The objective of the project course is to provide students with professional-level research work similar to what they will encounter as public historians. The semester project will be related to ongoing research at the historic Shield Ranch in western Travis County, a property soon to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Students will utilize a wide variety of historical resources to provide professional and technical assistance regarding the accurate documentation of the site. The class will work under the direction of public historian Mr. Utley and ranch personnel, as well as public history professionals, to set project objectives and time tables, develop outlines and work schedules, conduct original research utilizing various collections, and draft programmatic materials. All phases of the work will utilize the highest standards of public history practices and will accurately reflect the work of a professional firm. The work will result in a report that can be included in professional vitae.