



TEXAS PRESERVATION TRUST FUND PROGRAM

Texans have inherited a wide array of historic architecture and archeological sites that reflect the diversity of all those who have called this land home. The most serious problem facing historic preservation in Texas is the rapid deterioration and destruction of thousands of historic and prehistoric sites. To meet this challenge, the 71st Texas Legislature established the Texas Preservation Trust Fund in 1989.

BACKGROUND

The fund is currently managed by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company. The investment earnings are distributed as matching grants to qualified Texas applicants for the acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation, or for planning and educational activities leading to preservation of historic architectural and archeological properties and associated collections. Competitive grants are awarded on a one-to-one match basis and are paid as reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred during the project.

Applications are available as announced by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to public or private entities for projects involving eligible historic properties, sites, or projects. There are two steps in the grant application process. First, all applicants are required to submit brief application forms for the THC to review prior to each year's deadline. The THC will select the highest-priority projects from the initial applications and invite those applicants to move forward to the second step. Successful applicants will continue the process by submitting detailed project proposals and budgets. Full project proposals are considered by the THC at a scheduled quarterly meeting. The exact timetable will be published on the THC web site as grant cycles are announced.



San Saba County Courthouse, San Saba.

TPTF PROGRAM GUIDELINES

I. TYPES OF PRESERVATION GRANTS

Preservation grants can be awarded only for these types of architecture and archeology projects:

- A. DEVELOPMENT (“preservation,” “restoration,” “rehabilitation,” and “reconstruction,” as defined by the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, 2017) architecture costs include professional fees to supervise actual construction, the costs of construction, and related expenses approved by the THC; or archeology costs necessary for stabilizing or repairing damage sustained at an archeological site or for protective measures; or

- B. ACQUISITION of absolute ownership of eligible historic resources, related costs, and professional fees; or
- C. PLANNING costs necessary for the preparation of property-specific historic structure reports, historic or cultural resource reports, preservation plans, maintenance studies, resource surveys, local and regional preservation plans or surveys, and/or feasibility studies; or for professional inventory and/or rehabilitation of state-associated held-in-trust archeological collections, professional archeological investigation for site assessment or data collection purposes, and the subsequent analysis and reporting of those results to address specific and significant archeological issues to aid with archeological site planning; or
- D. HERITAGE EDUCATION costs necessary for training individuals and organizations about historic resources and historic preservation techniques.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

- A. PROJECT/PROPERTY INFORMATION
To be considered eligible for grant assistance projects, structures, landscapes, or archeological sites must have a required historic designation or be eligible to receive one.
- B. APPLICANTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE GRANT ASSISTANCE
Preservation grants can be made to any public or private entity that is the owner, manager, lessee, maintainer, potential purchaser of an eligible property, or any public or private entity whose purpose includes historic preservation.
- C. ELIGIBLE MATCH FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE
Applicants eligible to receive grant assistance must provide a minimum of \$1 in matching cash to each state dollar for approved project costs.
- D. PROJECT PROPOSALS
To be considered for grant funding, the commission will select initial applicants to submit detailed project proposals. The project proposal consists of professional documents detailing proposed work. A qualified professional should prepare the project proposal, and all project proposals for acquisition, development, and

planning must be consistent with preservation standards (Architecture: *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, 2017; Archeology: Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*, 1983, as appropriate; Curatorial: Consistent with standards outlined in Curatorial Facility Certification Program). **The project proposal must be reviewed and selected for grant funding by the THC prior to the start of any construction work.**

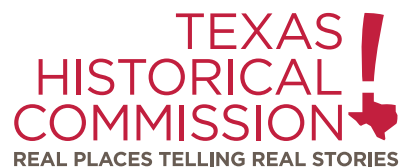
E. EASEMENT

All acquisition and development projects will be required to grant an easement, in a format acceptable to the THC, to ensure the long-term preservation of the grant-assisted property. However, archeological sites are exempt from the easement if the property/site is designated a State Antiquities Landmark or if there is an existing conservation easement equivalent to the program requirements. The easement shall run with the land and be enforceable by the State of Texas, and its duration will be based upon the cumulative amount of grant assistance.



How to Reach Us

For additional information and to be placed on the mailing list for upcoming grant cycles, please contact us at:
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thc.texas.gov