CONNECTING PEOPLE AND THE PAST

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT TxDOT
TxDOT’s Role in Historic Preservation

Before TxDOT starts construction of roads and bridges, historians and archeologists look at how those projects affect important historic places along the roadside.

State and federal laws like the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Antiquities Code of Texas can protect:

- Historic buildings and bridges.
- Archeological sites and cemeteries.
- Sacred/religious landmarks and sites.
- Historic objects and landscapes.

Your Role in Historic Preservation

Public participation is the cornerstone of effective government and we know that Texans value the places that reflect a community’s history.

Get Involved

- You can comment on a project during the historic preservation process (also known as Section 106 of the NHPA).
- “Consulting Parties” have vested interests in historic properties and play a special role.
The Section 106 Process

Step 1: NOTIFY
TxDOT will notify you when it starts a project that might have impacts to historic resources. Do you have specialized input you want to share as a “Consulting Party?”

Step 2: IDENTIFY
TxDOT looks for places that are at least 45 years old. Your role: Tell us what is important to you and your community.

Step 3: EVALUATE
Work with TxDOT to determine if there are sites or structures that tell an important story about the community history. Why is this place important? Do you know its history? Do you have old photos?

Step 4: DECIDE
TxDOT uses all this information to determine how to balance progress with preservation. Can we change our project to avoid the historic place? If not, how can we preserve its story for future generations?
A Story of Freedom

TxDOT partners with communities to uncover unique stories of Texas. In 2007, TxDOT found the ruins of a small farm, home to an African-American family freed from slavery. The family lived on the farm from 1871 to 1903, after the Civil War. The remnants of Ransom Williams’ farm testifies to the family’s farming successes at the turn of the century. Archeologists worked with descendent family members and historians during the excavation and on oral histories. Through the historic preservation process, their story is available through exhibits in museums and online. Visit www.TxDOT.gov, keywords “Beyond The Road,” to learn more.