

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TEXAS CENTENNIAL MARKER POLICIES Adopted by the Texas Historical Commission July 31, 2009

Jurisdiction: Official Texas Historical Markers, including 1936 Texas Centennial markers, are property of the State of Texas. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is the final determinant and authority of all matters related to design, eligibility, content, manufacturing, placement or replacement, and compliance oversight. The markers may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be recalled for any reason it so determines, including inaccuracies or non-compliance with rules and policies.

Inscriptions: In the event the placement or content of an Official Texas Historical Marker is contested, the THC, after consultation with interested parties, has the sole authority to make the final decision related to retention, replacement or removal. The wording of the state marker inscriptions is the sole responsibility of the THC. The inscriptions for some 1936 markers may be inaccurate, incomplete or confusing. However, because these inscriptions are part of the state's 1936 historic preservation effort and have acquired historical significance in their own right, the THC will not revise or alter 1936 inscriptions. Additional or corrected information can be presented through the THC historical marker program and other means. All documentation requirements must be met.

Access: Subject markers are placed at sites that have a historical association with the topic, but no legal restriction is placed on the use of the property or site, although the THC must be notified if the marker is ever to be relocated. The placement of historical markers should be carefully considered to ensure maximum accessibility and protection of historic resources. Markers must be accessible to the public.

Private property: Through its Historic Sites Atlas, the THC provides online access to marker inscriptions and locational information. The Atlas serves as the primary tool for researchers and others interested in the Official Texas Historical Marker program, and information can be downloaded as needed.

Relocation: The statewide effort to mark historic sites in 1936 has acquired historic significance in its own right. In addition, some 1936 markers are associated with specific locations; 1936 grave markers are also associated with human remains. Therefore, the policy of the THC is to preserve the original location of 1936 markers whenever possible. The THC has sole discretion in considering whether to relocate a 1936 marker based on considerations of safety, access, vandalism, damage, or other circumstances, and in consultation with County Historical Commissions and other interested parties.

Altered markers: Supplemental plaques and insignias should not be affixed to 1936 markers. Refer to the THC document "Restoring Texas Centennial Markers" for instructions on removing supplemental plaques and insignias from 1936 markers.

Damaged markers: Care must be taken in repairing damaged 1936 markers. Refer to the THC document "Restoring Texas Centennial Markers" for specific instructions on cleaning and repairs.

Replacement parts: Replacement parts for 1936 markers, including bronze stars, wreaths and plaques, are available through the THC historical marker program. State agencies are responsible for replacing missing parts for Centennial markers on their lands. County Historical Commissions, groups or individuals may also order replacement parts for 1936 markers.

TEXAS CENTENNIAL MARKER POLICIES (continued)

Documentation: The THC currently does not maintain copies of original files and correspondence related to 1936 markers. Such files are maintained at three archives in Austin: The Texas State Library and Archives, The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Catholic Archives of Texas.

Replicas: The 1936 granite and bronze historical markers were part of a unique effort and represent aspects of the historic preservation and craftsmanship of that time. The THC does not offer replica 1936-style markers to document new topics that were not addressed in the 1936 effort. Additionally, the THC does not endorse other groups or individuals attempting to replicate these style markers.

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