

# HISTORICAL MARKERS OF *Washington County, Texas*

BRENHAM - BURTON - CHAPPELL HILL  
INDEPENDENCE - WASHINGTON





Historically Speaking, We Have a Lot of  
*Cool Places to Visit!*

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This guide was created for Brenham's 2023-2025 participation  
in the Smithsonian national traveling exhibit,  
Museum on Main Street program,  
in partnership with The Texas Historical Commission.



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# CONTENTS

History of Texas Historical Markers .....	4
History of Washington County .....	5
County Map of Historical Marker Locations .....	6-7

## City of Brenham

History of City of Brenham .....	8
Interesting Historic Sites without Markers .....	9
City of Brenham Map of Historical Marker Locations .....	10-11
Brenham Area Historical Marker Descriptions .....	12-29

## City of Burton

History of City of Burton .....	30
Interesting Historic Sites without Markers .....	31
City of Burton Map of Historical Marker Locations .....	32-33
Burton Area Historical Marker Descriptions .....	34-41

## Independence Community

History of Independence .....	42
Interesting Historic Sites without Markers .....	42
Independence Area Map of Historical Marker Locations .....	44-45
Independence Area Historical Marker Descriptions .....	46-55

## Washington Community

History of Washington .....	56
Washington Area Map of Historical Marker Locations .....	58-59
Washington Area Historical Marker Descriptions .....	60-65

## Chappell Hill Community

History of Chappell Hill .....	66
Interesting Historic Sites without Markers .....	67
Chappell Hill Map of Historical Marker Locations .....	68-69
Chappell Hill Historical Marker Descriptions .....	70-76

Index .....	77-78
Heritage Organizations & Resources .....	79

## PHOTO CREDITS

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# HISTORY OF TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS

The State of Texas first commemorated a historical site in 1856 by contributing to marking graves at the San Jacinto battleground. In 1858, the Legislature bought an existing Alamo monument, built in 1841 with stones gathered from the battle site. The ten-foot-high pyramid on a square pedestal was portable, and it traveled to Houston, New Orleans and Austin. Later, it was moved to the Capitol and ultimately destroyed in the 1881 fire that razed that building.

The 18th Texas Legislature appropriated funds for marble obelisks in tribute to Fannin's men at Goliad, Amon B. King's men at Refugio, and Dawson's Men at La Grange. The "Dawson's Men" and "Mier Prisoners" obelisk was placed in 1884 at the Fayette County Courthouse to honor the fallen men of the "Dawson Massacre" and the "Black Bean Lottery" of the Texas Revolution.

In 1894, the state also dedicated a monument at the gravesite of Thomas Rusk in Nacogdoches. This twenty-six-foot-high gray granite obelisk designed by the firm of Jaeggli and Martin of Brenham is inscribed, "Erected by the State of Texas to the Memory of Thomas J. Rusk, Who Fought for Her Liberty at San Jacinto...He Lived For Texas."

In 1909 the Legislature created the Texas State Library and Historical Commission, which collected materials related to Texas history, and marked historic sites and houses and secured their preservation. The 1910s were an active time for commemorating history in Texas and can be considered the beginning of a century of statewide historical markers and monuments.

In 1911, the Thirty-Second Legislature appropriated funds to memorialize both the Father of Texas and the first woman to receive an official state marker, with \$10,000 for Stephen F. Austin's grave at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, and \$2,000 for the grave of Elizabeth Crockett, wife of Alamo defender David Crockett, at Acton in Hood County.

From 1915-18, the State of Texas and the Daughters of the American Revolution together placed 123 pink granite markers about every five miles along the King's Highway, also known as Camino Real or Old San Antonio Road, the trail blazed in 1690 by Alonso de Leon. Most of these markers are still intact.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, historian and author Louis W. Kemp found the gravesites of dozens of forgotten prominent individuals of the Texas Revolution and Republic of Texas. Kemp coordinated reinterment of several of these Texas patriots to the Texas State Cemetery, and for them and many in their original graves, the state erected gray or pink granite monuments.

The most ambitious program to mark historic sites across the state came in the middle of the Great Depression. In 1936, the Texas Centennial Commission placed more than 1,100 markers and monuments around the state to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Texas Revolution and the establishment of the Republic of Texas.

The current Official Texas Historical Marker program dates to 1962, and it has been a popular means for interpreting local and state history and encouraging heritage tourism for more than four decades. There are now more than 17,000 state historical markers in Texas.



# HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

In November 1821 four families camped on the west bank of the Brazos River, near the site of present-day Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. Part of Stephen F. Austin's land grant from Mexico, the area was one of the earliest settled in Texas, marked off and named Washington. Pioneers from all parts of the United States and immigrants from Western Europe flocked to Austin's colony to take advantage of its liberal land grants.

As part of Mexico, Texas in 1831 was divided into three departments or municipalities: Bexar, Brazos and Nacogdoches. A petition to organize an additional municipality to be based in Washington was granted. An election then determined the residents who would attend the Consultation of 1835.

On March 2, 1836, a delegation of 59 men gathered at Washington-on-the-Brazos to determine what course of action to take to protect themselves from the tyrannical Mexican government that was ruling the land. A few days later, news of the massacre at the Alamo reached the men in Washington. Under Sam Houston's direction, the delegates carried out their mission to draft a Declaration of Independence and establish a constitution for a new nation. They declared Texas a "Free, Sovereign and Independent Republic."

On December 14, 1837, the Municipality of Washington finally became a county, declared so by the Congress of the Republic. It would be etched in the history books forever as the Birthplace of Texas. Brenham, the county seat, was established in 1844 and named for Dr. Richard Fox Brenham, a hero of the Texas Republic and the ill-fated Mier Expedition.

Washington County was an early hotbed of education, with Baylor University and Baylor Female College, Soule University, Chappell Hill Female College and Live Oak Seminary all operating in the area. The first school district in the state, the first high school and Blinn College would enhance the early focus on education.

In later years, from the vastness of Washington County nine new counties were carved, leaving the original county with the natural boundaries of the Brazos River on the east and Yegua Creek on the north. Cotton and corn were the staple crops, along with raising cattle

The history established by the early Texians has been carried over to the modern day. A replica of Independence Hall at Washington-on-the-Brazos – the simple building where delegates convened to establish a new country – anchors what will soon be a state-of-the-art State Historic Site. Archeological excavations, restoration of the museum at the site, and more, will bring Washington County history into sharp focus once again.

*Excerpts from "History of Washington County, Texas" by Charles F. Schmidt*







# HISTORY OF CITY OF BRENHAM

With the closest bustling city over an hour away, Washington County and its county seat, the historic town of Brenham, have been a getaway destination for Texans for years.

Brenham is the county seat for this historic and scenic region. The area was opened to settlement in 1821, one of the earliest settled areas in Texas. Pioneers from all parts of the United States and immigrants from Western Europe flocked to Austin's colony to take advantage of its liberal land grants.

Brenham was established in 1844 and named for Richard Fox Brenham, a hero of the Texas Republic and the Mier Expedition. Downtown Brenham is the heart and soul of the community and features a wide array of specialty shops clustered around the courthouse square. The downtown area also houses a variety of restaurants and entertainment venues, as well as Unity Theatre, the only professional theatre in the region.

Brenham's Main Street organization and other downtown groups host several annual events for visitors to enjoy, including the Uptown Swirl, Hot Nights Cool Tunes concerts and the Christmas Stroll. The area's German heritage is demonstrated at the annual Maifest Celebration.

An array of colorful murals on downtown buildings has inspired #BrenhamArtWalk, and the number of National Register markers on these same buildings has generated a self-guided Historic District Walking Tour.



*Cargo wagon, 1928  
Downtown Brenham*



*Central School, 1910. No longer standing.*



# INTERESTING HISTORIC SITES IN BRENHAM (WITHOUT HISTORICAL MARKERS)

## THE BARNHILL CENTER AT HISTORIC SIMON THEATRE

*111 West Main Street*

Built as a vaudeville theatre in 1925, The Barnhill Center at Historic Simon Theatre later became a movie theatre, and then home to a variety of businesses, including a Chinese restaurant, an auto sales office and today's Washington County Visitor Center. Renovation and restoration have brought the structure to its present-day glory as an entertainment venue.

## FLYING HORSES ANTIQUE CAROUSEL

*Fireman's Park, 901 North Park Street*

Fully restored, the carousel is one of six classic wooden carousels that exists in Texas and is the only example of a C. W. Parker carousel with Charles W. Dare horses. Originally discovered in a field in pieces, over the years many dedicated citizens of Brenham and Washington County have been involved in its care, maintenance, restoration and enjoyment.

## AMERICAN LEGION HALL

*903 North Park Street*

"Buddy Wright" Post 48 was organized in 1919. In 1936, this historic building was built of native rock quarried near Somerville. The hall is the home of many American Legion Post functions, as well as being available to the public.

## HENDERSON PARK

*804 Old North Market Street*

Originally named North End Park, this location has a vibrant and illustrious history. Its transformation into Henderson Park is integral to understanding the Black community in Brenham during the heart of the Jim Crow Era and knowing Mr. Ed "Daddy Ed" Henderson, an entrepreneur and avid supporter of his community. The Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) recently honored Henderson Park with the Lone Star Legacy Park designation.

## THE SCHOOLHOUSE HOTEL

*600 East Alamo Street*

Designed in 1883 Italianate style and featuring tall thin windows with arched hoodmolds, the building served as possibly the first public school in Texas. Its original 15-inch-thick brick walls sheltered students until 1909. Buildings of this age include many lives - an apartment complex, a home for squatters, and a private home, to name a few - before restoration/renovation to its current boutique hotel status.



*Union Depot, undated, Downtown Brenham  
No longer standing.*



11 12 13 14 15



TO BURTON



N. PARK

FM 2

MLK BLVD

VULCAN

W. MAIN ST.

W. ALAMO ST.

COMMERCE

BLINN BLVD.

PRAIRIE LEA

JACKSON

W. THIRD

S. PARK ST.

ANTIBAYLOR

MARKET

PRAIRIE LEA

COLLEGE

S. AUSTIN ST.

S. PARK ST.

LUBBOCK ST.

W. STONE ST.

FM 389



S. AUSTIN ST.

AIRLINE

CENTURY

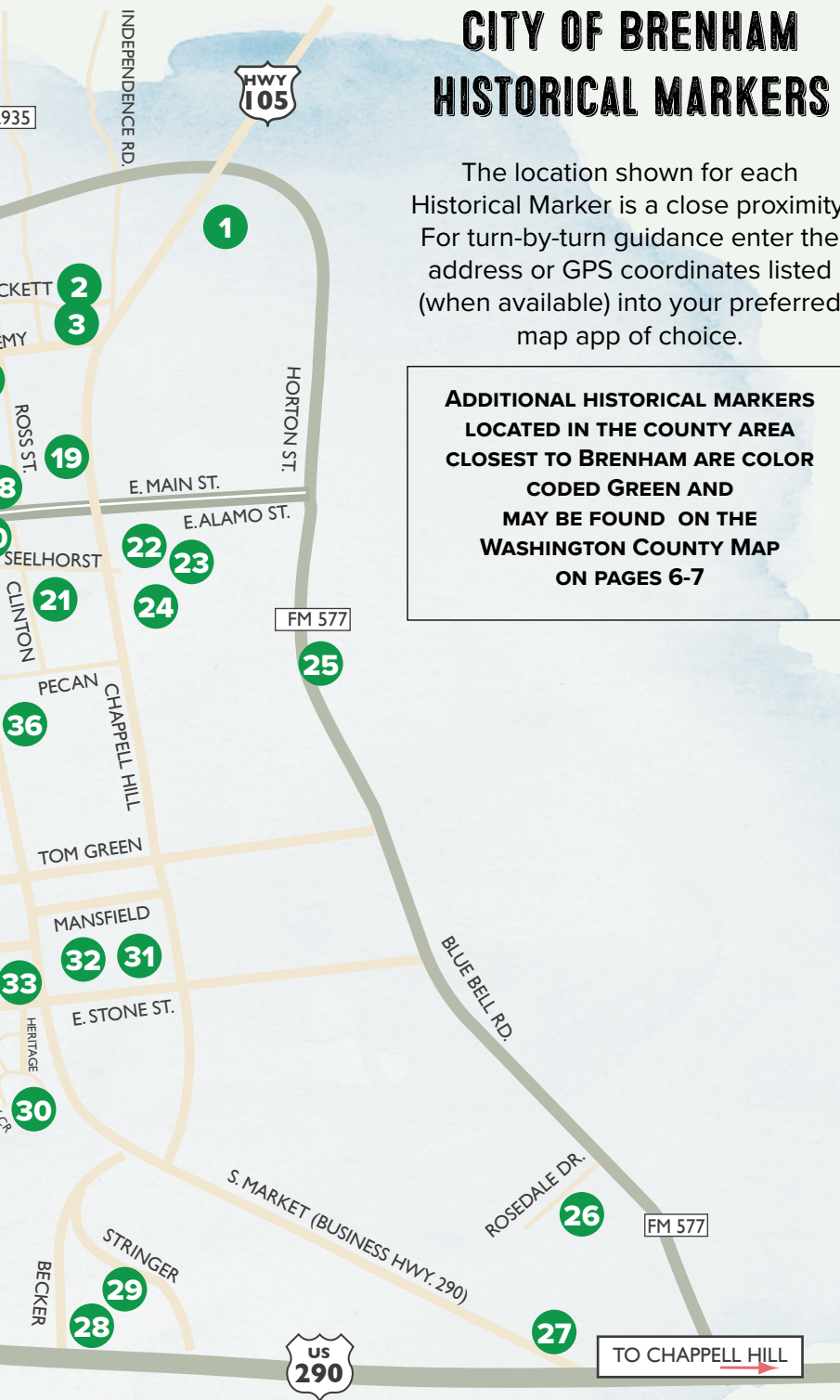
— MAP NOT TO SCALE —



# CITY OF BRENHAM HISTORICAL MARKERS

The location shown for each Historical Marker is a close proximity. For turn-by-turn guidance enter the address or GPS coordinates listed (when available) into your preferred map app of choice.

**ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL MARKERS  
LOCATED IN THE COUNTY AREA  
CLOSEST TO BRENHAM ARE COLOR  
CODED GREEN AND  
MAY BE FOUND ON THE  
WASHINGTON COUNTY MAP  
ON PAGES 6-7**



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **BRENHAM NORMAL & INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE**

**Brenham - 1504 Mount Olive Street; 30.1751, -96.3863**

Brenham's African American and Anglo community leaders first discussed the Brenham Normal and Industrial College (BNIC) in a public meeting in March 1905, when Daniel Porter (1863-1916) came to the area seeking land and a building to create a school for African Americans. The college was legally established on April 17, 1906, when it purchased acreage for their campus. Alonzo (A.L.) Sledge, a former slave, served as the President of the Board of Directors from 1906-1916. Sledge was elected as a State Representative, from Washington County, to the Texas Legislature in November 1878 and served from January 14, 1879, until January 11, 1881. The college's inaugural class began in 1905 with ten students.

By 1913, 130 students were enrolled. Classes from elementary to high school were offered as well as Normal School education, where the students could earn a certification to become school teachers. Additional classes included shorthand, typewriting, bookkeeping, commercial law, business arithmetic, correspondence, agriculture, horticulture, mechanics, and girls' industrial education department with sewing, housekeeping, cooking, laundering, food preparation, physiology and personal hygiene, piano, organ, and vocal music. The Brenham Normal and Industrial College discontinued its educational operations in 1927; however, the Theological Department continued to give certifications in pastoral leadership, ushers, deacons, religious ethics, Sunday school superintendents and teachers and evangelizing. The college is an important reminder of African American educational efforts in the early 20th century.



## **GIDDINGS-WILKIN HOUSE**

**Brenham - 805 Crockett Street; 30.1738, -96.392**

Jabez Deming Giddings (1814-1878) of Pennsylvania bought this land in 1837. A lawyer, businessman, and civic leader, he built this residence of hand-hewn cypress boards before his marriage in 1843 to Ann Tarver (1822-1907). An unusual rooftop reservoir held rainwater. Remodeled about 1870, the house was sold in 1871 to John B. Wilkin (1827-1913), whose family occupied it until 1942. Scheduled for demolition in 1972, it was bought and restored by the Heritage Society of Washington County.



## **SITE OF MASONIC ACADEMY**

**Brenham - 804 Crockett Street; 30.1733, -96.392**

Replaced Hickory Grove School, organized 1840. Land was given to Graham Lodge No. 20, A.F. & A.M.; lodge built Masonic Academy in 1849, only school in the area. Texas Public School Act of 1875 caused academy to close, and property sale proceeds were given to Brenham Public School.

# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **BRENHAM MASONIC CEMETERY**

**Brenham - 307 Duprie Drive; 30.1833, -96.3993**  
**Located on Old Masonic Road 1550**

*Northeast of intersections of A.H. Ehrig Drive, Old Masonic Drive and Business Highway 36*  
Numerous gravestones dating from the early 1840s indicate that this burial ground was in use well before December of 1847, when it was formally deeded to the Graham Masonic Lodge #20 by Chauncey B. Shepard (1812-1892). Brenham citizens buried many loved ones here in the later part of 1867 as an epidemic swept through the area; the site has been commonly known as the Yellow Fever Cemetery ever since. Laid to rest here are pioneers; veteran of the War of 1812, the Texas Revolution, and the Civil War; state and local lawmakers and officials; educators; and many others who formed Washington County's heritage.



## **THE BRENHAM MAIFEST**

**Brenham - Located at Fireman's Park in Brenham;**  
**30.1726785, -96.400517**

The Brenham Maifest has evolved from the German Volksfest, a spring festival carried to this area by German Texans who settled near Brenham. When the Brenham Fire Department assumed the duties of the Volksfest Association in 1880, the exclusively German celebration was opened to the public, and the name Maifest was adopted. With the exception of three years during World War I, the fire department organized the annual festival from 1880 until 1942. Discontinued during World War II, Maifest was revived in 1948, and by 1951 the Maifest Association was established, with proceeds from the festivities designated for the young people of Brenham.



## **BRENHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Brenham - 100 West Academy Street; 30.1707, -96.3994**

First in county. Founded 1901 and still maintained by Fortnightly literary club, with county and city support. All housing has been donated. First call for books brought 1,000 volumes. In 1934 occupied present quarters built by the city.



## **B'NAI ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE**

**Brenham - 302 Noth Park - Site; 30.168056, -96.398056**

Built 1893 for one of first Orthodox congregations in Texas. Founded 1885. Still serves the community. Strict Hebrew worship with segregation of men and women, no instrumental music, dietary laws and total historic prayer book adherence.



## **FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**

**Brenham - 408 North Baylor Street; 30.1701, -96.3976**

Brenham's first church; was established year Brenham founded, 1844. Early member R. B. Wells wrote and published "Christian Advocate", church magazine of Texas Methodists here in 1846. By 1868 church had reached such stature that the Texas Methodist Conference met here. Group built Giddings Memorial Church in 1879 to honor J. D. Giddings, early settler who organized church. In 1939 merged with Fourth Street Methodist Church, German Methodist group which began in 1872 as New Mission Field. German group established Blinn College in 1883.



# BREHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

**Brenham - 304 North Market Street; 30.1696, -96.3962**

Organized Dec. 20, 1846, as New Year's Creek Church, at a school house in Allcorn area. Founders were Judge R. E. B. Baylor, W. W. Buster, and Hosea Garrett. Rev. A. D. Fisher was chosen as the church's first pastor in 1847. In 1848, the year Texas Baptist Convention was formed, Baylor University's first president, Rev. Henry L. Graves, became the pastor of this church.

Church moved to Brenham, 1853, and name was changed. A large sanctuary built in 1892 was destroyed by fire Dec. 10, 1952. Church rebuilt, and fellowship hall was added by June 1954.



## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF BREHAM

**Brenham - 306 Cottonwood; 30.17001, -96.3956**

Organized with 18 members in 1877, this congregation grew out of the early missionary efforts of A. J. Bush and W. J. Jones. Many prominent Washington County settlers were among its earliest members. The fellowship worshiped at various locations until this sanctuary was completed in 1898. Constructed by noted local builder Alex Griffin, the Gothic Revival church building features round arched and lancet windows and an elaborate tower.



## WASHINGTON COUNTY C.S.A.

**Brenham - Washington County Courthouse Grounds  
30.166944, -96.3975**

Washington County was the most populous in the state during the Civil War. It served as a center for production, warehousing, transportation and communications, and had a large quartermaster depot. Local wartime factories made spinning jennies, lumber, pots, kettles, wagons and army ambulances. Government cotton was held in Brenham, one of four state depots. From here, wagons and carts hauled it to Mexico in exchange for vital military and civilian supplies. Brenham, terminus of rail connections to Houston, was alive with troops, stagecoaches and freighters. Here, the early morning train was met by a pony express operation that carried the Houston Telegraph to Austin so that town's Gazette might publish the latest war news in the state capitol.

