

# Citywide Historic Building Scan



Preliminary Results

Historic Landmark Commission Briefing:  
December 17, 2018

# Overview



- > Citywide scan
    - Not a traditional survey
  - > Historic-age buildings
    - ~70% (~50k) of 45+ year building stock
  - > Close to tourist and lodging sites
    - Within 0.5 mi of Visit Austin tourist sites
    - H.O.T. funding
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# Purpose + Objectives

# Objective:

Update existing information  
and collect new data

Last citywide survey in 1984

- didn't include anything built after 1935
- didn't always have integrity info
- only record for many properties is a photo negative

Permit and zoning review aid

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# Objective:

Identify areas of interest

Recommend areas for further study by identifying:

- > Concentration/distribution of styles, forms, high-integrity examples, etc.
  - > Areas with heritage tourism potential
  - > Future detailed survey areas
  - > Areas with LHD potential
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# Objective:

**Provide a new resource for  
outreach and education  
efforts**

Scan data used to aid in the  
creation of building form and  
style guidebooks tailored to  
Austin's building stock

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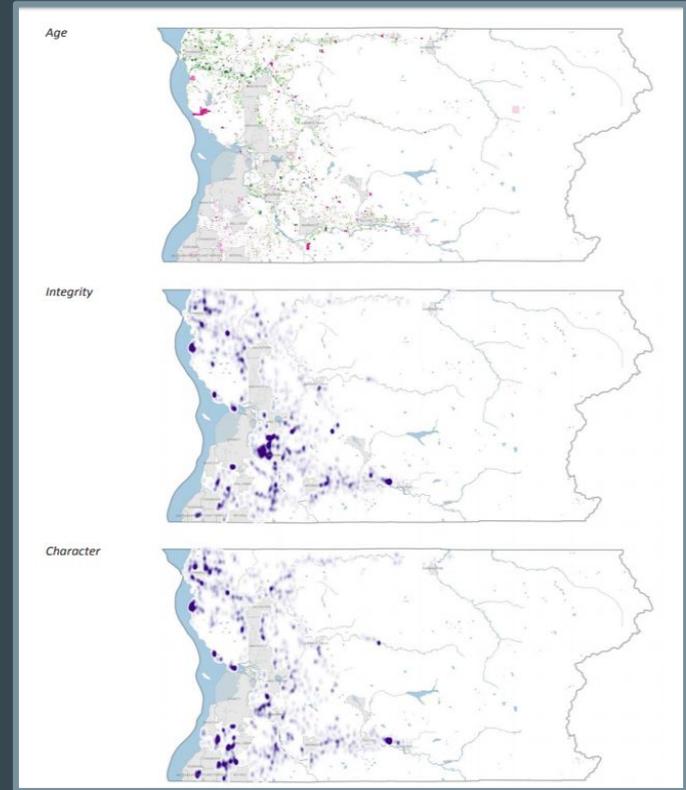
# Methodology + Scope

# Rapid-Survey Methodology

Based on **character studies** model from UPenn:

“[The model is] designed to address immediate practical needs as well as long-term strategic issues in the planning and preservation fields by (1) collecting and analyzing block-scale data about the historic urban environment, (2) integrating this data into existing planning and policy frameworks, and (3) **completing survey work within tight timeframes and budgets.**”  
[Bertron, Mason, et al. 2012]

Thin layer of info; covers many buildings in a short period of time to recommend areas for further study



Model applied in Snohomish County, WA in 2015

# Logistics and Challenges

- > Extremely accelerated timeline vs. “regular” detailed historic resource survey
  - ~50k properties physically visited, scanned, & partially QCed in **<3 months** (6/20-9/14)
- > Mobile data collection
  - Tablets + electric vehicles



# Data Overview

4 data points captured for each primary building on a parcel:

**Form**

**Style**

**Integrity**

**Photo**

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# 50,362

Total number of buildings scanned,  
including those IDed as not  
visible/accessible from R.O.W.

