

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

*real places telling real stories*

# **Evaluating Historic Resources for Significance and Integrity**

**Texas Historical Commission**



# National Register of Historic Places

## NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN

Technical information on the the National Register of Historic Places:  
survey, evaluation, registration, and preservation of cultural resources



U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Cultural Resources  
National Register, History and Education

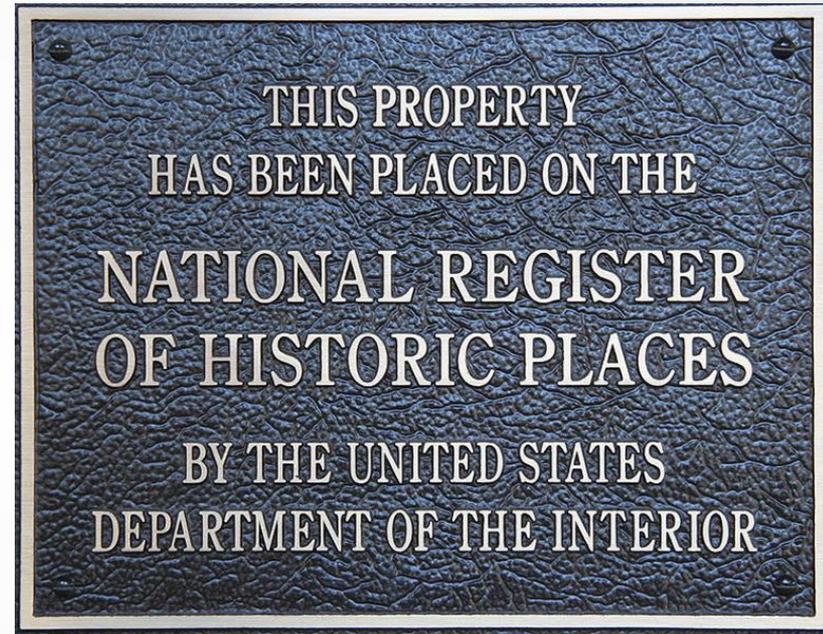
### How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation





# National Register of Historic Places

“The National Register of Historic Places documents the appearance and importance of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in our prehistory and history. These properties represent the major patterns of our shared local, State, and national experience.”

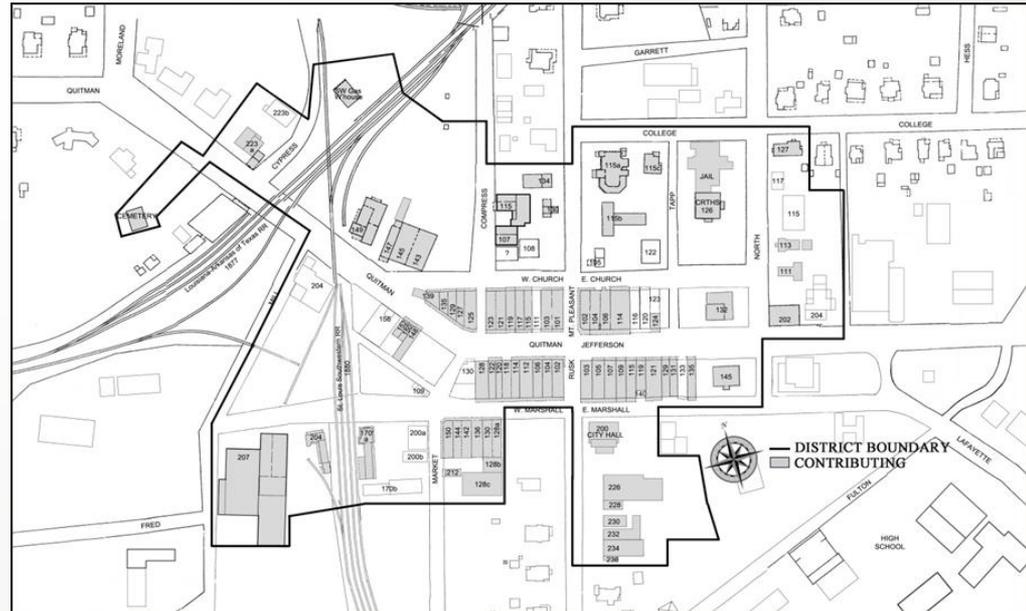


*National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*



# Evaluating Historic-Age Resources

The information provided in this presentation may be used for any historic resources survey, even if there is no intent to apply for a National Register of Historic Places listing.





