



ARCHEOLOGY DIVISION

The Archeology Division works to identify, protect, and preserve the state's irreplaceable archeological heritage.

WHAT WE DO

The Archeology Division administers several programs, including the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, Texas Archeology Month, Historic Texas Lands Plaque Program, Marine Archeology Program, special projects, various forms of public assistance, and project reviews.

DIVISION STAFF:

- Reviews public construction projects and recommends ways to minimize the impact on key sites. As part of the review process, THC staff responds to more than 14,000 public inquiries annually and serves more than 2,600 cities, counties, and agencies (both state and federal).
- Issues Texas Antiquities Permits for all archeological investigations on public land or within coastal waters (approximately 400 permits each year).

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP NETWORK

The Texas Archeological Stewardship Network is composed of about 130 stewards throughout the state who work with THC archeologists to assist citizens statewide. The network serves as a model for other similar programs in the U.S.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH

THC staff coordinates the annual observance of Texas Archeology Month in partnership with other archeological groups. The October celebration connects Texans with their unique archeological heritage through many special events such as archeology fairs, museum exhibits, lectures, and demonstrations.

HISTORIC TEXAS LANDS PLAQUE

This program recognizes Texas landowners who have worked to protect important historic places, from Ice Age hunting camps to frontier forts.



TPWD

Native American dancer at Hueco Tanks Interpretive Fair.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND EDUCATION

Staff responds to public inquiries regarding prehistoric and historic archeological sites in Texas. The office offers archeological consultation to state agencies, professional and avocational archeologists, landowners, heritage groups, and interested individuals.

MARINE ARCHEOLOGY PROGRAM

The state marine archeologist supports efforts to locate, investigate, and protect hundreds of historic shipwrecks in Texas coastal waters. To accomplish this goal, staff conducts cultural resource management reviews for projects that might impact shipwrecks on state-owned submerged lands. The state marine archeologist also maintains a database of shipwrecks in Texas and carries out a program to identify and investigate significant shipwreck sites using volunteer assistance from the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Staff assists federal and state agencies in complying with federal and state laws to preserve archeological and historic sites.

CURATORIAL FACILITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Curatorial Facility Certification Program certifies curatorial facilities that house state-associated held-in-trust archeological collections obtained during archeological investigations on non-federal public lands. The program ensures that repositories and museums use care in the management of held-in-trust collections. Staff also provides general outreach to museums and repositories on proper care of archeological collections.

HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS

Staff coordinates the nomination of archeological sites as State Antiquities Landmarks or for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The division also supports the Antiquities Advisory Board—citizens appointed by the THC to consider issues related to the Antiquities Code of Texas.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES ATLAS

The Archeological Atlas is a database of more than 80,000 archeological sites in Texas. Available only to qualified researchers, it allows users to easily retrieve information about historic Texas sites.



Panther Cave pictograph.


HOW TO REACH US

Staff members are available to answer questions and provide preservation assistance. Please contact us at:

Phone: 512-463-6096

Fax: 512-463-8927

Email: archeology@thc.texas.gov

**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION** 
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

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