Texas Freedom Colonies Atlas

Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to the Texas Freedom Colonies Project FAQ page! Here, you can find the most frequently asked questions about the Project and how to add information to certain freedom colonies to our database.

As a project which involves crowd-sourced data (information from the public), we experience a large number of emails and helpful information about freedom colonies we might not know about.

Hopefully, this FAQ page will guide some of your questions, and we can add information to the Atlas more efficiently.

All questions should go to freedomcoloniesproject@gmail.com.

What do I do if I have information on a freedom colony that is not on the map in the Atlas?

You can share your information about a freedom colony through any of the following tools:

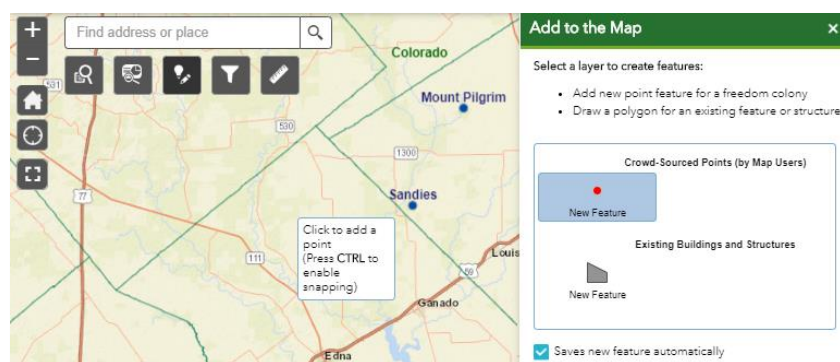1. **Freedom Colony Storyteller Portal (Short Survey Form):**

   Fill out the survey form by answering 10 questions about your freedom colony. While it is not required, you can also show the location of your settlement to show it on the map.

2. **Black Settlements Study Survey (Long Survey Form):**

   Answer 40 questions on the survey form to share the information about your community. Like the short form, you can choose to show your freedom colony by putting a point on the map.

3. **The Atlas (Online Mapping Tool):**

   You can add a point to show the freedom colony on the map using "Add to the map" tool in the Atlas Mapping Tool. When you choose to add a point to the map, you will be given the opportunity to add all information (including word documents and image attachments) to that colony.

Where do I put a point for a freedom colony?

Place the point where you think the center of colony would be. If you only have a building associated with a freedom colony, place the point on the building.

What do I do if I know the nearest major city and county of a freedom colony, but I don't know the exact location?

If you don't know the exact location of a freedom colony, you can choose to fill out a survey with information on the colony. This survey is on the Atlas's website, and can be found on the tabs at the top of the screen.

Atlas Website: http://bit.ly/txfcpatlastwo

Placing a Point in Survey Forms Video Tutorial: **Watch the video**

When you fill out the survey, you have the option to click "Set Location" and place a point, if you know the location.

However, if you don't know the location - and only the nearest major city and county - you may choose to leave this blank, and the survey will be saved. When this happens, the freedom colony listing will be saved and can be seen in the attribute table for the county.
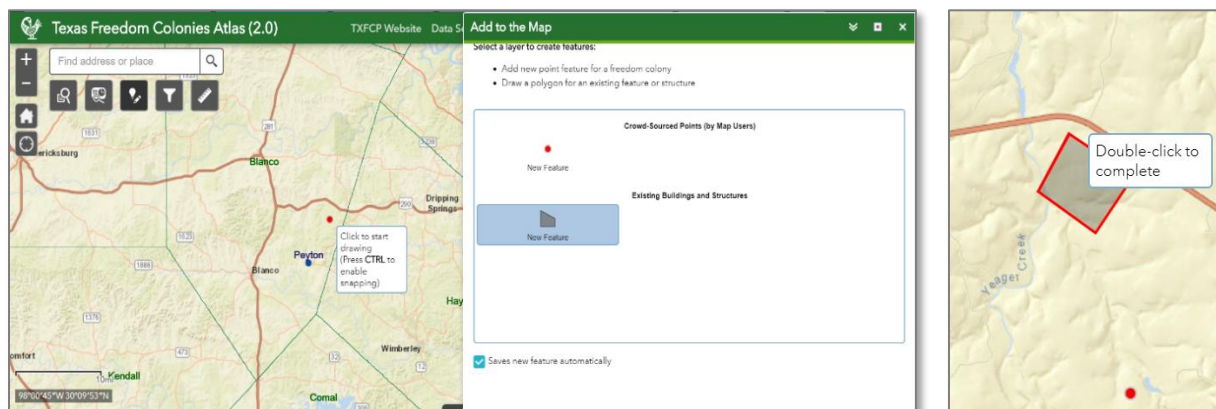
If you only know of one building associated with the freedom colony, then place the point on the building when you click "Set Location" on the survey.

