

History Programs Committee

April 2, 2024



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**AGENDA
HISTORY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Renaissance Austin Hotel
Bluebonnet Room
9721 Arboretum Boulevard
Austin, TX 78759
April 2, 2024
11:00 a.m.

(or upon the adjournment of the 10:30 a.m. Community Heritage Development Committee meeting, whichever occurs later)

This meeting of the THC History Programs Committee has been properly posted with the Secretary of State's Office according to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code. The members may discuss and/or take action on any of the items listed in the agenda.

1. **Call to Order** – *Committee Chair Garcia*
 - A. Committee member introductions
 - B. Establish quorum
 - C. Recognize and/or excuse absences
2. **Consider approval of the January 30, 2024 committee meeting minutes**
3. **Certification of Historic Texas Cemetery Designations (item 7.2)**
4. **Consider approval of text for Official Texas Historical Markers (item 7.3)**
5. **History Programs Division update and committee discussion** – *Division Director Charles Sadnick*
6. **Adjournment**

NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE AT PUBLIC MEETINGS: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, large print or Braille, are requested to contact Paige Neumann at (512) 463-5768 at least four (4) business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**MINUTES
HISTORY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Holiday Inn Austin Town Lake
Sunflower/Marigold Room
20 N-IH 35
Austin, TX 78701
January 30, 2024
1:00 p.m.

Note: For the full text of action items, please contact the Texas Historical Commission at P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711 or call 512.463.6100.

1. Call to Order

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) History Programs Committee meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Lillia Garcia at 1:01 p.m. She announced the meeting had been posted to the *Texas Register*, was being held in conformance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, and that notice had been properly posted with the Secretary of State's Office as required.

A. Committee member introductions

Commissioner Garcia welcomed the audience and requested that commissioners individually state their names and the cities in which they reside. Commissioners Donna Bahorich (Houston), Ted Houghton (El Paso), Lillia Garcia (Raymondville), and Fritz Duda (Dallas) were in attendance.

B. Establish quorum

Commissioner Garcia reported a quorum was present and declared the meeting open.

C. Recognize and/or excuse absences

Commissioner Garcia called for the committee to recognize and excuse the absences of Monica Burdette and Renee Dutia.

2. Consider approval of the October 26, 2023 committee meeting minutes

Commissioner Garcia moved with no objections to accept the October 2023 minutes. There were no objections and the commission voted unanimously to approve the October 26, 2023 History Programs Committee meeting minutes.

3. Certification of Historic Texas Cemetery Designations (item 6.2)

History Programs Division (HPD) Director Charles Sadnick brought forth fifteen cemeteries seeking certification as Historic Texas Cemeteries before the full commission on January 31, 2024.

Briefly described HTC program, application process and what is needed to submit with the application. Designation is a prerequisite for any historical markers.

Commissioner Bahorich moved, Commissioner Houghton seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to recommend and send forward to the Commission to formally certify the designations as Historic Texas Cemeteries.

4. Consider approval of text for Official Texas Historical Markers (item 6.3)

Sadnick brought thirty-six marker inscriptions before the committee for approval. He thanked the commissioners for reviewing the texts and for the suggested revisions received.

Commissioner Bahorich moved, Commissioner Houghton seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the final form and text of thirty-six (36) Official Texas Historical Markers with delegation authority to the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, working with the Commission chair, to resolve minor textual issues arising after Commission approval.

5. 2023 Undertold Markers topics report and discussion (item 12.2)

Sadnick briefly described the Undertold Markers Program for the new commissioners and introduced the 15 Undertold Marker applications that were moving forward during the 2023 Undertold Marker period. There were a total of eighty-seven (87) applications representing fifty-three (53) counties.

Chairman Nau asked how many are selected each year and Sadnick responded that 15 are chosen by THC staff each year.

Chairwoman Garcia asked how many Undertold markers are there since the beginning of the program. Sadnick said he would ask staff to get a total and present it at the full commission meeting the following day.

