



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) works to save the real places that tell the real stories of Texas. Staff consults with citizens and organizations to preserve Texas' architectural, archeological, and cultural landmarks. The agency is recognized nationally for its preservation programs.

WHO WE ARE

The THC is composed of 15 citizen members appointed by the governor to staggered six-year terms. The agency employs about 285 people who work in various fields, including archeology, architecture, history, economic development, heritage tourism, public administration, and urban planning.

The Texas Legislature established the agency in 1953 as the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, with the task to identify important historic sites across the state. The Texas Legislature changed the agency's name to the Texas Historical Commission in 1973. Along with the name change came more protective powers, an expanded leadership role, and broader educational responsibilities.

WHAT WE DO

THE THC:

- Works with communities and individuals to help identify important historic resources.
- Encourages communities to evaluate their historic resources and develop a plan to preserve them.
- Provides leadership and training to County Historical Commissions, heritage organizations, and museums in Texas' 254 counties.
- Helps protect Texas' diverse architectural heritage, including historic county courthouses.



The THC headquarters is located in the historic Carrington-Covert House in downtown Austin.

- Partners with communities to stimulate tourism and economic development.
- Assists Texas cities in the revitalization of their historic downtowns through the Texas Main Street Program.
- Works with communities to create a preservation vision and plan for the future.
- Administers the state's historical marker program — currently there are more than 17,000 historical markers across the state.
- Consults with citizens and groups to nominate properties as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, as State Antiquities Landmarks, and to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Operates 31 state historic sites including museums, military forts, and archeological sites.
- Works with property owners to save archeological sites on private land.
- Ensures archeological sites are protected as land is developed for highways and other public construction projects.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

THC staff provides assistance to communities and organizations through activities such as regional workshops, individual and group consultations, and promoting our Statewide Preservation Plan. Staff members are divided into regional teams to serve Texans more effectively.

Capitalizing on the increasing popularity of learning vacations and heritage travel, the THC has developed a nationally recognized heritage tourism program. The agency works with local communities, preservation organizations, and other state agencies to increase visitation at heritage attractions and encourage economic development. The program creates print and travel materials, and provides technical and marketing assistance to constituents across the state.

GRANTS

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG) PROGRAM

Cities and counties participating in the CLG Program, a local, state, and federal partnership, are eligible to receive matching grants for local preservation projects.

TEXAS HISTORIC COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION PROGRAM

In 1999, the Texas Legislature created the program to provide matching grants to assist county courthouse restoration projects throughout the state.

TEXAS PRESERVATION TRUST FUND

Created by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the program awards matching grants for preservation and heritage education projects on a yearly basis.

TAX CREDITS SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

The Texas Heritage Trails Program is an economic development initiative encouraging community partnerships to promote Texas' historic and cultural resources. These successful local preservation efforts, combined with statewide marketing of heritage regions as tourism destinations, increase visitation to cultural and historic sites and bring more dollars to Texas communities, especially rural ones.

LA SALLE ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT

The 1996–97 Matagorda Bay excavation of *La Belle*, the 1686 wreck of French explorer La Salle's ship, received worldwide interest and media attention. The project continued with the 1999–2002 excavation of La Salle's colony at Fort St. Louis.

REAL PLACES CONFERENCE

The THC coordinates with the Friends of the THC to produce an annual historic preservation and heritage tourism conference featuring interactive workshops, tours, and a variety of broad-based and technical sessions from industry leaders throughout Texas and the U.S.

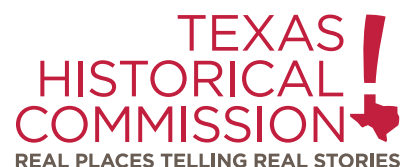
TOWN SQUARE INITIATIVE AND DOWNTOWNTX.ORG

Operating as an affiliate of the Texas Main Street Program, the Town Square Initiative (TSI) is an interdisciplinary team that addresses complex downtown problems through designing and facilitating planning processes and assisting with project implementation. The TSI created and maintains DowntownTX.org, a real estate and building inventory tool that lists available commercial buildings in historic Texas downtowns, linking investors and developers to properties that are potentially eligible for historic preservation tax incentives.

HOW TO FIND US

THC divisions are located in a cluster of buildings in the Capitol Complex in downtown Austin:

- **THC HEADQUARTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION**
Carrington-Covert House, 1511 Colorado St.
- **ARCHEOLOGY AND ARCHITECTURE DIVISIONS**
Elrose Building, 108 W. 16th St.
- **COMMUNITY HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**
Christianson-Leberman Building, 1304 Colorado St.
- **HISTORIC SITES DIVISION**
Thomas Jefferson Rusk State Office Building, 208 E. 10th St.
- **HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION**
Luther Hall, 105 W. 16th St.
- **THC LIBRARY AND FRIENDS OF THE THC**
16th St. and Congress Ave.



thc.texas.gov