

Transportation History Research Resources

General Resources

The Portal to Texas History. This is a great resource for images as it compiles photographs (and other resources) from collections around the state. Can be searched by terms, decades, years, resource type, and collection. The captions on the images are immensely helpful from both an identification standpoint and also as inspiration for deeper stories.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/>

Texas General Land Office map store. A great way to look up old maps from Texas with the ability to zoom in for great detail. Was useful in researching how Round Rock grew over time and how the town shifted around the river crossing, railroad, and highways. Can search for maps by county, date, town.

<http://www.glo.texas.gov/history/archives/map-store/#search>

Texas Beyond History. A website of archeological findings detailing the discovery of Leanne, human remains found while building FM1431 connecting Round Rock and Leander.

<https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/plateaus/prehistory/images/leannes.html>

TxDOT Resources:

All found at some subpage of: www.txdot.gov

Keyword searches:

“Archeology and History”

This page reports on some of the archeology and history finds made by the TxDOT cultural resources management team.

“Beyond The Road”

This page provides videos, podcasts, StoryMaps, and more, all about TxDOT’s history, archeology, and environmental efforts. If you want to request a TxDOT speaker, fill out a form on this page!

“Historic Bridges”

This page provides you a map of all historic road bridges in Texas, as well as videos about rehabilitation and links to recorded webinars on managing historic bridge projects.

“Historical Resources”

While this page is mostly geared toward the review of TxDOT projects, the Guidance Documents linked on the page have historic contexts that tell various histories of Texas, including ranching, aviation, adobe construction, irrigation systems, crossroads communities, and more. Of note is the Guide to the Research and Documentation of Local Texas Bridges that walks researchers through the steps and collections that can be used to learn the history of a bridge.



<http://www.dot.state.tx.us/tpp/default.aspx>

This link brings you to a search page that gives the history of all federal and state roadway designations in Texas. This can help date a roadway's construction or determine when a federal or state road was transferred to local control.

www.texasfreeway.com

This website is a great resource about the history of our Texas highways. It has not been updated in a while, but the information on it can be a great starting point for certain research.

<http://www.houstonfreeways.com/>

This website contains a PDF version of Erik Slotboom's book on Houston's freeway system. It also contains links to other electronic resources.

<http://www.dfwfreeways.com/>

This website contains a PDF version of Erik Slotboom's book on Dallas-Fort Worth's freeway system.

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-texas-highways>

The Texas Historical Commission's website is a wealth of information on historic roadways, especially those named highways. Their website also hosts additional information on the Bankhead Highway and the Meridian Highway. TxDOT and THC partnered to conduct additional research on these two highways.

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/historic-bridges-texas>

The THC also maintains a section about historic bridges in Texas that gives detailed information on the types of bridges found across the state.

<https://historicbridgefoundation.com/bridge-resources/>

The Historic Bridge Foundation has a website full of information on bridge builders, bridge types, and resources to learn more about historic bridges.

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/exhibits/highways/contents.html>

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) has an online exhibit on the history of the Texas Highway Department. At the end of the exhibit, TSLAC links to resources at the state archives related to the Texas Highway Department/TxDOT.

Early Roads

Barr, Juliana. *Peace Came in the Form of a Women, Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands*. The University of North Carolina Press, 2007.

Briscoe Center for American History, Bexar Archives

<http://www.cah.utexas.edu/projects/bexar/>



Elkins Carter, Cecile. *Caddo Indians, Where We Come From*. University of Oklahoma Press, 1995.

Hardy, Heck, Moore, Inc. *The Development of Highways in Texas: A Historic Context of the Bankhead Highway and Other Historic Named Highways*. Texas Historical Commission, 2014.

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/survey/highway/Section%20I.%20Statewide%20Historic%20Context.pdf>

Jackson, Jack. *Imaginary Kingdom, Texas as Seen by the Rivera and Rubi Military Expeditions, 1727 and 1767*. Texas State Historical Association, 1995.

Preston, Douglas and Esquibel, Jose Antonio. *The Royal Road. El Camino Real from Mexico City to Santa Fe*. University of New Mexico Press, 1998.

Prociuk, Nadya. *The A.E. Anderson Collection*. TARL Newsletter, March 2018

<http://sites.utexas.edu/tarl/2018/03/27/the-a-e-anderson-collection-by-nadya-prociuk/>

Smithsonian. *Identity by Design: Tradition, Change, and Celebration in Native Women's Dresses*. Harper Collins, 2007.