# 46,343

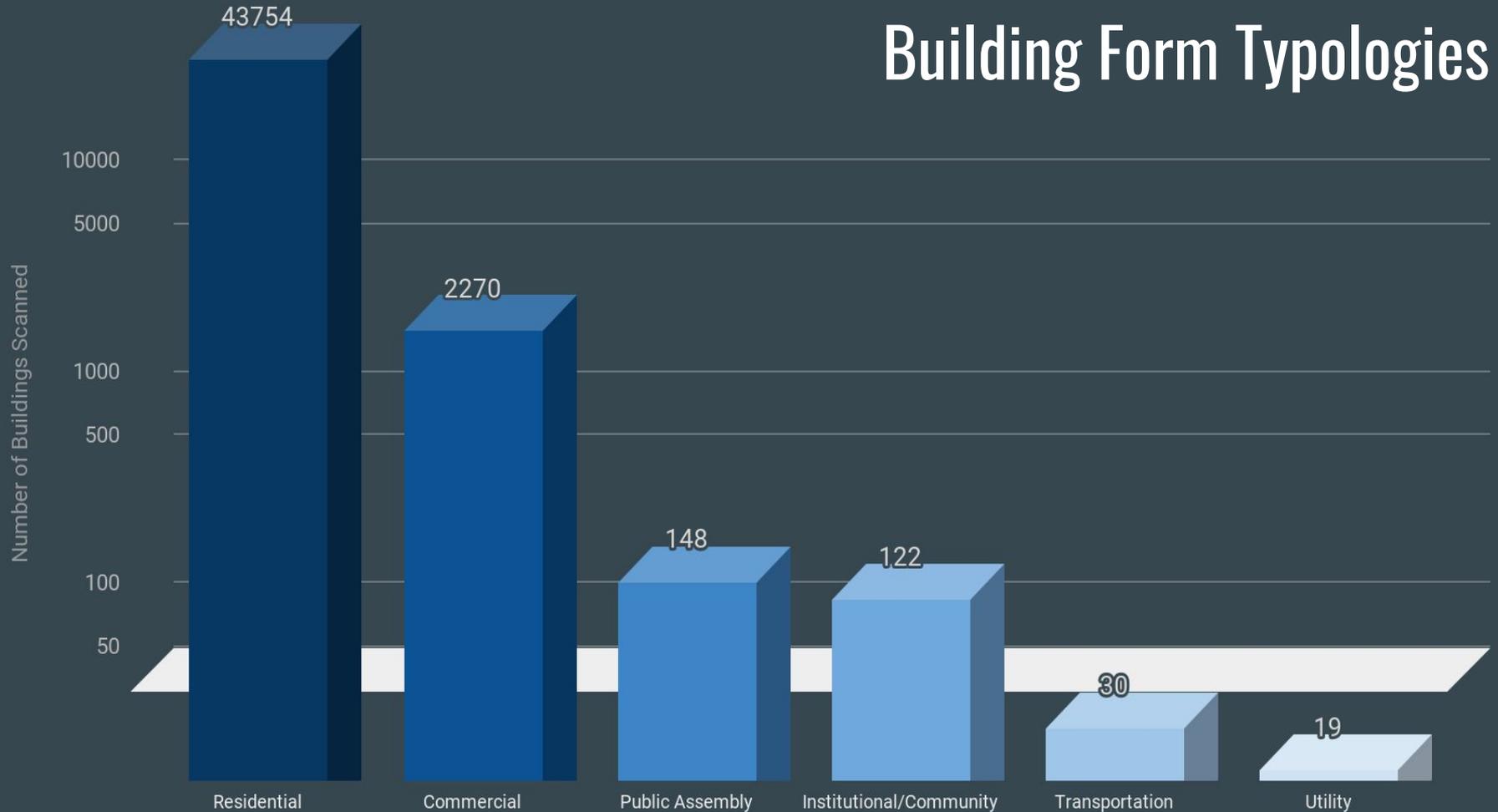
Buildings with all 4 data points recorded during scan

