



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.



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

WHO WE ARE

The Texas Legislature established the THC 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.

The THC is composed of 15 citizen members appointed by the governor to staggered six-year terms. The agency employs about 300 people who work in various fields, including archeology, architecture, history, economic development, heritage tourism, public administration, and urban planning.

WHAT WE DO

- Consult with citizens and groups to nominate properties as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, State Antiquities Landmarks, and the National Register of Historic Places.
- Operate 36 state historic sites including museums, military forts, and archeological sites.
- Administer the state's historical marker program—currently there are more than 17,000 historical markers across the state.
- Encourage communities to evaluate their historic resources and develop a plan to preserve them.
- Provide leadership and training to County Historical Commissions, heritage organizations, and museums in Texas' 254 counties.
- Help protect Texas' diverse architectural heritage.
- Partner with communities to stimulate tourism and economic development.
- Assist cities to revitalize of their historic downtowns through the Texas Main Street Program.
- Work with communities to create a preservation vision and plan for the future.
- Work with property owners to save archeological sites on private land.
- Ensure historic resources are considered as land is developed for highways and other public construction projects.
- Publish educational materials on a wide range of preservation topics.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

THC staff provides assistance to communities and organizations through activities such as regional workshops, individual and group consultations, and promoting our Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. Capitalizing on the increasing popularity of educational vocations and heritage travel, the THC has developed a nationally recognized heritage tourism program.

The program creates print and travel materials, and provides technical and marketing assistance to constituents across the state.

GRANTS

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.

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.

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

HISTORIC TAX CREDITS

The THC administers a federal and state historic tax credit program to certify participants' qualified rehabilitation expenditures (QREs). In 2021, Texas led the nation in federal tax credit QREs certified.

TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

The Texas Heritage Trails Program is an economic development initiative encouraging community partnerships to promote Texas' historic and cultural resources, bringing more dollars to Texas communities, especially rural ones. TexasTimeTravel.com is co-managed by THC and Trails staff to provide information about heritage travel opportunities across the state.



thgaac.texas.gov

TEXAS HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND ANTISEMITISM ADVISORY COMMISSION

This advisory board supports public education and awareness of the Holocaust, other genocides, and antisemitism in Texas and is an advisory board to the THC.

REAL PLACES CONFERENCE

The THC coordinates with the Friends of the THC on 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 United States.

DOWNTOWNTX.ORG

DowntownTX.org is a real estate and building inventory tool that lists available commercial buildings in historic Texas downtowns, linking investors and developers to properties potentially eligible for historic preservation tax incentives.

HOW TO FIND US

- **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.

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REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

thc.texas.gov