



## ARCHITECTURE DIVISION

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) Architecture Division works to preserve and protect Texas' diverse architectural heritage. Staff members provide design and rehabilitation advice to assist with preserving properties that span the state's rich history, from majestic historic county courthouses and commercial buildings to Spanish missions and simple log cabins.

### What We Do

The division manages the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, Texas Preservation Trust Fund and Preservation Tax Incentive programs.

#### Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program

In 1999 the Texas Legislature created the program through House Bill 1341. The program provides matching grants to assist county courthouse restoration projects throughout the state. To date, the legislature has appropriated \$207 million to the program which has assisted 68 county courthouse restorations.

#### Texas Preservation Trust Fund

In 1989 the Texas Legislature established the program to assist property owners. This program is provided with an interest-earning fund of public and private money that is administered as matching grants to qualified applicants for acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation or for planning and educational activities leading to the preservation of historic architectural or archeological properties and associated collections of the State of Texas.

#### Preservation Tax Incentives

Staff members assist property owners and developers to qualify for rehabilitation tax credits. The THC monitors projects to ensure compliance with the investment tax credit program. Since 1981, staff has reviewed more than 1,100 commercial tax projects, representing more than \$1 billion in construction costs.



*1891 Fayette  
County Courthouse,  
rededicated on  
June 25, 2005*



*Governor's Mansion, Austin*

#### Texas Governor's Mansion

Staff architects ensure that the highest preservation standards are observed for the antebellum Greek Revival mansion, which carries a National Historic Landmark designation, the most prestigious historical recognition in the United States.

## Reviews and Assessments

■ Architects evaluate construction projects that are funded, licensed or permitted by the federal government through the Section 106 process to minimize any impact to historic structures.

■ Staff monitors the condition of the state's 46 National Historic Landmarks, including NASA's Apollo Mission Control, the Texas State Capitol and the Alamo.

■ Staff reviews properties designated as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks or State Archeological Landmarks, issues permits and provides approvals as necessary when changes are proposed.

■ Staff consults with property owners seeking to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards to minimize changes to the historic integrity of their sites.

■ Staff reviews proposed changes to Texas historic courthouses under authority of special legislation.

## Preservation Covenants and Easements

The agency holds protective preservation covenants and easements on 250 of the state's most significant cultural landmarks. These protections are formal agreements between the property owners and the THC to ensure long-term preservation of the property. Division staff members conduct periodic inspections and review proposed structural changes to these properties.

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## Special Projects

### Emergency Response

Staff members work with state and federal agencies in response to natural disasters that impact historic structures.

### Historic Building Maintenance

The division oversees the care and maintenance of the THC buildings, which include an antebellum home, an 1880s church and a 1940s apartment house. Staff prepares architectural plans and specifications for rehabilitation projects related to the structures.



*Early 1900 church in Ruidosa, Presidio County*

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## How to Reach Us

Staff members are available to answer questions and provide preservation assistance. Please contact us at:

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**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

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