



HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) History Programs Division works with citizens, county historical commissions, museums, cemetery associations, local governments, state and federal agencies, and other interested parties to identify, evaluate and interpret the historic and cultural resources of Texas.

What We Do

State Historical Marker Program

Official Texas Historical Markers provide Texans and visitors tangible links to the past. A vital part of the state's heritage tourism efforts, markers convey stories of local, regional, state and national history. More than 13,000 historical markers dot the Texas landscape, many with the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation, the highest honor the state bestows on historic properties for architectural and historical significance. The other types of available historical markers are Historic Texas Cemetery markers for historic graveyards and subject markers, which interpret a wide variety of topics throughout Texas. Staff members work with property owners, county historical commissions and other preservation organizations to place historical markers all across the state. Details concerning the program can be found on the THC web site.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places serves as an honor roll of properties worthy of preservation. Properties of national, state or local significance may be listed for historical associations and architectural significance once the properties reach 50 years of age. Working in partnership with the National Park Service, division staff members assist citizens and property owners each year in researching the history and significance of historic sites to achieve this designation. Listing property in the National Register often bolsters a community's economic development efforts and heritage tourism programs.



The Fort House Museum in Waco is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Cemetery Preservation

The THC encourages preservation of historic cemeteries through the Historic Texas Cemetery designation. Staff members provide technical assistance to groups or individuals interested in locating, recording and preserving historic cemeteries. Staff members also provide information about proper cleaning and repairing of gravestones and other cemetery features, and on the laws that govern historic cemeteries in Texas.

County Historical Commission Outreach Program

County historical commissions are authorized by state law to carry out a preservation program in each of Texas' 254 counties. Staff members work with counties to promote preservation through education and advocacy. County historical commissions submit annual reports describing ongoing preservation activity, and staff recommends THC programs and services that will address the areas of need.

Museum Assistance

Staff members consult with history museums throughout the state on the preservation and interpretation of museum collections. Services include on-site, email and telephone consultations; dissemination of educational and reference materials; and workshops dealing with such topics as strategic planning for museums, collections management, conservation of collections, fundraising and general museum operations. An annual matching grants program provides funding for conservation projects to small history museums across the state.

Historic Resources Survey

Staff members maintain the Historic Sites Inventory which documents more than 100,000 historic and cultural resources in Texas. Access to this information is available through the Texas Historic Sites Atlas on the THC web site. Staff members also coordinate and provide technical assistance to ongoing survey efforts in local communities.

Public Project (Section 106) and Federal Tax Credit Reviews

Publicly funded or licensed projects, such as federal highway construction, must undergo a review by staff members to determine whether any properties in the project area meet National Register criteria. If so, the federal agency must consult with the THC on any effect the project will have on those historic properties. Applicants for federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties also proceed first with an evaluation of their property by staff.

Military Sites Program

This program documents, commemorates, preserves and promotes historic sites where Texas military personnel served, both inside and outside the state. Projects include surveying sites in Texas associated with both military and home front activities. Popular heritage tourism brochures from the Military Sites Program include *Texas in the Civil War* and *Texas in World War II*. The Texas in World War II initiative also includes projects such as oral history training workshops and a special series of historical markers.



Oral histories enhance our understanding of the past by illuminating personal experience.

How to Reach Us

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