Historic Research

**Identification and Documentation**

Preservation Bootcamp

Identification and documentation are important parts of historic preservation.

The THC has developed a guideline for historical research that is a great place to start:

[Remembering Texas: Guidelines for Historical Research](https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/remembering-texas.pdf)

Or by specific resource type here: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/marker-research-guides>

Research is not a one and done event; you will have to consult multiple sources in order to get the most information possible. Take your time researching and make sure to take good notes so you know where the information came from.

Below are some helpful Online resources:

* + [APT Building Technology Heritage Library](https://www.apti.org/apt-building-technology-heritage-library)
  + [UNTs Portal to Texas History](https://texashistory.unt.edu)
  + [Baylor University Photographic Archive, Texas Collection](http://digitalcollections.baylor.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/tx-photos)
  + [Amon Carter Museum (Fort Worth), Texas Bird’s-Eye View](http://www.birdseyeviews.org/index.php)
  + [Handbook of Texas](https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook)

Sanborn maps are another incredibly useful resource when it comes to learning more about a property. Published from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, these maps help reveal development patterns and building evolution.

* + [How to Use Sanborn Maps](https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/Sanborn%20maps%20%28updated%20July%202018%29.docx)
  + [Library of Congress, Sanborn Maps Collection](https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection/)
  + [Map abbreviations, MIT](http://web.mit.edu/thecity/resources/abbreviations_for_sanborn_maps.pdf)

Historic Resources Surveys & Inventories

What exactly is a historic resources survey and how does it differ from an inventory? This is a question we receive often and one that is important to answer because they serve two different functions. To make this easier, both an inventory and a historic resources survey have been defined in the CLG Handbook.

**Inventory:** is an organized list of historic resources that is regularly updated as changes occur. An inventory typically includes a photograph, current and historic name, address and geographic location, property type, date of construction, architect (if known), current and historic use, current historical designations, eligibility and contributing status, and priority level for each resource.

**Historic Resources Survey:** A systematic method of documenting historic resources through fieldwork and historic research. A survey includes the same information as an Inventory with additional documentation of a written physical description, historical background, photographs, maps, and historical recommendations on a form for each resource. The THC recommends that the survey be updated approximately every ten years.

Blow are some helpful resources for Historic Resource Surveys:

* [THC Historic Resources Survey Manual](https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/survey/survey/THC%20Historic%20Resources%20Survey%20Manual%202016%2012.pdf)
* [THC Useful Survey Tools](https://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-resources-survey/useful-survey-tools)

Oral History

Oral History is the collection and recording of personal memoirs as historical documentation and are an important primary resource.

* [THC How to Use Oral History](https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/Oral%20History.pdf)
* [THC Oral History Fundamentals](https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/OralHistory.pdf)
* [Oral History Association, Principles and Best Practices](https://www.oralhistory.org/about/principles-and-practices-revised-2009/)
* [NPS Oral History resources](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/oralhistory/resources.htm)
* [Baylor Institute for Oral History](https://www.baylor.edu/oralhistory/)