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ISSN 0890-7595

Vol. 46, No. 11-12

www.thc.state.tx.us thc@thc.state.tx.us

The Medallion is financed in part by a grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. All of the agency's public programs and activities are operated free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should write to Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

The Medallion is available online at www.thc.state.tx.us/medallionmag/mddefault.shtml. If you would prefer to receive *The Medallion* electronically instead of through the mail, please send your name and address to thc@thc.state.tx.us. You will be notified by email when each new issue is available on the THC web site and will no longer receive a printed copy.

Our Mission

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations.

County Historical Commission TIPS & TOOLS

The following County Historical Commission (CHC) Tips & Tools contain recommendations by Texas Historical Commission (THC) staff to assist preservationists in their efforts to save the real places of Texas. For more information, contact CHC Outreach staff at amy.hammons@thc.state.tx.us or amber.nunez@thc.state.tx.us.

The previous Tips & Tools covered the basics of markers and designations administered by the THC. Though subject markers are very popular among CHCs, they are solely educational, which may or may not appropriately address the needs of the resource.

For this reason, CHCs and preservation groups should consider pursuing a National Register of Historic Places designation. The National Register (NR) is a federal program administered in Texas by the THC in coordination with the National Park Service. Listing in the NR provides national recognition of a property's historical or architectural significance and denotes it is worthy of preservation.

The NR was developed to recognize historic places and people who contributed to our country's heritage. It is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historic and archeological resources.

These properties — districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects — are architecturally, archeologically or historically significant for their associations with important people or events. Properties are eligible for a NR designation if they are at least 50 years old and meet established criteria.



The National Register includes the THC's Gethsemane Church in Austin.

To determine if this preservation tool is appropriate for your resource, it's important to note the following overview of what an NR listing provides:

- prestigious recognition for significant properties
- documentation of historic properties
- information about historic properties for local and statewide planning
- promotion of tourism and economic development
- basic eligibility for financial incentives, when available.

It's also important to keep in mind that the NR listing does not:

- restrict in any way a private property owner's ability to alter, manage or dispose of a property
- require properties to be maintained, repaired or restored
- allow the individual listing of private property over an owner's objection
- allow the listing of historic districts over a majority of property owners' objections
- require public access to private property.

For additional information about the NR program, visit www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madnr.shtml. ★