

Tarrant County Historic Sites Atlas User Guide

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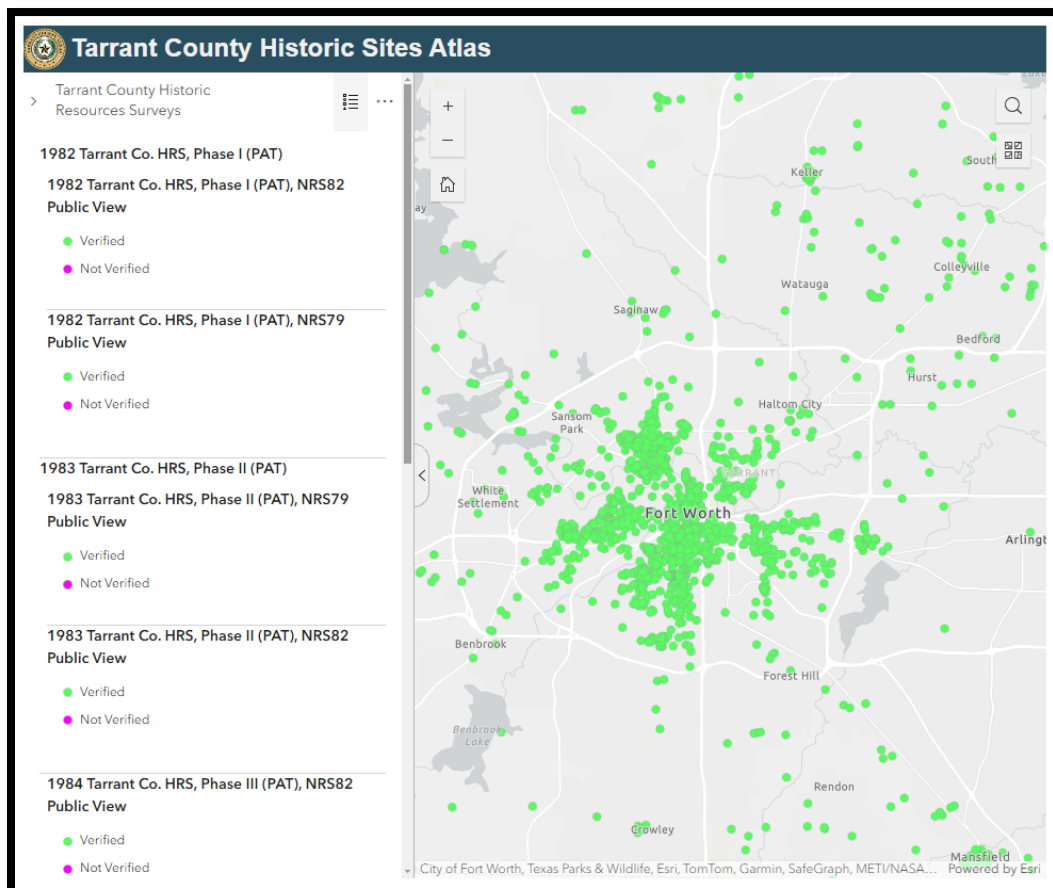
Introduction

The Tarrant County Historic Sites Atlas was created as a way to consolidate all Tarrant County historic resources survey data into one place for easy accessibility. There are many layers of data, each representing a survey that was conducted at some point in the past. This data represents a specific time in Tarrant County history. Many properties that are listed on past surveys have been demolished or dramatically changed, and so may not be represented on future survey layers. Past data is not edited to reflect changes to sites and structures, though Tarrant County staff have added notes to some past data sets indicating updated addresses and whether a property is or isn't extant.

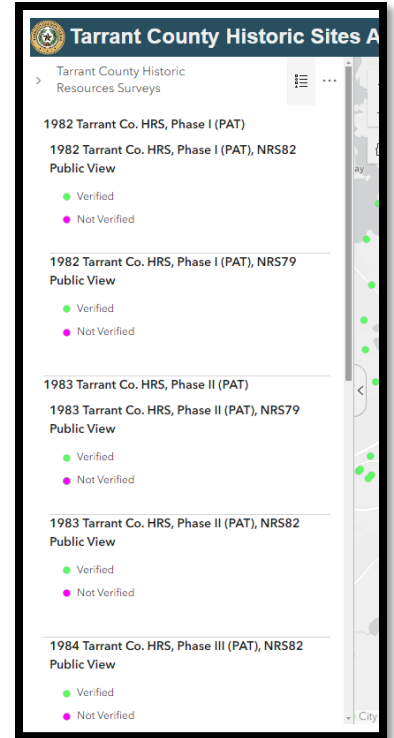
The Basics

The Atlas is an interactive map allowing users to view survey data, search for specific properties, and compare layers of data.

