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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.

CHC Outreach issued a survey earlier this year to document how CHCs prioritize, initiate and participate in preservation activities. The survey asked, "When looking at the annual work generated by your CHC, rank the following items in order of importance."

Results showed that CHCs felt the most important part of their work was the "protection of historic resources."

Interestingly, the survey also showed that only 46 percent of counties understood the levels of protection provided by the THC's various markers and designations. To help educate CHCs and other preservationists, we're providing a brief overview of the agency's markers and designations:

- Subject markers are solely educational and reveal aspects of local history that are important to a community or region. Marker topics include church congregations, schools, communities, businesses, events and individuals. A subject marker is placed at a site that has a historical association with the topic, but no restriction is placed on the use of the property or site.
- Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHL) designate buildings and structures at least 50 years old that are judged worthy of preservation for their architectural and historical associations. The RTHL designation carries a measure of protection for the property.



*Clockwise from above:
Historic Texas Cemetery
marker, Recorded Texas
Historic Landmark marker
and subject marker.*

Owners planning exterior changes to RTHLs must notify the THC 60 days in advance of changes to allow time for consultation with the agency. Unsympathetic changes to RTHLs may result in removal of the designation.

- Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designations recognize cemeteries or burial sites that are at least 50 years old and worthy of preservation for their historical associations. The HTC designation encourages preservation of historic cemeteries but imposes no restrictions on private owners' use of the land adjacent to the cemetery.
- State Archeological Landmarks (SAL) receive legal protection under the Antiquities Code of Texas. The designation of SALs on private land is recorded in the county deed records and is conveyed with the property when sold. The SAL designation stipulates the property cannot be removed, altered, damaged, salvaged or excavated without a permit from the THC.

For additional information about markers and designations, visit www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/maddefault.shtml.