A Confederate paper shortage forced the Brenham Banner to suspend publication. In nearby Washington-on-the-Brazos, however, Eva Lancaster never missed an issue, printing The Texas Ranger while her husband and two sons spent four years fighting for the South. Cavalry, infantry and artillery units from Washington County fought on all fronts during the war. Waul's Legion organized and trained in the county, and Brenham served as the headquarters for the reserve corps of Texas. Additionally, Gen. Jerome Roberston of Independence led the celebrated Hood's Texas Brigade for seventeen months. (1965)

# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## TEXAS CONFEDERATE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

**Brenham - Courthouse Square: 30.166944, -96.3975**

*East Alamo between Park and Baylor Streets*

Composed of a chief justice (now county judge) and four county commissioners, these elected governing boards directed vital Civil War programs. Provided arms, clothing, horses and saddles for troops from county. Gave aid to wartime factories. Obtained and distributed to soldiers' families scarce medicine, food, cloth, salt, and cotton and wool cards.

County patrols and home guards were set up in many counties and supplied lead, powder, gun caps to guard against the enemy, Indians and bandits.

Funds were raised by issuing bonds and scrip and assessing a special war tax on property. Tax credits were given to citizens for contributions to soldiers' dependents. Unbranded cattle were gathered and sold to benefit orphans and widows.

Rich, heavily-populated Washington County through its court financed hospitals in Hempstead and Chappell Hill; contracted the making of army uniforms; bought kegs of powder and held gun inspections to maintain home defenses; printed county scrip in 50 (cents), \$1, \$2, \$3 bills; established at Old Mt. Vernon a camp of instruction and in Brenham a soldiers home.

Judges, commissioners and other dedicated public officials did much to strengthen Texas' war effort.



## THE BRENHAM MAIFEST

**Brenham - Courthouse Square, East Alamo and South Park Streets;  
30.166944, -96.3975**

The Brenham Maifest has evolved from the German Volksfest, a spring festival carried to this area by German Texans who settled near Brenham. When the Brenham Fire Department assumed the duties of the Volksfest Association in 1880, the exclusively German celebration was opened to the public, and the name Maifest was adopted. With the exception of three years during World War I, the fire department organized the annual festival from 1880 until 1942. Discontinued During World War II, Maifest was revived in 1948, and by 1951 the Maifest Association was established, with proceeds from the festivities designated for the young people of Brenham.

Maifest activities begin in February with a serenade and presentation of the Maifest Queens and Kings. Later, on a May weekend, the Maifest Royalties, selected for outstanding leadership from among the city's young people, are formally crowned in Fireman's Park. The weekend includes dances, parades, and a Maifestival with food, games, and demonstrations.

Many of the early German traditions are still visible in the annual Brenham Maifest. This cultural continuity, practiced for more than 100 years, provides an important historical link to a rich heritage.



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Brenham - 105 East Main Street; 30.1676, -96.3979

*Between South Park and Baylor Streets*

Built in 1940 with funds granted by the Public Works Administration, this is the 4th courthouse to serve Washington County since its formation in 1835. Constructed during the tenure of County Judge Sam Low, the massive white limestone courthouse was designed in the Art Moderne style. Details include the light fixtures and cast aluminum eagles at the entries. The building stands as a symbol of the Washington County government.



## FORMER BANK BUILDING OF GIDDINGS & GIDDINGS

Brenham - 116 South Park Street; 30.1668, -96.3981

*Corner of South Park and East Alamo*

A private firm; Brenham's first bank, founded 1866 by lawyer-brothers J. D. and D. C. Giddings. This building was erected 1872 for bank, with Brenham Chapter No. 5, Royal Arch Masons, owning third floor. Bank closed in 1945.



## BASSETT AND BASSETT BANKING HOUSE

Brenham - 222 East Main Street; 30.1675, -96.3964

Benjamin H. and Thomas J. Bassett opened their newly-created bank and located their law office in this building soon after its completion in 1873. Built with bricks manufactured by the local Wild & Co. Brickyard, the Italianate structure housed the bank until it closed in 1884. An important Brenham landmark, the building features round arches and stucco hood moldings at door and window openings. The third story was added in the early 1900s.



## SITE OF OLD ST. ANTHONY HOTEL

Brenham - 301 East Main Street; 30.1681, -96.3962

*Northeast corner of East Main and South Market Streets (facing Main)*

Center of Brenham hospitality for 122 years. Originally a two-story log stage depot adjoined by a log cabin complex called the Washington County Hotel.

Changed owners several times through the years. General Sam Houston once stayed here while campaigning against secession.

Renamed St. Anthony Hotel 1914 by new owner Mrs. A. A. Hacker who did extensive remodeling. Served as a transfer station for train passengers and as a bus terminal. Her hotel was noted for more than 30 years for its hospitality and annual Christmas Day open house and eggnog party.



## ROSS-CARROLL HOUSE

Brenham - 515 East Main Street; 30.1686, -96.3935

About 1899, Mary (Dwyer) Ross built this house on land she inherited from her father, Thomas Dwyer. Built of cypress, the Queen Anne style house features Victorian ornamentation in its open tower, a second level porch with horseshoe arches, and jigsawn friezes and brackets. Mary's daughter Matilda (Ross) Carroll inherited the house in 1941, and it remained in the family until 1970.





# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## BRENHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Brenham - 101 Chappell Hill Road; 30.1693, -96.391

Two volunteer organizations, Brenham Hook and Ladder Co. and the Fire Protection Co., were started May 28, 1867, ostensibly to fight fires. In reality they were also military companies to suppress lawlessness until in 1874 Reconstruction ended.

In 1875 a fire alarm bell and in 1880 a 50-gallon cistern were installed on courthouse square. The second steam fire engine in Texas was purchased in 1878.

In 1881, firemen sponsored the First Annual Brenham Maifest, then continued it 60 years. In 1884 they built for the event a pavilion in Fireman's Park.



## FIRST PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN BRENHAM

Brenham - 606 East Alamo Street; 30.1675, -96.393

*Marker Missing*

Established in Independent School District No. 1, in 1875. First free public high school in Texas to be set up under Landmark School Law of 1875. Nine grades were offered, with scientific or classical courses of study in high school. German was available for all grades. This building was erected in 1883, with 15-inch brick walls, cedar beams, and plaster mixed with cow hair. Windows and doors have marble arches and sills.



## SEELHORST-LEHRMANN HOUSE

Brenham - 702 Seelhorst Street; 30.1658, -96.392

Handsome Victorian residence with 18' x 18' ground floor rooms; 13" plastered brick walls; and a copper roof from which rain is piped to cistern on back porch.

Constructed about 1879 by W. E. Seelhorst, a German settler who built many fine Brenham houses.

About 1883 a nephew Adolph and wife, Louisa (Winterfelt) Seelhorst, moved here. Their family owned the house 1891-1944. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lehrmann purchased it in 1944.



## MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Brenham - 500 High Street; 30.162, -96.4071

*Corner of West First Street and High Street*

After emancipation in 1865, African American families settled on the west side of Brenham and established Watrousville. In 1877, Reverend J.R. Smith conducted services under a brush arbor and the congregation became known as Mt. Zion Colored Episcopal Methodist Church. In March 1878, land was purchased on this site and the church constructed. During the 1920s, the church became known as Mt. Zion Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1926, because of high damaging winds the church was rebuilt minus the basement. A new fellowship hall was dedicated on June 3, 1984. The church stands on what is known as Heritage Corner and, in 1990, entered into the National Register of Historic Places



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## CAMPTOWN CEMETERY

Brenham - Cardinal Street; 30.1695467, -96.4021752

*Mangrum Street, east of Kerr Street*

This burial ground is the oldest predominantly African American cemetery in Brenham. It dates from the 1860s and historically has been associated with the nearby Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church. After the Civil War former Washington County slaves, many of whom also organized Mount Rose and St. John A. M. E. Churches, relocated to the wooded area of what became known as the Camptown addition. The name is derived from the federal troops who camped here from 1865-68 to keep peace between emancipated blacks and landowners. A surveyed map of the post dated July 1868 shows the cemetery already in use, just north of the Washington County Railroad near Hog Branch.

The 17th infantry troops maintained a sense of community with the residents of Camptown, offering their dining hall to host worship on Sundays. Among the estimated 400 burials here may be soldiers who were victims of yellow fever outbreaks in 1866-67. At least 40 former slaves are known to be buried in Camptown cemetery, including several from the Seward Plantation. Caroline Seward (1811-1902) is also buried here, as is Waltman Bynum (1873-81), whose headstone has the oldest marked date. The cemetery is still in use, but activity declined over the years as additional burial options for African Americans (Walker Cemetery, 1895; Home Improvement Community Cemetery, 1900; Willow Grove Cemetery, 1915) became available. In recent years, after the site had become overgrown and neglected, Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church has taken a more active role in the cemetery's restoration and maintenance. Camptown Cemetery remains hallowed ground and a precious record of the early history of the community.



## MOUNT ROSE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Brenham - 204 Kerr Street; 30.1679, -96.3885

This historic church, the oldest African American Baptist congregation in Brenham and one of the first in Washington County, has its origins in secret meetings held by runaway slaves and freedmen in the 1850s. After the Civil War, federal troops were posted near this site in an area called Camptown. The presence of the 17th Infantry Division and an Office of the Freedmen's Bureau ensured freedom of religious expression for emancipated blacks in Brenham. First Baptist Church of Brenham offered letters of membership to the freed blacks, but they wanted to form their own church. Mount Rose was formally organized in 1868, led by Rev. Joe Lawson and Rev. James McBride. When U. S. Troops left, their land was sold and proceeds divided between Mount Rose and St. John A. M. E. Churches. The church is named for Rose Armstead-Whitaker, a founding member who contributed much of her time and finances.

Good Hope Missionary Baptist District Association organized under a chinaberry tree on the present Mount Rose Campus in 1870. For several years, church services were held in brush arbors, in nearby homes, and finally, in the soldiers' dining hall at Camptown. Mount Rose and St. John A. M. E. held services there on alternating Sundays. The first permanent sanctuary was built in 1874, under Rev. Alfred Parker's tenure. Mount Rose joined the Lincoln District Baptist Association in 1878 and remained a member for more than 130 years. Mount Rose has enjoyed continuity in increasingly larger facilities on the same site since its organization. The two longest-serving pastors were Rev. Moses Johnson (1876-98) and Rev. J. Emerson Dennis (1946-97). The leadership and members of Mount Rose have made significant contributions to the religious, educational and social history of Brenham.



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **BLUE BELL CREAMERIES**

**Brenham - 1101 South Blue Bell Road; 30.1636, -96.3797**

In August 1907, the Brenham Creamery Company formed to purchase excess dairy products from farmers and produce butter for local sales. In 1911, the creamery began making ice cream, producing a maximum of two gallons each day. E.F. Kruse, who managed the creamery from 1919 to 1951, changed the company's name to Blue Bell Creameries in 1930. During the company's early years, management set the tone for careful business practices and respect for tradition. Under the Kruse family's leadership, business expanded into markets outside of Brenham. Blue Bell has become one of the nation's most successful ice cream brands with a focus on its "country" origins, quality ingredients and friendly service.



## **ROSEDALE NURSERY**

**Brenham - 30.1617457, -96.3991384**

*2400 block East Rosedale Drive, near intersection with FM 577*

Established around 1860 by English immigrant William H. Watson as the state's first commercial nursery, Rosedale grew from three acres in Brenham to 200 acres southeast of the town by 1897. At Rosedale, Watson specialized in peach and grape cultivars. The nursery's 31-page catalog for the 1869-70 season revealed that Watson stocked not only fruit trees and grape vines, but also numerous ornamental plants. In 1874, he produced the "Rosedale Hybrid" arborvitae. Over the years, Rosedale employed several professional gardeners who trained at England's Royal Botanic Kew Gardens. Watson's sons continued the business into the 20th century.



## **BRENHAM - FOUNDED 1843**

**Brenham -**

*Northeast corner of the intersection of Business 290 at US 290,  
Southeast limits of Brenham*

Founded 1843. Named for Dr. Richard Fox Brenham (1810-1843), Republic of Texas patriot.

Railhead and supply center in Civil War.

Blinn Memorial College founded here, 1883.

Center for farming, trade and manufacturing.

Home of famous annual Maifest, colorful folk tradition.



# BREHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## GERMANIA MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION

**Brenham - 507 Highway 290 East; 30.1438, -96.3866**

*507 East US 290 (on westbound side) in front of Germania Insurance*

In 1894 Bartlett, Texas, merchant L. A. Niebuhr presented Waco attorney E. W. Hander with a plan to establish a farm mutual aid association to provide farmers insurance against losses due to fire, lightning, and storms. Hander initially dismissed Niebuhr's plan but in 1896 he agreed to draw up a constitution for the association.

The organization of the Germania Mutual Aid Association took place in a schoolhouse in Perry, Texas, on August 31, 1896, with 34 members. Businessman Otto Rau was chosen president; Hander, vice president; and Niebuhr, secretary. By early 1897 the association consisted of 116 members and seven local chapters. Niebuhr moved to Brenham and established the association's office in a building on his property in 1898. The association, which had grown to 160 local chapters insuring 9,349 members by 1926, erected a new office building in 1927.

Insurance coverage for hail hazards was added in 1934, gas explosions in 1938, theft in 1967, and vandalism in 1970. Stock companies were organized in 1979 and 1983 to write liability and life insurance.

The association's name was changed to Germania Farm Mutual Aid Association in 1960 and Germania Farm Mutual Insurance Association in 1982. By the end of 1994 the association's membership stood at 144,918.



## 100TH ANNIVERSARY BREHAM BANNER PRESS (1866-1966)

**Brenham - 2000 Stringer Street; 30.1453, -96.3857**

Founded Jan. 1, 1866, as weekly "Southern Banner," by Dan McGary and John C. Rankin, Confederate veterans. For his independent policies, editor McGary was jailed that year; shop and nearby businesses burned. But paper survived; became a daily in 1876.

"Banner" was merged with "Press" in 1912 by George Meu. Mrs. Ruby Robertson, on staff in 1912, in 1917 became first woman in Texas to edit a daily. Jim Byrd, production superintendent, has been on force since 1921.

Ben F. Blanton, a newspaperman since 1939, became editor and publisher on Feb. 1, 1962.



## GIDDINGS-STONE MANSION

**Brenham - 2203 Century Circle; 30.1514, -96.392**

*Just off East Stone Street, at the corner of Century Circle and Heritage Drive*

This house was completed in 1870 for prominent Brenham banker, lawyer, and landowner Jabez Giddings (1814-1878) (for whom Giddings, Texas, is named) and his wife Ann (1822-1902). It was later owned by their daughter, Mary Louise, and her husband, Heber Stone, the son of Galveston Mayor Dewitt Stone. It is a late example of the Greek Revival style and features a center passage plan and a five-bay, two-story porch with Doric columns. Late 19th-century modifications include metal balusters on the second floor, a side porch with smaller columns, and servants wing at the rear.

# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## MILROY'S GARDEN AND ORCHARD

Brenham - 701 Milroy Drive; 30.1539, -96.3878

*10 feet from the corner of Milroy Drive and Scott Street*

Born in Liverpool of Scots parents, Alexander Douglas Milroy immigrated to Houston in 1877 to work in a cotton exporting business. After amassing wealth in the cotton trade, Milroy settled with his family in Brenham in 1893. There he fulfilled his dream of having a country retreat. On forty acres near Brenham, he created an English-style country garden with bridle paths, a carriage house and an orchard of fruit and nut trees imported from England. Surrounded by a thick hedge of thorny plants, the orchard was cared for by an English gardener. Milroy died in 1931, at age 72 years, and was buried in the Prairie Lea Cemetery. In the 1950s, his orchard became the Walnut Hill Subdivision.



## WILLIAM H. WATSON

Brenham - Corner of Scott & Milroy Drive; 30.1633548, -96.4022142

*Next to Milroy's Garden & Orchard Marker*

One of the most influential horticulturists in Texas, William H. Watson was born in Ireland in 1837. He migrated to America in 1853 and moved to Texas by 1859. He and his wife, Sarah Warren, settled in Brenham where he established Rosedale Nursery by 1860. Beginning in the 1870's, Watson helped bring in other horticulturists to Texas such as William Falconer and W.A Yates. His Rosedale Arborvitae hybrid plant garnered much attention. In 1875 Watson served as vice president of the Texas Horticultural and Pomological Association. He was later elected president of the Texas State Horticulture Society in 1889. William died in 1897 but his work is still remembered for its impact on plant study in Texas.



## CITY OF BRENHAM

Brenham - South Market & East Stone Street; 30.1623011, -96.40058

*South Market at East Stone Street in traffic triangle*

Established in 1844; named in honor of Dr. Richard Fox Brenham; 1810-1843, surgeon in the army of the Republic of Texas; member of the Mier Expedition; killed at Salado, Mexico; February 11, 1843.



## HASSKARL HOUSE-"FAR VIEW"

Brenham - 1804 South Park Street; 30.1525, -96.3946

Impressive views led Dr. Walter F. Hasskarl (1885-1965) to buy this site. Noted Houston architect Alfred C. Finn designed and local contractor J. R. Nix built this house in 1925. It presents a blend of Prairie School influence (horizontal composition and broad eaves) and the classical style (arched loggia, terrace, and screenwork). Dr. Hasskarl served as Washington County Health Officer for 51 years. The house remained in the Hasskarl family until 1992.



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Brenham - 2310 Airline Drive; 30.1468, -96.3953

*At the corner of Hillcrest and Airline Roads*

Founded among Austin colony settlers. Parish, fourth oldest in Texas, organized May 2, 1848, by missionary Bishop Geo. W. Freeman, of Arkansas.

Rebuilt. Dedicated June 29, 1965, by Bishop J. M. Richardson.



## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN COLLEGES OF TEXAS

Brenham - 801 South Market Street; 30.1618, -96.3941

*Pecan at Market Street*

The first Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Texas was organized in 1851 by eight pastors who would gather fellow immigrants from Europe in congregations.

Synod bought an existing campus at Rutersville in 1872 and operated her German-American College there until 1881 with Pastor H. Merz as president. In 1891 the Synod acquired a school plant on this site and established her Evangelical Lutheran College here. The courses were preparatory, commercial, teacher training, and classical. A dormitory for boys stood at Pecan and Clinton. Successive administrators were Pastors G. Langner, O. Hartmann, J. H. Romberg, E. Gerfen, F. Zimmermann. Synod closed the college in 1906, then founded an Evangelical Lutheran Pro-seminar on this campus to specialize in training students for entrance to a theological seminary. Launched Sept. 18, 1906, it prospered for six years under leadership of Pastor C. Weeber. Synod's fourth venture in field of higher education blossomed on Sept. 10, 1912, at Seguin, with the dedication of a new institution known later as Texas Lutheran College. Pastor C. Weeber, first president, served until 1929, raising its status to the rank of a junior college.



## SOUTHERN PACIFIC FREIGHT DEPOT

Brenham - 303 South Market Street; 30.1661, -96.3956

In the early 1860s, local residents built a county rail line to connect to the Houston & Texas Central Railway, which bought the line in 1869. Brenham became a regional distribution center, and its population grew dramatically. Circa 1916, the H&TC, then owned by Southern Pacific Railroad Co., built this depot. Southern Pacific maintained a presence in Brenham until 1975. The brick rectangular building retains its original brick and limestone stringcourses and Prairie School influenced corbelled pendants. Today it serves as a reminder of the town's early growth as a railroad center.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 2003



## SCHMID BROS. BUILDING

Brenham - 103 West Commerce Street; 30.1677712, -96.4016272

Swiss immigrant Josef Schmid began a mercantile business in Brenham in 1880. He was joined by his brothers Benjamin and Sigmund to form Schmid Bros. in 1889, and in 1899-1900 they erected this building to house their business enterprises. Built in the Renaissance Revival style, it features multi-bay configurations on both floors and round-arched windows with hood moldings. Sold by Schmid Bros. in 1934, it has remained a vital part of Brenham's business district.



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## SITE OF REES SANITARIUM

**Brenham - 705 South Austin Street; 30.1617, -96.3984**

Brenham's first hospital. Dr. H. Clay Rees (1864-1914), president of a Waco medical and surgical clinic, built (1897) a 2-story sanitarium on this site. Dispensary and surgery were in a detached building. By 19th century standards, this was an advanced medical complex. But strained by his work here and in Waco, Dr. Rees' health failed. He moved to Kerrville. Enlightened by his pioneering, however, Brenham has had hospitals continuously since 1910. H. Gardner, purchaser of the sanitarium, remodeled it into a residence. Four generations of the Gardner-Robertson-Burgess Family lived (1900-69) in the house.



## ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Brenham - 305 West Third Street; 30.1613, -96.3994**

German immigrants began settling in Washington County in the 1840s. The first German Lutheran congregation began in 1855 in the community of Berlin.