A list of map layers is at the left. Layer groups have a > next to the group title which allows the list of layers within that group to be expanded or hidden. Hovering over a layer group or individual layer in the list shows an eye symbol, which can be clicked on to view or hide the layer group or individual layer on the map.



The left-hand layers list can be narrowed or widened by clicking and dragging the < tab at the center of the scroll bar, allowing more or less of the map to be visible.

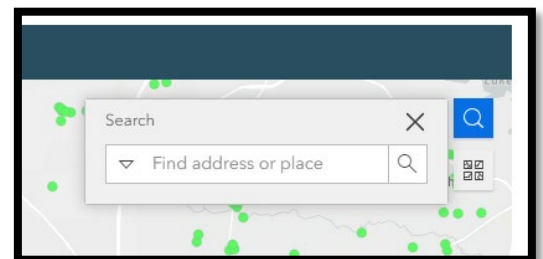


The + and – icons at the top left corner of the map can be used to zoom in and out of the map. Alternatively, scrolling the wheel on your mouse will also zoom in and out of the map.

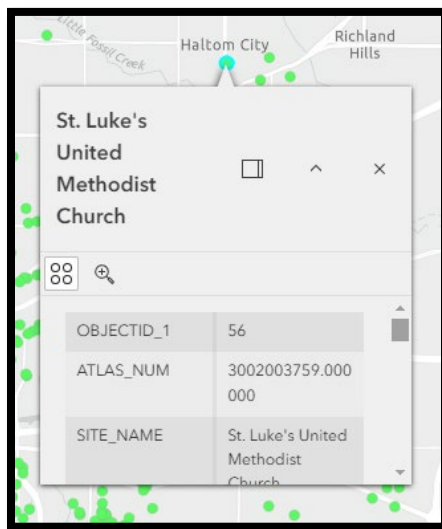
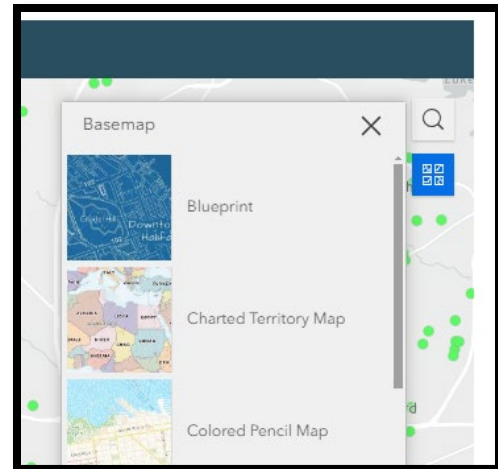
The house icon at the top left corner of the map will return the map to the default view.



The magnifying glass icon in the top right corner can be used to search specific addresses, streets, neighborhoods, cities, etc. Type in the desired search term and click the magnifying glass button or hit enter on the keyboard.



The icon with four squares, below the magnifying glass, can be used to change the basemap. Select from a list of basemap options to show higher contrast, terrain or satellite views, or a variety of different design styles.



Map points can be clicked on and a pop-up window containing all data collected can be viewed. The property name or address will appear at the top of the pop-up window, if applicable.

The rectangle icon at the top will 'dock' the pop-up making it a longer window with more information visible at once.

The magnifying glass with a + icon will zoom into the location of the selected point.

The X icon in the top right corner will close the pop-up window.

[Tarrant County Historic Resources Surveys](#)

The 1980s Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey was conducted by the Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County in six phases from 1982 through 1988. For this survey, the county was broken up into various sections, and includes all municipalities and the unincorporated areas of Tarrant County. The points for this survey are represented by a green (•) dot.

When initially surveyed, many resources did not have specific or regular addresses. In creating the Atlas, staff reviewed all resource points with irregular addresses and, in most cases, determined the exact location where that resource was located, while in some cases only an approximate location could be determined.

Guide to select data field information:

- **PROPNAME** – historic name of the property; is typically the name of the first owner or business to occupy a building; additional names may be included after a hyphen, if of particular importance
- **LGLDESCRPT** – land abstract and original survey information
- **DATE_EST** – construction date
- **ARCH_BUILD** – architect
- **STYLE_TYPE** – architectural design style of the building
- **ORIGINUSE** and **PRESENTUSE** – what the property was used for
- **DESCRIPT** – an architectural description of the building or structure, identifying important features; due to length of description, may be continued in a lower field
- **PRESCOND** – present condition of the building or structure when survey was conducted
- **SIGNIFICNS** – significance of the resource based on criteria set forth by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, used for determining designation eligibility; due to length of description, may be continued in a lower field
- **MVD_LOC** and **MVD_Date** – information on if the building or structure was moved and when
- **CONT** – field where the previous fields containing lengthy descriptions are continued such as **PROPADDRSS**, **DESCRIPT**, and **SIGNIFICNS**; continued information will appear after the original field name surrounded by >>

Municipal Historic Resources Surveys

Various municipalities have made their historic resources surveys available for inclusion in this Atlas. Each of these municipal surveys is listed under the group “Municipal Historic Resources Surveys,” and can be toggled on or off individually using the eye icon. Each of these surveys was conducted at different times, and with different purposes in mind, so the data collected in each is different. Some contain a lot of description, while others contain only basic information. Some include photographs, while others don’t.

