

## TIME TO APPLY FOR 2021 HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKERS

Historical markers are visible reminders of the rich history of the state of Texas, serving as valuable aids for education and heritage tourism. These markers are the property of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) which began the program in 1962.

If there is a place, person, or event that you feel deserves a marker, now is your chance to petition the THC. This year's application forms are available on their website ([thc.texas.gov](http://thc.texas.gov)). They have all the information about the process, including costs. Applications must be submitted through the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC). Although the application window is from March 1 to May 15, 2020, it would be wise to contact the HCHC as soon as possible (preferably before the end of April) so that the Historical Marker Committee can help with the process and assure that all is in order.

There are three types of marker applications available online at the moment—

### 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. 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

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 this. Such markers are helpful in preserving small family cemeteries dotted around the county.

In addition to the cost of a historical marker, there is a non-refundable application fee of \$100 which is used to fund the Undertold-Story Marker Program. About 15 of these markers are granted in Texas each year. The next application window will open in the fall of 2021. Unlike regular marker applications, UNDERTOLD STORY MARKERS do not require full documentation at first and may be sent directly to THC or be submitted through the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC). These markers are intended to address historical gaps, promote diversity of topics, and proactively document significant underrepresented subjects or untold stories.

For more information, please check out [thc.texas.gov](http://thc.texas.gov) or contact the Hays County Historical Commission.

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