



HISTORIC TEXAS HIGHWAYS PROGRAM

Part of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) History Programs Division, the Historic Texas Highways Program identifies, interprets, and markets historic roads and highways.

WHAT WE DO

Projects include surveying historic routes, identifying extant road-related buildings and sites along these highways, supplying research materials, and providing maps and information that can be utilized by heritage tourists to drive along these historic roadways.

ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES:

- Document and map road-related resources and make the information available via the THC website.
- Provide access to informative publications about highways and road-related resources.
- Present snippets about unusual resources relating to highways and roadways.
- Offer historic context for Texas historic highways.
- Supply updates to the [Texas Historic Sites Atlas](#).

BANKHEAD HIGHWAY PROJECT

The first project of the Historic Roads and Highways Program focused on the Bankhead Highway, a coast-to-coast roadway established in 1916 that runs from Texarkana to El Paso.

The Legislature designated the Texas portion of the Bankhead as a Texas Historic Highway in 2009. Using Federal Transportation Enhancement funds, the THC and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) coordinated to research, survey, and write reports about the Bankhead Highway. The two-year project documented over 2,700 road-related resources along more than 850 miles of historic highway. THC staff created research reports and interpretive measures that provide valuable heritage tourism information.

MERIDIAN HIGHWAY PROJECT

The second project under the Historic Roads and Highways Program focused on the Meridian Highway, an



View along the Bankhead Highway in the vicinity of Sweetwater, Nolan County.

international highway running from Canada to Mexico, with a lateral branch extending from Waco to Galveston.

The two-year project documented over 1,830 road-related resources along some 800 miles across Texas.

The project was made possible with funding from a Federal Transportation Enhancement grant.

ROUTE 66 NPS GRANT PROJECT

The Historic Texas Highways program received another National Park Service grant in 2019 to conduct a National Register of Historic Places nomination for Route 66 road segments across Wheeler County, which were recommended eligible during the 2018 Route 66 survey update.

This nomination was accepted into the National Register in September 2020 for Route 66's eight concrete road segments that were constructed in the early 1930s.

HOW TO REACH US

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