

THC Historical Marker Program

Texas Historical Commission's Historical Marker Program

As one of the most visible programs of the Texas Historical Commission, Texas Historical Markers commemorate diverse topics in Texas history, including: the history and architecture of houses, commercial and public buildings, religious congregations, and military sites; events that changed the course of local and state history; and individuals who have made lasting contributions to our state, community organizations, and businesses.

Now found in all 254 Texas counties, the state first commemorated a historical site in 1856 by contributing to marking graves at the San Jacinto battleground. The current Official Texas Historical Marker program dates to 1962, and it has been a popular means for interpreting local and state history and encouraging heritage tourism for more than six decades. There are now more than 16,000 state historical markers in Texas ranging from the famous—battlefields like the Alamo—to the less expected—where the remains of the “Leanderthal Lady,” who is said to have died 10,000-13,000 years ago. The familiar 27” x 42” signs feature a black background and polished silver text, topped with a drawing of the 1936 markers placed for Texas’ centennial celebration. There are currently 185 Texas Historical Markers in Grayson County (prior to today).

While there are a number of distinct classifications for Texas Historical Markers, they are generally divided into two discrete categories. The “normal” category covers landmarks, subject matters, and cemeteries and can be applied to from March to mid-May each year.

However, beginning in 2006 the Texas Historical Commission additionally began to address historical gaps, promote diversity of topics, and proactively document significant underrepresented subjects or untold stories. The second category of Texas Historical Markers are in this “Undertold” category which promotes the making of markers on these historically underrepresented subjects. The Texas Historical Commission accepts nominations for undertold markers from October 1st to November 15th, and then selects 15 of the entrants to be awarded a marker each year.