



HISTORIC TEXAS HIGHWAYS PROGRAM

Part of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) History Programs Division, the Historic Texas Highways Program identifies, interprets, and markets historic roads and highways.

WHAT WE DO

Projects include surveying historic routes such as the Bankhead and Meridian highways, identifying extant road-related buildings and sites along these highways, supplying road-related research materials, and providing maps and information that can be utilized by heritage tourists and armchair historians to recreate the experience of driving along these historic roadways, potentially increasing visitation to Texas communities and positively impacting local economies.

ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES:

- Research and write highway-related reports.
 - Document and map road-related resources and make the information available via the THC website.
 - Provide access to informative publications about highways and road-related resources.
 - Present snippets about unusual resources relating to highways and roadways.
 - Offer historic contexts for Texas historic highways.
 - Write articles and blog posts.
 - Supply updates to the THC's online database, the Texas Historic Sites Atlas.
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BANKHEAD HIGHWAY PROJECT

The first project of the Historic Roads and Highways Program focused on the historic Bankhead Highway, a coast-to-coast roadway established in 1916 that runs from Texarkana to El Paso in Texas. The Legislature designated the Texas portion of the Bankhead as a Texas Historic Highway in 2009. Using Federal Transportation Enhancement funds, the THC and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) coordinated to research, survey, and write reports about the Bankhead Highway, along with a Statewide Historic Context on Texas highway



Roadside park with teepee shelters along I-10 frontage road (former Bankhead Highway) in the vicinity of Sierra Blanca, Hudspeth County.

development. The two-year project documented over 2,700 road-related resources along more than 850 miles of historic highway. THC staff created research reports and interpretive measures that provide valuable heritage tourism information (2014).

MERIDIAN HIGHWAY PROJECT

The second project under the Historic Roads and Highways Program focused on the historic Meridian Highway, an international highway running from Canada to Mexico, roughly paralleling today's I-35, with a lateral branch extending from Waco to Galveston. The two-year project documented over 1,830 road-related resources along some 800 miles across Texas. The project was made possible with funding from a Federal Transportation Enhancement grant.

ROUTE 66 NPS GRANT PROJECT

The Historic Roads and Highway Program received a National Park Service grant to update the 2002 historic resources survey of Route 66 in Texas. The grant project updated this iconic highway survey and documented over 960 road-related resources along the various alignments of historic Route 66 (approximately 178 miles across the Texas Panhandle). This project included an interactive GIS map with digital color photos and historical information. The project was completed in October 2018.

The Historic Texas Highways program received another National Park Service grant to conduct a National Register of Historic Places nomination for Route 66 road segments across Wheeler County, which were recommended eligible during the 2018 Route 66 in Texas survey update. This project will start in Fall 2019.

HOW TO REACH US

The Historic Texas Highways Program office is located at 105 West 16th Street in Luther Hall. Staff members are available to answer questions and provide preservation assistance. Please contact us at:

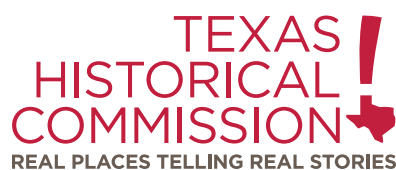
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View along the Bankhead Highway in the vicinity of Sweetwater, Nolan County.



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