

TEXAS TREASURE BUSINESS AWARD

Resources

There are many resources available to help you in documenting the founding date of your business. Of course the best resources can probably be found in your documents such as old ledgers, invoices, and deeds. However, if you are still having problems verifying the date here are some resources that may be of help to you. While some of this information may be available online much of it will only be available as reference or as an Inter-library loan to your public library. If you are unable to travel to the location researchers may be available at the library to assist you.

One great resource to help with your search is the **Marker Toolbox** and can be found on the THC [website](#).

City Directories and Telephone Books

University of North Texas-Portal to Texas History: Various city directories, business directories, legal directories, and phone directories. Many directories have business advertisements. 1870–1969 in full text.

texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/CIT/browse/?q=city+directories&t=fulltext

Fort Worth Public Library: Fort Worth city directories from 1877–present, Arlington from 1964–present and Fort Worth Telephone directories from 1910–present.

fortworthtexas.gov/library/info/default.aspx?id=5618

Center for American History: Austin: Texas city and telephone directories available for on-site use.

www.cah.utexas.edu/research/directories.php

Texas State Library and Archives: State archives have numerous city directories available to look at on-site.

www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/citydirs.html

Ancestry.com: Resources that can often help you find information including city directories and Census records.

GOVERNMENT

Texas County Tax Lists, 1836–1910: Includes most Texas counties with records arranged by the first letter of the taxpayer's last name.

fortworthtexas.gov/library/info/default.aspx?id=10152

Texas State Library and Archives; Texas County Tax Rolls: Available on microfilm through the late 1970s and may be looked at on site or loaned to your local library.
www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/taxrolls.html .

Texas Secretary of State: Business charter and corporation information is available through the Texas Secretary of State dating from the 1800s.
www.sos.state.tx.us/corp/sosda/index.shtml

County Courthouse: The county courthouse may have records of deeds and taxes. Much of the information has a retention of 20 years and some counties get rid of the records at that time. The records may be destroyed or donated to a local museum.

MISCELLANEOUS

Your Records: Your family records will provide the best documentation of your business. Old Ledgers, deeds, invoices, photographs, and tax records are all good sources.

Industry Associations: There are hundreds of industry associations in Texas and many have been in existence over 50 years and may have records that would be useful to you, such as the Texas Automobile Dealers Association (1916), and the Texas Restaurant Association (1937).

OCLC WorldCat: Lists over 2 billion items that can be found in libraries around the world. Many can be used by you through interlibrary loan to your local library or perhaps the library that owns the item can make a copy of specific information for you. Example: *Hello, Texas: A History of telephony in the Lone Star State*; written by Jerry F. Hall and the Texas Telephone Association
www.worldcat.org/.