6. History Programs Division update and committee discussion

Sadnick provided History Program Division updates. He shared photos of Alicia Costello at the National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in Washington D.C. receiving a partner award on behalf of the Texas Historical Commission, alongside recipient William Dupont. Sadnick introduced the new Cemetery Preservation Program Specialist, Alan Garcia. He also shared a photo of the new World War I centennial book title page that has been copyedited by Military Sites Program Coordinator, Stephen Cure.

7. Adjournment

At 1:13 p.m., on the motion of Commissioner Garcia and without objection, the committee meeting was adjourned.

Quarterly Report

History Programs Division
January–March 2024

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights for History Programs Division this quarter include a January State Board of Review meeting and the hiring of new program specialists for the Cemetery Preservation and Museum Services programs.

COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION (CHC) OUTREACH

In January, County Historical Commissions (CHCs) were notified the 2023 annual reporting period was underway. CHC annual reports were due to the THC on March 1. As of February 22, 104 reports have been received. Following the submission deadline, the outreach program specialists began evaluating annual reports for Distinguished Service Awards (DSA), which acknowledge above-average CHC preservation and organizational activity. In February, the program coordinator, Nano Calderon, worked with the Tarrant CHC to host an appointee orientation. Topics included a summary of Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 318; THC staff recommendations for CHCs (structures, markers, cemeteries, archeology); basics of technical review and Section 106; and the Texas Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. Seventeen CHC appointees attended the orientation, and a tour of the Tarrant County Archives led by the Tarrant County Historic Preservation Officer concluded it. Constructive feedback from appointees was collected after the meeting, and adjustments will be made to orientation materials prior to the next training opportunity.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

In the past quarter, Historical Marker Program Coordinator Bob Brinkman attended a planning meeting and presented on a planned book on Texas preservation history and the marker application process to the Austin CHC at its monthly meeting in Bellville. Alicia Costello presented a webinar for CHC chairs and marker chairs attended by 60 participants. The program staff also coordinated plans for a new marker contract beginning in fall 2024 with the Procurement and Contracting Services Division; coordinated new website

content with the Communications Division for the website relaunch; met with IT staff to develop a new online application portal for markers; met with Administration about 1930s-60s granite markers placed by the state; coordinated final approval from TxDOT to manage damaged and obsolete markers through its recycling program; and developed 23 inscriptions for a special series of markers commemorating African American legislators of the 1870s.

MILITARY HISTORY

Military Sites Program (MSP) Coordinator Stephen Cure continues to work with SpaceX staff and local stakeholders on the development of interpretive content to be provided under the 2022 programmatic agreement (PA) related to its Starship/Super Heavy Program development at Boca Chica. When fully realized, it will culminate in adding or updating interpretive content at six sites on or around the battlefield. In February, Cure also reviewed the 100 percent draft of the 799-page Historical Context Report required by the PA and provided feedback. He has continued working on placing a Texas Civil War Monument in Franklin, Tennessee in recognition of the service and sacrifice of Texans who fought at the Battle of Franklin in 1864. Drafted inscriptions were reviewed by scholars and subject-matter experts. Chairman Nau provided private support for the placement of this monument, which is now in production. In addition, the World War I centennial book is currently at the printer and appeared in the TAMU Press spring catalog. Finally, Cure met Executive Director Ed Lengel to begin conversations about how the agency might approach the bicentennial of Texas independence. An initial meeting with staff identified by division directors was held in late February and planning discussions continue.

MUSEUM SERVICES

Museum Services Program Coordinator Laura Casey and Charles Sadnick completed the process of hiring a new program specialist. Rayanna Hoeft joined the THC on March 1, bringing experience from her previous

roles as site manager and director of interpretation at the Stark House Museum and as director of the Spindletop Boomtown Museum. Casey continued work on development of museum training workshops for the Texas Plains Trails Region; the project team analyzed feedback from surveys and focus groups, utilizing this information to refine content, plan follow-up visits, and develop a project budget. Staff also continued work on the request for proposal for a TxDOT-funded Indigenous exhibit design and artifact care workbook. In addition, Casey was invited by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to join a committee to discuss plans for the Sam Houston Regional Center in Liberty. A planning meeting was held in February. She also provided comments and feedback on the 250th Anniversary Program Handbook being developed by the American Association for State and Local History. Targeted at small history organizations interested in commemorating the 250th U.S. anniversary, the handbook will be published later this year.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

