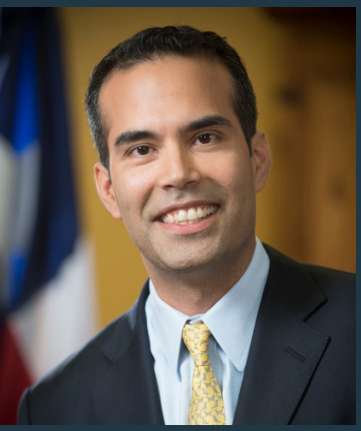
THE

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

ARCHIVES

TEXAS HISTORY STARTS HERE

Texas General Land Office | George P. Bush, Commissioner



TEXAS IS NOT JUST A PLACE ON A MAP. IT'S AN IDEA IN THE HEARTS OF OUR PEOPLE BASED ON A UNIQUE HISTORY THAT SETS TEXANS APART.

Fellow Texans:

As a proud native Texan, I believe that safeguarding valuable documents and archives of Texas history is one of the General Land Office's most important roles.

As a former teacher, I believe that providing access to primary resources for classroom teachers and students and developing lessons about history, government and character is one of the most valuable services we can provide young Texans.

As a successful businessman before being elected Commissioner of the General Land Office, I recognize and value providing good customer service and leveraging technology to help professionals become more efficient with their time.

As a veteran, I believe that it is important to remember the stories of those who fought for Texas independence, and to tell those stories so that current and future generations do not forget how we got here.

Our Archives and Records team accomplishes this on a daily basis, and I invite you to learn more about the history of Texas to see for yourself that Texas history starts here.

Sincerely,

George P. Bush
Commissioner, Texas General Land Office

THE ARCHIVES

The Texas General Land Office Archives is home to more than 36 million documents and 45,000 maps dating to the 16th century, and traces the history of Texas' public lands.

Records are housed in a state-of-the-art archival vault with constantly monitored temperature and humidity, UV filtered lighting, dedicated HVAC and air cleaning systems, and non-ozone polluting fire control systems to provide the best environment for the preservation of archival resources.

The archives is a vital resource for surveyors, genealogists, lawyers, historians, landmen, archeologists, educators, geographers, state employees and others working across the state of Texas.

DIGITIZATION

Since 2000, the Archives has been at the forefront of digitizing historic documents and maps. More than 3 million images are available online. Approximately 10,000 documents are added each month.

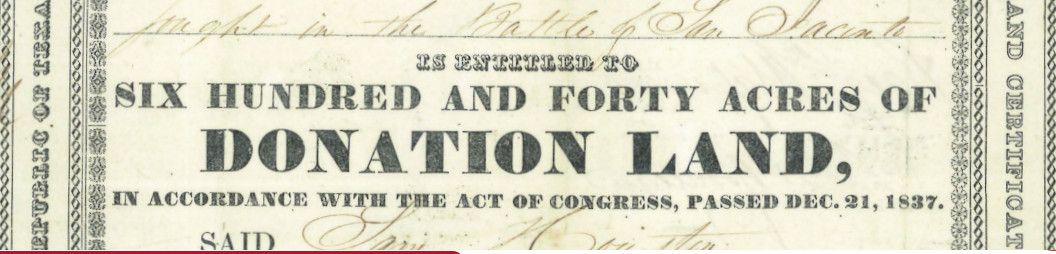
Scanning services are available to state agencies as well as non-profit historical and archival organizations.

CONSERVATION

Conservation is a detail oriented, time-intensive, and expensive task necessary to preserve Land Office holdings. Teaming with private contractors, we examine, document, treat, and conserve the physical objects found within our archives. These efforts preserve the records in their original format for future generations to have the same, if not better, access to our records as citizens today. During examination, trained archivists and preservation professionals assess the condition and materials of any given item. Conservators then perform treatments that prevent further deterioration or to improve condition of the items.