Included in these municipal surveys are maps where multiple buildings, or whole blocks or neighborhoods are highlighted as a historic resource. This is the indication of a historic district where the presence of multiple properties of similar historic nature tell a shared history.

For this Atlas, the City of Arlington data is represented by red (●) dots; the City of Fort Worth is represented by yellow (●) dots and various colorful shapes for historic districts; the City of Grapevine is represented by black striped shapes for historic districts; and the City of Mansfield is represented by orange (●) dots and orange shapes for historic districts.

[THC Texas Historic Sites Atlas](#)

The Texas Historical Commission tracks many resources through their Texas Historic Sites Atlas, including properties that have various types of historic designations, historic cemeteries, locations and historical markers, and more. Each of these categories is a separate layer on this Atlas and can be toggled on and off using the eye icons. Points under each category are represented by various shapes and colors, so review the key in the left sidebar to determine meaning.

The Texas Historic Sites Atlas is live linked from the Texas Historical Commission, meaning that this layer will be updated each time they update their data set. This also means that all the data from across Texas is visible on the Tarrant County Atlas, if zoomed out. Only the layers where the resources are visible in Tarrant County have the pop-up windows turned on. Please visit the Texas Historical Commissions [Texas Historic Sites Atlas webpage](#) to view the fully functional map.

[TxDOT Historic Resources Aggregator](#)

The Texas Department of Transportation conducts historic resources surveys for areas near or within construction project locations across the state. Results of these surveys are included on the TxDOT Historic Resources Aggregator, which is live linked to the Tarrant County Atlas. This means that this layer will be updated each time they update their data set. This also means that all the data from across Texas is visible on the Tarrant County Atlas, if zoomed out. Please visit the [TxDOT Historic Resources Aggregator webpage](#) to view the map.

Various categories of interest are included in the TxDOT layer, including districts, designations, bridges, roads, gas stations, and more. These are all represented by various shapes and colors, so review the key in the left sidebar to determine meaning.

“Historic Status” meanings:

- SAL – State Antiquities Landmark
- NHL – National Historic Landmark
- NRHP Listed – National Register of Historic Places designated
- RTHL – Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
- Centennial Marker – markers and monuments placed for the Texas Centennial celebrations in 1936
- NRHP Eligible – National Register of Historic Places eligible but not currently designated
- Contributing – individual buildings or structures that meet the guidelines to contribute to a historic district

FAQ

What are historic resources?

Historic resources are buildings, structures, objects, sites, and cultural landscapes that are 50 years old or older, and are significant to local, state, or national history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture.

What is a historic resources survey?

A historic resources survey is a systematic method of documenting historic resources through fieldwork and research. Surveys contain pertinent information about the property, structures, owners, and historical significance. A property's presence on a survey does not automatically award a historic designation to that property, but it means the property is potentially eligible for designation.

What are historic designations?

Designation is an action that recognizes, and in some cases legally protects, certain buildings, structures, objects, sites, and cultural landscapes as historically significant on the national, state, or local level. Their significance is determined by a set of criteria created by the National Park Service (NPS). Most historic designations require the property owner's consent to apply, and they do not limit the property owner's rights in regard to that property. Local designations established by municipalities are the main type of designation that might incur legal protections to the property, though these designations vary from city to city.

To learn more about federal and state designations visit the [Texas Historical Commission's Designate Historic Properties webpage](#).

Learn more about local designations by visiting the [City of Arlington Local Landmark Program webpage](#), [City of Fort Worth Historic Designation webpage](#), the [City of Grapevine Historic Preservation webpage](#), and the [City of Mansfield Historic Preservation webpage](#).

How are resources evaluated for historic designation?

Historic resources are eligible for designation if they meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. The Criteria require examination of a resource's age, significance, and integrity.

1. Age: The resource must be at least 50 years old.
2. Significance: The resource must be associated with at least one of the following criteria: events that are significant to our history; individuals who made a significant impact on our past; distinct architectural styles or components; the likelihood of yielding archeological information important to our history.
3. Integrity: The resource must convey its significance using a combination of seven characteristics recognized by the NPS called the seven aspects of integrity. The aspects are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Refer to the NPS guide [How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation](#) for more information about the Criteria.

How can I get a historic designation for my property?

Begin by reviewing the different types of available designations above. Any property may be eligible for more than one designation, and it is not uncommon for properties to have multiple designations. With that said, each designation is an individual process with specific guidelines and application process.

Once you have determined the specific designation you want to pursue, reach out to your county's County Historic Commission, the Texas Historical Commission, or the municipal historic preservation department to begin the process.