



HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY DESIGNATION

Cemeteries are important keys to Texas' past. They are reminders of settlement patterns and reveal information about historic events, religion, lifestyles, and genealogy. Unfortunately, historic cemeteries are increasingly threatened by development pressures, encroachment, vandalism, and theft. Circumstances can change quickly—a cemetery considered maintained and safe can become neglected and endangered. To address the problem of cemetery destruction and to record as many cemeteries as possible, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) oversees the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation.



Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery, Colorado County, designated in 2009.

WHAT IS THE HTC DESIGNATION?

Begun in 1998, the HTC designation is an official recognition of family and community graveyards that encourages preservation of historic cemeteries. The designation imposes no restrictions on private owners' use of the land adjacent to the cemetery or the daily operations of the cemetery.

Every county in Texas has at least one cemetery designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery.

REQUIREMENTS

A cemetery is eligible for designation if it is at least 50 years old and is deemed worthy of recognition for its historical associations. A cemetery meets the criteria of historical associations when it provides tangible evidence of a family's or community's presence in the area.

Any individual, organization, or agency may submit a request for designation.

BENEFITS

- Records the cemetery location and boundaries in the county's official public records as a historically dedicated cemetery worthy of preservation.

- Helps preserve cemeteries by alerting present and future landowners of the presence of this important historical resource on their property.
- Prerequisite to apply for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

MORE INFORMATION

Additional information about the HTC designation, including forms, samples, and instructions, may be found at thc.texas.gov/htc.

HOW TO REACH US

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

Phone: 512-463-5853

Email: htc@thc.texas.gov

