Historic Preservation at TxDOT

TxDOT’s 11 archeologists and 6 historians work across the state, uncovering stories told by archeological sites, historic districts, downtown squares, cemeteries, and on historic farms. With staff expertise in gearcheology, archeobotany, stone tool analysis, regional and cultural history, African American history, historic bridges, cultural landscapes, and oral histories, the team helps lead the way in the identification and protection of Texas’s cultural resources. Learn more about our work and how you can get involved in historic preservation by visiting [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov), keyword search “archeology and history.”

In 2022, our team...

**Archeology:**
- Reviewed 310 transportation projects
- Surveyed 12,136 acres
- Discovered 56 new archeological sites

**Historical Studies:**
- Reviewed 363 transportation projects
- Surveyed 248 miles of roadways
- Discovered 67 new historic properties

We highlighted the stories of...

Federal construction projects in Hamilton County during the Great Depression, including a pool, a roadside park, schools, and bridges.

Eleven tribes that currently or once called Texas home (see [https://www.txdot.gov/business/resources/environmental/compliance-toolkits/historic-resources/tribal(histories.html](https://www.txdot.gov/business/resources/environmental/compliance-toolkits/historic-resources/tribal(histories.html) for each tribal history)


Sharing with the Public

In 2022, we presented our research and programs to:
- Austin Powwow
- Austin Paleontological Society Fossil Fest
- County Historical Commissions
- Dig It! Denton
- Elementary School Career Days
- Historic Bridge Foundation
- Old Spanish Trail Centennial Symposium
- Real Places Conference
- Texas Archeology Society
- Travis County Archeology Society
- Texas Freedom Colonies Project
- Texas Master Naturalists chapters
- Texas State University classes
- UT Arlington archeology students

The Century Building in San Antonio (below) is an example of a post-World War II commercial property.

Leading the Way

- TxDOT staff are national leaders in the field of cultural resources and transportation. In 2022, we:
- Presented two workshops on cultural resource public engagement for the Transportation Research Board.
- Led the Texas Archeology Society Field School in Kerrville.
- Provided expertise to the National Cooperative Highway Research Program on post-World War II commercial historic properties.
- Led a workshop on work-life balance in archeology.
- Published journal articles, state policy, and cultural resource guidance highlighting and improving on TxDOT’s work.