CONNECTING PEOPLE AND THE PAST

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT TxDOT

Texas Department of Transportation

TxDOT's Role in Historic Preservation

Before TxDOT starts construction of roads and bridges, historians and archeologists look at how those projects affect important historic places along the roadside.

State and federal laws like the **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)** and **Antiquities Code of Texas** can protect:

- Historic buildings and bridges.
- Archeological sites and cemeteries.
- Sacred/religious landmarks and sites.
- Historic objects and landscapes.

Historic Denton City Hall

TxDOT looks for historic properties that are:

- At least 45 years old.
- And have a documented connection with a historic event or notable person.
- Or have notable architectural or engineering design.

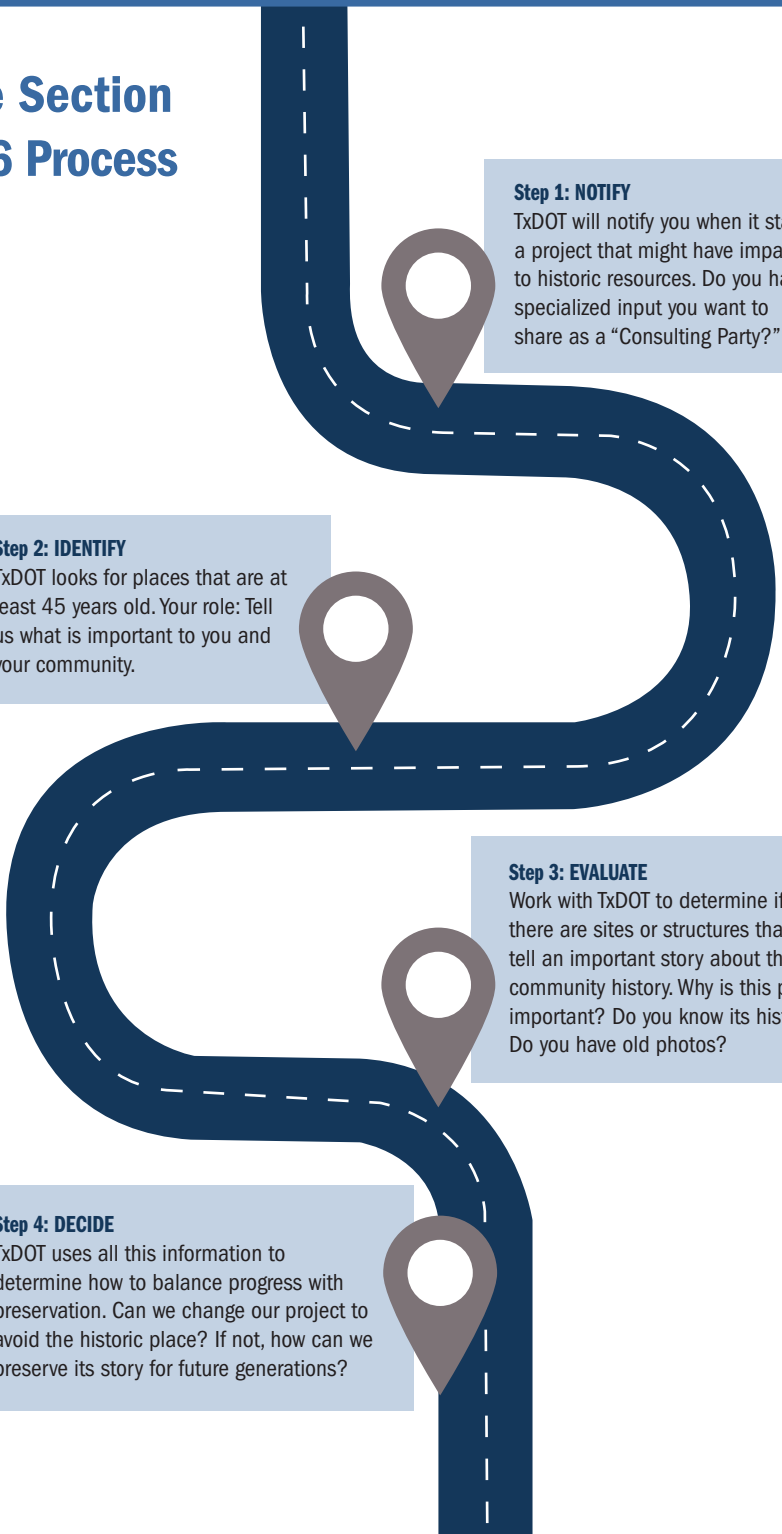
Your Role in Historic Preservation

Public participation is the cornerstone of effective government and we know that Texans value the places that reflect a community's history.