The growing German Lutheran community in Brenham organized this congregation, first known as the German Evangelical Lutheran Church, in 1890 and called The Rev. Gottlieb Langner to serve as pastor. Worship services were held in the local Presbyterian church until a Lutheran sanctuary was built in 1891. It was destroyed in the September 1900 storm which also devastated Galveston and the Texas Gulf Coast. By the end of the year, however, the cornerstone was laid for a new structure.

Worship services were conducted exclusively in the German language until 1902. The name of the congregation officially was changed to St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1915. Continued growth led to the need for larger facilities, and the membership hired Houston architect Alfred C. Finn to design a new sanctuary which was dedicated at this site in 1925. It later was enlarged and remodeled.

Throughout its history, this church has been involved in civic activities and charitable endeavors. It remains an integral part of the community.



## THE WOOD-HUGHES HOUSE

**Brenham - 614 South Austin Street; 30.162, -96.3992**

W. A. Wood (1851-1909) and his wife Fannie (Wheeler) built this house in 1897. A lumber yard owner, Wood used fine materials--oak, heart pine, Louisiana cypress--and had siding milled to simulate cut stone. This is an excellent example of late Victorian residential architecture.

Home was sold 1913 to planter-rancher Henry W. Hughes (1865-1935) and wife Bess (Thornhill), whose family owned it 58 years, selling in 1971 to Kenneth E. and Fonda (Clark) Rich, who call it "Clarich."



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## HOGAN FUNERAL HOME

**Brenham - 1002 West Alamo Street; 30.1645, -96.4092**

In 1914, noted Texas educator Columbus H. Hogan became a founding partner in the Washington County Undertaking Co. on South Park Street in Brenham. It was then the only funeral home in the county for African Americans. Hogan later became sole proprietor and changed the name to Hogan Funeral Home. The vital community business offered ambulance service to other cities including Houston and Galveston, since local hospitals were segregated at the time. The family business continued with son Booker T. Hogan, Sr. taking over in 1935 and moving it to West Main Street four years later. C.H. Hogan, an active civic, fraternal and religious leader, also dedicated land for nearby Willow Grove Cemetery. (2007) Marker is property of the state of Texas.



## THE SCHUERENBERG HOUSE

**Brenham - 503 West Alamo Street; 30.1653, -96.4032**

Local blacksmith and hardware merchant Frederick William Schuerenberg, II, and his wife, Bertha Reichardt, lived in this house with their family. Built in 1895 by local contractor Alex Griffin, the house is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style. Hallmark features include a 7-bay wraparound porch, decorative wood detailing, and a turret. The house remained in the family until 1993.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1996



## PAMPELL-DAY HOMESTEAD

**Brenham - 409 West Alamo Street; 30.1655, -96.4026**

Built 1844. Native pine and sand brick. Hudson River style front wing added in 1875 by T. J. Pampell, Civil War veteran, owner of store and mule-drawn street cars.

Home of Pampells and Days for three generations. Owned by Mrs. Edwina Day Hallstein.



## WITTBECKER-WEISS HOUSE

**Brenham - 600 West Third Street; 30.1613, -96.4035**

Home builder and lumber company owner Frank Wood built this house in 1895 and later that year sold it to bakery owners H. G. and Annie Wittbecker. A late 19th-century L-plan Victorian dwelling, the house features fan-shaped porch brackets, wood shingled gable ends, decorative bargeboards, heavily embellished corner brackets on the front gable, and turned-wood columns. Merchant Robert Weiss acquired the house in 1920 and it remained in his family until 1982.



## BRENHAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Brenham - 900 South Jackson Street; 30.1595, -96.4031**

This fellowship was founded in 1877 by The Rev. Warner B. Riggs and a small group of charter members. Within three years there were more than fifty names on the church roll, and a sanctuary had been erected on West Main Street. Despite financial hardships that forced Brenham Presbyterian Church to close for eight years, the congregation continued to provide service and leadership to the community. The present sanctuary, erected in 1913 by the Fourth St. Methodist Church, has served the congregation since 1951.





# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **BLINN COLLEGE OLD MAIN BUILDING**

**Brenham - 806 College Avenue; 30.1596, -96.4054**

*800 block of College Avenue, on Old Main Building Blinn College Campus*

Founded as "Mission Institute", March 28, 1883. Methodist affiliated.

1887 gift of Rev. Christian Blinn of New York built main hall. Name was changed 1889 to Blinn Memorial. This main building erected 1906.

Became junior college, 1927.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark



## **GEORGE WASHINGTON PETTY**

**Brenham - 1004 Prairie Lea Street; 30.1563, -96.4067**

*Prairie Lea Cemetery, Prairie Lea and 6th Streets, the grave is halfway down 8th Street from the entrance to the left*

A San Jacinto veteran; Born in Tennessee; April 7, 1812;  
Died July 27, 1901.



## **MILAS ROBERSON "BURNEY" PARKER**

**Brenham - 1004 Prairie Lea Street; 30.1563, -96.4067**

*Prairie Lea Cemetery, Prairie Lea and 6th Streets, marker in southwest corner of cemetery*

A native Texan and the grandson of a pioneer Nueces County sheriff, Milas Roberson "Burney" Parker grew up in Lee and Washington counties. He served as Washington County Road Superintendent for fourteen years before he was elected county treasurer in 1908. He resigned that office in 1914 to run for sheriff, a position he held during the difficult period of World War I and Prohibition. In 1926 Parker and his family moved to Houston, where he died in 1932.



## **MOSES BAINE**

**Brenham - 1004 Prairie Lea Street; 30.1563, -96.4067**

*Prairie Lea Cemetery, Prairie Lea and 6th Streets, grave is halfway down 8th Street from entrance (to the left), Brenham.*

A native of Ireland, Moses Baine came to the United States in 1819. In 1830 Baine and his wife, Cecilia (Inglesby), joined Stephen F. Austin's colony at San Felipe. A veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto, Baine established a permanent home near Brenham in 1837. He later participated in the Somervell Expedition as a member of the Republic of Texas army. Baine returned to his home in 1843 and became a successful stock raiser and farmer.



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## PRAIRIE LEA CEMETERY

**Brenham - 1004 Prairie Lea Street; 30.1563, -96.4067**

Graves in this historic cemetery date from the 1840s, although trustees of the Brenham Cemetery Association did not formally set aside the property until 1871. It came into operation following concern the earlier Masonic Cemetery would soon reach capacity, given the large number of yellow fever victims in the late 1860s. Trustees purchased the initial 22.77 acres here from J.D. Giddings.

Among those buried in Prairie Lea are veterans of military conflicts dating to the Texas Revolution. Notable gravesites include those of brothers Jabez Demming and Dewitt Clinton Giddings, prominent local lawyers, bankers, railroad promoters and politicians. Influential religious leaders buried here are Carl A. Urbantke, an Austrian-born Methodist minister instrumental in formation of what became Blinn College, and Robert Alexander, also a Methodist preacher, and a founder of Georgetown's Texas University, forerunner of Southwestern University. Others interred here are Thomas B. Dwyer, a native of Ireland who aided Catholic missionaries, helped establish St. Mary's Parish and started a reading room and Free Library Association that led to the Brenham Public Library; powerful U.S. Congressman James Paul Buchanan, for whom Lake Buchanan on the Colorado River in central Texas is named; and Confederate General John David McAdoo, a Texas Supreme Court Justice.

Interesting features in Prairie Lea Cemetery include tombstones with German inscriptions, reflecting the area's early heritage, and Rest Chapel, built in 1897. Both contribute to the site's significance as a valued historical landmark.

Historic Texas Cemetery - 2006



## EBEN-EZER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Brenham - 356 South Berlin Road; 30.167, -96.4478**

*From Brenham, take US 290 West about 3 1/2 miles to Berlin Road, and go southwest about 3/10 mile to church on the west side of the road. Located 4 miles west of Brenham off US 290; and .5 miles south of Berlin Road.*

Spiritual center of the Berlin community which was settled by Germans in 1847. On a missionary visit, Dec. 24, 1854, The Rev. Johann Ebinger (1828-1908) of Harris County held earliest Lutheran service in Washington County. On July 1, 1855, he founded Eben-Ezer Church with William C. Bohne, F. H. Ehlert, F. F. Spreen and others as trustees. Ludwig C. Lehmann (1794-1855) donated 11-acre church site. Landowners gave post oak logs, renters gave labor for building first church, incorporating a parsonage. The early pastors taught school in that first church building.



## LOUIS LEHMANN HOUSE

**Brenham - 2470 S. Berlin Rd.; 30.1439, -96.464**

This pioneer Berlin community home dates from the 1870s. German native Louis Lehmann, Sr. built the house for his wife Friederike (Clausmeier) and their children. Louis was a leader in Ebenezer Lutheran Church, served in the Confederate Army and was elected President of the local agricultural association in 1874. Longleaf pine and cedar form the framing and siding of the house, with tree trunks beneath the house axe-grooved for foundation cross beams. Early additions attached rooms and porches to the original center passage layout. The house remained in the Lehmann family until 1945.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark-2008.



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## SALEM SCHOOL

Brenham - 1600 Salem Road; 30.1212, -96.415

*0.1 mile west of FM 3456 on Salem Road; 200 feet from Salem Lutheran Church*

no information



## SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Brenham - 1500 Salem Road; 30.1224, -96.4139

*From Brenham, take FM 389 0.7 miles west (from US 290) to FM 332, go south on 332 about 1.1 miles to FM 3456, and go southeast on FM 3456 about 1.2 miles to church.* This church was organized in the Salem community on Nov. 22, 1856, by The Rev. Johann G. Ebinger and 17 charter members. Worship services were first held in a log cabin on land deeded by Wilhelm Bohne (.3 mi. SW). In 1913 the church moved to the present site. The second oldest German Lutheran congregation in Washington County, Salem Lutheran Church has led in the development of the area. Programs have included sponsorship of a cemetery (1869), a school (1886), Sunday School (1897), Women's Auxiliary (1897), Luther League (1900), and Junior Lutherans (1947).



## PLEASANT HILL SCHOOL

Brenham - 500 Pleasant Hill School Road; 30.1109871, -96.395176

*4 miles south of Brenham on Highway 36; right on Pleasant Hill School Road;*

*1/4 mile to site*

no information



## BETHLEHEM CEMETERY

Brenham - 30.1442854, -96.5387502

*From Brenham, take FM 389 about 5.5 miles southwest to CR 19*

*(Boehnmann Road.), (to northwest about 1 mile to the cemetery).*

Located on land granted to Josiah Lester by the Mexican government prior to Texas independence, this cemetery began in the 1850s after subsequent land-owner Erwin Brown set aside land for a school and church. The site also served as a community burial ground, and the earliest documented grave is that of Susan J. Burdett, who died in 1854 at age 39. Also located here are a number of children's graves, attesting to the often harsh conditions of frontier life. The cemetery remains as a visible reminder of Washington County's pioneer heritage.



## WESLEY BRETHREN CHURCH

Brenham - 9453 Wesley Church Lane; 30.0683, -96.5005

*Located .5 miles down Wesley Church Lane off FM 332*

First congregation in Texas of the Czech-Moravian Brethren. Organized in 1864 by Rev. Joseph Opcensky. Ministry had begun in homes, with settlers coming as far as 20 miles to worship. Their first church was built in 1866 principally of hand-hewn logs. Necessary lumber was hauled by ox carts from Galveston. Native rock and oak logs in foundation. Until about 1900, served also as school, usually with pastor as the teacher.



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **SITE OF WESLEY SCHOOL**

**Brenham - 30.121564, -96.5305191**

*FM 2502, near intersection with FM 332*

Czech immigrants came to this area in 1859 and renamed it Wesley community. Professor Josef Masik tutored children in his home. The Bohemian Slovakian Reading Club of Wesley provided the first area school building about 1863. School was taught in the Wesley Brethren Church, a larger facility, beginning in 1866. As the area grew, another structure was required in 1873 and again in 1898. The school relocated to a former store on this site in 1911. It became an eight-grade school in 1927. A new building was erected in 1931 as the population continued to grow, and the school served ten grades in 1949. Enrollment fell as people left rural areas for the city, and in 1953 the school again served eight grades. It was closed and merged with Brenham schools in 1961. The last Wesley School building on this site burned in 1962.



## **SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Brenham - 7150 Sacred Heart Road; 30.0746, -96.5513**

*12 miles southwest of Brenham on FM 389 to Latium; .9 miles east on*

### *Sacred Heart Road*

The first Czechs in this area arrived about 1860. Father Joseph Chromcik became the first Catholic priest to organize worship services in Latium in 1873 in the home of settlers such as Martin Supak. This structure was erected in 1918 on land purchased from George and Anna Baron. Built by local contractor Linnus Pivonka, the \$1700 church building was paid for in part by the Catholic Extension Society of Chicago, Illinois, and by parishioners. The structure has remained remarkably unchanged and continues to serve a predominately Czech community. It is a beautifully preserved vernacular interpretation of a Gothic Revival church in a rural setting. Its narrow, pointed arched windows and projecting central tower typify the style and form.



## **GREENVINE SCHOOLS**

**Brenham - 30.0746, -96.5513**

*On FM 2502 1/10 mile south of County Road 2 (Wickel Rd.), Greenvine.*

Public education in the rural community of Greenvine began in 1880 when the Greenvine School was established near this site. The students, predominantly German in descent and Lutheran and Baptist in faith, began attending classes taught in German at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church parsonage. Classes later were relocated to a site near the Greenvine Baptist Church Cemetery and finally to a building 70 feet south of this site. A school for local African American children known as the Waller Chapel School (1.75 mi. SE) was established in 1895. Classes were held in a wood-frame building that also served as a house of worship for the Waller Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church congregation. In 1949, after schools in the Greenvine, Latium, and Burton communities were consolidated, the Greenvine schools closed. Local students began attending the Burton Rural High School, which offered 12 grades of instruction. The last Greenvine schoolhouse was relocated to the new school site. The Waller Chapel Schoolhouse continued to be used for church services until 1965.



# BRENHAM AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## GREENVINE BAPTIST CHURCH

Brenham - 5010 FM 2502; 30.1145, -96.5582

*On FM 2502 at the intersection of County Road 2, (Wickel Rd.), Greenvine.*

Ebenezer German Baptist Church was organized in 1861 following a revival preached by Frank Kiefer (1833-1909), a German immigrant and convert to the Baptist faith. Commonly known as Greenvine Baptist Church, the congregation first met in a log cabin owned by Michael Moller. The Rev. F. J. Gleiss (1826-1912), a former Methodist minister and fellow German immigrant, succeeded Kiefer as pastor in 1868. This site was purchased in 1870, and a sanctuary was built in 1879. Services were conducted in the German language until replaced by English in 1947.



## GREENVINE GAS DISCOVERY

Brenham - 30.1148152, -96.586886

*At the intersection of FM 2502 and County Road 2, Greenvine.*

Apparently the first use in Texas of natural gas for fuel occurred in 1979 near here.

William Seidel, a farmer, grist mill and cotton gin owner, and merchant, trying to dig a water well, struck gas at approximate depth of 106 feet. The gas was piped to a farmhouse nearby. Production of gas and oil has spread to 210 Texas counties; 27 pipeline companies export gas. Annual rate of production is about 8 trillion cubic feet. Texas has 42.3 per cent of the proven gas reserves in America, and it has a 19,895-foot well, believed to be world's deepest.



## ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CEMETERY

Brenham - Old Mill Creek Road; 30.157926, -96.5903197

*1 mile East of Burton on US Highway 290, .1 mile South of US 290 on*

*Old Mill Creek Road*

In June 1894, a Christian congregation called Evangelical St. John's Church of Burton organized. In October 1899, a long-felt need for a cemetery for the church was met when two acres of land, a mile east of Burton, were purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wolff for \$57. The first recorded burial is of Martin Rogas (March 30, 1900). The first marked grave belongs to Hulda Arndt, buried September 12, 1899. Expecting the need for more cemetery land, the church purchased an additional 1.448 acres adjacent to the original cemetery from F. R. and Annie Maud Avis on January 25, 1976. The cemetery has certain distinct areas worth mentioning. There is a separate children's section which was established early on, and according to the records, some 53 children were buried there from 1899 to 1909. In the center of the cemetery there is a final resting place for ministers that includes the grave of Rev. Hermann Schulz (d. January 13, 1941), who was the minister of St. John's from 1898 to 1921. In another section are seven graves, all in a row and marked by identical monuments. These belong to five confirmands and two young men from the church who died in action or of disease in France during World War I. Other veteran burials belong not only to those who served in the world wars but also the Korean and Vietnam wars. Since its creation, this cemetery on a hill has been the last resting place of those who in life were part of the church.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF BURTON, TEXAS & SURROUNDING AREA

West of Brenham on Hwy. 290, Burton was established in 1870 by German immigrant families on land sold by John M. Burton, who came to Texas in the 1820s from Georgia. The area was known for its cotton farming, and the city prospered throughout the late 1800s. Downtown Burton is listed as a "Commercial Historic District" in the National Register. Burton is also one of the towns on the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Independence Trail.

In spite of its small size, Burton is home to a restored cotton gin, the official Cotton Gin Museum of Texas. The key exhibit of the museum is the cotton gin that was built in 1914 and is home to a 1925 Bessemer Type IV diesel oil engine. The restored 16-ton "Lady B" is the largest internal combustion engine of its vintage still operating in America! An annual Cotton Gin Festival takes place the third weekend in April.

Burton's most famous resident was Leander H. McNelly, Confederate Army officer and Texas Ranger captain. In 1860, McNelly drove a herd of sheep to western Washington County while the rest of his family sailed to Texas. For the next five years he herded sheep for a neighbor, T.J. Burton. Later, in his long career as a Ranger, he was considered the best of the post-Civil War Ranger Captains. McNelly retired to his farm near Burton and died there of tuberculosis in 1877. He is buried in the nearby Mt. Zion cemetery.



*Fischer Store:  
F.W.E. Fisher established  
this store in 1878*

*Thomas Watson & Company  
Store was located at the  
present site of Citizens State  
Bank Burton and was said to  
serve customers  
"from the cradle to the grave."*



*Local Burton boys playing on Colorado Street (1920s)*

# INTERESTING HISTORIC SITES IN BURTON (WITHOUT HISTORICAL MARKERS)

## **BURTON AUTO CO/ MUEHLBRAD'S GARAGE - (1916)**

407 N. Main Street

First the City Garage, then a Ford dealership in 1919. Owned and operated by August Muehlbrad 1922 to 1988. Possibly the longest operating Texaco in the State.

## **BURTON LUMBER CO. - (1900)**

12607 W Washington Street

The Lumber company was built on this site in 1881 but was destroyed by the 1898 fire that consumed the Railroad Depot. The building was rebuilt by A.G. Homeyer and served as a lumber yard under different owners until the 1980s.

## **KNITTEL HOUSE - (1870/1902)**

520 N. Main Street

Built by local businessman/politician Herman Knittel Sr. in the style of a Mississippi Steamboat. Restored in the 1980s and now a private residence.

## **LA BAHIA TURNVEREIN - (1902)**

550 Highway 237

The Turnverein was organized in 1879 by 48 German immigrants originally as an athletic or gymnastic society. This is the third hall on this site and features a unique arch-type ceiling. Evolved into a community gathering place and site for many special events.

## **LONG LIFE BROTHERHOOD**

### **CLUB LODGE BUILDING - (1919)**

12419 East. Branch Street

Built by the United Brothers of Friendship "Matson Lodge," it also served as a meeting place for other African American fraternal groups and a community gathering place. Long Life Brotherhood formed in 1940 and continues to the present day preserving and sharing this history.

## **WEHRING SHOE SHOP & RESIDENCE - (CIRCA 1916)**

211 N. Main Street.

Otto Wehring, Sr. bought the property in 1922 and moved his cobbler shop/harness making shop here. His son, Otto Jr. added a second story and operated the business until 1976.



*Bauer Gin believed to be the first gin in Burton, was converted to an oil mill around 1902.*



## CITY OF BURTON HISTORICAL MARKERS

The location shown for each Historical Marker is a close proximity. For turn-by-turn guidance enter the address or GPS coordinates listed (when available) into your preferred map app of choice.

**ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL MARKERS  
LOCATED IN THE COUNTY AREA  
CLOSEST TO BURTON ARE COLOR  
CODED IN DARK RED AND  
MAY BE FOUND ON THE  
WASHINGTON COUNTY MAP  
ON PAGES 6-7**

FM 2780

FM 1697

BRANDIE LN.

FM 1697

NAVASOTA ST.

