

TIME TO APPLY FOR UNDERTOLD STORY HISTORICAL MARKERS

The most visible signs of the work done by the Hays County Historical Commission are the distinctive metal markers dotted across the county. They record the fascinating history of Hays County and are valuable aids for education and heritage tourism. The markers are the property of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) which began the program in 1962. Hays County has been awarded 154 of those markers. The first was for the Major Edward Burleson Homestead on Lime Kiln Road, San Marcos, dedicated on November 3, 1962. The latest, the William B. Travis League, was awarded in July 2020, and will be placed on FM 150, south of Driftwood. Most of the markers are paid for by sponsors, but THC annually grants about 15 free Undertold Story Markers throughout Texas. Hays County has been the lucky recipient of two in recent years, Jacob's Well and the Alba Ranch.

If there is a place you feel deserves a marker, now is your chance to petition the THC. This year's Undertold Story Marker application form will be available online at their website (thc.texas.gov) on September 1, 2020, and should be submitted between November 1 and December 15, 2020.

Unlike regular marker applications, these do not require full documentation at first and may be sent directly to THC or through the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC). Undertold markers are intended to address historical gaps, promote diversity of topics and proactively document significant underrepresented subjects or untold stories. Undertold Markers are paid for by non-refundable application fees levied on all other markers.

The next application window for the regular marker program will occur in the spring of 2021. Those applications, which should be submitted to HCHC, apply to -

1. RECORDED TEXAS HISTORICAL LANDMARKS (RTHL)

RTHL are awarded to buildings and structures, over 50 years old, that are judged to be historically and architecturally significant. They help with the preservation of such buildings.

2. SUBJECT MARKERS

Subject markers deal with people and events rather than structures. Most topics must date back 50 years, but historic events may be marked after 30 years. Individuals may be mentioned 10 years after their deaths.

3. HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY MARKERS

In order to apply for a cemetery marker (basically a subject marker), a cemetery must first be designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery. The HCHC Cemetery Committee assists with the paper work. Such markers are helpful in preserving small family cemeteries dotted around the county.

Full details, including costs, can be found at THC's website (thc.texas.gov). For anyone wishing to apply, now is a good time to begin collecting the necessary documentation

For more information, please check out thc.texas.gov or contact the Hays County Historical Commission.

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