



HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) History Programs Division works with citizens, county historical commissions, museums, cemetery associations, local governments, state and federal agencies, and other interested parties to identify, evaluate, and interpret the historic and cultural resources of Texas.

WHAT WE DO

STATE HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

A vital part of the state's heritage tourism efforts, markers convey stories of local, regional, state, and national history.

More than 17,000 historical markers dot the Texas landscape, many with the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation, which the state bestows on properties for architectural and historical significance.

More than 3,800 properties have received the [Recorded Texas Historic Landmark](#) designation that the state bestows on buildings and structures for architectural and historical significance.

Other types of available historical markers are Historic Texas Cemetery markers and subject markers that interpret a wide variety of individuals, organizations, events, sites, and other topics.

Staff members are available to work with property owners, researchers, county historical commissions (CHC), and other preservation organizations to place historical markers across the state.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The [National Register of Historic Places](#) is the nation's inventory of properties deemed worthy of preservation, administered in Texas by the THC in coordination with the National Park Service.

Division staff members assist property owners in researching the history and significance of diverse historic properties to achieve this designation.



The THC implemented the [Undertold Stories Marker Program](#) in 2006 to help fill historical gaps in the Lone Star State's history, for such topics as the Porvenir Massacre in West Texas.

Listing a property in the National Register often bolsters a community's economic development and heritage tourism programs as a critical first step in qualifying for federal and state rehabilitation tax credits.

CEMETERY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The THC's [Cemetery Preservation Program](#) responds to public inquiries, manages the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation process, updates the THC's Texas Historic Sites Atlas, and provides technical assistance to help preserve and protect endangered historic cemeteries.

The HTC designation was created in 1997, and today more than 2,400 historic cemeteries have been designated through the efforts of local volunteers, preservationists, and avocational and professional historians and archeologists.

Staff also provides technical assistance on maintaining historic cemeteries, creating cemetery master plans, and forming cemetery associations.

COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION OUTREACH PROGRAM

County historical commissions (CHC) are authorized by Texas state law to carry out preservation activities in counties throughout the state. Volunteer CHC members are appointed by each county and act as stewards of historic and cultural resources in their counties.

CHCs submit reports annually to the THC describing their ongoing preservation activities, and THC staff recommend agency programs, training, and services based on these reports.

CHC Outreach staff also work with CHCs to highlight preservation through education and promotion of their projects and efforts.

MUSEUM ASSISTANCE

THC staff members consult with history museums throughout the state on the preservation and interpretation of museum collections.

Services include email and telephone consultations; dissemination of educational and reference materials; webinars and workshops, and regular discussion groups aimed at improving the skills of museum staff, volunteers, and trustees.

HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

Staff members maintain the Historic Sites Inventory, which documents historic and cultural resources in Texas. They also coordinate and provide technical assistance to ongoing survey efforts of such resources in local communities. Access to this information is available through the [Texas Historic Sites Atlas](#).

SECTION 106 AND FEDERAL TAX CREDIT REVIEWS

Projects utilizing federal funds or requiring federal approval or license are subject to [Section 106](#) of the [National Historic Preservation Act](#), which requires federal agencies to take into account their impacts on historic properties.

To do so, federal agencies consult with the THC, along with local governments and other stakeholders, to determine if any properties in the project area are listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. If so, the THC consults further, seeking to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects to those historic properties.

TEXAS HISTORIC ROADS AND HIGHWAYS PROGRAM

In 2009, House Bill 2642 established the [Texas Historic Roads and Highways Program](#), the goal of which is to identify, designate, interpret, and market historic roads and highways in Texas.

The THC and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) have an agreement to administer this program. Projects include surveying historic highways, identifying extant road-related buildings and sites, supplying road-related research materials, and providing maps and information that may be used by heritage tourists and historians to recreate the experience of driving along these historic roadways, potentially increasing visitation to Texas communities with a positive effect on local economies.

MILITARY SITES PROGRAM

The Military Sites Program documents, commemorates, preserves, and promotes historic sites where Texas military personnel served both inside and outside the state.

Projects include surveying sites in Texas associated with both military and home front activities.

YOUTH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM

Staff creates educational outreach opportunities for youth involvement in agency activities. Staff works with all agency divisions to improve, expand, and produce new and exciting programming opportunities, as well as develop new ways to use THC programs to inspire, educate, and inform Texas youth about the importance of preserving Texas' historic resources.

How to Reach Us

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

Phone: 512-463-5853

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