

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Preserve buildings and sites that contribute to Round Rock's history.

Historic assets play an essential role in shaping the identity of a place. Historic buildings, neighborhoods, and other important vestiges of the past define a unique and special sense of character in a community. As Round Rock continues to grow and mature, its historic resources remain an important part of the community's identity. Historic preservation encourages the continued use of older properties, safeguards the existence of significant historic elements, and contributes to community development objectives such as quality of life, sustainability, and economic development. Over the past year, PDS has hosted events and partnered with local preservation advocates and allies to educate the community about Round Rock's history and preserve the city's historic resources.

The Historic Preservation section of Round Rock 2030 is a standalone Historic Preservation Plan. This section of the annual report serves as the update to the Historic Preservation Plan.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING GUIDE was recognized as Best Special Publication (Cities with population from 50,000-150,000) by the Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers (TAMIO) at their 50th anniversary conference in June. The Communications Department updated the walking guide in 2023. The new guide was first distributed during Historic Preservation Month in May 2023. Since then, 1,540 copies have been distributed and social media promotion has garnered over 10,000 impressions.

**Best Special
Publication**

TAMIO
(June 2023)



Implementation Strategy: Consider expanding the number of historically designated properties. Review the designation criteria in the Round Rock Development Code to adapt the definition of historic significance. Identify structures recently annexed into the city and mid-century structures which are now, or will soon be, eligible for designation.

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY Preservation staff have continued to compile an inventory of prior historic resource surveys, cataloging 860 structures that are older than 50 years old. This year, staff assessed the undesignated structures located downtown for historic and architectural integrity.

Implementation Strategy: Increase stakeholder and public awareness of the city's historic preservation program by providing training opportunities, hosting public events, and creating educational materials.

HISTORY DISPLAY BANNERS Staff created a series of educational banners that describe Round Rock's history. Topics include "Pioneer Settlement," "Old Town," "New Town," and "Highway Development and Suburbanization."

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH was celebrated in Round Rock in May 2024. Preservation staff and local preservation organizations, including Round Rock Preservation (RRP), hosted preservation programs to educate and engage the public on historic preservation. Activities included:

- April 25: City Council proclaimed May as Preservation Month. Members of the HPC and Round Rock Preservation (RRP) attended the meeting. RRP presented a donation of \$53,000 for the rehabilitation of the Stagecoach Inn.
- May 4: The city and Williamson Museum co-sponsored Pioneer Day at the Old Settlers Association.
- May 8: HPC and staff hosted a preservation booth at Music on Main.
- May 14: Lunch and Learn, "People and Places of Historic Importance in Round Rock" presented by Pearson Ranch Middle School 7th grade Texas History students. 46 attended.
- Month Long: Center Art Club exhibit at the Baca Center lobby; Library staff book selections relating to Old Town; Library wall exhibit by Center Art Club; Library display case exhibit by Round Rock Preservation.
- Social Media posts about Old Town produced a total of 487,400 impressions, 4782 likes and reactions, and there were 1154 website visits to Historic Preservation Spotlight: Old Town Round Rock blog post.



Implementation Strategy: Complete the restoration of the Stagecoach Inn.

THE STAGECOACH INN RESTORATION project including the rehabilitation of the interior, exterior, and the surrounding site is nearing completion. The original rehabilitation contract was approved by City Council in April 2023. A grand opening hosted by Round Rock Preservation (RRP) is scheduled for Fall 2024.



THE STAGECOACH INN RELOCATION MARKER was installed at the original location of the Stagecoach Inn at 901 Round Rock Avenue in accordance with the city's Code of Ordinances. The relocation marker was commemorated by a ribbon cutting ceremony on January 25, 2024. Members of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), city staff and Round Rock Preservation (RRP) members attended the ceremony.



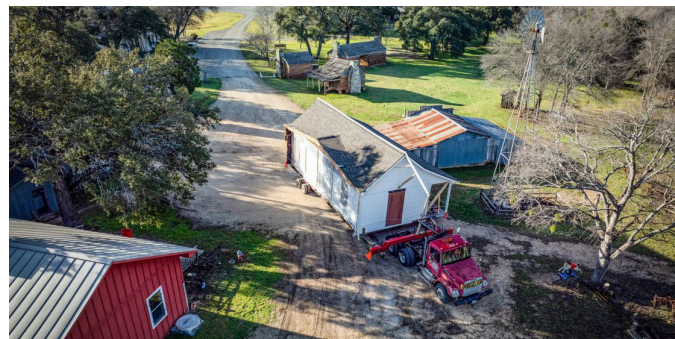
Implementation Strategy: Foster a network of preservation advocates and allies, like the nonprofit Round Rock Preservation, by collaborating with preservation partners at the local, regional, and state levels.

ROUND ROCK PRESERVATION (RRP) is a close partner of the city's preservation office. RRP conducts public outreach and organizes preservation activities for the Round Rock community. This year, RRP co-sponsored four Lunch & Learns and participated in the Williamson Museum Pioneer Day at Old Settlers Park. RRP donated over \$50,000 to the restoration of Stagecoach Inn and developed interpretive signage. RRP funded the purchase and installation of a historic marker for Kenney Fort and hosted a dedication with Concord at Brushy Creek Homeowners Association in June.



Implementation Strategy: Explore means for financing the city's historic preservation program including a new dedicated annual allocation in the city's budget.

THE PALM HOUSE was successfully relocated on January 30, 2024 from 212 E Main St to the Old Settlers Association grounds near it's original location, restoring the structure's historic context. The structure will maintain its state Recorded Texas Historic Landmark status as it was designated prior to its relocation to downtown in the mid-20th century. A preservation program and restoration plan for the house is currently being developed. The relocation and restoration of the Palm House is funded by the city. The building will be managed by the Old Settlers Association upon completion.



Implementation Strategy: Continue administering the Partial Tax Exemptions for Historically Significant Sites program and guide property owners through the application review process.

THE HISTORIC TAX EXEMPTION program grants a 75% exemption of municipal property taxes to qualifying historic property owners. Money saved on taxes is used for regular maintenance and/or repairs to these historic structures. The HPC is responsible for reviewing applications and recommending to City Council whether a property should receive the exemption. This year, 51 applications were awarded an exemption totaling approximately \$151,000.

Implementation Strategy: Consider new incentive programs specifically to assist property owners and developers within maintenance and rehabilitation of historic properties.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BROCHURE updated by staff. The brochure, originally released in 2013, is a resource for historic property owners. The brochure provides information on the Historic Preservation Program, the Historic Overlay Zoning District, and the review process for Certificate of Appropriateness and the designation of landmarks and districts. The brochure is available on the city's Historic Preservation website.

