

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BELTON – The Bell County Historical Commission and the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the state agency dedicated to preserving and promoting Texas history, had announced historical marker deadlines for the 2010-2011 year, including themes to be given priority.

Subjects given first consideration will be Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs) and science and technology topics, according to Bob Brinkman, coordinator for the Historical Markers Program in THC's History Programs Division.

"Texas has the best marker program in the nation, and we still have more history to preserve, more sites to promote and more stories to interpret for future generations," Brinkman said.

Only 275 markers will be approved in the coming cycle, and science/technology subjects will be ranked higher.

The Bell County Historical Commission is the local contact for THC and for applying for historical markers.

Please address all questions and applications to: hist.comm@co.bell.tx.us

All marker applications must be submitted first to the Bell County Historical Commission for review before they can be forwarded to THC, said Bell County chairman Dorothy Button of Killeen. The deadlines are the following:

- **Sept. 1:** Deadline to notify by email the Bell County Historical Commission (BCHC) of intent to apply.
- **Oct. 15 at 5 p.m.:** Completed marker applications and narratives must be emailed the BCHC in MS Word or Word-compatible documents. Applicants should have already met with local marker committee member and reviewed the application.
- **Nov. 15:** All completed marker applications and narratives due into Texas Historical Commission in Austin.

The program has been changed to allow local communities to emphasize "under-told" history and to expand local history. The application process will be more competitive, and applicants will be evaluated according to annual themes and topics, Brinkman added.

THC has improved and streamlined its website to help applicants through the marker process. Complete information about the marker application process can be found on the main marker web page at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.shtml>

The main marker web page now has links to separate pages titled:

- Apply for a Historical Marker (including application forms, Marker Research Guides, Marker Toolbox and Official Texas Historical Marker Procedures)
- Undertold Markers: Request Consideration for Marker Application Funds (information on the program – next call for candidates May 2011)
- Information for County Historical Commissions (including marker chair job description, marker relocation and replacement forms)
- History of State of Texas Historical Markers (official state markers back to 1856)

- 1936 Texas Centennial Markers (including history, policies and replacement parts form)
 - Marker Dedication Ceremony Information (including a sample press release and ceremony program)
 - Information for Existing Markers (including marker refinishing instructions)
 - Marker and Designation Frequently Asked Questions
- The current marker program began in 1962, partly to boost heritage tourism and to preserve important stories for posterity.