



County Historical Commission TIPS & TOOLS

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Our Mission

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations.



At left: Members of the Galveston County Historical Commission, along with residents and friends of the Settlement community, celebrate the nomination of The Settlement Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

included in the contract with your preservation consultant.

It's also important to learn more about the survey process so you are able to efficiently use your time, energy and funding. Surveys are often dismissed due to expense or importance relative to other community services; however, when used properly, surveying can promote planning that responds to the history and character of your community.

The purpose of cultural and historic resource surveys is to identify and evaluate properties that define the story of your place, thereby illustrating the need to value and retain these resources as your community changes. Survey documentation will provide background on why a particular property is significant, giving decision-makers a better understanding of its role in history.

Subsequent community planning incorporates the tools that allow these significant properties to be maintained or improved in order to retain their historic integrity. These legal and financial tools include easements, tax incentives, historic preservation commissions, preservation ordinances and zoning controls.

For more information on surveys and their use in planning, read the National Park Service's "National Register Bulletin 24" at www.nps.gov/history/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb24. ★

The following County Historical Commission (CHC) Tips & Tools contain recommendations by Texas Historical Commission (THC) staff to assist preservationists in their efforts to save the real places of Texas. For more information, contact CHC Outreach staff at amy.hammons@thc.state.tx.us or amber.nunez@thc.state.tx.us.

Cultural and historic resource surveys are powerful preservation tools. According to CHC reports submitted in 2009, only 28 percent of Texas counties noted that they had made use of these professional surveys, and even fewer noted that these surveys were updated on a regular basis.

THC programs such as Certified Local Government and Visionaries in Preservation promote cultural and historic resource surveys, but CHCs should also be leaders in this statewide effort to survey Texas. The survey referred to here is the process of identifying and gathering data on historic resources. The depth of documentation can vary, so it's important to know how the information will be used to ensure the appropriate services are