

Texas Historic Civil Engineering Landmark Nomination Procedure

The designation of projects as Texas Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks is encouraged for several reasons: to inform the public of these projects, to recognize the role civil engineers have in our everyday lives, and to recognize civil engineers for their achievements. For Society-level designation, the project must be at least 50 years old from the time of completion, and the design or construction must have expanded the limits of the profession. For a project that may not qualify on the Society-level scale but is deemed significant for the region or local area as a noteworthy project, a Section may designate it to be a Texas Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. Both of these designations require a great amount of work and cannot be rushed. Therefore, the following are guidelines to accomplish the goal of having a suitable public ceremony with the necessary publicity at the desired time.

The following procedures will be followed in the nomination of a project for designation as a Texas Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. This process needs to start about two years before the scheduled meeting or desired ceremony time. Although the project may not qualify for Society-level status, the same format and procedures as a nomination for Society-level designation will be followed.

1. Contact the Texas Section Chair of the History and Heritage Committee with a proposal and seek the latest format or information on nominations. Cost sharing will be required with the local Branch, the project owners, and the Texas Section.
2. Begin gathering data, pictures, articles, and ways to prove that the project deserves to be designated, i.e., largest, not previously designed, new method of construction, new use of material, or otherwise important to the evolution of Civil Engineering technology.
3. Draft nomination and get others to review and suggest improvements or additional material. The Texas Section Chair and several experienced members of the History and Heritage Committee should be contacted for review and comments.
4. No nomination should be attempted without the project owner's approval and cooperation. When the nomination is nearing completion, a formal statement of the owner's endorsing the nomination and placing of a plaque on the project should be obtained. The plaque must be placed in a highly visible public area.
5. At approximately eight months to one year before the ceremony date, a completed draft copy of the final nomination must be presented to the Texas Section Chair of the History and Heritage Committee for review by the Committee and presentation to the Texas Section Board of Direction for approval. This presentation will be scheduled for a regular bi-annual Board Meeting. In order to allow sufficient time to have the plaque cast and to prepare properly for a public dedication ceremony, the nomination must receive approval at the Board of Directors Meeting held one Section Meeting prior to the ceremony. No deviation from this schedule and procedure will be entertained.

6. After approval is obtained, the final copies of the nomination will be prepared, signed, and forwarded as follows: one copy to the Texas Section Office, one copy to the Texas Section Chairman of the History and Heritage Committee, and six copies to the ASCE History and Heritage Committee (HHC). One of these copies and the one to the Texas Section Office should contain original copies of photos. The other six copies can contain quick copies of photos. Also, please send a layout of the 14-inch by 20-inch plaque to the Texas Section Office. A rubbing of the plaque will be returned for approval before the actual plaque is cast.
7. Hold the dedication ceremony at a suitable time and place for maximum public participation and press coverage. Local historical societies and other public officials should be invited as well.

If ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmark designation is desired, the procedures may require additional time, as HHC generally meets twice a year, in January and July. When a nomination is received, one of the HHC committee members is appointed to be the project nomination presenter and to do extra research and preparation for the committee meeting. It is desirable that the presenter (from the same ASCE Zone as the project) also be an advocate. If the presenter can be appointed approximately 3 months prior to a meeting, then sufficient time to prepare may be available, and HHC committee action might be taken at the first board meeting after the nomination is received. (For instance, if the Texas Section Board approved submission of a nomination in March and the nomination were received in April, it might be possible for HHC to take action in their July meeting. Should there be any difficulty with the nomination or sufficient time to prepare for the committee meeting is not available, final action would have to be postponed until the following January meeting of HHC.)

When the designation is approved, the ordering of the plaque and preparation for the ceremony can be accomplished. A minimum of three to four months should be allowed for this phase of the procedure. A draft layout of the plaque should be submitted along with the nomination. Hold the dedication ceremony at a suitable time and place for maximum public participation and press coverage. Representatives from Section, Society-level ASCE, HHC, and local historical societies and other public officials should be invited to participate in and/or co-sponsor the ceremony.