



DIVISION OF ARCHITECTURE

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Division of Architecture works to preserve and protect Texas' diverse architectural heritage. Staff members provide design and rehabilitation advice to assist with preserving properties that span the state's rich history, from majestic historic county courthouses and commercial buildings to Spanish missions and log cabins.



The 1912 Cooke County Courthouse was rededicated in 2011.

WHAT WE DO

The division manages programs for federal and state review, courthouse preservation, the Texas Preservation Trust Fund, disaster assistance, and historic preservation tax credits.

FEDERAL AND STATE REVIEW PROGRAM

The Federal and State Review Program reviews modifications and provides technical guidance on historic structures across the state, particularly on structures protected by state and federal laws. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that federal agencies consider the effects of projects that receive federal funds, licenses, or permits on historic properties. Division staff evaluates construction projects and works with project proponents to avoid or minimize any impacts to historic structures.

Significant historic properties designated as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks or State Antiquities Landmarks require THC review of proposed changes. Division staff issues permits and provides recommendations as necessary.

TEXAS HISTORIC COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

In 1999, the Texas Legislature created the nationally recognized Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program to provide matching grants for courthouse preservation projects throughout the state. The Courthouse Preservation Program reviews proposed modifications to the state's historic courthouses and courthouse squares.

To date, the program funds have facilitated the restoration and preservation of 103 county courthouses.

TEXAS COURTHOUSE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

In order to protect and preserve these buildings for future generations, the Texas Courthouse Stewardship Program was created in 2005 to assist counties by fostering facility planning, budgeting, and training. Specific program activities include site visits and easement monitoring, training workshops, maintenance planning, and technical consultations.

TEXAS PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

The Texas Legislature established the Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF) in 1989. The fund is currently managed by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company.

The TPTF investment earnings are administered as matching grants to qualified applicants for the acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation, or planning and educational activities leading to the preservation of historic architectural and archeological properties and associated collections of the State of Texas.

Competitive grants are awarded on a one-to-one match basis and are paid as reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS

Established by the Texas Legislature in 2013, the Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program offers a 25 percent tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of historic buildings by businesses or nonprofits. It may be used separately or in conjunction with the federal tax credit. As of summer 2023, nearly 400 state tax credit projects had been certified to date, with \$3.2 billion in qualified expenditures.

The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program includes a 20 percent income tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic, income-producing buildings.

Staff assists property owners and developers to determine if the structure qualifies for these tax credits.

The THC monitors projects to ensure compliance with the state program and coordinates with the National Park Service in administering the federal tax credit.

PRESERVATION COVENANTS AND EASEMENTS

The agency holds protective preservation covenants and easements on over 250 of the state's most significant cultural landmarks. These protections are formal agreements between the property owners and the THC to ensure long-term preservation of the property. Division staff conducts periodic inspections and reviews proposed changes to these properties.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant (HIM) was established by Congress in 2018 and is administered by the National Park Service.

In 2019, Texas was awarded a \$12,518,047 grant for preservation projects to help historic properties and communities recover from the damage of Hurricane Harvey.

The THC, in conjunction with the National Park Service, administers grants awarded in Texas. Grants are paid as reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred.

The THC has administered over 35 subgrants for projects ranging from surveys to rehabilitation, preservation planning, and educational efforts. All projects must be concluded and reimbursed by March 31, 2024, the end date of the grant.



Granger City Hall, a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, received a FY 2015 Texas Preservation Trust Fund planning grant for structural stabilization.


HOW TO REACH US

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

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REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

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