

All cemeteries in Texas, regardless of their designation status, are provided protection by state law. The HTC designation imposes no additional restrictions, requirements, or the like. Most of the Texas laws regarding historic cemeteries are in Chapters 711–715 of the [Texas Health and Safety Code; Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 22 of the Texas Administrative Code](#); and sections of the [Penal Code](#). Our agency provides a link to some of the laws, particularly those that relate to historic-age cemeteries, on our website here: <http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/cemetery-preservation/cemetery-laws>.

## Texas Historical Commission Cemetery Designation Guide

Please visit [www.thc.texas.gov/htc](http://www.thc.texas.gov/htc). You'll get a little more info about the HTC designation. You'll also find the application form, the guidelines and instructions, plus a sample application. Our best recommendation is to follow this process:

1. Read through the Guidelines and Instructions document first. This will give you a good idea of the level and type of research that will be needed for a successful application. It is available to download as a PDF or as a Word document. Keep it handy for when you start to fill out the application.
2. Watch the pre-recorded webinar. Carlyn produced this training session to walk applicants through the designation process step-by-step. It's about 45 minutes long and will give you a good overview of how to fill out the form but will also give you an idea of what to expect during the designation process. You can find the [webinar here](#). It is free and it can help you avoid common mistakes.
3. Once you've done those things, you'll be ready to start putting your application packet together. The application form is available as a Word document or a PDF; use whichever version you are most comfortable with. Again, find it here: [www.thc.texas.gov/htc](http://www.thc.texas.gov/htc).

There are no deadlines for these applications. We accept them all year-round. It typically takes about 4 months to complete the designation once we receive your application packet. The application fee is just \$25.

If you have additional questions after reading through this information, please email [htc@thc.texas.gov](mailto:htc@thc.texas.gov).

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