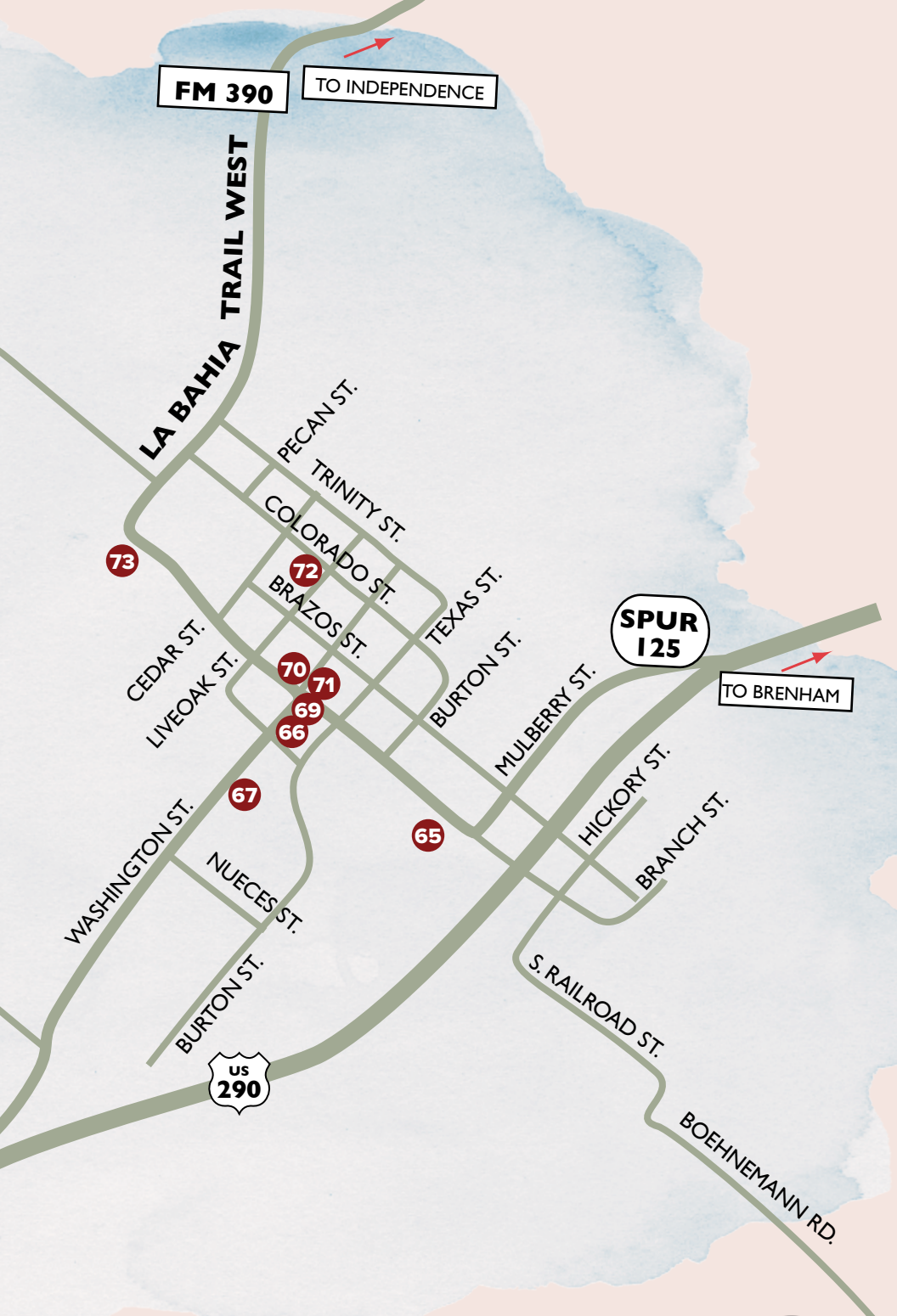
68

TO AUSTIN

— MAP NOT TO SCALE —







**FM 390**

**TO INDEPENDENCE**

**LA BAHIA TRAIL WEST**

PECAN ST.

TRINITY ST.

COLORADO ST.

TEXAS ST.

73

72

BRAZOS ST.

BURTON ST.

**SPUR 125**

**TO BRENHAM**

CEDAR ST.

70

71

LIVEOAK ST.

69

66

MULBERRY ST.

65

WASHINGTON ST.

67

HICKORY ST.

BRANCH ST.

NUECES ST.

BURTON ST.

**US 290**

S. RAILROAD ST.

BOEHNEMANN RD.



# BURTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **BURTON FARMERS GIN**

**Burton - 307 North Main Street; 30.1807, -96.5943**

*On Main Street near intersection with Mulberry*

In December 1913 a group of local farmers met to organize the Burton Farmers Gin Association. This two-story corrugated metal-clad gin building was constructed in 1914. The gin's machinery was steam-powered until 1925, when an oil engine was installed. The only cotton gin in town after 1948, it continued operations through 1974. The Burton Farmers Gin is one of the few remaining complete gin and mill complexes in the United States



## **BURTON CAFÉ**

**Burton - 12513 Washington Street; 30.1818, -96.5965**

*Washington Street near intersection with Main*

Built in 1937 by Edward Whitener and Quintus Zwernemann, this cafe has been a popular feature of downtown Burton through the years. Serving as both a cafe and social center for generations, it also included a liquor store at one time. Outdoor bathroom facilities were replaced in 1984. Its simple architectural features include a false front stepped parapet sheathed in metal stamped in a brick pattern.



## **BURTON DEPOT**

**Burton - 507 North Railroad Street; 30.1813, -96.5966**

*Railroad Street (at Washington)*

Burton began as a terminal on the Houston & Texas Central Railroad in 1870. A depot, built that year, burned in 1898 and was replaced by this structure. Built according to standard plans of the Southern Pacific Railroad (which absorbed the Houston & Texas Central), it exhibits elements of the Queen Anne and Italianate styles. Outstanding features include wide overhanging eaves and "sunburst" gable windows typical in Southern Pacific structures



## **OAK HILL CEMETERY**

**Burton - Navasota Street; 30.1787356, -96.6085509**

*Navasota and Pecan Streets*

In 1869, founders of the town of Burton designated 5.8 acres at this site for a burial tract. Mrs. John M. Burton, wife of the previous owner of the land, was buried here in 1871; her husband, in 1877. Civic leaders bought the tract in 1890 and chartered the Burton Cemetery Association. With a Ladies Auxiliary formed in 1900, the association governed the property for 50 years. By 1926, the public knew the facility as "Oak Hill". Burton Cemetery Association was revived in 1973, took over from an interim "Oak Hill Cemetery Association," and again cares for this historic site.

# BURTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **BURTON STATE BANK**

**Burton - Washington Street; 30.1820114, -96.598614**

*Washington and Railroad Streets*

Chartered in 1906, the Burton State Bank was founded by C. W. Homeyer (1855-1932), who also served as first bank president. Members of the first Board of Directors included Thomas Watson, H. Knittel, Ed Schatz, I. N. Carmean, W. Bauer, and O. A. Schatz. The Burton State Bank was closed during the Great Depression of the 1930s for three days, was found solvent, and reopened. The bank was located at this site from 1906 until 1965, when it was moved to a new building.



## **STEINER & DALLMEYER BUILDING**

**Burton - 600 Main Street; 30.1825, -96.5962**

*Corner of Main and Washington Streets*

Built by 1875, this commercial structure first housed the Burton Farmers Co-op. In 1903, German immigrants William Dallmeyer and Joe Steiner opened a mercantile business, which was in operation for over fifty years. The store housed the first telephone in town and served as a local cotton marketing center. Features of the building include a double-gable roof, wooden balustrade, and a 1913 addition with a false front and recessed central entry.



## **BURTON COMMUNITY**

**Burton - 515 North Main Street; 30.1821,-96.596**

*Main and Washington Streets in front of Citizen State Bank and Post Office*

John M. Burton (1806-1877) of Georgia came to Texas in the 1820s, and to this area in 1834. When the Houston & Texas Central Railroad was being built in 1869, he sold land for a townsite. Post office opened Sept. 23, 1870, with Charles Huberich as postmaster. Early businesses included a mercantile store, lumber yard, blacksmith, tin shop, cotton gin, oil mill, drugstore, and leather shop. The noted Texas Ranger Captain L. H. McNelly lived here. After service with State Police, he came home and raised two Ranger units that reflected credit on citizens of the Burton community, 1874-1877.



## **ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH**

**Burton - 516 Colorado Street; 30.1833, -96.5941**

*This congregation was organized by The Rev. William Vollbrecht and 24*

*charter members at the home of local merchant Herman Knittel in 1894. That year The Rev. Herman Specht was chosen as pastor and a church building was erected nearby on land acquired from August and Amalia Pfefferkorn. The church cemetery was established in the early 1900s. A new brick sanctuary was built at this site in 1951. The congregation changed its name to St. John's United Church of Christ in 1957. The congregation supports various local, national, and foreign outreach programs.*



# BURTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## BURTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Burton - 917 North Main Street; 30.1848, -96.5989

Burton Public Schools opened in 1874, and by 1926 nine grades were offered.

In 1938, construction on Burton's first high school began. Funded through the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA), the building was completed in 1940. Designed by architect Travis Broesche and built by local contractor Will Weeren, the school exhibits international and rustic architectural style. Features include abutting two-story rectangular blocks, a curved wall near the entrance, and a native field stone veneer.



## GANTT-JONES HOUSE

Burton - 30.205278, -96.617778

*Not accessible to public viewing.*

One of the homes in early Union Hill Settlement, this Greek Revival residence was built about 1860 for Dr. William Henry Gantt (died 1867), a physician and scientist who later taught at Galveston Medical College. The second owner, 1865-1890, was Henry B. "JO-HE" Jones, the inventor of a multi-purpose medicinal ointment. The family of Louis Prenzler lived here from 1908-1973. The structure was then purchased and restored by Mr. and Mrs. George L. Temple.



## UNION HILL

Burton - 30.1925071, -96.6149945

*2 miles north of Burton on FM 2780.*

The Hugh and Lucy Kerr family from Tennessee started the Kerr settlement in this area in 1831. W. B. McClellan (1804-80) from North Carolina bought land from W. P. Kerr in 1844 and began a second settlement. Union Academy was operating by 1850. Union Hill Post Office opened in 1854. Mrs. Lucy Kerr gave acreage at this point for a Methodist church; a Masonic lodge and school soon shared the site. Stores, a hotel, and other buildings stood to the west. Unincorporated, the town of 800 dwindled after 1870, as railroad facilities in Burton (2 mi. south) drew away the local businesses.



## HARMON SCHOOL

Burton - 11702 Harmon School Road

In 1908, the Harmon Schoolhouse was built here through local donations. The first teacher at the school was J. Koehler. It continued to be a one-teacher school until 1943, when students consolidated with the Burton rural school district. The schoolhouse also served as a chapel at times for the rural community. The school building was built with 12-inch planks, wooden shingles, and included a front porch for stage programs. The building had several windows and a wood heater during cold weather. Chalkboards and double desks were used in classes. The school site is on the Dietrich Family Century Farm and the only remaining structure is the school's water well.



# BURTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## CHRISTIAN CHURCH CEMETERY

Burton - 30.2169583, -96.6302379

*From Burton, take FM 2780 about 2 miles northwest to Christian Cemetery Road, and go east about 1/2 mile to the marker on the south side of the road.*

Site of original Christian church built 1879, moved to Burton in 1913. Elders S. O. Tatum, W. B. McClellan; Deacons John Carmean, A. G. McClellan; member Julius McClellan.



## ST. PAUL-REHBURG SCHOOL

Burton - 4450 FM 1948 North; 30.2343, -96.598

*At the intersection of FM 1948 and Rehbург Road, 6 miles northeast of Burton*

Although the earliest written records of the St. Paul and Rehbург Schools date to 1880 and 1883 respectively, local tradition suggests they originated with informal classes held at the homes of pioneer farmers in this area of Washington County in the late 1840s. A schoolhouse was erected on St. Paul Lutheran Church property in 1898. This structure served both the St. Paul and Rehburg students following the creation of a single school district in 1909.

Complaints by students that the new schoolhouse was too far from their homes prompted the County Commissioners to construct a new school building nearer the center of the school district in 1914 on land donated by Henry and Wilhelmine Kiel. A third room was added to this structure in 1936 after another local school, called Eberhardt, merged with the St. Paul-Rehburg School. Although the building burned in 1938, it was replaced with a new three-room structure the following year. In 1942 St. Paul-Rehburg provided instruction by three teachers for students through the tenth grade. The school merged with the Burton School District in 1945 and eventually closed in 1946. The school building, used by the St. Paul Lutheran Church for 15 years, was razed in 1962.



## MOUNT ZION CEMETERY

Burton - 2450 FM 1948; 30.2137, -96.5779

*On FM 1948 at the intersection with FM 390, 3 miles northeast of Burton.*

This 5-acre cemetery is located on the league of land granted to Robert Clokey, of Stephen F. Austin's Second Colony, in 1831. First grave here was that of an infant, E. A. Metcalfe, who died Sept. 15, 1852. Some unmarked graves may date from a yellow fever epidemic that struck this area in 1867. The cemetery was probably named for the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, located here from 1857 to 1882. Deeded to cemetery trustees in 1881 by owner J. R. Hines, the site contains 13 marked graves, which represent 55 families. The Burton Heritage Society now maintains the property.



# BURTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## LEANDER H. McNELLY

Burton - 2450 FM 1948; 30.2137, -96.5779

*In Mt. Zion Cemetery, 3 miles northeast of Burton at the intersection of*

*SH 390 and FM 1948.*

Born in Virginia; was valiant Confederate soldier. In 1870, appointed one of four State Police captains by Gov. E. J. Davis. Then with Texas Rangers, McNelly was assigned a special force, "The Washington County Volunteer Militia," to mediate the Sutton-Taylor feud. Company then assigned to Rio Grande border to control international cattle thieves in "Las Cuevas War." His men always proudly called themselves, "Little McNellys."



## MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

Burton - 2450 FM 1948; 30.2137, -96.5779

*On FM 1948 at the intersection with FM 390, 3 miles northeast of Burton.*

Pioneer area settlers organized the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in 1852 on land donated by James R. Hines. Early ministers included notable Baptist leaders from Old Baylor College at nearby Independence. The church building was dismantled and rebuilt in the new town of Burton on land donated by F. A. Rice and A. Groesbeck in 1882. At that time the congregation was renamed Burton Baptist Church. The sanctuary was rebuilt after being damaged in the 1900 storm and on Feb. 18, 1983, was moved here to its original site. It now serves as a reminder of the area's rich pioneer heritage.



## GIDEON LINCECUM

Burton - 30.2332918, -96.5319864

*FM 390, 6 miles northeast of Burton*

As a boy Gideon Lincecum moved with his father to various frontier sites in his native Georgia and in Mississippi. It was during this time that he developed insights about natural habitats and cultivated an understanding of Indian culture which later characterized his various scientific and social achievements. He participated in the War of 1812, and in 1814 married Sarah Bryan. After settling near here in 1848 the self-taught Lincecum opened a medical practice. He gained a reputation for rejecting commonly-used contemporary medicines and dispensing herbal remedies instead. As a naturalist Lincecum recorded detailed observations of a variety of flora and fauna for a long-term study of an agricultural ant common to the state. He conducted scientific research in numerous fields and for many years maintained records of the weather in Washington County for the Smithsonian Institution. Except for a 5-year stay in Mexico during Reconstruction Lincecum lived and worked in Washington County where he completed his autobiography. Initially buried in nearby Mt. Zion Cemetery, his remains were later removed and reinterred in the Stephen F. Austin lot in the State Cemetery in Austin in 1936.

# BURTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **GLENBLYTHE PLANTATION, HOME OF THOMAS AFFLECK**

**Burton - 30.271, -96.495**

*From Brenham, take SH 36 about 8 miles north to intersection with FM 390, go west about 1 mile to marker on north side of road (marker is on FM 390).*

In the 19th century, one of the world's foremost researcher-writers on agriculture and horticulture lived 1858-1868 on his 3,500-acre plantation (2 mi. S) of here, developing famous "central Texas nurseries" and experimental fields for new plant varieties. On this property gained recognition as one of earliest promoters and developers of conservation farming. Born 1812 in Scotland; came to the United States in 1832, soon starting in Mississippi one of the South's finest nurseries; gained wide fame as scientist and writer on agriculture. Before moving here, landscaped State Capitol grounds for both Louisiana and Texas. Surrounded Glenblythe mansion and guest houses (2 mi. S) with ornamental gardens and greenhouses, vegetable garden, orchard, a church, hospital, day nursery, store, homes, workshop, stock pens, flour and lumber mills. During Civil War (1861-1865) built ambulances, wagons; fed Waul's Legion in training camp near here. After the war, was key figure in rehabilitation of farming in Texas; made a trip to Europe to recruit settlers.

Died 1868, and was buried near his home. Writings, especially "Affleck's Southern Rural Almanac," were influential for years. His "Report on Agricultural Grasses" was a Senate Executive Document of 1879.



## **MT. CALVARY CEMETERY**

**Burton - 11780-11800 Mount Calvary Cemetery Lane;  
30.2957, -96.5416**

*Located on Mount Calvary Cemetery Lane near Lake Somerville.*

This burial ground served residents of the Mt. Calvary community. The Mt. Calvary settlement dates to the early years of the 20th century, when J.S. Poteet, a large landowner, employed a number of Mexican immigrants as sharecroppers. The workers and their families formed the farming community. In 1917, an influenza outbreak led to a number of deaths among Mt. Calvary residents. Poteet donated property so that the victims could be buried. There are a number of unmarked graves here, including that of the earliest burial. The oldest marked grave is of Angela M. Orozco (d. 1918). Cemetery features here reflect the predominantly Catholic Mexican heritage of the interred. Many burial ceremonies have been conducted at the foot of a white cross, called La Santa Cruz del Descanso (the holy cross of the last resting place), which is located near the center of the cemetery. Grave ornamentation, including religious iconography, also reveals the cultural background for many buried here. Through the years, several cemetery committees have organized to care for the burial ground. In the early 1970s, on the advice of the U.S. Army corps of engineers, members of one of these committees joined other residents of the nearby community of Somerville to raise funds to survey and fence the cemetery. In 2004, the Mt. Calvary Cemetery Association formed to maintain the burial ground. Today, Mt. Cavalry cemetery continues to serve as a testament to the Mexican immigrants and others who resided and worked in northwestern Washington County.



# BURTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Burton - 8201 Old Gay Hill Road; 30.2575, -96.4668

*From Brenham, take SH 36 7 miles north to Waul's Legion Road, go west about 1/2 miles to intersection with Old Gay Hill Road.*

This congregation was founded by German immigrants who came to the Gay Hill community in the 1880s. In 1884, they purchased land at this site and constructed a church building. Pastors of neighboring congregations held worship services here until The Rev. Ed Schuelke arrived in 1885 to become the first full-time minister. The German language was used in all official church records until 1937. Members have included prominent community citizens and descendants of the founders.



## BIRTHPLACE OF HEDWIG T. KNIKER

Burton - St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 8201 Old Gay Hill Road  
30.2575, -96.4668

*From Brenham, take SH 36, 7 miles north to Waul's Legion Road, and go west about 1/2 mile to the intersection with Old Gay Hill Road.*

(November 13, 1891 - October 12, 1985) Born in Gay Hill, Hedwig Thusnelda Kniker was the child of the second minister of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Kniker graduated from the University of Texas in 1916 with degrees in German, psychology and geology. Her graduate work included a master's program and research at the University of Texas and further studies in the northeast and midwest. Her professional career began in 1920. Kniker worked for Texaco in Houston, Phillips Petroleum in San Angelo and United Geophysical Company in Chile. She retired to Seguin in 1950, remaining active as a consultant and writer. A renowned paleontologist and geologist in a time when few women entered these fields, Hedwig T. Kniker left a scientific legacy and carved a path for professional women throughout the world.



## THOMAS AFFLECK

Burton - 30.25887, -96.46384

*From Brenham, take SH 36 about 7 miles north to Waul's Legion Road, go west about 8/10 mile to marker on south side of road. Located .9 miles from Highway 36 intersection.*

Born and educated in Scotland, Thomas Affleck (1812-1868) emigrated in 1832 to the United States where he became one of the most well-known agriculturalists of his time. A prolific writer, Affleck was associated with several agricultural and horticultural publications. An early advocate of scientific farming, he wrote and theorized on topics such as forage, erosion control, hedging, livestock improvements, and plantation management. His publication, "Affleck's Southern Rural Almanac and Plantation and Garden Calendar," was published yearly from 1845 to 1861. During the late 1850s, Thomas Affleck and his wife, Anna (Dunbar) Smith, came to Texas and established their Washington County plantation, which included what is now the Gay Hill community. The Affleck plantation, known as "Glenblythe," was extensive and highly organized. It included a wagon factory, where wagons and ambulances were made for the Confederacy. After the end of the Civil War, Thomas Affleck was active in developing plans for Texas' economic recovery. He traveled to England and Scotland, encouraging investment and emigration. Upon his death at the age of 56, Affleck was buried near this site in the graveyard he established on the grounds of "Glenblythe."





# BURTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## WAUL'S TEXAS LEGION CAMPSITE

Burton - 30.2394662, -96.4877145

*7 miles northwest on SH 36 North, 2 miles southwest on Waul's Legion Road.*

*Reported damaged November 2006. Located 2.1 miles from Highway 36 Intersection.*

In the spring of 1862 Thomas N. Waul (1813-1903) recruited men from Washington and the surrounding counties to form a legion for Confederate service. Composed of twelve infantry companies, six cavalry companies, and two artillery companies, the legion numbered some two thousand soldiers. The organizational and training encampment of Waul's Texas Legion was located here along New Year's Creek. Waul was commissioned colonel of the legion on May 13, 1862, and the companies remained in camp here until August 18, when they departed for active duty. Part of the legion served in Mississippi in 1862 and 1863. They participated in the defense of Vicksburg and surrendered there following the siege. Other units served in Arkansas and Louisiana. The legion was later reorganized and returned to Texas to serve at Galveston and along the Gulf Coast until the end of the war. Throughout the war, the legion performed notably in numerous battles, sieges and skirmishes. After the Civil War Waul was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1866 (Reconstruction Convention). He later practiced law in Galveston. He died on his farm in Hunt County in 1903.



## MOUNT VERNON

Burton - 5759 Mt. Vernon Road; 30.2143, -96.469

*From Brenham, take US 290 about 2 1/2 mi. W to FM 2679, go northwest about 1 mile to CR 48 (Mount Vernon Rd.). Go northeast about 2 miles to the marker on the south side of the road (5759 Mt. Vernon Road).*

The rural settlement of Mount Vernon, named for the Virginia home of President George Washington, served as county seat of Washington County from 1841 to 1844. John Stamps (1798-1867), an early area settler, is credited with founding and naming the Mount Vernon community. Stamps, who owned vast acreage in this vicinity, represented Washington County in the Eighth Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1843-44. At its height, Mount Vernon included a log courthouse and jail, homes, businesses, churches, and a school. An estimated twenty families lived in the community. An election held in 1844 resulted in the relocation of the county seat to Brenham. The loss of county seat status, coupled with the improvement of transportation as new roads were built enabling easy travel to Brenham, resulted in the demise of the Mount Vernon township by the 1880s. Families gradually moved away, and by 1900 all that remained of the community were a few building foundations. Eventually, the town site reverted to farmland. Although no physical remnants of Mount Vernon exist, it remains a significant part of Washington County history.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE, TEXAS & SURROUNDING AREA

Surrounded by cotton-producing plantations, Independence had become the wealthiest community in Texas and a Baptist stronghold when selected to be the site of Baylor University in 1845. Reaching its peak during the 1850s, the town was recognized as an educational, economic, and religious center.

The Civil War, the bypass of the railroad and Baylor's relocation in 1886 altered the Independence economy. The surrounding farmland, however, remained productive often under the tillage of European immigrants, especially German families who arrived in the late 19th century. African Americans, many of whom were former slaves from Washington County, also acquired and farmed the land.

Sam Houston was Independence's most famous resident and convert, he and his family living here in the 1850s and his widow returning in 1863 with seven of their eight children. She died of yellow fever during the 1867 epidemic.

Today, Independence remains a diverse community, its landscape dotted with many reminders of its rich and varied history. These sites and symbols, combined with the extraordinary natural beauty of the area – rolling hills, open vistas, and ageless trees contribute to the past and present story of Independence.

## INTERESTING HISTORIC SITES IN INDEPENDENCE (WITHOUT HISTORICAL MARKERS)

### TOALSON HOUSE

**(also known as Adobe House)**

*10270 T. S. Saul Road - Two blocks east of the FM 50 and FM 390 intersection.*

Likely built in around 1835 of sun-dried clay bricks with a stucco finish, the construction reflects pre-1836 influences when Texas was a Mexican colony. It is believed to have served as a Mexican Jail, county courthouse until the county seat was moved to Brenham, a residence, and now serves as the Independence Visitor Center.

### BLANTON BLOCK

*9395 FM 390 - Three blocks east of the FM 50 and FM 390 intersection.*

By the late 1820s and before Independence was established, travelers on La Bahia Trail found lodging at the site known today as the Blanton Block. Portions of the original complex were built of native limestone in the late 1820s-early 1830s. The buildings accommodated a hotel, stagecoach and mail depot, general store, and residence.

### OLD MASONIC LODGE

*(upstairs) various stores downstairs  
10415 McKnight Road - One block east of the FM 50 and FM 390 intersection.*

From 1840 to 1904, buildings on this corner housed the local Masonic Milam Lodge No. 11 on the second floor and numerous businesses on the first floor.

### SAMUEL SEWARD PLANTATION

*10009 Seward Plantation Road - East of the FM 50 and FM 390 intersection. Turn north on Seward Plantation Road.*

Initial construction is dated to 1827. Samuel Seward received a land grant for service in the Texas War of Independence. With additional land purchases Samuel and wife Ann Stewart owned 1,500 acres.

### VINE DELL SEMINARY, the "Church School for Young Ladies"

*11500 Waters Lane, Private Property  
West of the FM 50 and FM 390 intersection.  
Head toward Baylor Park but turn right at the gravel road.*

Ladies boarding school operated in the mid-1800s focused on drawing, penmanship, calisthenics and vocal gymnastics, elocution and singing.





*Liberty Baptist Church*



*Julius Yanch House*

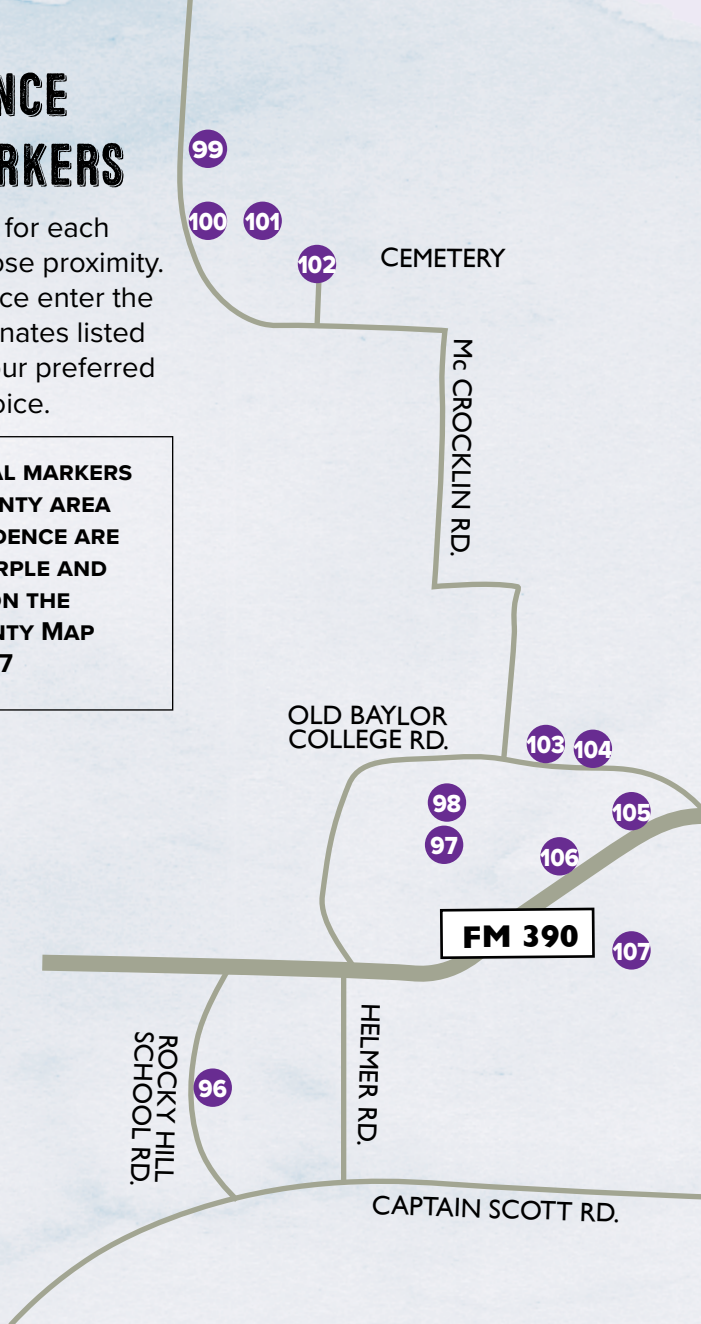


*Samuel Seward Plantation*

# INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL MARKERS

The location shown for each Historical Marker is a close proximity. For turn-by-turn guidance enter the address or GPS coordinates listed (when available) into your preferred map app of choice.

**ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL MARKERS  
LOCATED IN THE COUNTY AREA  
CLOSEST TO INDEPENDENCE ARE  
COLOR CODED IN PURPLE AND  
MAY BE FOUND ON THE  
WASHINGTON COUNTY MAP  
ON PAGES 6-7**





TO BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION

**FM 50**

111

TOM WILLIE RD.

GRAVES RD.

110

112

109

113

108

Mc KNIGHT RD.

KRATZ RD.

121 122 123 124

SEWARD PLANTATION RD.

**FM 390**

125

HOOD HOTEL RD.

T.S. SAUL RD.

119

LUECKEMEYER RD.

115

116

117

118

SAM HOUSTON RD.

**FM 50**

TO BRENHAM



# INDEPENDENCE AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## LA BAHIA ROAD

Independence - 30.2243148, -96.5168024

*At the intersection of SH 36 and FM 390, 7 miles north of Brenham*

One of the first overland routes used by European explorers of Texas, La Bahia Road was originally an east-west Indian trail in southeastern Texas and Louisiana. Earlier it may have been an animal trail. Although not as famous, or long, as El Camino Real (the San Antonio Road), La Bahia is probably older and it figured quite importantly in the movement of explorers, soldiers, traders, and settlers across Texas. Possibly the first European to set foot on the road was La Salle, who explored for France in this area during 1685-87. Almost certainly it was traveled by the Spaniard Alonso De Leon, who searched for the French intruders in 1689. From 1812 on, the trail and its westernmost town, La Bahia (now Goliad), served agents of both war and peace. The Gutierrez-Magee Expedition, part of Mexico's revolt against Spain, used the road in 1812-13. In 1821 the first Anglo-American colonists in Texas, the vanguard of the "Old 300", came down La Bahia into this area. During the 1836 Texas Revolution, the road found use by troops of the Texan army; Col. James Fannin and his 400 men were massacred near the road—in Goliad. In the 20th century, La Bahia's route helped surveyors map modern Texas highways.



## ROBERT STARKE ARMISTEAD

Independence - 30.206249, -96.4587525

*From Brenham, take SH 36 north about 6.1 miles to marker on east side of road. Located 6.1 miles north of Hwy. 36 intersection.*

A native of North Carolina, Robert Starke Armistead moved with his family to Alabama in 1818. He married Ann Sylvesta Carney in 1826 and they came to Texas in 1835. Armistead served in the Republic of Texas army in 1836 and with forces defending San Antonio during the Vasquez invasion in 1842. He was a charter trustee of Baylor University in 1845. Settling in Washington County, the Armisteads operated a large agricultural enterprise and in 1863 adopted a daughter, Sallie. Robert and Ann are buried nearby in a family cemetery on land once a part of their farm.



## SITE OF MOUND HILL SCHOOL

Independence - 30.2287998, -96.5168024

*7 miles north of Brenham on SH 36; 2.2 miles east on FM 390 to Cedar Hill Road*

In 1889, residents of Mound area formed their first school at a nearby Baptist church. By 1891, the Mound School District was organized and forty students were enrolled. The school moved in 1902 to the Live Oak Female Seminary located on the farm of Dr. R.L. Miller. The school moved again in 1930 to a more central location and was remodeled into a two-classroom building. In 1939 the Works Progress Administration started a hot lunch program costing five cents per meal. By 1949 the school had been consolidated twice more and purchased its first bus. Finally, in 1953 the Mound Hill School District and the school buildings formerly at this site were moved to the Prairie Hill community.



# INDEPENDENCE AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## OAK REST CEMETERY AND SITE OF PROSPECT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Independence - 30.2931987, -96.4492879

*9 mi. N of Brenham on SH 36, then 2.6 mi. E on FM 390, then 0.9 mi. N on CR 58 (Mayfair Ln.)*

The Rev. Hugh Wilson (1794-1868) organized Prospect Presbyterian Church at this site in February 1839. Located on land included in a Mexican land grant to James F. and Emily Perry, it was the second Presbyterian church founded in Texas. Worship services were conducted in a log schoolhouse where in 1840 the first Presbytery (Brazos) of Texas was organized.

The congregation's second pastor, The Rev. James Weston Miller (1815-1888), founded Live Oak Female Seminary in 1853, and the church building housed some school classes. Under Miller's direction a foundation was laid here for a new sanctuary prior to the Civil War. The foundation stones, though never used, still exist. A new building was erected south of here near the seminary in 1872. The church disbanded in 1928 and its members transferred to Brenham Presbyterian Church. The 1872 building was dismantled in 1956.

Among those interred in Oak Rest Cemetery are many pioneer members of Prospect Presbyterian Church, including the Miller family, and veterans of the Texas Revolution and the Civil War. Along with the nearby site of the Live Oak Female Seminary, the cemetery and church foundation stones serve as reminders of the area's pioneer heritage.



## LIVE OAK FEMALE SEMINARY

Independence - 30.283113, -96.4454245

*9 miles north of Brenham on SH 36, then 2.6 miles east on FM 390, then 0.5 miles north on CR 58 (Mayfair Lane)*

Founded in 1853 by Presbyterian minister James W. Miller (1815-1888), Live Oak Female Seminary provided educational opportunities to female boarding students and male and female day students until 1888. Miller's sister-in-law, Rebecca Stuart Red, was principal until 1875, when she opened Stuart Female Seminary in Austin. Live Oak campus included the Miller home, "Oak Lodge," which housed classes on the second floor; dormitories; an auditorium; and a music conservatory. The Miller home was moved off the site and the last of the school buildings was razed in the 1970s.



## HOLLY OAKS

Independence - 30.2849245, -96.4485076

*From Independence, take FM 390 west about 7 miles to marker on the north side of road by rock house at 2505*

Home of Dr. Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor (1791-1873). Here he resided for many years and here he died. Baylor University bears his name.



# INDEPENDENCE AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## ROCKY HILL SCHOOL

Independence - 30.2865288, -96.3724926

*From Independence, take FM 390 west 2.5 mi. to Rocky Hill School Rd., go south about 7/10 mi. to marker on east side of road.*

A private school operated by the Methodist Church provided education for the children of the Rocky Hill community as early as 1867. A petition from area citizens resulted in the formation of a public school in 1883. Located on land owned by Henry Kruse, the school served the area until 1909, when a new building was erected at a site provided by Fritz Engelke. A third school building was located at this site on Henry Klatte's farm from the 1930s until 1957, when the Rocky Hill School was consolidated with the Brenham School System.



## FEMALE DEPARTMENT OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Independence - 30.3124187, -96.3552787

*3 blocks west of intersection of FM 50/FM 390, on FM 390, Independence.*

On this site stood the Female Department of Baylor University incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Texas, February 1, 1845; Henry L. Graves, first president, was elected January 12, 1846; Preparatory Department for Boys and Girls was opened May 18, 1846 with H. F. Gillett as teacher; Rufus C. Burleson became president in 1851; in 1886 when Baylor University moved to Waco and consolidated with Waco University, the Female Department moved to Belton and now bears the name of Mary Hardin-Baylor College.



## COLUMNS OF A BUILDING OF OLD BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Independence - 30.3153547, -96.3590375

*3 blocks west of intersection of FM 50/FM 390, on FM 390, Independence.*

Outgrowth of efforts of Judge R. E. B. Baylor and others; chartered by Republic of Texas on Feb. 1, 1845; opened 1846—Baylor is the oldest university in Texas operating under original name. Until moving (1886) to Belton and Waco, Baylor was located here for 40 years, under Presidents H. L. Graves, R. C. Burleson, G. W. Baines (whose great grandson, Lyndon Baines Johnson, became 36th U.S. president), and W. C. Crane. These columns mark site of Baylor Female College; men attended Baylor University, on hill to the south, across the "River Jordan". Restored 1952 by ex-students and friends under leadership of Baylor Historical Society.



## LIBERTY COMMUNITY CEMETERY

Independence - 30.3274342, -96.3595433

*Northwest of Independence; from intersection of McCrocklin and Coles Roads, travel approx 0.4 mi. west on Coles Rd, then turn right on unmarked road.*

Tradition holds the first burials here were for enslaved Africans before the close of the Civil War in 1865; the first marked graves date to the late 1860s. When J.C. McCrocklin sold this site to the Colored People's Cemetery Association in 1907, the deed referred to a burial ground long used by local African American residents. Six marked graves are of men and women born into slavery, and more than 20 show military service. Today, the burial ground is a link to the Freedmen and their families who settled here in the late 19th century.





# INDEPENDENCE AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## MOSES AUSTIN BRYAN

Independence - 30.3283033, -96.3627231

*Independence Cemetery, from Old Baylor State Park (3 blocks west of FM 50/ FM 390 intersections) take CR 60 1.2 miles northwest to cemetery.*

Grandson of Moses Austin, whose 1821 contract with Mexico opened Texas to Anglo-Americans. Moses Austin Bryan came to Texas in 1831; worked with his uncle, Stephen F. Austin; fought (1836) in Battle of San Jacinto; served as secretary, Republic of Texas Legation to United States, 1839; joined 1842 Somervell Expedition to resist Mexican aggressions in Texas; rose to major in Confederate army in Civil War, 1861-1865. Bryan was father of five children.



## GEN. JAMES WILLIE

Independence - 30.3283033, -96.3627231

*In Independence Cem. From Old Baylor Park (3 blocks west of FM 50/FM 390 intersection) take CR 60 1.2 mi. northwest to cemetery, Independence.*

Born in Georgia Jan. 5, 1822; died in Houston, Texas 1863; Attorney General of Texas 1856-7; officer in the Confederate army.



## OLD INDEPENDENCE CEMETERY

Independence - 30.3283033, -96.3627231

*From Old Baylor Park (3 blocks west of FM 50/FM 390), take CR 60 1.2 mi. northwest to cemetery, Independence.*

A very old graveyard of Anglo-Texas. Started about 1823 on league of Judge J. P. Cole, one of the "Old 300" in the Austin Colony. A daughter, Madora Cole McCrocklin, gave the site. Many statesmen, educators, physicians, lawyers, war veterans and other "Old Texans" are buried here.



## DR. HORACE G. CLARK

Independence - 30.3186, -96.3544

*3 blocks west of intersection of FM 50/FM 390, on FM 390, Independence.*

Born in Massachusetts. Coming to Texas (1850) with wife, Martha Davis Clark, he was principal and second president of Baylor Female College. Mrs. Clark also taught and counseled students. Family operated dormitory on this site 20 years. Dr. Clark, with \$1,000 gift from Dr. Asa Hoxey, built 3-story main hall. He was ordained to ministry (1858) at Independence Baptist Church. Family opened Clark's Academy, Houston, 1871; Dr. Clark took Holy Orders (1880), Christ Episcopal Church, Houston, and was a rector in Corpus Christi. Mrs. Clark, a lifelong Baptist, died in 1896.



# INDEPENDENCE AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## DAVIS FAMILY

Independence - 30.3186, -96.3544

*3 blocks west of intersection of FM 50/FM 390, on FM 390, Independence.*

Renowned educators; family of The Rev. Abner Davis, founder (1827) of Shurtleff College, Alton, Ill. A daughter, Martha (d. 1896), joined the Baylor Female College staff with her husband, Horace Clark, in 1851. Baylor in a few years drew rest of family here: Marcia (Mrs. Abner) Davis (1794-1882); George B. Davis (1828-1906) and wife, Fannie Breedlove (1833-1915); Harriett L. Davis (1832-1917) and husband, B.S. Fitzgerald (1827-1904); and Mary Russell Davis, "Little Mary" (d. 1865), who taught Indians briefly after the father died (1852), then like the others devoted her talents to Baylor.



## OLD BAYLOR PARK

Independence - 11300 Old Baylor College Road; 30.3186, -96.3544

*3 blocks west of intersection of FM 50/FM 390, on FM 390, Independence.*

Under a charter issued in 1845 by the Republic of Texas, Baylor University was established on this site and operated here until its removal to Waco and Belton in 1886. Afterward the site was bought by John Thomas Hairston (1835-1918), a church leader in Independence for over 40 years. Passed to his son, the land was returned in 1933 to Baylor by Dr. Thomas Coke Hairston (1875-1954), a grandson of Albert Gallitan Haynes, an original trustee of Baylor University who served on the board for 25 years. In 1965 the park became part of Texas Baptist Historical Center.



## JOHN PRINCE COLES

Independence - 30.3186, -96.3544

*3 blocks west of intersection of FM 50/FM 390, on FM 390, Independence.*

A native of North Carolina, John Prince Coles brought his family to Texas in 1821 with Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred" colonists. Arriving in present Washington County on New Year's Day in 1822, Coles received a Mexican land grant in 1824. He founded Coles Settlement which was later re-named Independence. He was appointed alcalde of the municipality of Washington by the Mexican government in 1828. After service in the Republic of Texas Army in 1836, he held a number of public offices, including senator in the First Republic Congress, 1840-41.