# Building Form

# Building Form Typologies

Primary Typology	Subtypes
<b>Residential</b>	Detached/Duplex, Multiplex/Townhouse, Single-Entrance Apartment, Multi-Entrance Apartment, Accessory Dwelling Unit
<b>Commercial</b>	Block, Office Block, Complex, Lodging, Mixed-Use, Warehouse/Industrial/Agricultural
<b>Public Assembly</b>	Theater, Exhibition/Convention/Conference Center, Recreational Facility/Cultural Center, Place of Worship, Stadium/Arena, Passenger Assembly
<b>Institutional/Community</b>	Medical, School/University, Public Safety, Library, Civic Center, Cemetery Facility
<b>Transportation</b>	None
<b>Utility</b>	None

# Building Form Typologies

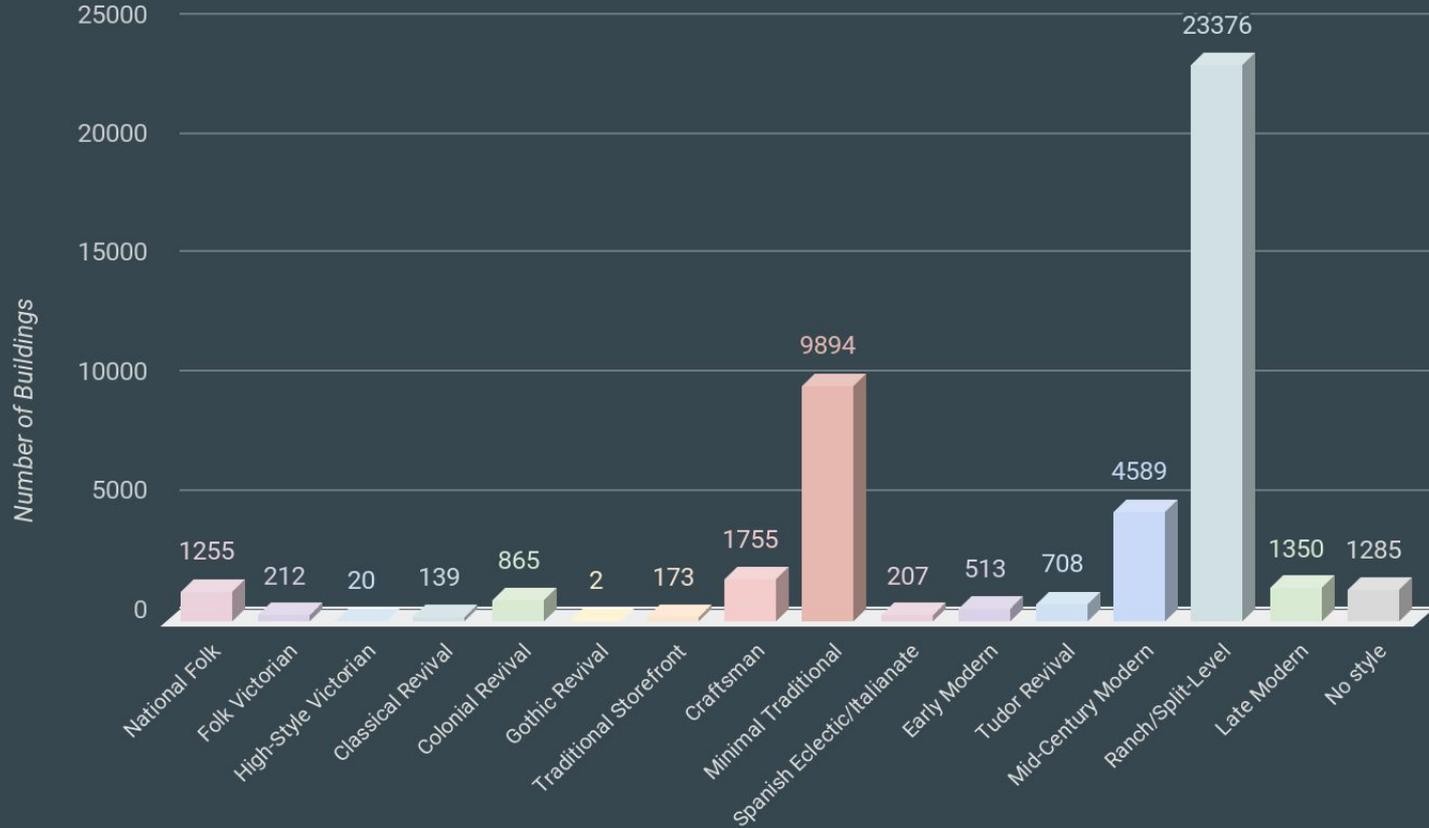


# Building Style

# Building Style

Style	Count	Style	Count
National Folk	1255	Craftsman	1755
Folk Victorian	212	Minimal Traditional	9894
