

INTRODUCTION

In 1966, Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act, recognizing that “the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people.”¹¹ In Texas, as in the rest of the nation, the systems for preserving these foundations often overlook the presence, impact, and stories of African Americans.

This guide provides community groups and individuals interested in the preservation of sites in Texas with ties to African American heritage with an overview of the legal tools available to help achieve their goals. By no means comprehensive, this toolkit focuses on the more common legal tools that are available to help preserve African American historic sites, rather than the technical expertise—for example, in genealogy or archaeology—needed for preservation.

An electronic copy of this toolkit is available at law.utexas.edu/clinics/ecdc/publications/#historic. We welcome suggestions for updates the toolkit! Contact us at ecdc@law.utexas.edu.



Allen Chapel AME Church in Fort Worth, TX

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