## SITE OF THE HOME OF GENERAL SAM HOUSTON AND FAMILY

Independence -

*0.3 mi. west of FM 50, on south side of FM 390 (La Bahia Trail)*

Site of the home of General Sam Houston and family; Original house built in 1837 by Thomas Barron; first occupied by the Houstons in 1854; torn down and rebuilt in 1897 by James Dallas.

# INDEPENDENCE AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## INDEPENDENCE

Independence - 30.319277, -96.346561

*Intersection of FM 50 and FM 390, Independence.*

Settled in 1824. Named in 1836 to commemorate Texas independence. Important early-day town.

Baylor University began here, 1845.

Residence of family of Gen. Sam Houston, Texas hero, 1853-1867. Mrs. Houston is buried here.

Confederate Quartermaster Sub-depot, 1864.

Many historic sites marked.



## OLD BAPTIST CHURCH

Independence - 30.319277, -96.346561

*At the intersection of FM 50 and FM 390, Independence.*

Organized in 1839. Here Sam Houston was converted and baptised in Rocky Creek in 1854.

The present building was erected in 1872.



## THE NANCY LEA BELL

Independence - 30.3192859, -96.3493307

*Bell is at the intersection of FM 50 and FM 390, northwest corner; marker is inside Baptist Historical Center, Independence.*

Given to Independence Baptist Church in 1856 by Mrs. Nancy Moffette Lea, in thanks for conversion of her son-in-law, Sam Houston, first president of the Republic of Texas. Cast in copper and tin, for soft tone, by Meneely Foundry, New York. Broken in fall from belfry, 1969.



## LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH

Independence - 10655 FM 50; 30.3227, -96.3468

This church has historic ties to Independence Baptist church. In 1871, following Emancipation, former slaves established their own congregation, naming it in honor of their new freedom. The church, which began with 150 members, held services in a number of buildings before completing the original part of the present structure in 1900. The sanctuary's original form is still evident, with a cruciform configuration, central steeple and gabled entry. Today, the building is an architectural landmark and a reminder of Independence's religious history and African American community.



## HOUSTON-LEA FAMILY CEMETERY

Independence - 30.3177259, -96.3464073

*At the intersection of FM 50 and FM 390, northeast corner, Independence.*

When the widow of Sam Houston died of yellow fever during the epidemic of 1867, the danger of contagion made it impossible to carry her to Huntsville for burial beside her husband. She lies here, with her mother, Mrs. Nancy Lea, near the sites of their last homes and the old church they both loved.



# INDEPENDENCE AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## MARGARET M. LEA HOUSTON

Independence - 30.3177259, -96.3464073

*Intersection with FM 50 and FM 390, northeast corner, Independence.*

Margaret Moffette Lea wife of Gen Sam Houston; April 11, 1819 - Dec. 3, 1867; and her mother Nancy Moffette Lea; May 1, 1780 - Feb. 7, 1864; women of character, culture and staunch devotion to their families and church, each in her own way greatly influenced the career of Sam Houston and the course of Texas history.



## LEWIS KRAATZ

Independence - 30.31991, -96.3484557

*2 blocks east of FM 390/FM 50 intersection on north side of FM 390 on*

*Fieldstone Farm Property, Independence.*

A San Jacinto veteran; born in Germany; died in 1857.



## HOUSTON, BAPTISM OF GENERAL SAM

Independence - 30.2900719, -96.3428624

One and one-half miles south General Sam Houston was baptized by Rufus C. Burlison, Baptist minister and president of Baylor University, November 19, 1854 in Rocky Creek. Erected by the State of Texas 1936.



## BAYLOR UNIVERSITY STATE PARK

Independence - 30.3112098, -96.3571804

Here at Od Independence, Baylor University, like Texas freedom, had its birth.

Baylor was chartered by the Republic of Texas in 1845 and moved to Waco in 1886. This property was donated to the state for park purposes by Baylor University and heirs of the original trustees of the institution which is the oldest university in Texas.



## BAYLOR UNIVERSITY FOR BOYS

Independence - 30.157299, -96.3468872

*FM 50, .4 mi. south of FM 390*

On this site stood one of the early buildings of Baylor University erected for boys in 1851, and torn down in 1934; The institution was incorporated February 1, 1845 under the laws of the Republic of Texas; named for Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor who with Reverend William M. Tryon secured the charter; Henry L. Graves was elected first president January 12, 1846; consolidated with Waco University in 1886 and moved to Waco; Baylor University; the oldest existing educational institution in Texas; continues in unselfish service; Pro Ecclesia, Pro Texana

# INDEPENDENCE AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **ROBERT EMMETT BLEDSOE BAYLOR (1793-1873)**

**Independence - 30.157299, -96.3468872**

*Baylor Park on Windmill Hill, Lueckemeyer Road.*

R.E.B. Baylor, for whom Baylor University is named, was a prominent leader in diverse arenas of public service: military, judicial, political, educational, fraternal and religious. A Kentucky native, he served in the War of 1812 and the Creek Indian War, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Following successes in law and politics in Kentucky and Alabama, he moved to Texas in 1839 and taught school at La Grange, later settling at Gay Hill (7 mi. W), where he built his home, Holly Oak. Baylor was judge of the Third Judicial District and associate justice of the Republic of Texas Supreme Court, 1841-45. He continued as district judge during statehood, retiring in 1863. A Mason, he was Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Texas. It was perhaps as a Baptist leader that Baylor received his greatest recognition. Converted to Christianity in 1839, he helped found the Texas Baptist Education Society in 1841. With W.M. Tryon and J.G. Thomas, he worked to start a Baptist university. Chartered in 1845 as Baylor University, it opened at Independence the following year and included a female department later chartered separately as Baylor Female College. Baylor served as a trustee for both institutions and taught law classes, accepting no pay for teaching. Judge R.E.B. Baylor died on Dec. 30, 1873, with burial here on the Windmill Hill campus. The university moved to Waco in 1886, and in 1917, reburial of his remains occurred at Baylor Female College (now Mary Hardin-Baylor University) in Belton. This marker commemorates the judge's productive years here, from which his influence spread worldwide and is still in evidence today.



## **HOME BUILT IN 1845 BY**

## **GENERAL JEROME B. ROBERTSON**

**Independence - 30.31566, -96.3419933**

*1/10 mi. east off FM 50 (10200 block) on Local Rd., Independence.*

Home built in 1845 by General Jerome B. Robertson (1815-1891). A captain in the army of the Republic of Texas 1836; a captain in the Somervell Expedition 1842; Representative and Senator in the Texas Legislature; Brigadier General of Hood's Brigade C.S.A.



## **MARGARET LEA HOUSTON HOME**

**Independence - 30.318889, -96.344722**

*1 block east of FM 50/FM 390 intersection, on south side of FM 390.*

*Marker reported in storage during house restoration Apr. 2017.*

General Sam Houston's widow lived here with their eight children, 1863-1867. House built in 1830s.



# INDEPENDENCE AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## INDEPENDENCE SCHOOL

Independence -

*1 block east of FM 50/FM 390 intersection, on FM 390, Independence.*

Although private schools were in operation in Independence as early as 1835, tax-supported public schools were not established until the 1870s. In September 1870 the county court ordered that each of the five precincts in the county be divided into two school districts—one for white students and one for black students. The first county school tax was levied in 1874, paving the way for schoolhouse construction.

Classes for white students were conducted in a small frame building and in former facilities of Baylor Female Academy until the first public school building was erected on this site on the town square in 1889. By 1937 an average of forty-four students were attending the school, taught by three teachers. The 1889 schoolhouse was destroyed in a 1939 fire, and another building was erected on the same site. Passed by the State Legislature in 1949, the Gilmer-Aiken Law had far-reaching effects on the boundaries and funding of school districts in Texas. Because its enrollment did not meet the new minimum requirements, Independence School was closed in 1953. The last school building later became a private home.



## INDEPENDENCE

Independence -

*Town Square, FM 390 east of intersection with FM 50*

Local legend tells of Dr. Asa Hoxey who, celebrating the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836, moved to change the name of Coles Settlement to Independence. Actual county records show an 1835 origin for the town of Independence, with C. Baker, J. G. W. Pierson, A. F. Burchard, and R. Stevenson, proprietors. The still-strong Independence Baptist Church was established in 1839 with Pastor T. W. Cox. Local resident Sam Houston was baptized in Little Rocky Creek in 1854. The wealthiest town in Texas by 1845, Independence won the bid for Baylor University, newly chartered by the Republic of Texas. J. B. Root became its first U. S. Postmaster in 1846. By the 1850s Independence had a hotel, jail, stagecoach depot, Masonic lodge, cemetery, and small commercial district. Both the city leaders and Baylor administrators refused to grant right-of-way to the Santa Fe Railroad. By the 1880s, trade was going to competing towns and Independence began to decline. Baylor University moved its schools to Waco and Belton in 1886. By the 1990s, Independence was a rural community with a population of 140. Remaining attractions include the Baptist church and numerous historical sites in the area. (1997)



## HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE, C.S.A.

Independence -

*On block east of FM 50/FM 390 intersection, on FM 390, Independence.*

Co. I, Fifth Texas Infantry Regt., Army of Northern Virginia, was raised here Aug. 1861, as "The Texas Aides" by Capt. J. B. Robertson. Unit fought in many battles of Civil War—Gaines Mill, Second Manassas, Antietam, Gettysburg, Chickamauga and the Wilderness. Robertson became brigadier general and succeeded Hood as Commander Oct. 1862. Replaced by Brigadier General John Gregg, Jan. 1864. Col. R. M. Powell later held post until end of the war. The brigade surrendered at Appomatox, April 12, 1865, with 12% enlistees surviving. "Defeat could not dim their record."



# INDEPENDENCE AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## INDEPENDENCE POSTAL SERVICE

Independence -

*1 block east of the intersection of FM 50 and FM 390, on FM 390, Independence.*

Until 1840, mail was carried by private conveyance—neighbors paying expenses of young man to travel by horse to Houston and bring mail for all; 1840 brought two stage routes giving weekly service. Postal service authorized in 1843; Moses Johnson appointed first Independence postmaster. During Civil War 10 (cent) stamps made by stamping with wood postmark; die carved by John McKnight. During 115 years of operation 21 postmasters served; Kathryn Schwarze being the last when service discontinued, Jan. 31, 1958. Now museum mailing station.



## JOHN HOBLETT SEWARD HOME

Independence - 30.3234416, -96.3350398

*1 mile east of FM 50/FM 390 intersection, on north side of FM 390, Independence.*

Home of John Hoblett Seward 1822-1892 and Laura Jane Roberts Seward 1838-1920; built in 1855 of hand-sawed cedar.



## FRITZ PAUL AND EMMA SCHROEDER HOUSE

Independence - 9799 Palestine Road; 30.2783, -96.3082

*1 mile east of Sandy Hill Church on Palestine Road - property north of road*

Built in 1914, the Fritz Paul and Emma Schroeder house is a 1-1/2-story dwelling, an example of 20th century vernacular architecture. The building was designed and constructed with locally obtained materials by Fritz, who purchased the 100-acre farm from his stepfather, August Scheffer. The farm is nine miles north of Brenham in the rural community of Sandy Hill, which at the time of the home's construction was exclusively German immigrants. The Schroeder house is an example of the relationship between the occupants, builder, and traditions of the traditionally German farming community.



## HENRY V. AND REBECCA ROBERTSON HOMESTEAD

Independence - 30.2481182, -96.3121693

*From Brenham, take SH 105 northeast to FM 50, go north on FM 50 to FM 2621, go east to Randerman Road, go east to Kuykendall Road, go south 2/10 mile to home on west side of road.* Tennessee native Henry Villars Robertson (1803-1856) first came to Texas in 1826 with his cousin, the Empresario Sterling Clack Robertson. He returned to Tennessee where he married Rebecca Oldham (1805-1881) in 1828. Ten years later the couple, with their children and slaves, came to Texas and established a plantation at this site. Their home, which originally featured a dogtrot between the two main rooms, was built in the 1850s from native materials. The homestead is an important reminder of early colonization efforts in Texas.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF WASHINGTON, TEXAS & SURROUNDING AREA

In 1821, Andrew Robinson and his family joined Stephen F. Austin's colony and made their new home on the west side of the Brazos River at the crossing of the La Bahia Road. Although the old Spanish road between Goliad and East Texas had been used since the 17th century, the Robinsons were the first permanent settlers in the area.

In 1835, John Hall purchased land from Robinson, his father-in-law, and formed the Washington Town Company. The town was laid out near the ferry, and lots were sold at public auction on January 8, 1836.

Despite the raw newness of the town, the Provisional Government of Texas designated Washington as the site of the 1836 General Convention to decide the fate of Texas. The convention met in March 1836, though food and lodging were in short supply. The Texas Declaration of Independence was signed on March 2nd, and the delegates continued meeting until they had drafted a constitution and established the new nation's first lasting government.

Washington languished until 1842 when Sam Houston moved the capital of the Republic from Austin to Washington. The town began to grow rapidly and continued to thrive as a commercial center even after the capital was moved back to Austin. The town was dealt a mortal blow, however, when it was bypassed by the railroad in the late 1850s. The Civil War sealed Washington's fate.

To recognize the town's significance, a park at the site was established by the Legislature in 1915. For the Texas Centennial in 1936, additional land was purchased, and the Anson Jones home was moved to the park. Expansion over the years continued, and it would be 1975 when the park was renamed Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historical Park.

Today, Washington is a small hamlet with a post office and one or two small businesses. Most of the original town site is now part of Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site where archeological research is currently underway.



*Independence Hall*





**OLD WASHINGTON  
TOWN SITE**

**VISITOR SERVICES  
COMPLEX**

133

134

INDEPENDENCE  
HALL

135

PARKING

PARKING

**FM 1155**

PARK  
ENTRANCE

PARKING

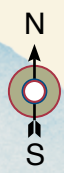
136

137

**STAR OF THE  
REPUBLIC  
MUSEUM**



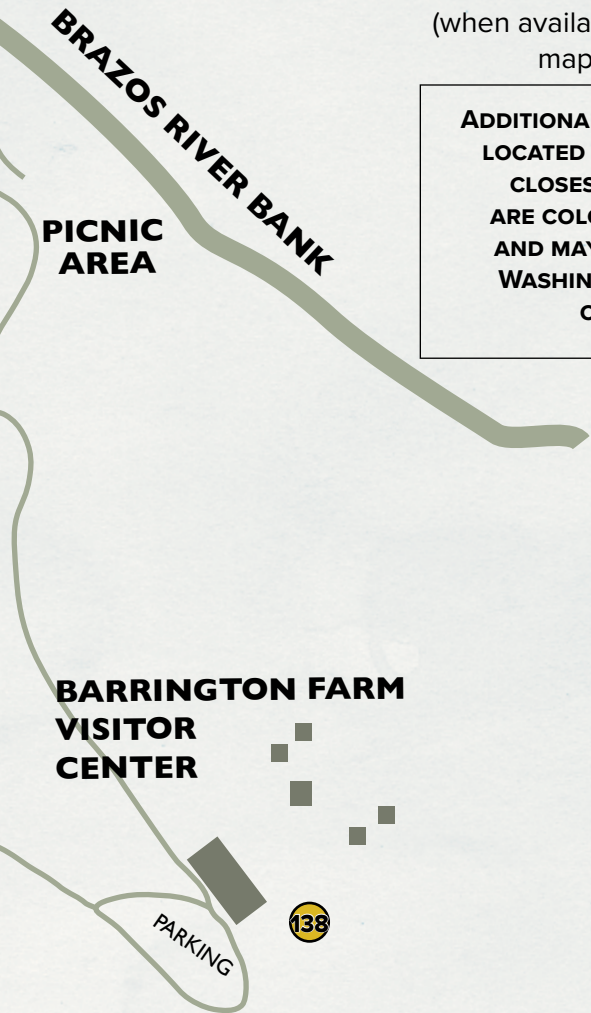
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TO BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION



# WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS HISTORICAL MARKERS

The location shown for each Historical Marker is a close proximity. For turn-by-turn guidance enter the address or GPS coordinates listed (when available) into your preferred map app of choice.

**ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL MARKERS LOCATED IN THE COUNTY AREA CLOSEST TO WASHINGTON ARE COLOR CODED IN YELLOW AND MAY BE FOUND ON THE WASHINGTON COUNTY MAP ON PAGES 6-7**



# WASHINGTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## AFRICAN AMERICAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Washington - 17320 Sweed Road; 30.3244, -96.2058

*From Brenham, take SH 105 about 12 miles northeast to Sweed Road (CR 100), go west about 1.8 miles, veer left on Conner Road - follow around to church and marker.*

Believed to be the oldest African American Catholic community in Texas, this settlement traces its history to the late 1840s. The Spann families migrated to Hidalgo from South Carolina in 1848, bringing several slaves to the area.

A Catholic mission was established for the new settlers and the slave families worshipped with them at a log cabin called the Holy Rosary or the Old Spann Chapel. The Old Catholic Cemetery, located near the log cabin, was the Spann family cemetery. The Spanns and the Sweeds (the slave families) are buried there, and it is still in use today.

In 1888 Father Martin Francis Huhn organized a mission specifically for the African American community, conducting Mass monthly in the log chapel. A separate chapel was constructed in 1936 by Father George Elmendorf and named Sacred Heart. In 1969 a church building and community hall were constructed at Post Oak on land deeded from Spann descendants to the Sweeds. The church structure was named the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel. A new church building was completed in 1995 to serve the African American community in the Brenham area, descendants of the original Sweed families.



## WHITING CEMETERY

Washington - 10251 Lone Star Road; 30.3414, -96.2291

*Located at the intersection of Wellmann Road and Hwy. 105*

Stories of white slave owners siring children with their slaves abound. This historic cemetery is the final resting place of Godfrey Whiting (1824-1897) of West Virginia and Martha Richardson (1830-1922) of Georgia, freed slaves of this area, and their descendants. Both slaves were owned by Daniel Long Richardson, a Georgian plantation owner who came to Texas in 1833 and served in the Texas army in 1836 with Capt. Henry, Texas Company and Jacob Snively. Daniel Richardson received a bounty of land for his service and his estate included thousands of acres of land, fifty-two slaves, several buildings and farm equipment. A petition to free his slaves was filed in Sabine County in 1849 upon his death, listing Martha, five of his other slave children and their mother, Laura. However, no action was taken. Godfrey and Martha were brought as slaves to Washington County soon after Richardson's death. Following emancipation and the death of Richardson's daughter, Anna, a portion of the Richardson land was transferred to Godfrey Whiting. Godfrey and Martha purchased land in 1872 from Christian Luckmaier that bordered the Richardson acreage and established a homestead. Family oral tradition states that this cemetery sits on the site of the old Whiting slave cabin. The first burial in the cemetery is that of Godfrey Whiting in 1897, situated under the shade of a large post oak tree. Martha's gravesite dated September 13, 1922 is next to Godfrey. According to the family, other slaves are also buried here. This historic burial ground is a tangible reminder of struggles and determination for freedom and family.



# WASHINGTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **ASA BRIGHAM**

**Washington - 19724 Washington Cemetery Road; 30.3266, -96.1678**

*Extreme SW corner of Washington Cemetery, from Washington take FM 1115 N about 1 mi. to Washington Cemetery Rd., go west about 1/2 mi. to cemetery.*

Alcalde of Brazoria municipality, 1835; signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, 1836; auditor of the Republic, 1836; treasurer of the Republic 1836-1840 and 1841-44. Born in Massachusetts 1790; died in Washington, Texas July 2, 1844.



## **JOHN WILLIAM SMITH**

**Washington - 19727 Washington Cemetery Road; 30.3266, -96.1678**

*Extreme SW corner of Washington Cemetery, take FM 1115 N from Washington about 1 mi. to Washington Cemetery Rd., go about 1/2 mi. to the cemetery.*

Soldier in the army of the Republic. Member of Congress. First mayor of San Antonio. Born in Virginia, 1792. Died in Washington, Texas, January 13, 1845.



## **WASHINGTON METHODIST CHURCH**

**Washington - FM 1155; 30.210831, -96.2450446**

*100 yards south of the main entrance to the Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park on the west side of FM 1155*

Methodist preacher Henry Stephenson traveled through Texas in 1826, and reportedly preached at the home of William and Catherine Gates near the future town of Washington at a time when Mexican authorities did not permit protestant church services. By 1833, Minister John Wesley Kenney settled here and was preaching in Samuel Gates' house. Settlers David Ayers and Lydian McHenry successfully appealed to the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States to send three missionaries to the Republic of Texas in late 1837. Each of these men, Martin Ruter, Robert Alexander, and Littleton Fowler, were in Washington at different times in 1837. The following year, a frame building for the Methodist Episcopal Church was built on part of block 44 at the intersection of Gay and Hamilton Streets, completed soon after Ruter died and was buried in Washington. It was one of the earliest churches of the denomination built in Texas. In 1839, the Washington circuit reported 178 members, two local preachers and three Sunday schools; churches included Washington, San Felipe, Piney, Centre Hill, Travis, Caney Creek, Halloway, Cedar Creek and Independence. By 1845, the Texas Conference designated Washington as a district church, and in 1847, the circuit reported 254 Anglo members and 54 African Americans. In 1852, a new brick structure replaced the first church; it was often referred to as Ruter's church in honor of the early minister. The population of the town and church were in decline in the 1850's, and after the roof of the abandoned church collapsed, the property was sold in 1870. Members remained active and met in other locations for a few years even with no building of their own. In 1884, Rev. C.L. Spencer transferred the church bell and remaining funds to the Navasota congregation. The Methodist church in Washington is remembered as a significant early house of worship and faith.



# WASHINGTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **REPLICA OF CONVENTION HALL, WASHINGTON STATE PARK - WASHINGTON**

Washington - 23400 Park Road 12; 30.3258, -96.1551

Replica of the House in which the Constitutional Convention was held, March 1 to 17, 1836 and in which the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed. (1936)



## **WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS**

Washington - Park Road 12; 30.3258, -96.1551

This village -- site of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence and first capital of the Republic of Texas -- began in 1822 as a ferry crossing. Here the historic La Bahia Road (now Ferry Street) spanned the Brazos River.

In 1834 a townsite was laid out and named, probably for Washington, Georgia, home of a leading settler.

In 1835, as political differences with Mexico led toward war, the General Council (the insurgent Texas government) met in the town. Enterprising citizens then promoted the place as a site for the Convention of 1836 and, as a "bonus," provided a free meeting hall. Thus, Texas' Declaration of Independence came to be signed in an unfinished building owned by a gunsmith.

The Provisional Government of the Republic was also organized in Washington, but was removed March 17 as news of the advancing Mexican Army caused a panic throughout the region. The townspeople fled, too, on March 20, 1836, in the "Runaway Scrape."

After the Texan victory at San Jacinto, the town thrived for a period. It was again capital of Texas, 1842-1845; and became center of Washington State Park, 1916. It now contains historic buildings and "Barrington," home of Anson Jones, the last President of Texas.



## **IN MEMORY OF THE 1836 DELEGATES**

Washington - 23400 Park Road 12; 30.3258, -96.1551

*In front of Visitor Services Complex in Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park*

To the memory of those courageous souls, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention held here March 1-17, 1836 who declared Texas free, organized a Republic, and framed its constitution.

Jessie B. Badgett; Dr. George Washington Barnett; Thomas Barnett; Stephen William Blount; John White Bower; Asa Brigham; Andrew Briscoe; John Wheeler Bunton; John S.D. Byrom; Mathew Caldwell; Samuel Price Carson; George Campbell Childress; William Clark, Jr.; Robert M. Coleman; James Collingsworth; Edward Conrad; William Carroll Crawford; Richard Ellis; Dr. Stephen Hendrickson Everitt; John Fisher; Samuel Rhoades Fisher; James Gaines; Dr. Thomas Jefferson Gazley; Benjamin Briggs Goodrich; Jesse Grimes; Robert Hamilton; Bailey Hardeman; Augustine Blackburn Hardin; Samuel Houston; William Demetris Lacey; Albert Hamilton Latimer; Edward Oswald Legrand; Samuel Augustus Maverick; Collin McKinney; Michel Branamour Menard; William Menefee; John W. Moore; Dr. Junius William Mottley; Jose Antonio Navarro; Martin Parmer; Sydney Oswald Pennington; Robert Potter; James Power; John S. Roberts; Sterling Clack Robertson; Francisco Ruiz; Thomas Jefferson Rusk; William Bennett Scates; George Washington Smyth; Elijah Stapp; Dr. Charles Bellinger Stewart; James Gibson Swisher; Charles Standfield Taylor; David Thomas; John Turner; Edwin Waller; Claiborne West; James B. Woods; Dr. Lorenzo De Zavala.

May these names be engraved on the hearts of all Texans.



# WASHINGTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## ANDREW ROBINSON SR.

Washington - 23400 Park Road 12; 30.3258, -96.1551

*In front of Star of the Republic Museum in Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park*

First settler of Stephen F. Austin's "Old 300" colonists to arrive in Texas. Came in November 1821 with his wife Nancy and two children. In 1824 he received title to over 9,000 acres of land and was made a captain in the colonial militia. The town of Washington was surveyed on his grant and he became a co-founder of it. By 1830 he was operating a ferry at La Bahia Crossing as well as a hotel and saloon. In 1835 he fought in the Battle of Gonzales, where his unit first carried into battle the original Lone Star flag made by Sarah Dodson. He died 1852.



## GEORGE CAMPBELL CHILDRESS STATUE

Washington - Park Road 12; 30.3258, -96.1551

*In front of Star of the Republic Museum, in Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park*

Born in Nashville, Tennessee, January 8, 1804. Died in Galveston, Texas, October 6, 1841. Before coming to Texas in December 1835, he assisted in raising funds and securing volunteers for the Army of Texas; delegate from the Municipality of Milam to the Constitutional Convention held here from March 1 to 17, 1836, chairman of Committee of Five which drafted the Texas Declaration of Independence; appointed by President Burnet March 19, 1836; agent of Texas at Washington to secure the recognition of the sovereignty and independence of Texas by the United States.



## BARRINGTON - HOME OF ANSON JONES

Washington - 23400 Park Road 12; 30.3258, -96.1551

*At the Barrington Living History Farm, southeast of The Star of the Republic Museum in Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park.*

Residence built in 1845 at Barrington by Dr. and Mrs. Anson Jones. Removed to this site in 1936. Dr. Anson Jones 1798-1858 last President of the Republic of Texas. Surgeon in the Army; soldier at San Jacinto. Representative and Senator in the Congress of Texas; Minister to the United States, Secretary of State and President of the Republic when Texas became part of the United States.



## HATFIELD PLANTATION

Washington - 16980 FM 912; 30.3056, -96.1816

*Off FM 912*

Built of brick, white pine and cedar by slave labor in 1853, for Basil M. Hatfield, a San Jacinto soldier whose steamboat plied the Brazos River. His Washington store building was used by the Republic of Texas for its meetings, and here was held its last inaugural ball. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, 1965.



# WASHINGTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **FRIEDENS CHURCH OF WASHINGTON, UCC**

**Washington - 20301 FM 1155 East; 30.288, -96.1663**

Organized in 1890, the Friedens Church served the German immigrant community of Washington County. Following the Civil War an influx of German settlers moved to Washington County. In 1888, Rev. Klindworth began to hold services in response to a plea from several German families living in Washington County. His services inspired the people of the community to form a permanent church group. They decided to build a church and school building a mile and a half south of Washington. A full-time minister was hired who would also serve as the school teacher for economic reasons. The members approved a minister from the Evangelical Synod of America and, in 1890, Rev. David Buchmueller arrived to work as pastor and school teacher.

The church was officially organized in October 1890 and named Friedens Evangelical Church. Members not of German heritage misunderstood the name, and the deed named it the German Evangelical Freemans Church. The church building was little more than a shell, without a ceiling or interior furnishings. During the tenure of Rev. Tesch, the church added a steeple and 16-foot addition. The church was incorporated in 1899, and in 1904, the church was separated from the school. In 1911, a new church was built along with a Browns Prairie School building, thus forever separating the church and school. Originally held in German, with one English service a month beginning in 1922, church services gradually transitioned to English by 1960. The church name was changed to Friedens United Church of Christ until 1995, when it was renamed Friedens Church of Washington, UCC. This historic church is a reminder of the area's German heritage and legacy.



## **BROWN'S PRAIRIE SCHOOL AND BUILDING**

**Washington - 20301 FM 1155 East; 30.288, -96.1663**

In 1888, a church and school building was erected in a central location at newly-divided Brown's Prairie, with the Reverend David Buchmueller as pastor and teacher. By 1911, a new wooden six-room school building was used each Sunday, with one teacher for six grades. In 1939, the wooden school was replaced using WPA funds, constructed by architect Travis Broesche and stone mason Carl Whitmarsh. In the 1940s, the Brown's Prairie School was referred to as Washington School, and after the 1950-51 school year, all students were transferred to Brenham after its annexation into the district. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 2016



## **AMOS GATES**

**Washington - Graball Cemetery; 30.25123, -96.11975**

Amos Gates, a member of Austin's first colony. Born January 11, 1799.

Died May 26, 1883.

His son William C. Gates, who served in the Confederate Army, born July 15, 1834, died January 30, 1877.



# WASHINGTON AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## MERCY SEAT BAPTIST CHURCH

Washington - 20250 Flat Prairie Road; 30.2696, -96.1360235  
*CR 112, off FM 2726*

Reverend J. L. Lawson and community members organized the Mercy Seat Baptist Church in 1894. Located in what was then called Graball, the original church building was built on property south of the current location. In 1953, the membership voted to build a new church, with each member paying one dollar per month for the building fund. In 1981, the rear addition of the existing church was built and the whole building was bricked the next year. The church has been active in the community with festivals, outreach programs, scholarships and mission trips. Mercy Seat Baptist Church thrived throughout the 20th century even after Graball declined, and it continues to serve the Washington area today.



## BARRINGTON PLANTATION

Washington - 30.2764627, -96.2098135

*8.3 mi. north of Chappell Hill on FM 1155, 1.2 mi. north on Dillard Rd., then about 1.65 mi. east on Whitman Rd.*

Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas, bought 1,107 acres here from M. Austin Bryan in 1844. This site, named "Barrington" for Jones' birthplace in Massachusetts, was the "White House of Texas" from 1844-46. By 1845 Jones had built two dwellings, a kitchen, office, smokehouse, and stables. After Jones' leadership in the annexation of Texas to the U.S. in 1846, he retired here to become a gentleman farmer. Other buildings were added in 1847. Jones sold the plantation in 1857. The house was moved to Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park in 1936.



## THE HUTCHINSON-KORTH HOME

Washington - 5000 Krueger Road; 30.266944, -96.18722

*Northeast of Chappell Hill, 9.6 miles on FM 1155, then 1.2 mile on local road.*

Situated on an 1824 Colonial Land Grant from Mexico. Structure, begun in 1836 by Grantee's son Samuel H. Gates as a 2-room Dog-run Cabin, was greatly enlarged by the 1842-88 owners, Capt. B.B. Hutchinson and family, settlers from South Carolina. The William Korth Family, 1888-1969 owners, gave the property excellent care. Constructed of wood pegged posts, and cypress boards, house was restored by 1970s owners Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Bullock.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHAPPELL HILL, TEXAS & SURROUNDING AREA

Robert Wooding Chappell, for whom Chappell Hill was named, came to Texas in 1838 and was given a grant of land in 1841. A great hunter, he was credited with killing the last buffalo in Washington County.

Chappell's granddaughter, Mary Haller, young wife of Jacob Haller, purchased or was given a block of 100 acres, and in 1847 divided it and began selling town lots. There were at least two stores operating prior to that time, and a post office was established in 1847 with Jacob Haller as postmaster.

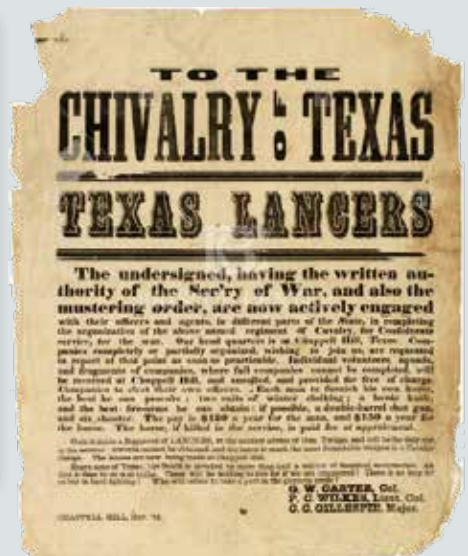
Situated in the midst of some of the finest farming land in the state, the new town attracted settlers from prominent families of the Old South and soon gained prominence as a religious and educational center, with five churches and two colleges.

Early freight and passenger travel was generally served by ox wagon and stagecoach, while two steamboat ports near today's Hwy. 290 bridge served as shipping points for cotton, the principal crop produced in the area. Passengers could travel on lavishly appointed paddle wheelers on regular runs all the way to Galveston.

The Civil War and Reconstruction era brought violent changes to Chappell Hill, but the terrible yellow fever epidemic of 1867 decimated the population to such an extent that the town never fully recovered. Yet Chappell Hill survived and today, the town has entered a new era of growth and prosperity while maintaining its historic charm



*Provident Baptist Church, 1873*



# OTHER HISTORICAL SITES IN CHAPPELL HILL (WITHOUT HISTORICAL MARKERS)

## Stage Coach Inn

**4950 Main Street, Chappell Hill, 77426**

*Private Home, No Public Entry*

Built by Jacob and Mary Haller. Mary's mother operated the Inn until 1859. A favorite stopping place for travelers from Houston to Austin or Waco over two stagecoach lines from 1851 to 1871. Built of stone and cedar, entire framework mortised, tenoned and pegged (nails used only for finish work). 14 rooms (6 bedrooms upstairs), Down spout heads bear the Lone Star of Texas and were added in 1851.

## CHHS Museum & Former Public

### School Bldg.

**9220 Poplar Street, Chappell Hill, 77426**

Site of the Chappell Hill Institute (1850-1854), later Chappell Hill Female College (1854-1912). Building was originally the Chappell Hill School (consolidated with Brenham in 1961). Now houses the Chappell Hill Historical Society Museum and exhibits, records and relics from the town and area development.

## Toland House Hotel

**5131 Main Street, Chappell Hill, 77426**

Constructed in 1912 by J.W. Heartfield for Mary H. Toland after the death of her husband, Dr. A.W. Toland, upon the site of his office. The old wooden frame attached to the rear as the kitchen was Dr. O.L. Williams' and later Dr. Toland's office. It served as the residence for Mary and the children. The building operated as a hotel until Mary Toland's death in 1931. It then served as a private residence until it reopened as a country inn in 1980. In 1983 it reverted back to a private residence.

## Shaver House

**5144 Main Street, Chappell Hill, 77426**

Constructed by a local contractor J.B. Heartfield, in 1914, the house was for the original owners, Jake Jewell and Mary Chappell Jackson Shaver. Mr. Shaver was a founding director and president of the Farmers State Bank, was instrumental in installing the first telephone service in Chappell Hill and owned the second automobile in town. Architecturally, the house is a blend of several

styles including Greek Revival, Prairie Style and Arts & Crafts. Woodwork in the house was from the Arts & Crafts period. During restoration, every effort was made to preserve the spirit of the old house as it was. Original blueprints displayed in the stairwell show that very little was changed during the restoration.

## McDermott's Saloon (Brazos Star)

**5101 Main Street, Chappell Hill, 77426**

Historically functioned as a saloon and served as such as late as 1968 (at one time in its long history, Main Street had 14 saloons lining the street). And the bullet in the wall? Supposedly, outlaw Bill Longly frequented there. Wooden panels still exist that can be put over the glass in the front doors in case of a gunfight. Rear additions in 1911/1912. On the south side of building, the shed extension originally was a horse stable. The building was restored in 1968/69 with exterior painting and addition of railing.

## CHHS Circulating Library

**9105 Cedar Street, Chappell Hill, 77426**

A Circulating library is the same as a lending library such as what we have today. The Chappell Hill Circulating Library Association was formed in 1893 with 26 charter members to accept an extensive collection of books donated by William Grayson Foote Jr. Building was restored in 1964 by the Chappell Hill Historical Society and currently houses important historical publications donated and restored by members of the community.

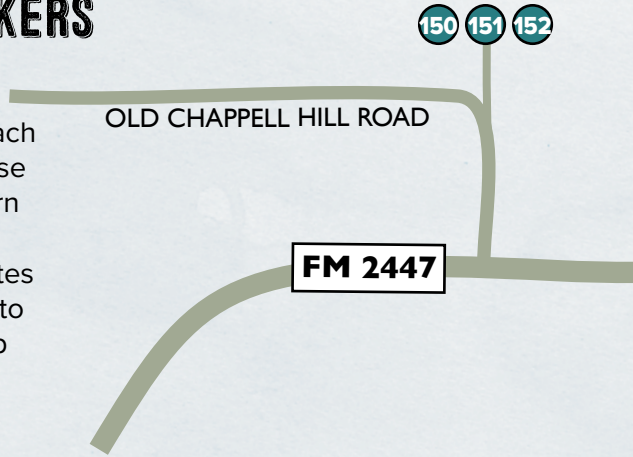


*Shaver House, 1914*

# CITY OF CHAPPELL HILL HISTORICAL MARKERS

The location shown for each Historical Marker is a close proximity. For turn-by-turn guidance enter the address or GPS coordinates listed (when available) into your preferred map app of choice.

**ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL MARKERS LOCATED IN THE COUNTY AREA CLOSEST TO CHAPPELL HILL ARE COLOR CODED IN TEAL AND MAY BE FOUND ON THE WASHINGTON COUNTY MAP ON PAGES 6-7**





↑  
TO WASHINGTON

147

148

149

154

CHESNUT ST.

153

155

**FM 1155**

159

160

CEDAR ST.

156

161

POPLAR ST.

158

157

PROVIDENCE ST.

162

163

TO HOUSTON →

167

166

**FM 1371**

165

GIBBS CREEK RD.



# CHAPPELL HILL AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## CAMP FELDER

Chappell Hill - The actual site is on private land. See Directions. 30.13967, -96.14335

*From the traffic light at the intersection of Highway 290 and FM 1155, approximately 7.0 miles north on FM 1155 on the left-hand (west side) of the road.* When Texas seceded from the Union on March 2, 1861, and became part of the Confederate States of America, Confederate training grounds and Union prisoner of War camps were established in the area. Camp Felder was named after Gabriel Felder, a wealthy planter who owned the land where it was established. The camp was in use as early as 1863 by Confederate regiments. In 1864, Camp Groce (another prisoner of war camp near Hempstead) became overcrowded and was also struck by a yellow fever outbreak. The entire prison camp population was evacuated to Camp Felder in October of 1864 (approx 500 men) Camp Felder was unsheltered and conditions were harsh. Prisoners and guards alike perished but the exact number of deaths is unknown. As the fever epidemic subsided, the remaining prisoners were moved back to Camp Groce in November. As a training ground and base for several regiments and as a prisoner of war camp, Camp Felder is remembered for its significant and poignant history.



## PERMELIA HAYNIE HOME

Chappell Hill - 4890 Main Street; 30.144311, -96.2599021

*Approximately 0.5 miles north of the intersection of US 290 and Main Street (FM 1155). Third house on west side of the street, just north of the intersection of Main Street and FM 2447 (Chestnut Street).*

(Built 1853) Victorian house built on land deeded Permelia Haynie (Mrs. John Haynie) by sister and her husband. Framework is of hand-hewn cedar with square nails and wooden pegs. After 1900 storm and later, bay window, kitchen, and other rooms were added.



## JACOB HALLER HOUSE

Chappell Hill - 4950 Main Street; 30.144167, -96.2575

*Approximately 0.5 miles north of the intersection of US 290 and Main Street (FM 1155). Second house on west side of the street, just north of the intersection of Main Street and FM 2447 (Chestnut Street).*

Victorian architecture, with fine wood details. Hand-hewn local cedar was used in framing. Clapboard siding is of cypress. Built 1853 by Chappell Hill's first Postmaster; later the home of "country doctor" W. R. Campbell.

# CHAPPELL HILL AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **JULIUS YANCH HOME**

**Chappell Hill - 4901 Main Street; 30.144167, -96.256944**

*Approximately 0.5 miles north of the intersection of US 290 and Main Street (FM 1155). Fourth house on east side of the street, just north of the intersection of Main Street and FM 2447 (Chestnut Street).*

Prime example of pioneer Texas architecture. Built for Yanch in 1854 by M. P. Munyan, contractor for many early Chappell Hill structures. Cedar construction with tongue and groove flooring; chimney, underground cistern of native limestone.



## **CHAPPELL HILL MASONIC CEMETERY**

**Chappell Hill - 10357 Old Chappell Hill Road;  
30.1533, -96.2607**

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155, 0.5 mi. north on FM 1155 to FM 2447, then left of FM 2447 0.2 mi., then right on Old Chappell Hill Road 0.67 mi.*

Opened as Masonic burial ground, 1853. Jacob Haller, founder of Chappell Hill, was first interment. Final resting place of pioneers, soldiers, statesmen, heroes of Texas. Until formation of cemetery association in 1965, cared for by Hubert Lodge No. 67, A.F.&A.M.



## **WILLIAM JONES E. HEARD**

**Chappell Hill - 10357 Old Chappell Hill Road;  
30.144167, -96.256944**

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155, 0.5 mi. north on FM 1155 to FM 2447, then left of FM 2447 0.2 mi., then right on Old Chappell Hill Road 0.67 mi.*

Born in Tennessee in 1803; died at Chappell Hill August 8, 1874; captain of Company F, 1st Regiment of Texas; volunteer at San Jacinto. Erected by the State of Texas.