National Register of Historic Places

National Register (NR) staff members Gregory Smith, Alyssa Gerszewski, and Bonnie Tipton presented 15 NR nominations at the January 2024 State Board of Review (SBR) meeting in Galveston, including those for the Temple to the Brave war memorial (Beaumont), River Oaks Theater (Houston), Institute of Texan Cultures (San Antonio), and historic districts in Longview, Waxahachie, San Marcos, and Bridgeport. The National Park Service (NPS) approved 17 nominations, including those for the Houston Light Guard Armory, Longhorn Ballroom (Dallas), Rosewood Cemetery (Galveston), and Congregations Beth Jacob (Galveston) and K'Nesseth Israel (Baytown). Smith evaluated 11 federal tax credit projects and 11 state tax credit projects. He and Judy George-Garza prepared for the May SBR meeting to be held at Ysleta del Sur Pueblo in El Paso.

Review of Projects under Section 106 and the State Antiquities Code

This quarter, Justin Kockritz met with THC Main Street Program staff to update, revise, and expand the existing guidelines for streetscaping projects, which will help local governments improve conditions while protecting and preserving their historic resources. Caitlin Brashear, along with other THC staff, met several times with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) cultural resources staff to consult on a proposed PA for undertakings at JBSA. Brashear also made a site visit to meet NASA staff to discuss a planned nationwide PA and how it would be

applied at Johnson Space Center. Charles Peveto consulted with Division of Architecture staff on several projects, including the rehabilitation of a historic recreation building at White Rock Lake in Dallas built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Mark Holderby is working with Archeology Division to scan, map, and inventory archived archeology survey reports, making these reports readily available to staff and researchers.

HISTORIC HIGHWAYS AND HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

Survey Coordinator Leslie Wolfenden presented on historic Texas highways at the Texas Heritage Trails annual meeting held in Round Rock on January 24. The survey program is coordinating with CHC Outreach, Certified Local Government, Main Street, and NR programs for a day-long workshop session called “Empowering Local Preservation” at the Real Places conference in April. She continued research on resources listed in the historic African American travel guides, including work with volunteers.

CEMETERY PRESERVATION

Cemetery Program staff welcomed new program specialist, Alan Garcia, who previously worked at the French Legation and has a background in cemetery work and archival research. He will focus on Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designations and preservation of African American cemeteries. Jenny McWilliams and Carlyn Hammons hosted a well-attended CHC-oriented webinar. Staff are preparing for a Real Places workshop focusing on concrete headstone repair as well as multiple cemetery-related sessions. Hammons continues to process HTC applications while teaching Garcia the process. McWilliams continues to work with various parties to update county cemetery inventories and is organizing two cemetery headstone workshops for the fall to be held in Henderson as part of the Lana Hughes Nelson Cemetery Preservation Education Fund.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Senior Education Specialist Linda Miller expanded the planning and development phases of future education initiatives and learning resources, focusing on content areas and learning experiences with the potential for widest impact. This initiative included meetings with THC division staff as well as education staff at other state agencies and institutions. Miller continues to develop digitally delivered curricula materials for the e-learning platform and learning resources webpage and serves as a liaison for the TPTF Heritage Education grant program.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Item 7.2
Texas Historical Commission
Quarterly Meeting
April 2-3, 2024

Certification of Historic Texas Cemetery Designations

Background:

During the period from 12/22/2023 to 03/05/2024, 15 Historic Texas Cemetery designations were completed by the staff. All have been recorded in county deed records as being so designated. Your approval is requested to officially certify these Historic Texas Cemeteries:

County	City	Cemetery
Atascosa	Campbellton	Campbellton Cemetery
Bee	Pawnee (v)	Swedish Evangelical Free Church Cemetery
Cass	Hughes Springs	Hughes Springs Cemetery
Collin	Anna	Kelly Cemetery
Freestone	Oakwood (v)	Stroud Cemetery
Harris	Baytown	Magnolia Cemetery
Jefferson	Beaumont	Pear Orchard Cemetery
Kent	Jayton	Jayton Cemetery
Lamar	Powderly	Long Cemetery
Lavaca	Sweet Home	Sweet Home Colored Cemetery
Liberty	Clark	Nixon Smith Cemetery
Parker	Adell community	Little Grantham Cemetery
Titus	Mt. Pleasant (v)	Williams-Glass Cemetery
Travis	Nameless	Gray Family Cemetery
Williamson	Liberty Hill (v)	Perry Cemetery

Recommended motion (Committee): Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend certification of these designations as Historic Texas Cemeteries.