Get Involved

- You can comment on a project during the historic preservation process (also known as **Section 106 of the NHPA**).
- **"Consulting Parties"** have vested interests in historic properties and play a special role.

The Section 106 Process



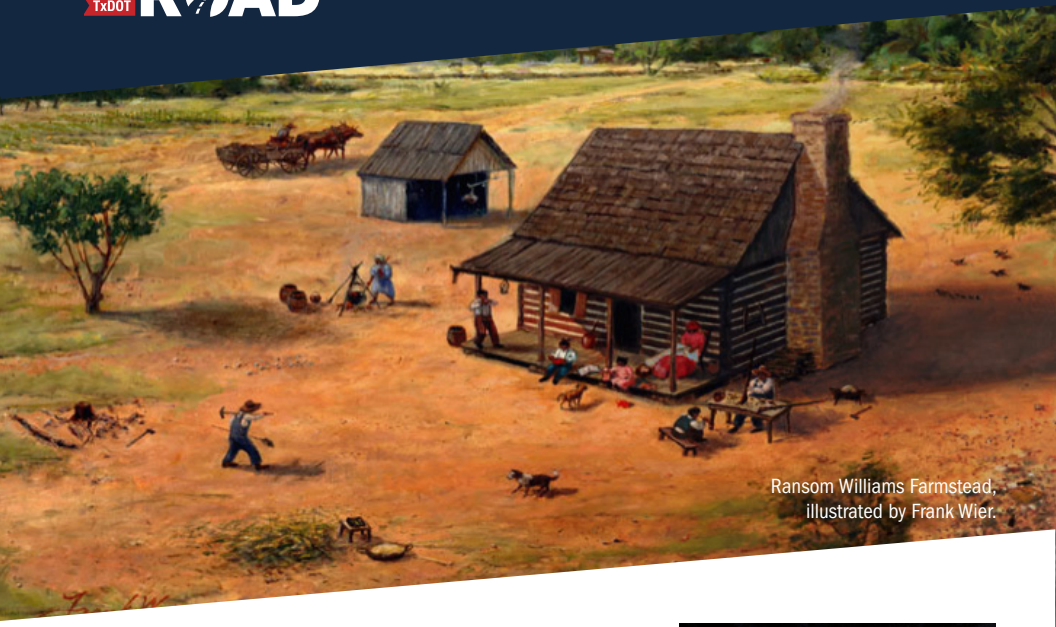
Step 1: NOTIFY
TxDOT will notify you when it starts a project that might have impacts to historic resources. Do you have specialized input you want to share as a "Consulting Party?"

Step 2: IDENTIFY
TxDOT looks for places that are at least 45 years old. Your role: Tell us what is important to you and your community.

Step 3: EVALUATE
Work with TxDOT to determine if there are sites or structures that tell an important story about the community history. Why is this place important? Do you know its history? Do you have old photos?

Step 4: DECIDE
TxDOT uses all this information to determine how to balance progress with preservation. Can we change our project to avoid the historic place? If not, how can we preserve its story for future generations?

BEYOND THE ROAD
TxDOT



Ransom Williams Farmstead, illustrated by Frank Wier.

A Story of Freedom

TxDOT partners with communities to uncover unique stories of Texas. In 2007, TxDOT found the ruins of a small farm, home to an African-American family freed from slavery. The family lived on the farm from 1871 to 1903, after the Civil War. The remnants of Ransom Williams' farm testifies to the family's farming successes at the turn of the century. Archeologists worked with descendent family members and historians during the excavation and on oral histories. Through the historic preservation process, their story is available through exhibits in museums and online. Visit **www.TxDOT.gov**, keywords "Beyond The Road," to learn more.

Artifacts found at the Ransom Williams farmstead

About Us

TxDOT's archeologists and historians make up the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) team. They are tasked with balancing progress with the need to preserve places that are important to the state's history and culture.

Contact Us

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