TexasBeyondHistory.net

<https://texasbeyondhistory.net/ceremonial/index.html>

TxDOT.Gov, Texas Department of Transportation, Archeology and History

<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/environmental/archaeology-history.html>

Historic Highways

"Texas Travel," *Texas Heritage*, Vol 1, 2019. This issue had a good article on the history of the farm-to-market road system with images showcasing the files in TxDOT's collection.

"The Development of Highways in Texas: A Historic Context of the Bankhead Highway and Other Historic Named Highways." A good overview of development of roads in Texas, with particular emphasis on highways. The notes section of each chapter is especially well annotated and very helpful.

Miles and Miles of Texas: 100 Years of the Texas Highway Department by Carol Dawson and Roger Allen Polson. A comprehensive history of TxDOT since its founding. Excellent resource for pictures.

"Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas, 1866-1965." Section E (pgs. 68-72) of this article provides an in-depth review of the criteria, funding, design, and impact of the farm to market system.

https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/survey/highway/TX_Statewide_Road%20Infrastructure%20MPS.pdf



Smithsonian



Additional Image/Artifact Resources

Texas Map Resources

[Dolph Briscoe Center for American History](#) (Austin)

Contact: Evan Hocker, Registrar

(512) 495-4535

e.hocker@austin.utexas.edu

[Library of Congress](#) (Washington, D.C.)

Contact: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-geogmap.html>

The Library of Congress offers free downloads of its maps. Use the above “Contact” link for more information.

[Perry Castañeda Library \(PCL\), The University of Texas](#) (Austin)

Contact: Katherine Strickland, Maps Coordinator

(512) 495-4274

strickland@austin.utexas.edu

[Portal to Texas History](#)

This website allows you to search for maps and gives the repository where the originals are housed. Search Republic, State of Texas, Texas counties, and Texas cities.

[Texas General Land Office](#) (Austin)

Contact: James Harkins, Map Curator for Archives and Records

(512) 463-3289

alex.chiba@glo.texas.gov

The GLO offers scans of its online maps for \$20 that can be ordered directly from the above website link.

[Texas State Library and Archives Commission](#) (Austin)

Contact: Tonia Wood, Senior Reference Archivist

(512) 463-2789

twood@tsl.texas.gov

[University of Texas at Arlington Special Collections](#) (Arlington)

Ben Huseman, Cartographic Archivist

(817) 272-0633

bhuseman@uta.edu

Texas Postcard Collections

[University of Houston Libraries](#)

Contact: Bethany Scott, Coordinator of Digital Projects



(713) 743-0530
bscott3@uh.edu

[Jenkins Garrett Postcard Collection, the University of Texas at Arlington Special Collections](#)

Contact: Brenda McClurkin, Department Head, Special Collections and Archives
(817) 272-2179
mcclurkin@uta.edu

[Don Kelly Southeast Texas Postcard Collection](#) (Liberty)

Contact: Alana Inman, Manager, Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center
(936) 336-8823
ainman@tsl.texas.gov

[Ringsbee Postcard Collection](#), Texas State Library and Archives Commission (Austin)

Contact: Tonia Wood, Senior Reference Archivist
(512) 463-2789
twood@tsl.texas.gov

The "[Texas Postcard Collection](#)" (Accession #1961/008) is housed at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in Austin. This is the single best postcard collection at the Archives.

[Texas GenWeb](#) Postcard Project

Contact: Gina Hefferman, Texas Postcards Project Manager
ginagaleh@yahoo.com

A subset of the [TexGenWeb](#) Project, this online collection contains more than 4,000 Texas postcards. The quality of the scanned images varies.

Texas Archeological Resources

[Center for Big Bend Studies](#) (Alpine)

Contact: Andy Cloud, Director
(432) 837-8179
wacloud@sulross.edu

[Texas Archeological Research Lab](#) (Austin)

Contact: Marybeth Tomka, Head of Collections
(512) 475-6853
marybeth.tomka@austin.utexas.edu

[SHUMLA Archeological Research and Education](#) Center (

Contact: Jessica Lee, Executive Director
(432) 292-4848
jlee@shumla.org



[Texas Historical Commission Archeology](#) (Austin and Regional)

Contact: Brad Jones, Archeology Division Director

(512) 463-8882

brad.jones@thc.texas.gov

[Texas State University Center for Archeological Studies](#) (San Marcos)

Contact: Amy Reid, Curator

(512) 245-2724

areid@txstate.edu

[University of Texas at San Antonio Center for Archeological Research](#)

Contact: Paul Shawn Marceaux, Ph. D., Director

(210) 458-7822

Paul.Marceaux@utsa.edu

