A Photographic Journey along El Camino Real de los Tejas

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Christopher Talbot is an Associate Professor of Art at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He holds a BFA degree in Photography from Brigham Young University and a MFA in Photography and Digital Media from The University of Houston. Some of his panoramic photographs are in the permanent collection at The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. His recently published book, *Nacogdoches Now and Then*, is a collaborative, re-photographic project that he completed with his university students.

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Exhibit Support

This exhibit was made possible through the Challenge Cost Share Program in cooperation with Stephen F. Austin State University. This matching fund program allows the National Park Service and partners to work together to preserve and improve resources on national trails.

To learn more about this program and how to apply, please visit: [www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/](http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/ccsp/)

Exhibit and Trail Contacts

National Park Service

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail is administered by the National Park Service. By helping to preserve historic sites and trail segments and developing areas for public use, the story of the early history of Texas and Louisiana along this corridor is remembered and told.

To learn more about the trail, or to provide feedback on this exhibit, please contact:

Susan C. Boyle, National Trails Intermountain Region
P.O. Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
(505) 988-6004
susan_boyle@nps.gov
http://www.nps.gov/elte

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association

If you are interested in helping to protect this historic trail so that others will be able to enjoy it in the future, consider joining El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association. This non-profit organization seeks to raise awareness about the trail’s historical and cultural resources.

Steven Gonzales, Executive Director
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association
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A Photographic Journey along El Camino Real de los Tejas

Christopher Talbot, Professor of Photography
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I have always been interested in the overlap of historic and modern uses of the Camino Real that runs through my property. I was drawn to learn about the road and how it is used today. What an amazing piece of history it is. The overlapping and coexistence of the past and present is evident. I hope to use my photography to help tell this story to others.

There are places where the past and present collide in an awkward relationship. Some sites demonstrate the need to preserve their historical integrity so future generations can enjoy an interaction with history. Every trail has a source and a destination. As I walk these trails, I contemplate the source of their history, aware of the present and hopeful for the future.
The story of El Camino Real de los Tejas is a testament to the resilience and perseverance of human beings. American Indians guided the Spanish into this rugged territory – the traditional homelands that they were later forced to relinquish. Yet they were able to retain their cultural identity.

Missionaries, soldiers, traders, and ranchers struggled to survive the harsh environment, poor tribal relations, isolation and volatile colonial policies.

Even though failure was common, missionaries, soldiers, traders, and ranchers were not deterred. They continued to found missions to Christianize the Indians, build presidios to protect the borders of Spanish territory from French intrusion, and establish trading posts and ranches.

The images in this exhibit clearly document surviving physical remains as proof of the spirit and determination of those who occupied the lands and shaped the cultures along the trail.