High-Style Victorian	20	Tudor Revival	708
Traditional Storefront	173	Early Modern	513
Classical Revival	139	Mid-Century Modern	4589
Colonial Revival	865	Ranch/Split-Level	23376
Gothic Revival	2	Late Modern	1350
Spanish Eclectic/Italianate	207	No style	1285

# Building Style



# Building Integrity

# Classifying Building Integrity

The scan uses 3 character-defining building elements to determine integrity:

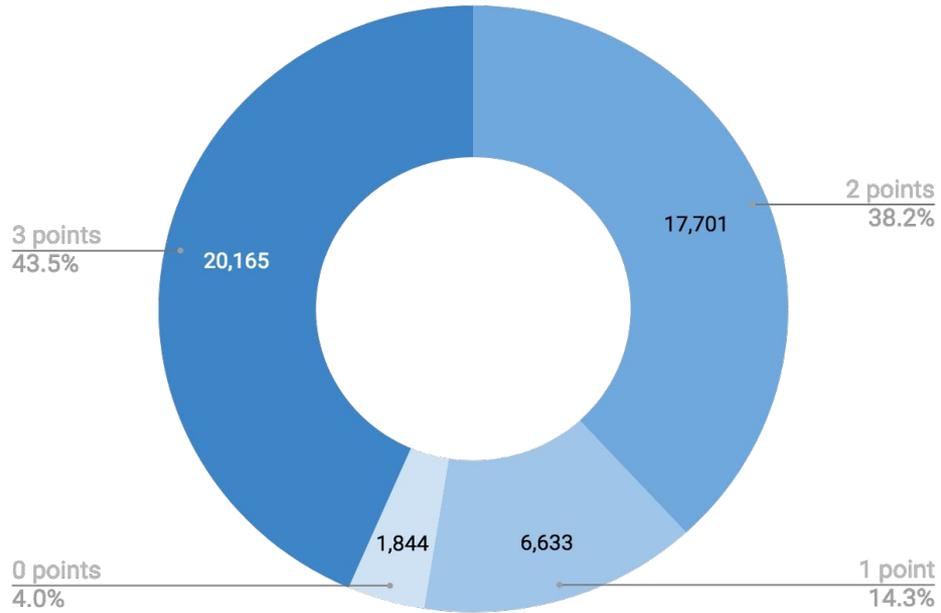
- **Design:** Has the building's original form been modified by massing changes (e.g., an addition that overwhelms the original structure)?
- **Windows:** Have the building's original windows have been altered or replaced?
- **Exterior materials:** Has the building's original exterior cladding been replaced or covered (e.g., original wood siding replaced with modern vinyl siding)?



