

**COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
2005 Annual Report**

Please use this form to report your 2005 county historical commission (CHC) activities to your county commissioners court as well as to the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Information from these forms may be used to report county and statewide historic preservation activities to the state legislature.

**Please complete this form and return by February 28, 2006. Thank you.**

County: Williamson

Name of CHC chair: Bob Brinkman

1. How many members currently serve on your commission? 28

2. How many meetings did your commission hold in 2005? 9

In which communities were the meetings held? Georgetown

3. How many volunteer preservation hours did your commission members work this year? 815

4. Does your commission sponsor or work with young people in your county? Yes

If yes, please list and describe such activities: Commission members made presentations to students in Florence, Georgetown, Round Rock, and Taylor.

5. Does your county provide funds in its budget for your commission?  Yes  No  
If yes, how much was your allocation in fiscal year 2005? \$1000

Does your county provide office space for your commission?  Yes  No

If the county provides other operating help, please list: The CHC office and Williamson County Historical Museum are both housed in the county-owned historic bank building at 716 S. Austin Avenue in Georgetown, on the courthouse square. The county also provides utilities and other costs.

6. Does your commission have other sources of funding?  Yes  No

If yes, please briefly describe sources and amounts of such income: CHC fundraisers sold through the museum gift shop include county history books, videos, and DVDs, county cemetery maps, and commemorative items such as pens and medallions.

7. Please check all that apply to your commission:

One or more members attended the 2005 Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Austin

How many? 4

One or more members attended a regional workshop conducted by the Texas Historical Commission

How many? 3

Member, Preservation Texas

Member, Texas Historical Foundation

Member, Texas Association of Museums

- Member, Texas Downtown Association
- Member, Texas Oral History Association
- Member, National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Member, American Association for State and Local History
- Member, Texas State Historical Association
- Member, other historical associations(s): Save Texas Cemeteries

8. Please check all areas in which your CHC worked actively to promote historic preservation:

- Historical marker(s)
- Historic cemetery preservation and/or designation
- History museum(s)
- National Register of Historic Places designation
- Main Street Program – Which town(s)? Georgetown, Taylor
- Certified Local Government – Which city or county? Georgetown, Round Rock
- Visionaries in Preservation Program – Which community? \_\_\_\_\_
- Texas Heritage Trails Program – Which trail region? Brazos and Hill Country
- Heritage tourism (other than or in addition to Texas Heritage Trails Program)
- Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program
- Military sites
- Advisor to commissioners court on matters related to history and preservation
- Survey of architectural resources
- Actively advocated for the preservation of an endangered historic resource (see also question #10)
- Historic building rehabilitation
- Protection of archeological resources
- Texas Archeological Stewardship Network
- Oral history
- Archives
- School/educational programs
- Training workshops
- Local newspaper column
- Local history publication (CHC newsletter, county history book, brochures, etc.)
- Historical observances (check all that apply):
  - County/city birthdays
  - National Preservation Week
  - Texas Archeology Month
  - Other (please list): Historical marker dedications, museum exhibit openings
  - Women’s History Month
  - Black History Month
  - Hispanic Heritage Month

9. Please provide a brief narrative description of your CHC’s successes over the past year, as well as its not-so-successful activities. Which goals in the statewide plan (*Preserving Our Heritage: A Statewide Plan for Texas*) did your commission address? (See also **Distinguished Service Award** information following question #14 on this form.) In particular, we would like to know about any specific plans for or programs dealing with diversity, both in terms of CHC membership and preservation activities in your county.

In the past year, the Williamson County Historical Commission has been active in helping secure state and national historic designations, including the National Register of Historic Places (Taylor Downtown Historic

District), Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (C.C. and Mattie Hughes Cody House), Official Texas Historical Marker (Cedar Chopping in Central Texas, Champion Cemetery, Taylor Brethren Church), and State Archeological Landmark (Allye Belle Site, 41WM1088). In addition, the CHC has helped promote the Williamson County Historical Museum and other historical topics through newspaper articles and television segments in Austin, Georgetown, Round Rock, and Taylor.

10. Please list any significant historic properties or sites (officially designated or not) in your county that are threatened or endangered, damaged or destroyed. If possible, provide photographs and an address and brief description of the threat or damage, as well as information regarding any ongoing local efforts to preserve the site(s).

The CHC is currently bringing the inventory of known and threatened cemeteries up to date, and will identify the most endangered cemeteries and proceed with Historic Texas Cemetery designation for each.

11. Please tell us about any significant preservation projects in your county, either currently underway or planned for the coming year.

The CHC is continuing its inventory and assessment of cemeteries in the county, updating records begun in 1975 and last updated in 1983. The county is also producing a calendar featuring historic sites in the county, to be used as a fundraiser and to increase awareness of historic properties.

12. If members of your CHC participated in a THC regional workshop in 2005, please provide a brief evaluation, including whether/how the workshop was helpful and which topics you would like to see addressed in future regional meetings.

Three members attended the regional workshop in Kerrville and found the opportunity to communicate with other CHCs and preservationists very useful.

13. Please tell us about your efforts to recruit a diverse membership (age, race, gender, etc.) for your commission and how you are addressing issues of diversity in historic preservation in your county.

The Williamson CHC has a good division by gender, being split nearly evenly, and includes a member from nearly every town and city in the county. We continue to seek more diverse membership and interaction with residents of all ages and ethnicities. Even when such diversity is not reflected in the membership we strive to represent different viewpoints in local history, archives, exhibits in the county museum and other resources.

14. Please tell us how the THC can be of greater assistance to you in carrying out your local preservation activities.

The Williamson CHC continues to utilize the guidance of the THC in local history programs, especially regarding cemeteries, museums, historical markers and surveys.



**Distinguished Service Award – PLEASE NOTE**

If you wish for your CHC to be considered for Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recognition, please check the box above and let us know about your calendar year 2005 successes and accomplishments. Enclose a brief summary/description of each project, and enclose copies of supporting documentation if applicable. Recommendations for DSA recognition will be based on an overall evaluation of each CHC's achievements in historic preservation activities and programs for the year.

DSA recipients will be notified in advance and will be recognized at the opening session of the Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Galveston on April 21, 2006.

**Deadline for submission is February 28, 2006.**



Name of person completing this report: Bob Brinkman

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CHC web site address: Williamson County Historical Museum at <http://www.wchm-tx.org/>

If the THC staff can provide you with any additional information or assistance, please call 512/463-5853 or email [history@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:history@thc.state.tx.us). Thank you.

**Please return by February 28, 2006, to:**

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Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
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**TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*