Recommended motion (Commission): Move to certify these designations as Historic Texas Cemeteries.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Item 7.3
Texas Historical Commission
Quarterly Meeting
April 2-3, 2024

Consider approval of text for Official Texas Historical Markers

Background:

From January 10, 2024 to February 23, 2024, THC historical marker staff drafted and finalized inscriptions for ninety-three (93) interpretive markers, now ready for Commission approval. The twenty-three (23) inscriptions with no county or job number are in accordance with SB 667 – the Texas Black Reconstruction Legislators Recognition Act.

Recommended interpretive plaques for approval (93)

County	Job #	Topic
Aransas	22AS01	Kline’s Café
Aransas	23AS02	Simon Michael Gallery
Atascosa	23AT01	Edward Brown
Bastrop	23BP01	Cunningham Cemetery
Bexar	23BX02	General Jonathan M. Wainwright
Blanco	22BC01	Girl Scout Camp Blanco
Burleson	23BU01	St. Matthew Missionary Baptist Church
Burleson	23BU02	Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
Burnet	23BT01	Buchanan Dam
Cherokee	23CE02	New Hope Baptist Church
Cherokee	23CE01	Taylor and Lucy Dirden Farm
Collin	23COL04	E.A. and Lydia Housewright House
Collin	23COL02	Gussie Nell Davis
Collin	23COL01	Sugar Hill
Comal	23CM03	Mission Hill
Comal	23CM01	Kaderli Family
Comanche	23CJ01	Laura Valenta
Cooke	23CO02	Cooke County Poor Farm
Cooke	23CO01	Akers Cemetery
Dallas	23DL07	Oakland Cemetery
Dallas	23DL06	Bromberg House
Denton	23DN03	Champion-Macedonia Cemetery
Denton	23DN02	Gibson-Grant Log House
DeWitt	20DW01	English-German School (Replacement)
Ellis	23EL02	Ennis Bluebonnet Trails
Ellis	23EL01	Sand Lake
Gillespie	23GL01	Julius and Sophie Splittgerber
Gillespie	22GL01	African American Community in Gillespie County
Gonzales	23GZ03	J.H. and Emily Boothe House
Gregg	23GG01	Noyes House

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Guadalupe	23GU01	Staples African-American Freedman Colony Association Cemetery
Harris	22HR07	Southside Place Park
Harris	22HR06	The Sikh Center of the Gulf Coast Area, Inc.
Harris	21HR01	Houston Heights Odd Fellows Lodge. No. 225 Hall
Harrison	22HS04	First Telegraph Office in Texas
Hutchinson	23HC02	Plemons Bridge (Replacement)
Jefferson	23JF01	George O'Brien Millard
Kendall	23KE02	Early Kendall County Jails
Kendall	23KE03	Rev. Andrew Jackson Potter (Replacement)
Lamar	23LR01	Plaza Theatre
Lavaca	23LC01	Palace Saloon and Café
Limestone	22LT02	St. Paul College
Llano	23LL01	Wilson-Schrank House
Lubbock	23LU03	City of Lubbock Cemetery (Replacement)
McLennan	23ML01	St. Paul Lutheran Church
McLennan	23ML03	M. Denton Stanford Lodge No. 594
Medina	22ME01	Castro Out-lot No. 60
Midland	23MD01	Mabel Holt
Milam	23MM01	St. John's United Methodist Church
Nolan	23NL01	Davis House
Nueces	23NU02	Tito P. Rivera
Parker	23PR01	Comte de Bresson Stable
Polk	23PK01	Bold Springs Cemetery
San Patricio	23SP01	N.R. Smith Building
Shelby	23SY02	White Rock Cemetery
Smith	23SM01	Siloam Missionary Baptist Church
Tarrant	23TR04	B.D. and Margaret Kennedy House
Taylor	23TA03	Hendrick Medical Center
Taylor	23TA01	New Light Missionary Baptist Church
Throckmorton	23TH01	First Christian Church
Travis	22TV06	The Herrera Family
Trinity	23TN02	Trinity Volunteer Fire Department
Upshur	22UR01	Bethlehem School
Webb	23WB01	La India Packing Company
Wharton	23WH02	Railroad in Louise
Wheeler	23WE01	E.L. Woodley
Wheeler	21WE02	Glenn Truax
Williamson	13WM04	Citizens Memorial Garden Cemetery
Wilson	23WN01	Rancho de Pataguilla
Wood	23WD02	Lloyd Common School No. 17
		Allen W. Wilder
		Benjamin Franklin Williams
		David Abner Sr.
		David Medlock Jr.
		D.W. Burley