# Building Integrity

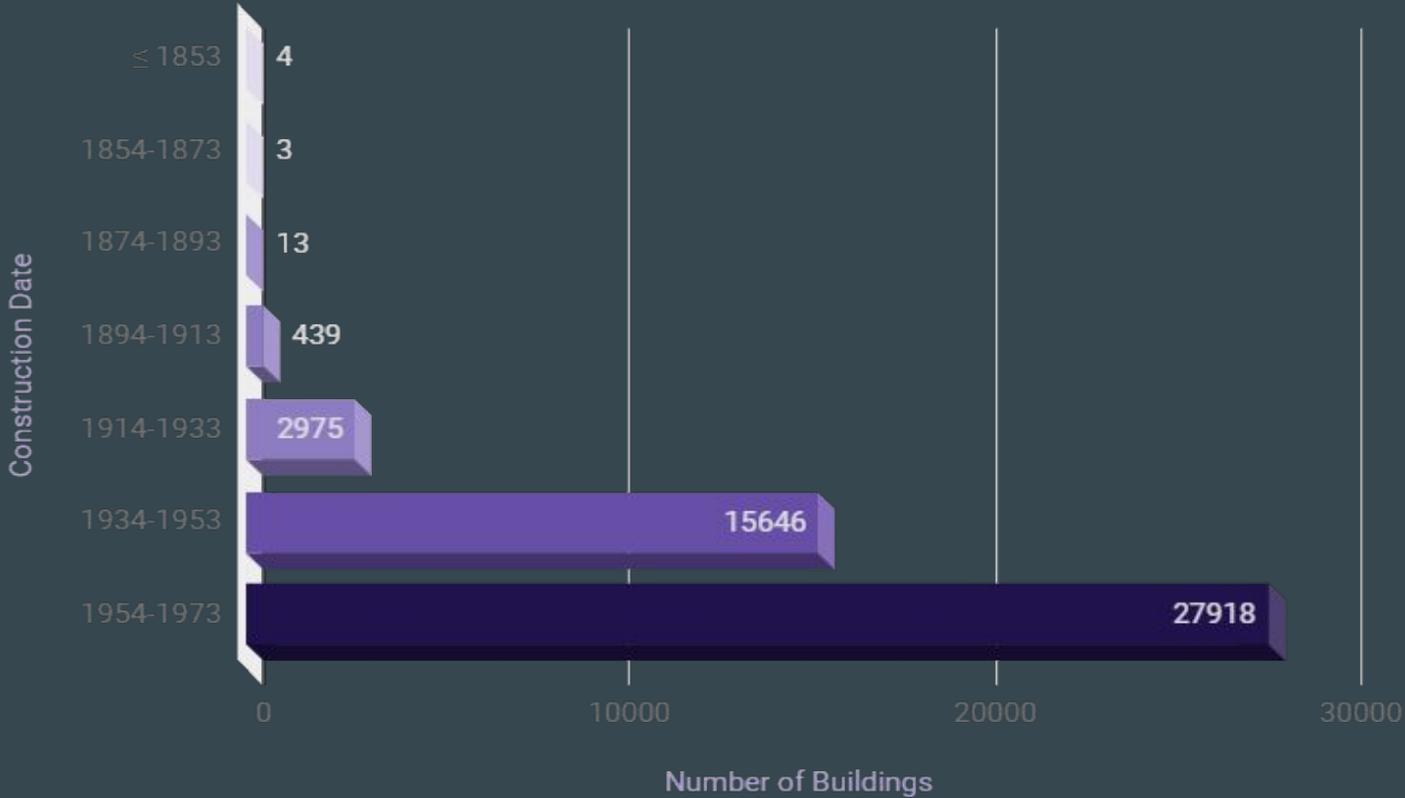
## Building Integrity Breakdown

Number of Buildings (% of total valid records)