What do I do if I have information on a building with an associated freedom colony name?

You can still share your information via survey forms or the mapping tool. The project team will investigate public input and will add the freedom colony along with the information of buildings associated with it to the map.

The mapping tool enables you to draw a polygon to show a building or other places like cemeteries, parks, or public spaces to the map.

What do I do if I have information on buildings (churches, community centers, cemeteries, etc.) but don't know have a freedom colony to associate them with?

We will collect the information, however, because there is not a known freedom colony associated with the place, we will not be placing the building on the Atlas.

What do I do if I have a large source (database, website, or book) of information about historical buildings or colonies?

This depends on how much information the source has. If the source has listed locations of freedom colonies and you think you know where you would add a point, feel free to add a point via the Atlas.

If you would just like to let us know about the source, please still email us. When we get the chance, we will be able to sift through the information and add the information.

If the source just has information on buildings but no known freedom colony association, still email us, and we can take the time to research about the buildings.

Why haven't I heard back from the freedom colonies email lately after I sent an email regarding shared information?

We have large quantities of information and emails to sift through. And this is a good thing because that means we are making progress on expanding the Atlas's database. Unfortunately, this may mean it might take a little while before we add your information. Thank you for being interested in sharing information and your involvement.

How can I add information to a freedom colony already on the Atlas?

In order to protect the database, public users are not able to edit the information of the existing points. To add information about a freedom colony that is already on the map, you should put a new point in the same location (it does not need to be exactly on the existing point) and add your information. The project team will merge the points and add your information during the verification process.

Why do I see two points for a freedom colony?

As the image below shows, this is an example of a case in which the freedom colony was already on the map (blue point) and a user has added more information via the Storyteller Portal (green point).

What do I do if I'm having technical difficulties or struggling adding points to the Atlas?

Email us, and let us know. We have GIS technicians especially available to help you and guide you with adding information to the Atlas.

I have information on a freedom colony, but I'm not good with computers. How can I send in information without the process of going through the Atlas?

Feel free to print out the PDF versions of the survey forms and email them back to us. You can also download the PDF surveys, create a word document, and email us your answers.

I'm going to a reunion with people who might have information about a freedom colony. How can I gather information from large amounts about more efficiently?

We have PDF versions of surveys that are available to be printed out and distributed at events. You can then email or mail the filled-out forms back to us.

1) Download the printable version of the forms

   Get printable version of survey forms

2) Print out forms

3) Read instructions

4) Complete forms

5) Scan

6) Submit by email to freedomcoloniesproject@gmail.com

   or

   Mail your completed forms to:

   C/o Dr. Andrea R. Roberts

   Architecture Center Bldg A, LAUP Department

   3137 TAMU, College Station, TX 77840

Be sure to attach information about sources and the people you interview, and let us know if you need assistance sending or emailing images.

Popular Links

Texas Freedom Colonies Project Website:

http://www.thetexasfreedomcoloniesproject.com/

Atlas:

http://bit.ly/txfcpatlastwo

Email:

freedomcoloniesproject@gmail.com

YouTube Channel:

https://youtu.be/TE75VdtcTYw

Survey forms to print out, email, or mail:

http://www.thetexasfreedomcoloniesproject.com/2019/06/the-txfc-project-has-added-new-feature.html

The Texas Freedom Colonies
Project Atlas & Study

Dr. Andrea Roberts, Research Project Manager
MJ Biazar, Web app designer

For more information visit project's website at:

www.thetexasfreedomcoloniesproject.com

Send feedback, technical issues, or requests for demonstrations to

freedomcoloniesproject@gmail.com

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