TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories
Doesn’t It Belong in a Museum? Accessing Archeology for Local Preservation and History

Bradford M. Jones – Texas Historical Commission
“Even if Sandifer and other citizens continue to perform their watchdog roles in advance of construction, any material objects that are collected by professional archaeologists on behalf of the city will only be sent away. It’s likely they will never be shown publicly in Dallas…”
While the artifacts from the Texas Horse Park have been safely stored at a state-approved facility (as state law requires), ...[a]nd even if the public knows where to look and what to ask for, the archaeological record is inaccessible in other ways. The nearly 3,000 artifacts reside at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, or TARL, on the UTA campus. To see them requires a road trip and an appointment.
“The Perot Museum of Nature and Science—the only museum in the city suitable for exhibiting Trinity River archaeology—sent a statement explaining its position on why it doesn’t have anthropological or archaeological exhibitions. According to the director of lab paleontology, Dr. Ron Tykoski: “Native American remains and objects, as well as other ethnological specimens and artifacts, often have extra levels of regulation, as well as handling and care requirements, beyond other collections’ objects. … The Perot Museum does not currently have a research focus in those areas, and, as a result, our staff does not require additional expertise in handling such culturally sensitive objects.”
Archeology In Texas – It’s All Around You

In 2017 - 392 Permitted Archeological Projects

370 Survey Level Investigations

7 Testing Level Investigations

5 Data Recovery Level Investigations

1 Alternative Mitigation
Finding Out About Local Archeology
Finding out about local archeology – It’s not always easy
I looked on the THC’s Historic Sites Atlas and I couldn’t find anything – Archeological Site Data is Protected
Texas Archeological Sites Atlas
Restricted Information Access

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By clicking the "Enter" button below, you agree to our terms and conditions of access, including but not limited to:

- You understand that portions of the information contained in this database are confidential under state (§191.004 Texas Natural Resources Code (VTCA 1995)) and federal (Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, 16 USC §470aa et. seq.) laws.
- You will supply one (1) copy of any publication resulting from the use of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas to the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711-2276
- You will not discuss or divulge any system access codes (including my user name and password) to any third party
- You agree to use the information for the specific purpose intended and not to distribute or publish the information in its original form

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Username or Email Address

Password

Enter

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If you do not have a user name and password, you may apply for access by navigating to the account registration page. Registration instructions can help you through the process.
Finding out about local archeology – Archeological Sites Atlas – Restricted Cultural Resource Information Access
(a) Qualified applicants meeting one or more of the following criteria may be granted access by the THSA Coordinator:

1. Meet the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (36 CFR Part 61) for Archeology.
2. Meet the definition of professional archeologist, or principal investigator as defined by § 26.5 of this title (relating to Definitions).
3. Be a current member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network.

**** However, property owners may also get access to information for archeological resources on their lands.
Finding out about local archeology – Texas Beyond History
Finding out about local archeology – The Portal to Texas History now has the BTAS online
Finding out about local archeology—Texas Historical Commission Archeology Division

Texas Historical Commission’s Non-regulatory Archeological Regions

REGION 1
DREW SITTERS
512.463.6252
drew.sitters@thc.texas.gov

REGION 2
ARLO MCKEE
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REGION 3
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rebecca.shelton@thc.texas.gov

REGION 4
MAGGIE MOORE
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maggie.moore@thc.texas.gov

REGION 5
JEFF DURST
512.463.8884
jeff.durst@thc.texas.gov

REGION 6
CASEY HANSON
512.463.5915
casey.hanson@thc.texas.gov

REGION 7
TIFFANY OSBURN
512.463.8883
tiffany.osburn@thc.texas.gov

9 MARINE STEWARDS
For information about marine stewards call Amy Brgers, state marine archeologist, at 512.463.9505 or email amy.brgers@thc.texas.gov
Texas Archeological Stewardship Network

First of its kind in the U. S.; initiated in 1984

- Multi-faceted volunteer program
- Experienced *avocational* archeologists (including terrestrial and marine “stewards”)

125 Active Stewards in 70 Counties
Finding out about local archeology – Avocational Societies

Regional Societies Across Texas

Texas Archeological Society
Where Have All the Artifacts Gone?
The Antiquities Code Requires THC to Maintain an Inventory of State-Associated Held-In-Trust Collections:

- Permitted collections
- Non-permitted collections
- Purchased collections
- Donated collections
- Court-action collections

NATURAL RESOURCES CODE
TITLE 9. HERITAGE CHAPTER 191.
ANTIQUITIES CODE SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 191.001. TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the Antiquities Code of Texas.
The Texas Historical Commission (hereafter referred to as the Commission) is specifically empowered to adopt reasonable rules and regulations concerning the care and curation of artifacts, objects, and collections owned by Commission and those recovered under the jurisdiction the Antiquities Code of Texas.
The Curatorial Facility Certification Program ensures that the facilities with held-in-trust collections meet current museum standards pertinent to the care and management of collections…
16 facilities in the state are certified to hold archaeological artifacts from state lands.
Who knows where the artifacts go? – The Curatorial Facilities Certification Program Coordinator

Brad Jones – 512-463-5865
brad.jones@thc.texas.gov
Getting Involved & Getting Access
Case 1: Public Archeology as Project Outcomes

Frost Town Excavations in Houston, Texas
Case 2: If it’s our project, can’t we just keep it?

Short Answer: NO. These are state-associated collections

Long Answer: Maybe…
Case 3: Retrieving artifacts from obscurity – Polk County Memorial Museum Case Study
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Retrieving Artifacts from Obscurity – Polk County Memorial Museum Case Study
Concluding Thoughts
Not a Black Hole - Promoting Texas Archeology is our JOB
Archeological Collections as Public Resources

- La Belle: The Ship That Changed History
- Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History
  1900 N. Chaparral St., Corpus Christi
  www.ccmuseum.com • 361/826-4650
- Texas Maritime Museum
  1202 Navigation Circle, Rockport
  www.texasmaritimemuseum.org • 361/729-1271
- Texana Museum
  403 N. Wells, Edna
  361/782-5431
- Calhoun County Museum
  301 S. Ann St., Port Lavaca
  www.calhouncountymuseum.org
  361/553-4689
- Museum of the Coastal Bend
  Victoria College
  2200 E. Red River, Victoria
  www.museumofthecoastalbend.org • 361/582-2511
- Matagorda County Museum
  2100 Ave. F, Bay City
  www.matagordacountyuseum.org
  979/245-7502
- La Petite Belle Homeport and Palacios Area Historical Museum
  Commerce St., Palacios
  www.palaciosmuseum.org • 361/972-3960
Questions?
THANK YOU