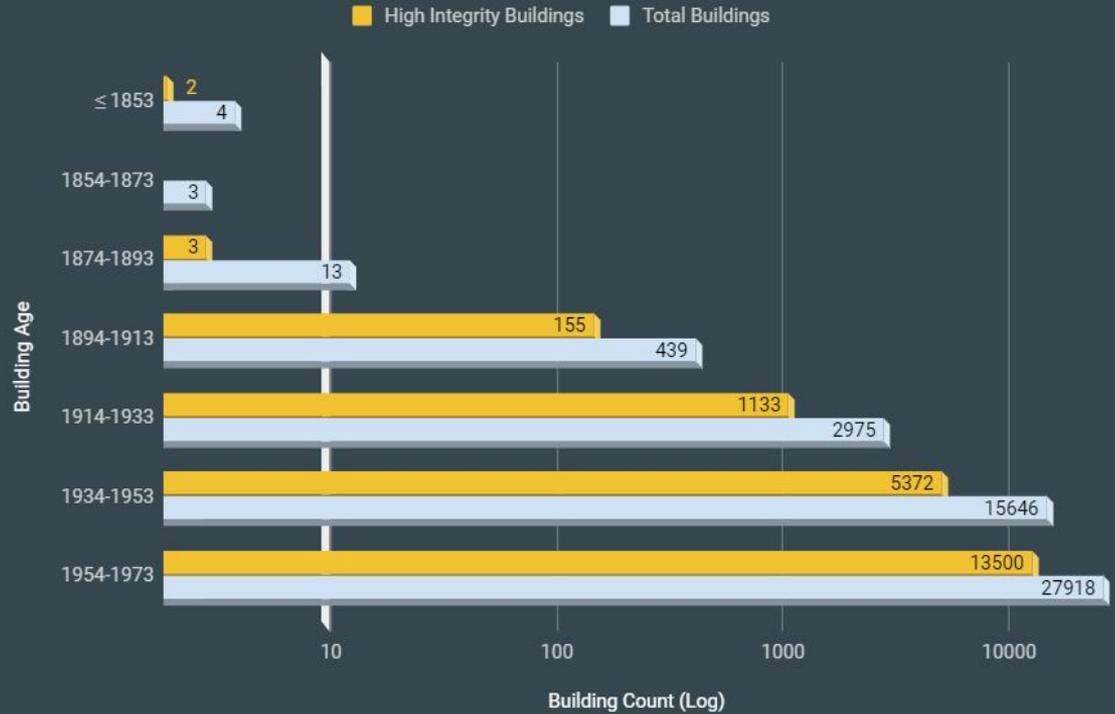
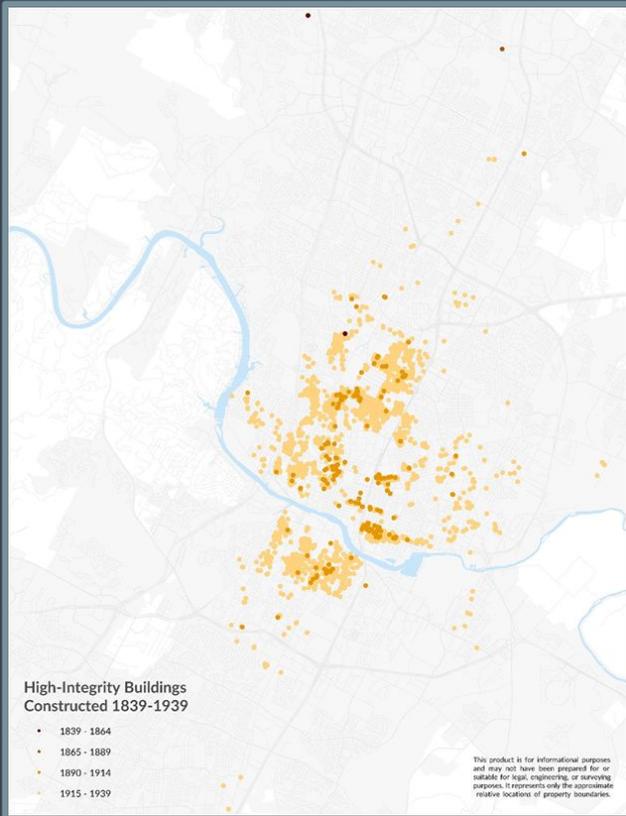


# Building Age

# Building Age



# Integrity + Age



**Moving Forward**

# Commissioner Remarks

How useful is this information to your role? What datasets would be most useful to you?

What other potential uses could you see for this dataset and other rapid-survey data like it?

Other recommendations? Contact City staff: [kalan.contreras@austintexas.gov](mailto:kalan.contreras@austintexas.gov)

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