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	Edward "Ed" Brown
	Giles Cotton
	George Thompson Ruby
	Henry Moore
	Henry Phelps
	Jacob Esan Freeman
	J. Goldstein Dupree
	James H. Washington
	Jeremiah J. Hamilton
	John Mitchell
	Matthew Gaines
	Mitchell Kendall
	Richard Allen
	Richard Williams
	Sheppard "Shep" Mullens
	Meshack "Shack" Roberts
	Thomas Beck
	Walter Moses Burton

Recommended motion (Committee): Move that the committee send forward to the Commission and recommend approval of the final form and text of ninety-three (93) Official Texas Historical Markers with delegation of authority to the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, working with the Commission chair, to resolve minor textual issues arising after Commission approval.

Recommended motion (Commission): Move to adopt approval of the final form and text of ninety-three (93) Official Texas Historical Markers with delegation of authority to the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, working with the Commission chair, to resolve minor textual issues arising after Commission approval.

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/26/2022, ed (BB) 10/4/22, ed (AC) 10/13 w/ CHC rev.,
1/4/24, (CTS) 2/22/24

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Aransas County (Job #22AS01) Subject (Atlas 23643) UTM:

Location: Rockport, 1006 St. Mary's St.

KLINE'S CAFE

When popular hangout "Capt Davis' Drive-In," owned by brothers Marvin, Jack and Charlie Davis, burned to the ground in 1942, Charlie's wife, Mollie Davis, vowed to rebuild it and hired local builder Alva O. Freeman Sr. construction of the art moderne building, featuring curved walls and glass block windows, was finished the same year. After Charlie Davis died in 1945, the Davis family began to lease out the property. Herbert "Shorty" Kline and his wife, Gloria, established local staple Kline's Café and purchased the property in 1968. They were known for their signature steaks and homemade pies. Kline's Café closed in 2002. Though the building was later moved four blocks, fond memories of the significant establishment remain.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 11/2/2023, ed (BB) 1/9/24, (CTS) 2/23/24
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Aransas County (Job #23AS02) Subject (Atlas 23864) UTM:
Location: Rockport, 510 E. King St.

SIMON MICHAEL GALLERY

Born in Houtzdale, Pennsylvania, Simon Michael (1905-2002) showed artistic ability at an early age. He became an artist and itinerant art teacher. In 1948, Michael moved to Rockport and established the Fulton School of Painting. He visited neighboring towns including Bay City, Victoria, and later, Corpus Christi, Fredericksburg and other sites. In 1951, Michael purchased five acres in Rockport and established the Simon Michael School of Fine Art. Buildings included a home, gallery and studio, attracting thousands of students. The school established the Rockport-Fulton Art Colony and Rockport Art Association (later Rockport Center for the Arts), which cultivated the vibrant local arts community.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/7/2023, 10/30/23, 12/13/23
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Atascosa County (Job #23AT01) Subject (Atlas 23921) UTM.
Location: Poteet, 169 Olivares Rd.

**EDWARD BROWN
(1808-1886)**

A veteran of both the Texas Revolution and the U.S.-Mexico War, Edward Brown was an early Atascosa county colonist and landowner. He was born to Avery and Maria Brown, though documents differ on place of birth in Tennessee or Kentucky. While in New Orleans in 1836, he volunteered to fight in the Republic of Texas Army and mustered into service in the company of William D. Burnett. After the war, he remained in Texas.