# Historic Resource Categories





# Historic Resource Categories

A **building** is created principally to shelter any form of human activity.

Examples include:



Administration building	Carriage house	Church
City hall	Courthouse	Barn
Dormitory	Fort	Garage
Hotel	House	Library
Mill building	Office building	Post office
School	Social hall	Shed
Stable	Store	Theater



# Historic Resource Categories

A **structure** is built for purposes other than creating human shelter

Examples include:



Aircraft	Apiary	Automobile
Bandstand	Boats and ships	Bridge
Cairn	Canal	Carousel
Corncrib	Dam	Earthwork
Fence	Gazebo	Grain elevator
Highway	Irrigation system	Kiln
Lighthouse	Trolley car	Tunnel



# Historic Resource Categories

An **object** is primarily artistic in nature or is relatively small in scale and simply constructed.

Examples include:

Boundary marker	Fountain	Milepost
Monument	Sculpture	Statuary





# Historic Resource Categories

A **site** is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

Examples include:

Battlefield	Campsite	Cemeteries*
Ceremonial site	Designed landscape	Habitation site
Natural feature having cultural significance	Petroglyph	Rock carving
Rock shelter	Building or structure ruins	Shipwreck
Trail	Village site	



# Historic Resource Categories

A **district** possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.



Business districts	Canal systems	Groups of habitation sites
College campuses	Farms with large acreage/ numerous resources	Industrial complexes
Irrigation systems	Residential areas	Rural villages
Transportation networks	Rural historic districts	



# Historic Context

When conducting a historic resources survey, the resources need to be evaluated for significance within their historic context.

In order to do this, a local history needs to be compiled.

Research on local history should be done at the beginning of the project before going out to do the survey work in order to understand the potential significance of the historic resources.

For more information regarding this topic, please see the presentation on Historic Contexts.



# Evaluation of Historic Resources

When conducting a historic resources survey, the historic resources should be evaluated for their historical significance and integrity.

**Significance:** importance

**Integrity:** ability of a resource to convey its significance



# Areas of Significance

Determine how the theme of the context is significant in the history of the local area, the state, or the nation.

Agriculture	Architecture	Archeology
Art	Commerce	Communications
Community Planning & Development	Conservation	Economics
Education	Engineering	Entertainment/Recreation
Ethnic Heritage	Exploration/Settlement	Health/Medicine
Industry	Invention	Landscape Architecture
Law	Literature	Maritime History
Military	Performing Arts	Philosophy
Politics/Government	Religion	Science
Social History	Transportation	Other



# Significance

A property's Period of Significance is the time in which it achieved its historical significance.

- It may be a single year, like the construction date of an architecturally significant property, or
- an extended period of time, like the period that an important historical figure lived in a particular residence.

Additionally, each historic resource should be assigned a Level of Significance:

- Local
- State
- National



# Evaluation of Significance

The historic resource should be at least 50 years old, and be associated with an important historic context (local, state, or national).

When evaluated within its historic context, a property must be shown to be significant for one or more of the four Criteria for Evaluation.

- A: Association with historic events or activities
- B: Association with important persons
- C: Distinctive design or physical characteristics
- D: Potential to provide information about prehistory or history



# Evaluation under Criterion C

**Criterion C** is for Design and Construction.

Buildings and structures should all be evaluated under Criterion C as they are physical entities.

The other Criteria (A, B, and D) should also be evaluated, but other types of information and research are needed for assessment.



