

Historic Preservation

Historic building and district preservation memorializes a community's history by preventing the destruction and inappropriate reuse of historic sites. Historic sites offer teaching opportunities, foster civic pride, and promote tourism by preserving local character and charm. Preservation and building reuse are sustainable practices that conserve financial and material resources by avoiding demolition and maximize use of existing road and utility infrastructure. In addition to traditional ordinances, many cities develop *historic design guidelines* which share the city's vision to help direct residents, architects, and developers who will need project approval.

CONSULT TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 211.0165 BEFORE DEVELOPING OR MODIFYING YOUR ORDINANCE. STATE REGULATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A HISTORIC DISTRICT WERE UPDATED IN 2019.

EXAMPLE ORDINANCES & DESIGN GUIDES

FREDERICKSBURG

► Historic District Design Guidelines and Standards

Adopted in 2021 with updates to existing code sections, the design guide shapes the evaluation process for proposed changes to historic sites and buildings.

GEORGETOWN

► Historic District Design Guidelines

Adopted in 2021, the guidelines use overlays to establish area-specific regulations.

NEW BRAUNFELS

- Includes incentives to encourage preservation efforts (§66-57.1).

SAN ANTONIO

► Historic Design Guidelines from the Office of Historic Preservation

Adopted in 2012, the extensive guidelines are categorized into eight parts.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

- A Historic Landmark and District Zoning model ordinance.