In the years after the Revolution, Mexico periodically invaded Texas. One of these invasions occurred in September 1842, in which General Adrián Woll recaptured San Antonio. Brown participated in the defense of San Antonio de Bexar from the house of Samuel Maverick. Brown was one of the prisoners marched to Perote Prison in Mexico, where he remained until Waddy Thompson, United States Minister to Mexico, negotiated his release in 1844. In September 1844, he married Loreta de la Fuentes y Fernandez of San Antonio (1819-1892), the daughter of Jose Cresencio de las Fuentes y Fernandez and Maria Gertrudis Diaz. Two years later, during the U.S.-Mexico War, Brown joined a company mustered in Castroville by John H. Conner in 1846. The unit mustered out in September 1847.

Brown received a preemption grant for 160 acres of land on the "waters of the Atascosa" and dedicated the rest of his years to farming/ranching. Edward and Loreta had seven children: Eduardo "Waddy T" (b. 1848), Maria Soledad "Lolida" (b. 1850), Susanna (b. 1851), James "Santiago" (b. 1854), Hendrick (b. 1856), Marcellus (b. 1857) and Matilda (b. 1860).

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/24/2023, ed (BB) 11/15/23, 12/29/23
18" x 28" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post
Bastrop County (Job #23BP01) Subject (Atlas 23846) UTM:
Location: Smithville, 4145 Unger Road

CUNNINGHAM CEMETERY

This site was first utilized as a burial ground after the 1831 arrival of the John C. and Susan (Prentice) Cunningham family and their enslaved persons. After Emancipation, African American residents purchased land previously belonging to Cunningham and two other settlers to form a freedom colony known as Center Union. The residents built a thriving and tight-knit community. The existing cemetery became the primary burial ground for Center Union. Leaders in the church, business, healthcare and education sectors are interred here. Although the community declined in the 1920s due to drought and new work opportunities in cities, the cemetery is active for descendants and their families.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (JZ) 3/20/2023, 10/30/23, 12/13/23, rev. (CTS) 2/22/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Bexar County (Job #23BX02) Subject (Atlas 23903) UTM;
Location: Terrel Hills, 500 Elizabeth Road

JONATHAN M. WAINWRIGHT

Born on August 23, 1883, at Fort Walla Walla, Washington, Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright was a United States Army General and Commander of the Allied Forces in the Philippines during WWII.

Wainwright graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1906. In 1908, he was sent to the Philippines and fought on the island of Jolo during the Moro Rebellion. Upon the United States' entrance into WWII, Wainwright was stationed in France and named the Assistant Chief of Staff of the 82nd infantry division. After the war, he served at multiple bases in the United States.

In 1940, Wainwright was stationed at Fort Stotsenburg on the island of Luzon in the Philippines. In December 1941, the Japanese landed ground forces in the Philippines, confronting Wainwright's troops. In March 1942, he was named the Commander of the Allied Forces in the Philippines. The following month, Bataan fell to the Japanese and the remainder of Wainwright's troops retreated to Corregidor. After continued attacks, in May 1942 he surrendered to the Japanese to avoid further loss of life. For the next three years, Wainwright was held as a prisoner of war until his rescue in August 1945 at a prison camp in Manchuria.

At the end of WWII, Wainwright was promoted to the rank of four-star general. In January 1946, he was named the Commander of the Fourth Army at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Wainwright retired from the army in August 1947 at the age of 64.

Jonathan M. Wainwright died on September 2, 1953, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. For his service to the United States, he received numerous honors including the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Army Distinguished Service Medal. Wainwright is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/16/2022, ed (BB) 5/26/23, rev 9/29/23, (CTS) 2/22/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Blanco County (Job #22BC01) Subject (Atlas 23604) UTM:
Location: Blanco, 541 Red Bluff Lane

GIRL SCOUT CAMP BLANCO

By the 1930s, the Austin Girl Scout Association boasted an impressive fifty troops, but the city's urban setting posed a challenge in providing opportunities for scouts to experience nature and practice self-reliance. In 1937, W.D. Glasscock of Blanco, who was a former Vaudeville performer, associate of Will Rogers, oilman, rancher and businessman, gave the association a 99-year lease on 30 acres of his land. Other records indicate it was a gift. Glasscock built a stone administration building in 1938 and created a dam and lake for water sports. The girl scouts funded a mess hall, hospital unit, sanitary facilities and cabins. In subsequent years, the girl scouts added to the camp's development and infrastructure, including trails and lighting.

