

Historical – Archeological Sites

September 2013 Update

The list of statues and regulations regarding historical issues is long and complicated to maneuver through. This was recognized and by others and each State has a State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) which acts as an adviser and advocate of historical properties.

One of the most notable regulations is Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act of 1966. This regulation which is often referred to simply as “Section 106” requires federal agencies to consider the effect of funded “undertakings” on historical elements. “Undertakings” for Rural Development (RD) are any funded project.

The Section 106 review process usually runs concurrently with a NEPA review, but it is actually separate and distinct. The final determination could be different for both reviews, but that would be rare. Depending on the project, SHPO may require additional items under a Section 106 review of a project involving the rehab of a historical building. The Agency’s response must reflect the level of comments received.

In Texas, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) is where the SHPO can be contacted. Their web site is actually a good source for information and is user friendly to navigate. It can be found here: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us> . The headings along the top of the home page expand into additional topics which are well explained. This is a valuable resource.

For example, click the title “Project Review” and then click on, “What to Send for a Project Review”. Instructions and additional links will appear to guide users in assembly of documents for a review by the SHPO. Under the main "Home" page, information about historical sites in individual Texas counties can be found. Along the right side of the page there is a brown box titled, "Historic Site Atlas" with a link called, "Learn More". Just click this link and follow the instructions and input the desired county.

For all of the Agency’s projects, identify any properties that are currently listed or may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places and also located within the area of potential environmental impact. The web site for sites in Texas listed on the National Register of Historical Places can be found here:

<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/tx/state.html>. All the counties are listed and just click on the county of interest and the data for that county can be obtained.

Another web site that is under development, but not yet fully functional is the web site operated by the National Park Service. It can be found here:

<http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreghome.do?searchtype=natreghome>. Input the state and county to obtain a list of historical properties in the county. Some of the additional links may not be available yet, but this appears to be a very good future source of information when all the data has been digitized.

To conduct a historical review, first research the project site for historical information on line, from local historians, and local history sources (library) if available. Some cities and counties post information on line for review. A simple, but effective research method is to “Google” key words involved with the project site or surrounding community.

If a site involves existing buildings or structures, try to research its history. Texas has a lot of old buildings, only some of them are significant because of a person or event that may have visited

or occurred at that location. A building also may be significant for being an outstanding example of the architectural type. The important component is the **significant** historical value.

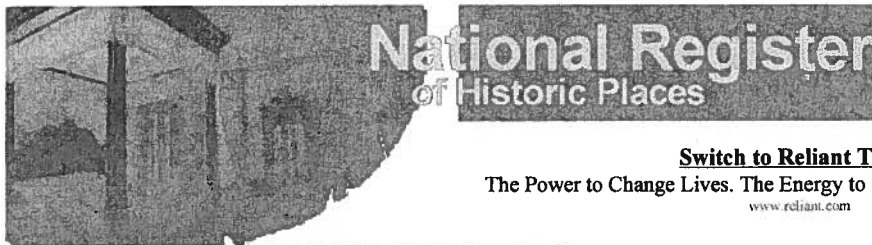
The SHPO may recommend conducting a site survey (shovel testing) on undisturbed sites even when there is no surface indication that there is anything of historical value. RD does not have the expertise to make these determinations and must generally defer to the SHPO request. The THC uses old maps, existing archaeological data, and knowledge about past cultural habits to make this determination. Past inhabitants often resided near valued resources such as water, food, or building materials.

Shovel testing can be expensive and must be conducted by a qualified individual. The SHPO almost always allows the test to be conducted before “any ground disturbance occurs”. This allows the cost to become a part of the project cost when funds are available to the Owners. The down side to this approach is if the shovel test finds a significant site. The Owners must then evaluate their options; the construction may have to be delayed, relocated, or provided with other mitigation measures.

Cemeteries and their preservation are also of interest to the SHPO. If a project is adjacent to a cemetery or if new utilities will run past a cemetery to serve a new project site, then the Agency should make a determination about the potential impact. The logic behind this of course is respect for the deceased, but also that the boundaries of old cemeteries are often questionable and each has historical information.

SHPO letters for RD projects are typically stamped “No affect, the Project may proceed” or with similar language. Some return with recommended mitigation measures and a few require substantial additional effort in consultation before the Section 106 process is complete. While this is common practice, it is not technically correct.