# Evaluation under Criterion C

- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, *or*
- Represents the work of a master, *or*
- Possesses high artistic value, *or*
- Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction





# Evaluation of Integrity

**Integrity** is the ability of a property to convey its significance.

To be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a property must not only be significant under the National Register Criteria, but it also must have integrity.

Historic properties either retain integrity or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognizes seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity.

*\*If the historic resource does not have any historical significance, then there is no need to evaluate integrity.*



# Evaluation of Integrity

- **Location** – Is the property in its original place?
- **Setting** – Is the historic character of the surroundings intact?
- **Materials** – Are the original components intact?
- **Workmanship** – Is there evidence of the builder's level of skill?
- **Design** – Is the original arrangement apparent (form, plan, style)?
- **Feeling** – Does the property evoke a historic period of time?
- **Association** – Is the property intact enough to retain a link with historic persons or events?





# Evaluation of Integrity



How much historic fabric remains intact?





# Evaluation of Integrity

- Replacement siding
- Replacement windows
- Rear addition on corner lot
- Possible porch replacement



These changes adversely affect Materials, Workmanship, Design, and Feeling. This resource lacks sufficient integrity.



# Evaluation of Integrity

- Retains horizontal wood siding
- Retains exposed rafters
- Retains decorative shingles in gable ends and on skirting
- Retains square box columns on porch
- Retains original windows
- On original location



This residence retains sufficient integrity of Location, Materials, Workmanship, Design, and Feeling.



# Evaluation of a District

When conducting a historic resources survey for a district, the components can comprise both individually distinctive features that serve as focal points and features that lack individual distinction.

It may even be considered eligible if all of the components lack individual distinction, provided that the grouping achieves significance as a whole within its historic context.

In either case, the majority of the components that add to the district's historic character, even if they are individually undistinguished, must possess integrity, as must the district as a whole.



# Evaluation of a District

Each component within a district needs to be evaluated and given a designation of Contributing or Noncontributing

**Contributing:** present during period of significance *and* possess historic integrity for that period

**Noncontributing:** built or substantially altered after the period of significance *and/or* lack integrity



# ! Contributing Resources

## Contributing

- Present during period of significance, *and*
- Relates to the documented historical significance, *and*
- Possesses good degree of integrity





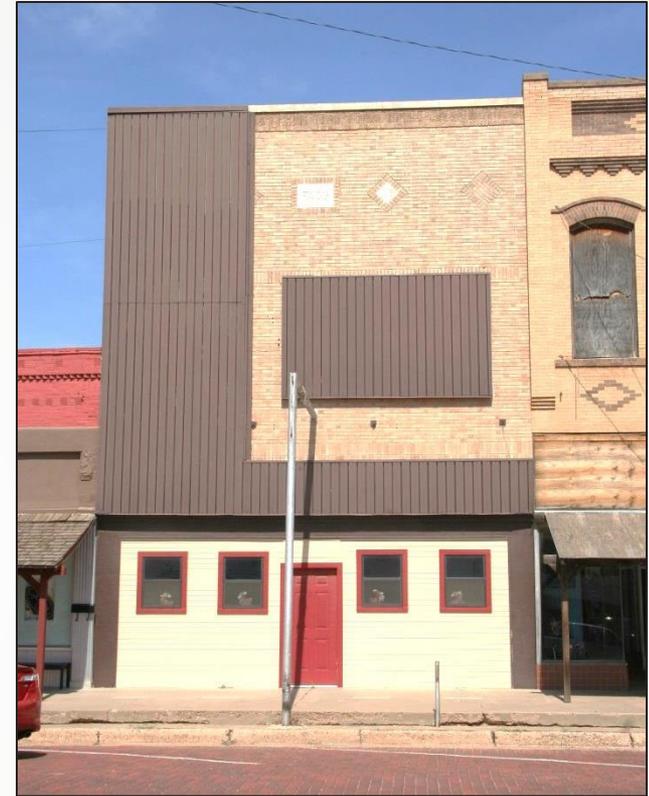
# Noncontributing Resources

## Noncontributing

- Not present during period of significance, *or*
- Not related to the documented historical significance, *or*
- Lacks sufficient integrity



