

RAILROADS

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE *HANDBOOK OF TEXAS ONLINE*

The following guidelines are intended for contributors writing about railroads. Not every item listed is necessarily applicable to every subject, and writers are encouraged to include information unique to their entries. The order of these items should generally follow the sequence outlined below, but may vary somewhat at the individual writer's discretion.

The *Handbook* is meant to serve as the principal reference work for all significant aspects of Texas studies and is encyclopedic in scope. All entries should be concise, factual, informative, authoritative, and fully documented.

1. Name(s), including former names and nicknames
2. Reason for building railroad
3. Location
 - a. Brief description (including direction of travel) of projected route, including principal towns served by the road
 - b. Route as actually built, including direction and region or counties through which road ran and principal towns served by the road (if different from those projected)
 - c. Location of general office
4. Date(s) of original charter and any recharter
5. Significant individuals who chartered road or served as officers or on board of directors
6. Construction history
 - a. Source of funding
 - b. Date construction began
 - c. Dates from point to point
 - d. Total mileage
 - e. Important spurs or branches and their purpose
7. Financial/operational history
 - a. Type of business done by the road (passenger, types of freight, etc.)
 - b. Did the line operate at a profit?
 - c. Valuation of the railroad, if available
8. Important projects or events of which the railroad was a part
9. Final disposition of the railroad
 - a. Was the road abandoned?
 - b. Was the road purchased by or merged with another line? (Include all subsequent changes of ownership, names of corporate owners, and dates of acquisition, if available.)
 - c. Is the road still in operation?
10. Bibliography and notes

Each entry in the *Handbook* appears over the author's name. We believe that every article will be considered a standard source of information for decades. Because we know that our contributors share our desire to adhere to the most rigorous scholarly standards, we have adopted the policy of checking all factual material to be printed in the new edition. This means that we need specific footnotes, with complete publication information, for all of the facts in an article. We regret the inconvenience which this causes, but only by this double check can we be assured that each entry will be the credit to its author that we wish it to be. Furthermore, the extra effort will ultimately save our small staff hundreds of hours and will earn the heartfelt gratitude of our research assistants.

A brief bibliography should be included with each article. We encourage contributors to list primary as well as secondary sources. The list of works should be highly selective; if possible, it should include

recent works of fundamental importance which can lead a reader to further publications, as well as the location of major archival collections.

Please send 2 DOUBLE-SPACED copies of each manuscript. We would prefer to have the entries submitted by email to brett.derbes@tshaonline.org or by mail to the address below on a CD or flash drive in one of the following formats: Word 97 or later (.doc) or for MAC users, Rich Text Format (.rtf).

All articles become the copyrighted property of the Texas State Historical Association when they are received. They will be edited. The association retains the right of disposition of all manuscripts.

Inquiries and articles should be sent to:

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