RD determines the project’s impact and must live with any future legal objections. SHPO and the THC make recommendations. RD usually defers to their request because they are the experts and they are generally reasonable. There is a process of appeal which elevates issues to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) which is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.



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State Listings / Historic Districts / Vacant/Not In Use

TEXAS - Johnson County

- R Cleburne Carnegie Library** (added 1976 - - #76002042)
Also known as **Cleburne Public Library**
201 N. Caddo St. , Cleburne

Historic Significance: Architecture/Engineering
Architect, builder, or engineer: Zimmerman & McCoy, Smith & Moore
Architectural Style: Classical Revival
Area of Significance: Architecture
Period of Significance: 1900-1924
Owner: **Local**
Historic Function: Education, Recreation And Culture
Historic Sub-function: Library, Theater
Current Function: Education, Recreation And Culture
Current Sub-function: Library, Museum

- R Ham Creek Site **** (added 1974 - - #74002082)
Also known as **X41JN1**
Address Restricted , Rio Vista

Historic Significance: Information Potential
Area of Significance: Prehistoric
Cultural Affiliation: Trinity Aspect, La Harpe Aspect, Edwards Plateau Aspect
Period of Significance: 5000-6999 BC, 500-999 BC, 499-0 BC, 499-0 AD, 3000-4999 BC, 1000-2999 BC, 1000 AD-999 BC
Owner: **Federal**
Historic Function: Domestic, Funerary
Historic Sub-function: Camp, Graves/Burials
Current Function: Vacant/Not In Use

- R Hart, Meredith, House** (added 1977 - - #77001456)
E of Rio Vista on SR 916 , Rio Vista

Historic Significance: Architecture/Engineering
Architect, builder, or engineer: Wilson, George
Architectural Style: Greek Revival
Area of Significance: Architecture
Period of Significance: 1850-1874
Owner: **Private**
Historic Function: Domestic
Historic Sub-function: Single Dwelling
Current Function: Domestic
Current Sub-function: Single Dwelling

- R Johnson County Courthouse **** (added 1988 - - #88000439)
1 Public Sq. , Cleburne

Historic Significance: Event, Architecture/Engineering
Architect, builder, or engineer: American Construction Co., Lang & Witchell
Architectural Style: Other, Late 19th And Early 20th Century American Movements, Beaux Arts
Area of Significance: Politics/Government, Architecture
Period of Significance: 1925-1949, 1900-1924
Owner: **Local**
Historic Function: Government
Historic Sub-function: Courthouse
Current Function: Government
Current Sub-function: Courthouse

Joiner--Long House (added 2003 - - #03000558)
604 Prairie Av. , Cleburne

Historic Significance: Architecture/Engineering
Architectural Style: Queen Anne
Area of Significance: Architecture
Period of Significance: 1900-1924
Owner: **Private**
Historic Function: Domestic
Historic Sub-function: Single Dwelling
Current Function: Domestic
Current Sub-function: Single Dwelling

Smith Ranch (added 2007 - - #07000271)
Also known as **Grand Valley Lands**
FM 916, 1 mi. W of TX 174 , Rio Vista

Historic Significance: Person, Event, Information Potential
Historic Person: Smith, Lowell Sr.
Area of Significance: Architecture, Exploration/Settlement, Economics, Prehistoric, Historic - Non-Aboriginal
Cultural Affiliation: Native American (Archaic), European American
Period of Significance: 500-999 BC, 2000-2499 BC, 1950-1974, 1925-1949, 1900-1924, 1875-1899, 1850-1874, 1500-1999 BC, 1000-1499 BC
Owner: **Private**
Historic Function: Agriculture/Subsistence, Domestic, Funerary, Transportation
Historic Sub-function: Agricultural Fields, Agricultural Outbuildings, Air-Related, Cemetery, Single Dwelling, Storage
Current Function: Agriculture/Subsistence, Domestic, Funerary, Transportation
Current Sub-function: Agricultural Fields, Agricultural Outbuildings, Air-Related, Single Dwelling, Storage

Wright Building (added 2009 - - #09000139)
1 E. James St. , Cleburne

Historic Significance: Architecture/Engineering, Event
Architectural Style: Early Commercial
Area of Significance: Commerce, Architecture
Period of Significance: 1950-1974, 1925-1949, 1900-1924, 1875-1899
Owner: **Private**
Historic Function: Commerce/Trade
Historic Sub-function: Business
Current Function: Commerce/Trade, Domestic
Current Sub-function: Business, Hotel

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