Outside period of significance (too new)



Lacks integrity due to extensive alterations



# Contributing vs. Noncontributing Resources

Contributing resources enjoy all the same benefits of individually listed properties



Noncontributing status is not necessarily permanent and can be reversed



# For More National Register Information

THC National Register of Historic Places Program webpage  
<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/national-register-historic-places>

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## National Register of Historic Places

  
T&P Passenger Depot, Baird

The National Register of Historic Places is a federal program administered in our state by the Texas Historical Commission in coordination with the National Park Service. Listing in the National Register provides national recognition of a property's historical or architectural significance and denotes that it is worthy of preservation. Buildings, sites, objects, structures and districts are eligible for this designation if they are at least 50 years old (with rare exceptions) and meet established criteria. Plaques are available, but not required, for this designation.

The National Register designation imposes no restrictions on property owners. Those receiving grant assistance or federal tax credits for rehabilitation projects, however, must adhere to certain standards. With a National Register designation, the property receives extra consideration before any federal projects, such as highway construction, are undertaken. To nominate a property, the owner's consent is required.

[More About National Register of Historic Places »](#)

### Highlights

 <a href="#">Austin Hall, SHSU, Huntsville »</a>	 <a href="#">Jack County Courthouse, Jacksboro »</a>	 <a href="#">Fisk Medical Arts Building, Amarillo »</a>	 <a href="#">Van Zandt Cottage, Fort Worth »</a>
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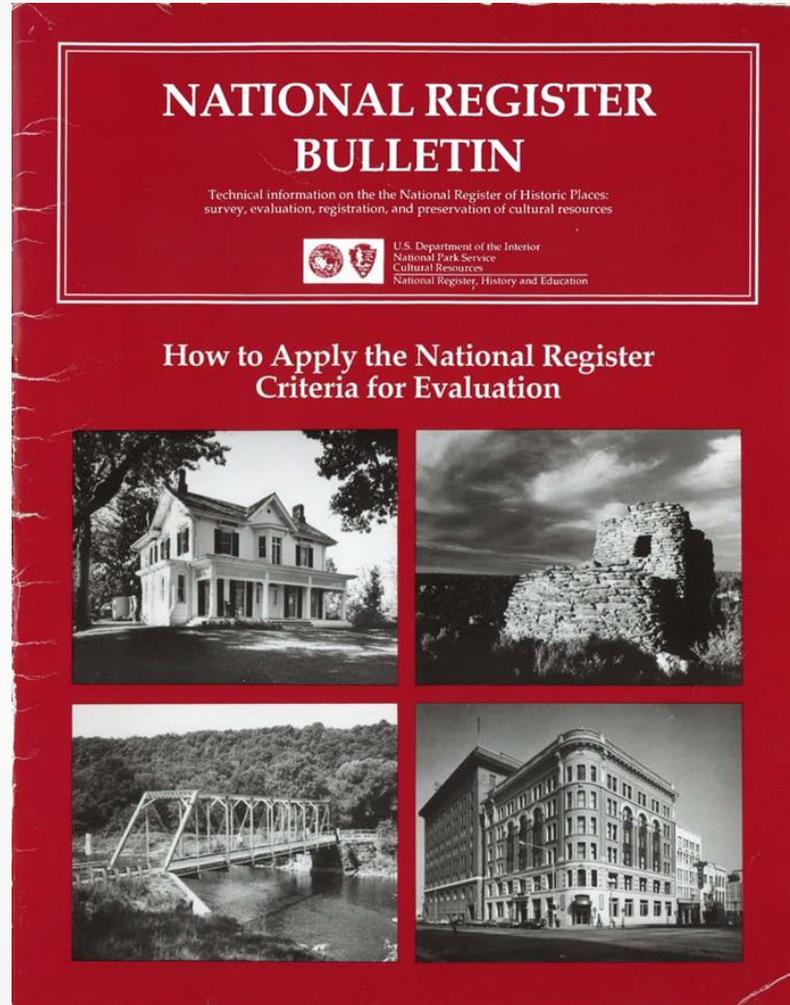
 **HISTORIC SITES ATLAS**  
The Atlas features nearly 100,000 historic sites