The site drew hundreds of campers, ages 7-18, and scout leaders to Blanco. During 1942, 207 campers and 33 counselors enrolled. In 1944, more than 260 scouts spent time at Camp Blanco. Weekly rates averaged ten to fifteen dollars. Scouts could enjoy hikes, horseback riding, canoeing and swimming, as well as drama, dancing, singing, nature sketching and writing. Less experienced scouts slept in the cabins, and more experienced scouts slept outside in tents. Scouts from central Texas utilized the property. In 1943, Thurlow Weed donated three adjoining acres, expanding the camp. At the time, girl scout troops were segregated by race. Camp Blanco was open to troops of all ethnicities by sometimes utilizing different areas or scheduled times; however, a 1944 newspaper article referred to a joint camp of Anglo and Hispanic scouts.

For logistical and financial reasons, the girl scouts relocated to Camp Texlake on Lake Travis in 1948. Camp Blanco became the site of the Austin Young Women's Christian Association's Camp Y-Teen in 1949.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/10/2023, ed (BB) 11/7/23, 12/13/23, (CTS) 2/22/24
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Burleson County (Job #23BU01) Subject (Atlas 23857) UTM:
Location: Caldwell, 6017 FM 2000

**ST. MATTHEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Founded by freed African American men and women after the Civil War, Saint Matthew Colored Baptist Church was organized in the 1870s-1880s under the leadership of the Reverend Riley Williams (1812-1912). The church supported the upliftment of the community, including local education efforts. In 1893, M.J. Phegley conveyed one acre of land for a church site. Around 1918, the Rev. Benjamin Harris led the church to build a new sanctuary northeast of Cedar Creek. The Rev. Horace Nunn undertook major building upgrades. Annual traditions include homecoming and family day the fourth Sunday in August. For over 130 years, St. Matthew has served the spiritual needs of the surrounding community.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/23/2023,ed (BB) 1/8/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Burleson County (Job #23BU02) Subject (Atlas 23894) UTM:
Location: Caldwell, 2487 CR 168

SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

In the years after the Civil War, formerly enslaved men and women formed congregations to serve their spiritual needs. The Reverend Riley (Rielly) Williams (1812-1912) organized Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. The first structure was built in the Chriesman community. Around 1870, the church moved to the Shiloh community. Rev. Williams, his wife Harriet, and six children lived next door. On June 27, 1871, Rebecca White conveyed land to Rufus Coleman, John (Merida) Meredith and George Williams. George and his wife, Leavy, donated land to the church and a structure was built. Additional early leaders of the church included Rev. Coleman, Rev. J.B. Jackson, Rev. L. Gates, Rev. Dudley Rice and Rev. E.W. Williams.

In the 1910s, under the leadership of Rev. William L. Kemple (1879-1965), the original church structure was torn down and a new structure built. In the 1920s, electric lighting was added to the building. In 1926, Rev. R.G. Gaines led Shiloh. Under his leadership, the church grew in membership. Between the years 1926-1964, the church took up a special offering for its students who graduated high school and were heading to college. The church congregation made care boxes of food and other items for those students. The congregation also assisted those students who joined the military after high school. Shiloh students served in the army, navy, air force and marines. Deacons during this time were Sellie Butler, Henry Townsend, Rufus Jones, L.D. Moore and Elijah Merian. Nettie Townsend, Willie Butler and Ella Moore led mission activities. From 1966-1984, Rev. Lee B. Groce Sr. served as pastor. During this time, membership grew and the church facilities expanded. For over a century, Shiloh has faithfully served the community.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/23/2023, ed (BB) 10/23/23, 2/4/2024, (CTS) 2/23/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Burnet County (Job #23BT01) Subject (Atlas 23913) UTM:
Location: Burnet, SH 29 near old Colorado River bridge