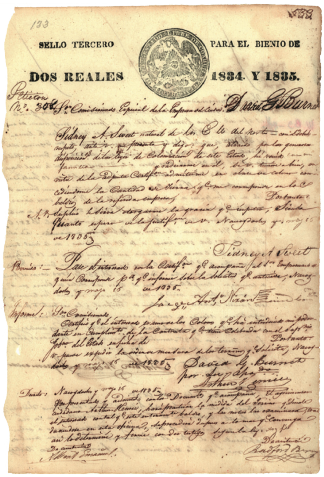
EDUCATION

TEKS-correlated educational resources and strategies for fourth- and seventh-grade Texas history teachers and students are available through workshops, contests, field trips, lesson plans and guides.



LAND GRANTS

The land grant collections provide the foundation for all property ownership in the state, as well as document exploration of minerals on public lands. Every land title in Texas, covering nearly 270,000 square miles, can be traced to these records.



THE SPANISH COLLECTION

Original Spanish and Mexican land titles, along with other materials, comprise the Spanish Collection—a vast repository encompassing documents from 1720–1836.

The Spanish Collection is the primary source of documentation for land distribution in Texas prior to 1836.

REPUBLIC & STATE LAND GRANTS

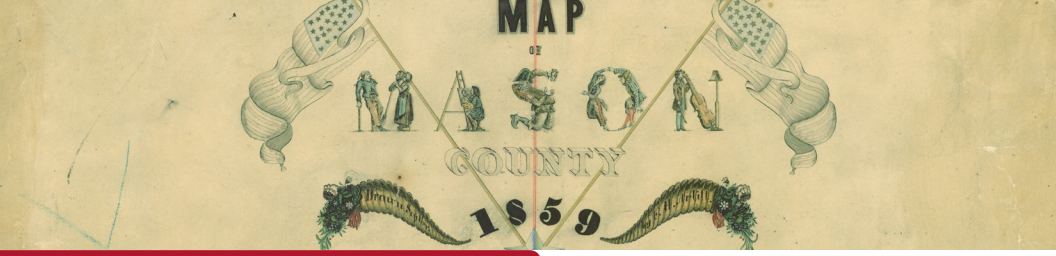
The Republic and State used land to secure and pay off debts, reward veterans, finance public education, and build the State Capitol, railroads, and other public infrastructure projects.

The extensive records of early land programs include files on individual tracts of land, land certificates, claims files, maps and other useful resources documenting people and places in Texas.

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS

The Archives house additional collections that supplement the material found in land grant files. Some collections document the early town lots of Austin and Galveston, while others document the administrative records of the modern General Land Office.

SEARCH THE LAND GRANT DATABASE AND SURNAME INDEX
WWW.GLO.TEXAS.GOV/HISTORY/ARCHIVES/LAND-GRANTS/INDEX.CFM



MAP COLLECTION

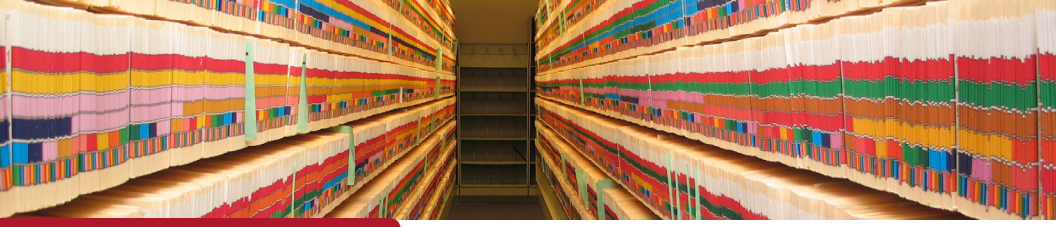
When draftsmen like O. Henry, Charles Pressler, Eltea Armstrong, and Conrad Stremme transformed surveys and field notes into hand-drawn designs of exacting detail, they knew they weren't just mapping Texas—they were making history. Now, used daily by researchers, these maps remain functional, beautiful works of art.

With more than 45,000 maps and drawings, the Map Collection at the General Land Office includes manuscript and printed materials that tell the story of Texas land and how it evolved into a modern state. The collection contains historic maps of every county, pre-Republic, Republic, state of Texas maps, as well as major cities, smaller towns and neighborhoods, and maps depicting railroad routes, colonies, forts, large ranches and waterways.

