic and cultural resources in Texas. Access to this information is available through the Texas Historic Sites Atlas on the THC web site. Staff members also coordinate and provide technical assistance to ongoing survey efforts in local communities.

Public Project (Section 106) and Federal Tax Credit Reviews

Publicly funded or licensed projects, such as federal highway construction, must undergo a review by staff members to determine whether any properties in the project area meet National Register criteria. If so, the federal agency must consult with the THC on any effect the project will have on those historic properties. Applicants for federal investment tax credits or state preservation tax credits also proceed first with an evaluation of their property by staff.

Texas Historic Roads and Highways Program

In 2009, House Bill 2642 established the Texas Historic Roads and Highways Program, the goal of which is to identify, designate, interpret, and market historic roads and highways in Texas. The THC and the Texas Department of Transportation have entered into an agreement to administer this program. Projects include surveying historic highways such as the Bankhead and Meridian highways, identifying extant road-related buildings and sites along these highways, supplying road-related research materials, and providing maps and information that may be used by heritage tourists and armchair historians to recreate the experience of driving along these historic roadways, potentially increasing visitation to our Texas communities with a positive effect on local economies.

Military Sites Program

The Military Sites Program documents, commemorates, preserves, and promotes historic sites where Texas military personnel served, both inside and outside the state. Projects include surveying sites in Texas associated with both military and home front activities. Popular heritage tourism brochures produced through this program include Texas in the Civil War and Texas in World War II, which are available for download on the agency's website. The agency's Texas in the Cold War initiative offers oral history training workshops to assist in documenting Texas Cold War veterans' stories and accomplishments.

Youth Education and Outreach Program

Staff creates educational outreach opportunities for youth involvement in agency activities. Staff works with all agency



Oral histories enhance our understanding of the past by illuminating personal experience.

divisions to improve, expand, and produce new and exciting programming opportunities, as well as develop new ways to use THC programs to inspire, educate, and inform Texas youth about the importance of the history and preservation of Texas' historic resources.

How to Reach Us

Staff members are available to answer questions and provide preservation assistance. Please contact us at:
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