## **MAJOR WILLIAM EDWARD HOWTH**

**Chappell Hill - 10357 Old Chappell Hill Road;  
30.144167, -96.256944**

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155, 0.5 mi. north on FM 1155 to FM 2447, then left of FM 2447 0.2 mi., then right on Old Chappell Hill Road 0.67 mi.*

Participated in the capture of San Antonio, 1835, and was a Major in the Army of Texas, 1836. Born in New York City, January 14, 1810. Died November 1, 1859.



# CHAPPELL HILL AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## JOHN STERLING SMITH HOUSE

Chappell Hill - 9200 Chestnut Street (FM 2447);  
30.143056, -96.2525

*On the south side of Chesnut Street, west of the intersection of Church Street, Chappell Hill.*

Originally built in 1855 as a one-story dog-trot structure, this house was purchased in 1873 by John Sterling and Claytonia Smith. Their son, John Sterling Smith, Jr., a community leader, businessman, and cotton farmer, had the home remodeled to its current Queen Anne style appearance in 1910. It is the last remaining house of its style in Chappell Hill. Its features include an octagonal tower, second floor gables and dormers, and a curvilinear porch.



## WAVERLY PLANTATION

Chappell Hill - 9405 FM 2447 (Chestnut Street);  
30.1446651, -96.2526465

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155, approximately 0.5 mi. to FM 2447. Right on FM 2447 about 0.3 mi. Home is on the left behind huge live oak trees. Marker cannot be seen from the road.*

(1850) Antebellum home built by William Leigh Tunstall, a practicing physician 1850-54. Also home of Col. William M. Sledge 1854-60. Sledge built railroad to Chappell Hill and mortgaged his cotton crop 1856 to build bridge over Brazos. Greek Revival architecture; arched cornices; hand hewn cedar sills; native stone.



## APPLEWHITE HOUSE

Chappell Hill - 5081 Church Street; 30.143056, -96.2525

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155, approximately 0.5 mi. to FM 2447. Right on FM 2447 about 0.2 mi. Home is on the southeast corner of Church and Chestnut Streets*

Built 1852 by minister, lawyer and teacher Isaac Applewhite whose hobby was carpentry. Hand-hewn native cedar construction. Typical Victorian architecture.

Builder also operated a steam sawmill and gristmill with F. J. Cooke.



## CHAPPELL HILL METHODIST CHURCH

Chappell Hill - 5195 Church Street; 30.1413, -96.2527

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155, approximately 0.4 mi. to Poplar Street, then right 0.25 miles to the church.*

Organized prior to 1847. First pastor, Robert Alexander, had been a missionary in Texas since 1837. Original church built in 1853; was destroyed in great storm of 1900; rebuilt in 1901, constructed of pine. Memorial inscription placed in window in honor of Dr. Alexander, a member of the Texas Conference for 45 years. Texas Methodist Conference sessions were held in Chappell Hill six times: 1847, 1854, 1860, 1865, 1870 and 1878.





# CHAPPELL HILL AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **SITE OF CHAPPELL HILL COLLEGE**

**Chappell Hill - 9220 Poplar Street; 30.14108, -96.2536164**

*9220 Poplar Street in front of the Public School/Museum, Chappell Hill.*

Established in 1852 by the Methodist Church as Chappel Hill Male and Female Institute. After Soule University for Boys was established in 1856, Chappel Hill College was a school for girls. Existed until 1912.



## **CHAPPELL HILL FEMALE COLLEGE BELL**

**Chappell Hill - 9220 Poplar Street; 30.140833, -96.252778**

*9220 Poplar Street in front of the Public School/Museum, Chappell Hill.*

Chappell Hill Male and Female Institute (founded 1850) pioneered in higher learning in Texas. Under Methodist Church after 1854. Women's branch was chartered separately, 1856. Rebuilt after a fire in 1871; this bell, cast 1873, is only relic of the old college, closed in 1912.



## **FARMERS STATE BANK AND REINSTEIN STORE**

**Chappell Hill - 5060 Main Street; 30.1421, -96.2571**

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155 (Main Street),*

*approximately 0.5 mi. Bank is on the west side of the street.*

Chappell Hill began as an agricultural community in 1847 but had no bank until a population boom in the early 1900s brought wealth and economic prosperity. Farmers State Bank was organized in March 1907 and opened in September of that year with J. J. Shaver as president. Alex Griffin of Brenham was awarded the contract for the construction of a fireproof building. The one-story bank features large storefront panels and transoms and a plaster over brick finish. The bank, renamed Chappell Hill Bank in 1986, also acquired the 1878 W. R. Reinstein Store, a one-story, four-bay brick building with arched entry doors, a stepped parapet and decorative brick corbelling.



## **OLD ROCK STORE**

**Chappell Hill - 5070 Main Street; 30.1421, -96.2572**

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155 (Main Street), approximately 0.5 mi. At Main and Cedar Streets (west side of the road), Chappell Hill.*

Town's early masonry store, built 1869 by merchant John E. Glass. Has thick sandstone walls, massive hand-hewn and pegged pine timbers, doors and window shutters made with square nails. Tenants have been grocers and the Chappell Hill Post Office.



# CHAPPELL HILL AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH

Chappell Hill - 5175 Main Street; 30.1406, -96.257

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155 (Main Street), approximately 0.36 mi. At Main and Providence Streets (east side of the road), Chappell Hill.*

Founded May, 1842. Original site 2 1/2 mi. NW of Chappell Hill. Arm of church opened here in 1853. First building destroyed by storm. All of the congregation moved here in 1866. Present church erected in 1873.



## SITE OF SOULE UNIVERSITY FOR BOYS

Chappell Hill - At the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155, northeast corner, in the garden area; 30.1356907, -96.2570673

Established in 1855 and chartered in 1856 to replace Rutgersville and Wesleyan Colleges. Closed during the Civil War and later by yellow fever. Succeeded in 1875 by Southwestern University.



## CHAPPELL HILL

Chappell Hill - At the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155, northeast corner, in the garden area; 30.1356907, -96.2570673

Founded 1847. Named for Robert Chappell, an 1841 settler. Early education center, with Chappell Hill Male and Female Institute, 1852, and Soule University, 1850. Male students marched away to Civil War in 1861. C.S.A. Quartermaster Depot located here.



## EARLY TEXAS RIVER STEAMERS

Chappell Hill - Intersection of US290 and Malinowski Road; 30.1270763, -96.2014125

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155 (Main Street), 3.6 miles, right on Malinowski Road 100 feet. Marker is just west of Brazos River.*

River-shipping efforts in pioneer Texas by steamboat were centered primarily on the Brazos (about 2 mi. E.), and Washington-on-the-Brazos (about 15 mi. N.) was an important distribution point for commercial interests. The Brazos flowed through the most productive cotton and sugar region in Texas; steamers greatly aided shipment of these items to markets in New Orleans. The first steamer reached Washington in 1840; by 1849 its docks were busy with steamboats making regular river trips. Between 1820-1840 settlers made the journey to Texas on the Red River in steamers if the river was high enough and there were no obstructions. Buffalo Bayou, extending from Houston to Galveston Bay, was the waterway traveled most often by steamers and took over trade from Brazos River because it had a better outlet to the sea. Navigation on the Trinity, Colorado, and Sabine rivers also increased inland growth and development.

While rivers in Texas seemed to offer possibilities for steamboat travel, the story of river navigation is largely one of disappointment. Most meandering rivers were too shallow, often flooded, needed clearing; many were choked with driftwood. These hazards greatly retarded economic and social development of the state. By 1865 the importance of river steamers was gone.



# CHAPPELL HILL AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## MOTLEY-CUMMINGS CEMETERY

Chappell Hill - 7145 Gibbs Creek Road; 30.0921, -96.2246

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155 (Main Street), 1.0 mile, right on FM 1371, 3.1 miles, right on Gibbs Creek Road 0.1 mile. Marker is through a gate on the right, further into the pasture. KEEP THE GATE CLOSED.*

Established 1913



## LOCKHART PLANTATION

Chappell Hill - PRIVATE DRIVE NO PUBLIC ENTRY  
30.132778, -96.244167

*On FM 1371, 1 mile east of Chappell Hill.*

Home built 1850 by Dr. John W. Lockhart, Chappell Hill physician and frequent host of Sam Houston. House is of cedar and black walnut hand-cut on rich 1,000-acre place that had its own blacksmith shop, cotton gin, store, other facilities.



## W. W. BROWNING HOUSE

Chappell Hill - PRIVATE DRIVE NO PUBLIC ENTRY  
30.1329, -96.2564

*1/2 mile south of US 290 via private drive, Chappell Hill.*

A native of South Carolina, William Westcoat Browning (1808-1871) moved to Texas in the 1850s with his wife, Elizabeth (Gilmer), and their children. This Greek Revival plantation home was built for them in 1856-58. The house is a fine example of the architectural style brought by early Texas planters from their former homes in the southern states. Outstanding features include the false graining on the interior woodwork, the widow's walk, and the two-story porches.



## CEGIELSKI CEMETERY

Chappell Hill - 6200 Chadwick Hogan Road;  
30.1289, -96.2829

*From FM 1371 west of FM 1155 in Chappell Hill, take Chadwick-Hogan Road southwest about 1.2 miles to the cemetery. On the northeast corner of Saint Stanislaus cemetery.*

Established 1939



## ATKINSON CEMETERY

Chappell Hill - 6300 Chadwick-Hogan Road;  
30.1288, -96.2813

*From FM 1371 west of FM 1155 in Chappell Hill, take Chadwick-Hogan Road southwest about 1.2 miles to the cemetery.*

Name honors 1857 mayor of Chappell Hill, Jethro Atkinson, whose plantation was nearby. In 1844, date of earliest marked grave, site was owned by Robert Wooding Chappell, for whom city was named.

Formed in 1957, Atkinson Cemetery Association provides perpetual care.



# CHAPPELL HILL AREA HISTORICAL MARKERS



## **CEDAR CREEK COMMUNITY**

**Chappell Hill - 10357 Old Chappell Hill Road;  
30.1539, -96.2605**

*From the intersection of US 290 and FM 1155, 0.5 mi. north on FM 1155 to FM 2447, then left of FM 2447 0.2 mi., then right on Old Chappell Hill Road 0.67 mi.*

Located halfway between San Felipe de Austin and the town of Washington, Cedar Creek existed from the mid-1830s to the early 1850s. Cedar Creek was inhabited by Methodists and became the center for the Texas Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1849, Chappell Hill was founded by the Cedar Creek Community. Chappell Hill M.E. Church became the hub of Methodism in Central Texas. The community folded into the town of Chappell Hill two miles south of the Cedar Creek Camp meeting site. The land reverted to farmland by the end of the Civil War. Today, the site is on private property north of the Chappell Hill Masonic Cemetery. Rocks laid around the community spring are still visible.



## **JAMES WALKER LOG HOUSE**

**Chappell Hill - 4800 Old Chappell Hill Road;  
30.1706, -96.3362**

*3 miles east of Blue Bell Road on Old Chappell Hill Road*

This is one of the earliest surviving log houses in Texas. It was home to James and Catherine (Miller) Walker and their descendants from 1824 to 1888. James was one of the "old 300", original colonists to settle in Stephen F. Austin's colony. He and Catherine settled here with their children after July 21, 1824, when James received a land grant of one league (about 4,428 acres) on New Year's and Woodward's creeks. Sons John and James, Jr., participated in the 1836 Texas Revolution and developed the family land after their father's death. The house was built at an unknown location downhill from the present site. It was moved to the hilltop in 1888, when John Wallace acquired the property. In 1921 the house was moved about 250 feet to this site by the Bockhorn family, who used it as a barn.

The 1 1/2-story double-pen log house is built of rough-hewn cedar logs covered by horizontal siding. The square floor plan includes a rear shed of heavy timber construction. The original rooms date from 1824, and the shed is original or an early addition. The front façade, with a three-bay porch supported by square wood posts, has a single door in the west pen, and a door and 6/6 pane window in the east pen. Windows and doors have board and batten shutters. A rubble stone chimney is the major architectural feature on the east side. The house's two main chimneys are connected by a doorway centered in the log partition wall. Intact interior materials include exposed logs chinked with lime mortar, pine ceilings, and doors with original paint and hardware. A series of high notches on the walls indicate there was a loft room above. The house was restored in 1986 using structural evidence and period historic details as design sources for missing elements. Today the house is a most valuable reminder of the early history and architecture of Texas.



# INDEX

## BY ALPHABETICAL ORDER

100th Anniversary Brenham Banner Press (1866-1966)	20	Eben-Ezer Evangelical Lutheran Church	26
African American Catholic Community	60	Evangelical Lutheran Colleges of Texas	22
Amos Gates	64	Farmers State Bank and Reinstein Store	73
Andrew Robinson Sr.	63	Female Department of Baylor University	48
Appelwhite House	72	First Baptist Church	14
Asa Brigham	61	First Christian Church of Brenham	14
Atkinson Cemetery	75	First Methodist Church	13
Barrington - Home of Anson Jones	63	First Public High School in Brenham	17
Barrington Plantation	65	Former Bank Building of Giddings & Giddings	16
Bassett and Bassett Banking House	16	Friedens Church of Washington, UCC	64
Baylor University for Boys	52	Fritz Paul and Emma Schroeder House	55
Baylor University State Park	52	Gantt-Jones House	36
Bethlehem Cemetery	27	Gen. James Willie	49
Birthplace of Hedwig T. Kniker	40	George Campbell Childress Statue	63
Blinn College Old Main Building	25	George Washington Petty	25
Blue Bell Creameries	19	Germania Mutual Aid Association	20
B'nai Abraham Synagogue	13	Giddings-Stone Mansion	20
Brenham - Founded 1843	19	Giddings-Wilkin House	12
Brenham Fire Department-	17	Gideon Lincecum	38
Brenham Masonic Cemetery	13	Glenblythe Plantation, Home of Thomas Affleck	39
Brenham Normal & Industrial College	12	Greenvine Baptist Church	29
Brenham Presbyterian Church	24	Greenvine Gas Discovery	29
Brenham Public Library	13	Greenvine Schools	28
Brown's Prairie School and Building	64	Harmon School	36
Burton Cafe	34	Hasskarl House-"Far View"	21
Burton Community	35	Hatfield Plantation	63
Burton Depot	34	Henry V. and Rebecca Robertson Homestead	55
Burton Farmers Gin	34	Hogan Funeral Home	24
Burton Public School	36	Holly Oaks	47
Burton State Bank	35	Home Built in 1845 by General Jerome B. Robertson Home	53
Camp Felder	70	Hood's Texas Brigade, C.S.A.	54
Camptown Cemetery	18	Houston, Baptism of General Sam	52
Cedar Creek Community	76	Houston-Lea Family Cemetery	51
Cegielski Cemetery	75	In Memory of the 1836 Delegates	62
Chappell Hill	74	Independence	51
Chappell Hill Female College Bell	73	Independence	54
Chappell Hill Masonic Cemetery	71	Independence Postal Service	55
Chappell Hill Methodist Church	72	Independence School	54
Christian Church Cemetery	37	Jacob Haller House	70
City of Brenham	21	James Walker Log House	76
Columns of a Building of Old Baylor University	48	John Hoblett Seward Home	55
Davis Family	50		
Dr. Horace G. Clark	49		
Early Texas River Steamers	74		



# INDEX

## BY ALPHABETICAL ORDER

John Prince Coles	50	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	28
John Sterling Smith House	72	Salem Lutheran Church	27
John William Smith	61	Salem School	27
Julius Yanch Home	71	Schmid Bros. Building	22
La Bahia Road	46	Seelhorst-Lehrmann House	17
Leander H. McNelly	38	Site of Chappell Hill College	73
Lewis Kraatz	52	Site of Masonic Academy	12
Liberty Baptist Church	51	Site of Mound Hill School	46
Liberty Community Cemetery	48	Site of Old St. Anthony Hotel	16
Live Oak Female Seminary	47	Site of Rees Sanitarium	23
Lockhart Plantation	75	Site of Soule University for Boys	74
Louis Lehmann House	26	Site of the Home of General Sam Houston and Family	50
Major William Edward Howth	71	Site of Wesley School	28
Margaret Lea Houston Home	53	Southern Pacific Freight Depot	22
Margaret M. Lea Houston	52	St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church	35
Mercy Seat Baptist Church	65	St. John's United Church of Christ Cemetery	29
Milas Roberson "Burney" Parker	25	St. Paul-Rehburg School	37
Milroy's Garden and Orchard	21	St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church	23
Moses Austin Bryan	49	St. Peter's Episcopal Church	22
Moses Baine	25	St. Peter's Lutheran Church	40
Motley-Cummings Cemetery	75	Steiner & Dallmeyer Building	35
Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church	18	Texas Confederate County Commissioners Court	15
Mount Vernon	41	The Brenham Maifest	13
Mount Zion Cemetery	37	The Brenham Maifest	15
Mt. Calvary Cemetery	39	The Hutchinson-Korth Home	65
Mt. Zion Baptist Church	38	The Nancy Lea Bell	51
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church	17	The Schuerenberg House	24
Oak Hill Cemetery	34	The Wood-Hughes House	23
Oak Rest Cemetery and Site of Prospect Presbyterian Church	47	Thomas Affleck	40
Old Baptist Church	51	Union Hill	36
Old Baylor Park	50	W. W. Browning House	75
Old Independence Cemetery	49	Washington County C.S.A.	14
Old Rock Store	73	Washington County Courthouse	16
Pampell-Day Homestead	24	Washington Methodist Church	61
Permelia Haynie Home	70	Washington-on-the-Brazos	62
Pleasant Hill School	27	Waul's Texas Legion Campsite	41
Prairie Lea Cemetery	26	Waverly Plantation - <i>Not on marker page</i>	72
Providence Baptist Church	74	Wesley Brethren Church	27
Replica of Convention Hall, Washington State Park - Washington	62	Whiting Cemetery	60
Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor (1793-1873)	53	William H. Watson	21
Robert Starke Armistead	46	William Jones E. Heard	71
Rocky Hill School	48	Wittbecker-Weiss House	24
Rosedale Nursery	19		
Ross-Carroll House	16		

# HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES

## **BURTON HERITAGE SOCIETY**

507 North Railroad Street  
Burton TX | 77835  
979-803-0393  
burtonheritagesociety.org

## **HERITAGE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY**

*(Giddings Stone Mansion)*  
P. O. Box 1123 | Brenham TX 77834  
979-836-1696  
giddingsstonemansion.com

## **INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

979-251-9227 *(Independence Visitor Center)*  
210-724-1514 *(Rosellyn McIver)*  
Email: ihsindependencetexas1836@gmail.com  
ihstexas1836.com

## **NANCY CAROL ROBERTS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Genealogy Room  
100 West Academy Street  
Brenham TX | 77833  
979-337-7201  
cityofbrenham.org/library/

## **TEXAS TEN HISTORICAL EXPLORERS**

P.O. Box 214  
Chappell Hill TX | 77426  
tx10.org  
info@tx10.org

## **WASHINGTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

2211 South Day Street, #106  
Brenham TX | 77833  
bluebonnetgenealogy.org  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wcgs.texas](http://www.facebook.com/wcgs.texas)  
Queries: [wcsq@bluebonnetgenealogy.com](mailto:wcsq@bluebonnetgenealogy.com)

## **WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

P. O. Box 297, Chappell Hill TX 77426  
Find us at the  
Washington County Courthouse  
100 East Main Street  
Brenham TX | 77833  
[co.washington.tx.us/page/washington.WCHC](http://co.washington.tx.us/page/washington.WCHC)



*Thanks to ...*

**all the dedicated volunteers in the  
communities of Brenham, Burton, Chappell Hill,  
Independence and Washington for their help  
in gathering information and materials**



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979-337-7580  
Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/BrenhamFireMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/BrenhamFireMuseum)

**TEXAS BAPTIST HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

*(Independence Baptist Church)*  
10400 FM 50, Brenham, TX 77833  
979-836-5117  
[texasbaptists.org/ministries/texas-baptist-historical-collection/visit](http://texasbaptists.org/ministries/texas-baptist-historical-collection/visit)

**BRENHAM HERITAGE MUSEUM**

105 South Market Street  
Brenham, Texas 77833  
979-830-8445  
[BrenhamHeritageMuseum.org](http://BrenhamHeritageMuseum.org)

**TEXAS COTTON GIN MUSEUM**

307 North Main Street  
Burton, Texas 77835  
979-289-3378  
[texascottonginmuseum.org](http://texascottonginmuseum.org)

**CHAPPELL HILL HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

9220 Poplar Street  
Chappell Hill, Texas 77426  
979-836-6033  
Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/ChappellHillMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/ChappellHillMuseum)

**WASHINGTON ON THE BRAZOS  
STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM**

23400 Park Road 12  
Washington, Texas 77880  
936-878-2214

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