

**Condition Survey of Williamson County Historical Society  
and Tennessee Historical Commission  
Historic Signs, Posts and Markers**

**Management Guide**

**April 28, 2023**

**1. Purpose of Guide**

- a. To assess the condition of signs, markers and signposts and identify those in need of repair, maintenance, or replacement. The focus is on signs erected by the Williamson County Historical Society and Tennessee Historical Commission. However, Brentwood Historic Commission Signs will be included in the geographic sector for Brentwood.
- b. Seven geographic areas are designated with the intention of assigning one or more team members to each area. As designated in the Master Spread Sheet these areas are:
  1. Brentwood
  2. Eastern Williamson county - Nolensville Trinity - College Grove
  3. Southeastern Williamson County - Flat Creek Arno-Peytonsville - Bethesda
  4. Southern Williamson County -Thompson Station - West Harpeth-Burwood
  5. Western Williamson County-Forest Hill – Southall - Bingham - Boston -Garrison - Bending Chestnut - Greenbrier – Pinewood – Fairview – Ferndale-Kingfield
  6. Northern Williamson County - Forest Home- Ash Grove – Beechville – Grassland – Berry’s Chapel
  7. Franklin

**2. Scope of effort**

- a. There are several hundred historic signs and markers in Williamson County, having been erected by at least eight different societies, commissions, and sponsoring organizations. These include interpretative and landmark signs and smaller historic markers.
- b. Why this is being done: Many of these signs need repair and maintenance. Replacement cost can be as high as \$5,000. If cleaning or repair can extend life and enhance appearance, total cost efficiencies will be achieved. The process

we intend to use is first to assess condition, second to prioritize the order of maintenance and repair, and third, to clear, repair or replace.

- c. **Time frames:** The goal is to complete the condition assessment of all Williamson County Historical Society and Tennessee Historical Commission within one year.
- d. **Human resources to accomplish the tasks:** The intention is to solicit volunteers from all interested historical preservation organizations, and independent individuals. Instructions are provided regarding assessment and reporting which will essentially involve texting information to the overall coordinator.

### **3. Organization and Participants**

- a. This project is under the auspices of Williamson County Historical Society (WCHS).
- b. Teams will be formed for each geographic area and a leader assigned.
- c. The program coordinator will receive condition reports by text and log condition information into the master spread sheet.
- d. The program coordinator will provide a recommended priority for maintenance, repair or replacement to the WCHS leadership.
- e. **Soliciting volunteers.**
  - i. Society and Commission newsletters; communication with active members.
  - ii. Advertise for help on Facebook pages, Nextdoor, and other social media.
  - iii. Other volunteer organizations
  - iv. School history clubs and Scout Troops

### **4. Conducting Assessments.**

- a. The process for conducting an assessment is very simple. The sign and it's post are individually inspected. A descriptor for each is selected: broken or cracked, bad, fair, good. A picture of the sign and post is taken. The sign number (from the master spreadsheet), the condition assessment and the picture are texted to the program coordinator.
- b. Should the person doing the inspection wish to provide additional information, the assessment form below may be used as a guide. It includes many more data elements. The form can be scanned and emailed to the program coordinator.
- c. For information, sign sponsors are listed for each sign on the master spreadsheet. They are at the bottom of each sign as well. The abbreviations for various sponsors are as follows: T- Tennessee Historical Commission, W -

Williamson County Historical Society, B – Brentwood Historic Commission, H – Heritage Foundation. Other sponsors are noted on the spreadsheet.

5. Program Coordinator contact information:
- a. Joe Grosson
  - b. Mobile: 703 401 3747
  - c. Land: 615 283 3491
  - d. Email: joseph.grosson@comcast.net

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**SIGN AND POST ASSESSMENT FORM**

Person Completing this form:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign or Marker being Assessed:

Name of sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Geographic area and Sign Number from master spreadsheet: \_\_\_\_\_

Type: (interpretative, historic marker, landscape,)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign Sponsor, e.g. Williamson County Historical Society ( ), Tennessee Historical Commission ( ), Brentwood Historic Commission ( )  
( ) other

Location: (address, location description, or GPS coordinates)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assessment of Sign:

Overall: (cracked or broken, bad, poor, fair, good, excellent)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Is sign securely fastened to signpost and are there any visible cracks at support location \_\_\_\_\_

Can text be easily read (yes, or no)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Would cleaning the sign face significantly improve the appearance? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the sign severely corroded?

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**Is sign face covered with lichen type growth that could be easily removed?**

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**Should sign be repaired, cleaned, or replaced?**

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**Other comments:**

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**Assessment of signpost:**

**Is post securely in ground? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Is the connection piece of the post to the sign in good condition?**

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**Does the sign wobble to any extent on the signpost?**

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**Does post need to be repaired, scraped, primed, and repainted?**

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**Overall assessment of signpost (broken, bad, poor, good, excellent)**

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