



Resolution

Thompson-Cape Dam and Millrace National Register of Historic Places Nomination

Consider approval of Resolution 2025-238R, whether to support the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Thompson-Cape Dam and Millrace, San Marcos, Hays County, Texas including procedural provisions; and declaring an effective date.

About the National Register of Historic Places



- Honorary designation authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
 - Federal government's official list
- Applications can be submitted by anyone and are reviewed by the Texas Historical Commission (THC)
- No restrictions unless federal funding or permits involved
- Four general criteria:
 - Events (Criterion A)
 - People (Criterion B)
 - Design or Construction (Criterion C)
 - Ability to yield information important to prehistory (Criterion D)



About the Nomination

- Nomination was submitted by non-profit, Preservation Texas, to the THC for the *Thompson-Cape Dam and Millrace*.
- THC notified the City in November that a valid nomination had been submitted to THC for review.
- THC's notification letter stated that "opinions in regard to the nomination" are required from the City's highest elected official and the Historic Preservation Commission by January 16



Thompson-Cape Dam and Millrace boundary from the nomination form.



Historic Preservation Commission Discussion/Report

This Historic Preservation Commission discussed the nomination at their December 4 meeting.

HPC Discussion:

- The commission discussed that the site is old enough to be considered historic.
- Raised concerns regarding the dam's historic integrity and whether the dam retains enough of its original appearance.
- Raised concerns regarding the nomination boundary and whether all property owners were notified.



Consultation with Texas Historical Commission

- THC clarified that a **recommendation** is preferred from the chief elected official and the Historic Preservation Commission.
- Recommendation should be based on whether the property meets the **National Register criteria**.
- Staff will be taking the item back to the HPC on January 8th to request a formal recommendation from the HPC.



Applicable National Register Criteria (per nomination form)

- **Criterion A: Events**
 - In the area of Industry
- **Criterion C: Design & Construction**
 - In the area of Engineering
- **Pivotal role in the commercial and industrial development of San Marcos for the period 1850-1942**
(period of significance)



Direction Needed from City Council

- Does the property meet the National Register criteria?
- Are there any other comments or opinions to consider regarding the nomination?

Next steps

- HPC will provide a formal recommendation at their January 8 meeting.
- Staff will provide the HPC action and the City Council Resolution to the Texas Historical Commission (*required by THC*)
- THC State Board of Review Meeting
 - Saturday, January 17, 2026 in Austin, Texas