High resolution images can be accessed through the searchable online catalog. Zoomify technology provides a fast interactive viewing experience. Reproductions of maps are available in paper or digital format.

BROWSE THE ARCHIVES MAP COLLECTION TO VIEW OR PURCHASE

WWW.GLO.TEXAS.GOV/HISTORY/ARCHIVES/MAP-STORE/INDEX.CFM



SERVICES

These services are available for documents housed in the Texas General Land Office Archives.

Please note that unless otherwise indicated, prices are per page. Some documents may be too fragile to copy.

COPY SERVICES

Color copies

Legal/letter size	**$2**
Ledger size	**$3**

Black & white copies

Legal/letter size	**$1**
Ledger size	**$2**

MAP & PRINT REPRODUCTIONS

Official county maps	**$15**
Less than 48"	**$20**
Larger than 48"	**$40**
Digital maps *(per image)*	**$50**

SPANISH TRANSLATION

New translations *(per word)*	**$0.15**
Existing translations	**$2 /PAGE**
Certification	**$25**

CERTIFICATION

Individual map	**$2**
Complete file	**$25**

GENEALOGICAL NAME SEARCH

A genealogical abstract of files associated with individuals. *(per name)*	**$20**

OTHER

Hourly research *(up to 4 hours)*	**$50**
Contract scanning	
(for public institutions or non-profits)	
Large-format *(less than 54" on one side)*	**$30**
Small-format *(8.5" x 5.5" to 11" x 17")*	**$2 /PAGE**

RESEARCH ROOM HOURS: 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M., MONDAY TO FRIDAY

512.463.5277 OR 800.998.4GLO

PUBLICATIONS

The Texas General Land Office offers three guides to our Spanish Collection for researchers, genealogists and history enthusiasts.

CATALOGUE OF THE SPANISH COLLECTION PART I

Provides important information from the records and indices of titles and unfinished titles, character certificates, registers and more.

(First published 2003. 345 pp.)

$15

CATALOGUE OF THE SPANISH COLLECTION PART II

Details Spanish and Mexican efforts to manage land colonization and distribution systems in Texas, and provides a topical arrangement of records with descriptions of each document.

(First published 2003. 286 pp.)

$15

NEW GUIDE TO SPANISH AND MEXICAN LAND GRANTS IN SOUTH TEXAS

Describes the Spanish and Mexican land grant and title process and includes a name index of places, persons and ranches between the Nueces River and Rio Grande.

(First published 2009. 343 pp.)

$15

VISIT THE ONLINE STORE TO PURCHASE

WWW.GLO.TEXAS.GOV/HISTORY/ARCHIVES/MAP-STORE/INDEX.CFM

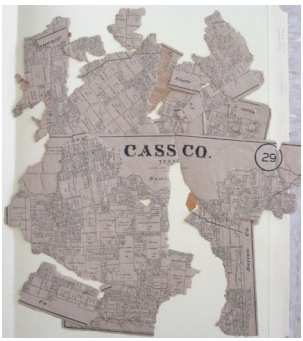
CONSERVATION

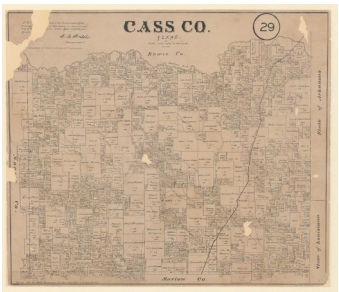
SAVE TEXAS HISTORY
A PROJECT OF THE
TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Conservation work is expensive. Repairing a single item can cost between $100 and $20,000, depending on its size or condition.

Maps and documents are professionally conserved by private vendors and made available in high resolution online.

Save Texas History is dedicated to preserving and promoting the historic documents and maps of the General Land Office Archives and serves as a resource for teaching and digitizing Texas history.





Map of Cass County, 1879, before and after conservation.

Over 45,000 maps and documents have been conserved and digitally preserved, but many more are at risk of being lost forever.

