Rollin’ Down the Highway

Summer Internship 2007: What is a windshield survey, anyway?
A Windshield Survey Is...

- A method of surveying towns or counties
- Used for architectural and historic field surveys
- Useful because it allows the surveyor to cover large areas and gather good initial data
- Important for identifying unique structures
Who are these people?

And why are they taking pictures of my house?
Dr. Perky Beisel, SFA History Faculty-Internship Sponsor
Interns: Paul Maleski and Angela Henderson

- Paul and Angela are graduate students of history at SFA
- They are both graduate assistants for the department
Interns: Curtis Odom and Laura Williams

- Curtis is a current graduate student of history as well as a graduate assistant
- Laura is an SFA alum and is currently teaching history at Gilmer ISD
Chay Runnels

- Chay is a professor of human sciences at SFA
- Her specialty is heritage tourism
The Equipment

- GPS Units provided by the Columbia Center
- **Filemaker Pro Database** and printed forms
- Digital Cameras
- **11 X 17 inch grid maps**
What We Found

- The most common domestic structures we found included:
  - Small Bungalows
  - Large and Small Ranches
  - Local Vernacular Styles
More of What We Found

- Agricultural
  - Barns
  - Chicken Houses
  - Ranches
More of What We Found

- Cemeteries
  - Images of cemeteries

- Churches
  - Images of churches
Paul and Angela’s Neat Houses
Curtis and Laura’s Neat Houses
Chay’s Neat Houses
Why Are We Doing This?

- Our first and primary goal is to identify structures that might be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Nacogdoches County only has twenty such nominations, and most of those are in Historic Downtown Nacogdoches.
We Don’t Want This To Happen…
More Reasons Why

- The first project to come out of this survey will be an architectural field guide to East Texas.
- We plan to start with Nacogdoches County, but we hope to eventually include all of Deep East Texas.
Even More Reasons Why

- We also hope to identify points of interest for tourists.
- One possibility is to publish a simple brochure.
- Another possibility includes using technology and media, such as podcasts and GPS to provide guided tours, possibly from their own cars.
Sometimes The Real History Isn’t In The Textbooks

- You can find out some really neat stories that you wouldn’t find in any official history:

  - This house was built by the high school shop class in the 1980’s
  - This barn was built around an old schoolhouse, which is shown here.
  - This house belongs to a man who drives a school bus made into a soup kitchen. He was born in this house.
Where Do I Go To Sign Up??

If you are interested in our project or simply want more information, contact the History Department at SFA:

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- Music written and originally performed by Tom Cochrane. Remake performed by Rascal Flatts