# For More National Register Information

*How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* Bulletin

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/>





# For More Survey Information

THC Historic Resources Survey Program webpage

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-resources-survey>

The screenshot shows the website header with the Texas Historical Commission logo and tagline "real places telling real stories". A search bar is located in the top right. A navigation menu includes links for HOME, ABOUT US, PRESERVE, PROJECT REVIEW, NEWS & EVENTS, GET INVOLVED, LEARN, and EXPLORE TEXAS. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Preserve > Projects and Programs > Historic Resources Survey.

## Historic Resources Survey

To preserve historic and cultural resources, we must first know they exist. Architectural and archeological surveys identify significant properties in neighborhoods, communities, and entire counties. Published inventories of such sites can be indispensable in raising a community's awareness of its cultural heritage and in its planning efforts. The most important resources identified through surveys have potential for state and national landmark designation. Moreover, the information and photographs generated by a survey create an irreplaceable record of the present state of that heritage.

[More About Historic Resources Survey »](#)

### Highlights

- [Bankhead Highway Project »](#)
- [Texas Historic Sites Atlas »](#)
- [THC Historic Survey Manual »](#)
- [THC Historic Resources Library Spreadsheet »](#)

### In This Section

- [About the Historic Resources Survey Program](#)
- [Useful Survey Tools](#)
- [What is a Historic Resources Survey?](#)
- [Historic Resources Survey Funding](#)
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Leslie Wolfenden



# THC Historic Resources Survey Packet

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION Historic Resources Survey Form Manual



### TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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#### INTRODUCTION

The Texas Historical Commission appreciates your efforts in conducting a historic resources survey. Architectural surveys identify significant properties in neighborhoods, communities and entire counties. Published inventories of such sites can be indispensable in raising a community's awareness of its cultural heritage and in its planning efforts. The information and photographs generated by a survey create an irreplaceable record of the present state of that heritage.

A historic resources survey is a systematic method of documenting historic resources through fieldwork and research. Each historic resource is documented with photographs, maps, and a written description on a form. The purpose of completing a local survey is to gather information needed to plan for the wise use of a community's resources.

Historic resources surveys can have many beneficial outcomes such as:

- Stimulates public awareness of a community's historic resources
- Essential if a community plans to pursue historical designations under local ordinances
- Helps local preservation advocates, land-use planners, economic development coordinators, and tourism promoters
- Provides a basis for preservation and planning at all levels of government and for individual groups or citizens
- Helps identify historic resources in anticipation of projects that may involve building demolition and land disturbance
- Documents properties representing a style, period, construction type or historic theme
- Encouraged participation by community members
- Promotes research and awareness of the community's heritage

The manual provided here is intended to assist with accurately filling out a Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Historic Resources Survey Form. The last section explains how to use the THC's Historic Resources Survey Form in a Microsoft Access database format. It may be helpful to print out the manual in order to complete the Historic Resources Survey Form electronically. Having the forms in an electronic format is beneficial for the THC as the information can be directly uploaded in the THC's Texas Historic Sites Atlas (<http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/>), can be exported as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and can be accessible for updating by communities and organizations in the future.

If the THC sent a THC Survey Packet (either on a CD/DVD or electronically), it will contain these items:

 Docs	
 Images	
 READ THIS FIRST.pdf	73 KB
 Texas County Abbreviations TARL.pdf	72 KB
 THC Historic Resources Survey Manual 2013 11.pdf	2,225 KB
 THC Photo Labeling Protocol.pdf	90 KB
 THC survey database blank.accdb	3,968 KB
 THC survey form.docx	79 KB

To receive a free THC Survey Packet, send an email request to:  
[leslie.wolfenden@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:leslie.wolfenden@thc.state.tx.us)



# Contact Information

Texas Historical Commission (THC)

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[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)