NO STATE MONEY IS APPROPRIATED FOR CONSERVATION. These efforts are funded solely by private donations, map and document reproduction sales and grants.

TO ADOPT A SPECIFIC MAP, CONTACT
512.463.5277 OR ARCHIVES@GLO.TEXAS.GOV

EDUCATION

The Texas General Land Office Archives provides Texas history resources to Texans of all ages.

Diverse educational programs are available to students, educators and adults using primary source materials from the Archives.

Guided Archives tours and educational speakers are available upon request.

LESSON PLANS

High-quality TEKS-correlated resources and lesson plans using primary source documents and maps are available to teachers.

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Statewide workshops introduce educators to primary sources and offer strategies for effectively incorporating them into the classroom.

ESSAY CONTEST

An annual contest for fourth- and seventh-grade Texas history students that asks students, "What history in your community is worth saving?"

SYMPOSIUM

An annual fall event for history enthusiasts. Features presentations by historians, exhibits, workshops and VIP tours of the Archives.

FOR EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT
512.463.5277 OR ARCHIVES@GLO.TEXAS.GOV

SUPPORT

We rely on private donations, map and document reproduction sales, and grants to fund education and conservation efforts.

These are just a few ways you can help support conservation and education initiatives.

Cash and in-kind donations made to the General Land Office for public purposes are tax deductible pursuant to Internal Revenue code §170(c)(1).

SPONSOR

Become a Save Texas History supporter.

ADOPT

Adopt a map or document that is significant to you, your family or organization.

DONATE

Donate an original manuscript or map. Donors will be identified on our website, and will be provided with a digital scan and reproduction of the image(s).

BUY

Historic Map Reproductions
Choose from 45,000 maps printed on heavy bond with UV-resistant inks. **$20 – $40 EACH**

Historic Map Calendars
The Save Texas History Map Calendar features 12 full-color maps and a different historical fact for each day of the year. **$5 EACH**

Notecards
Cards feature some of the most popular maps from the Archives collection. Printed on glossy high-quality cardstock *(6 cards per set with envelopes; blank inside).* **$5 PER SET OF 6**

Christmas Ornament
Each year, a new limited-edition ornament is created from artwork found in our archival collection. **$20 EACH**

MORE AVAILABLE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG

TOURS

The Texas General Land Office Archives invites you to take a complimentary tour!

View original documents that were once held by Texas heroes like Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston, William B. Travis, Susanna Dickinson, Juan Seguin, Sam McCulloch and many more.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

An in-depth look at historic documents about Texas heroes

Maps of Texas and the southwest, including many hand-drawn local and county maps

Letters and documents of Texas Revolution veterans—generals and privates alike

The Spanish Collection, featuring thousands of documents that date between 1720 and 1836

Confederate documents and letters

German immigration documents

Tales of the Texas Navy

Information on Texas railroads and internal improvements

State-of-the-art archival vault

Over 36 million documents and 45,000 maps

The high-tech digital scan lab

COMPLIMENTARY TOURS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. Please schedule in advance and mention any particular areas of interest for a unique experience.

TO SCHEDULE A COMPLIMENTARY TOUR

512.463.5277 OR 800.998.4GLO | 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M. MONDAY TO FRIDAY

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

COMMISSIONER GEORGE P. BUSH

1700 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701–1495

SAVE TEXAS HISTORY
A PROJECT OF THE
TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Tours
Available at no cost.
Please schedule in advance.

Research Room Hours
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday to Friday

Phone
800.998.4GLO (4456)
512.463.5277
TDD: 512.463.5330

Email
archives@glo.texas.gov

Facebook
facebook.com/**savetxhistory**
facebook.com/**txglo**

Twitter
@saveTXhistory
@txglo

Medium - Blog
medium.com/@txglo

The Texas General Land Office does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. To request special accommodations, call the Director of Human Resources/ADA Coordinator at 512.475.1390. To contact us by TDD call 512.463.5330 or through RELAY Texas at 1.800.735.2988, or mail your request to P.O. Box 12873, Austin, Texas 78711-2873. **January 2018**