BUCHANAN DAM

In 1931, the central Texas Hydro-Electric Company planned to build a dam on the Colorado River on the county line of Burnet and Llano Counties. However, in April 1932, the project went bankrupt and lay unfinished. State Senator Alvin Wirtz took the project, and, unable to secure private funding, turned to government. Wirtz secured the support of U.S. Representative and Chairman of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee J.P. Buchanan by promising to name the dam after him. In 1934, House Bill No 1. of the 43rd Texas Legislature created the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), a conservation and reclamation district, in order to "control, store, preserve, use, distribute, and sell" the waters of the Colorado River.

In the midst of the Great Depression, Buchanan Dam, often called the Hamilton Dam, and Inks Dam further downriver provided badly needed jobs to Burnet County residents. Locals lined up to receive one of the 1,800 new positions, mostly construction jobs paying 40 cents an hour. The salaries allowed families to maintain a better standard of living as well as supplement their farming income. In October 1937, the LCRA celebrated completion of the dam with a ceremony.

Upstream flooding behind the Buchanan Dam, creating Lake Buchanan, had immediate effects on the community. Many long-term residents moved out of the path of the new lake. Around sixty graves interred in Old Bluffton Cemetery were re-interred in New Bluffton in Llano County. The lake's recreational potential brought new business and residents to Burnet and Llano, and fishing camps and vacation rentals were built near its shore. Since its inception, Buchanan Dam has brought numerous advantages to Burnet County.

(2023)

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Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/24/2023, ed (BB) 1/9/24, 1/25/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Cherokee County (Job #23CE02) Subject (Atlas 23937) UTM:
Location: Jacksonville, 12580 FM 747 S

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

Soon after the town of Gum Creek (later Jacksonville) was established in the mid-nineteenth century, churches of several denominations formed. The congregations shared a single building, which was also a schoolhouse, each denomination utilizing the structure once a month. Gum Creek Baptist Church was founded in 1867 under the leadership of Jessie M. Carter. Five years later, the international-Great Northern Railroad bypassed Gum Creek by two miles, and most people moved to a new townsite along the tracks. In 1870 under the leadership of William David Burnett, Gum Creek Baptist Church was renamed New Hope Baptist Church.

In 1897, the Leinback and Bolton families conveyed one acre, about one mile northwest of the original building, to serve as a new school site (now the northeast corner of FM 747 and CR 3202). Local officials agreed to allow New Hope use of the new site for gatherings. J.N. Earle, D.Y. Morris, J.I. Fulton and M.W. Grimes built a one-room schoolhouse and church. The 1897 structure was later enclosed by additions. The school eventually built its own building to the south, but was abandoned after consolidation with Jacksonville Independent School District in 1973.

The church served as the center of the Gum Creek community for those who had not moved to the new Jacksonville townsite. Annual August homecoming services included an outdoor meal, sermons by former pastors and baptisms in Gum Creek, and later, Lake Jacksonville. Notable leaders include Perry Holliman and Oran B. Martin. For over 150 years, New Hope Baptist Church has served spiritual needs in the rural Gum Creek community.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/11/2023, ed (BB) 1/9/24, 2/5/2024
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Cherokee County (Job #23CE01) Subject (Atlas 23820) UTM;
Location: Jacksonville, 914 S. Pineda Street

TAYLOR AND LUCY DIRDEN FARM

Taylor Dirden (1848-1910) was born into slavery in Pike County, Alabama. After Emancipation, he moved to Texas, settling in Jacksonville to engage in sharecropping on Joseph Turney's farm. He met Jacksonville native Lucy Grimes (1856-1935) and the two married on August 21, 1875. Recognizing the importance of land ownership, the couple purchased from Turney the 22.8 parcel of land they had sharecropped, including a small home on the parcel, on May 7, 1880. In the years that followed, Taylor and Lucy welcomed five children: Will (1882-1954); George Elijah (1888-1971), US Army, World War I; Mary Netta (1892-1929), who passed away from disease leaving four children; John Bill (1894-1919), US Army World War I; and Beulah (1896-1978).

On their farm, the family grew fruits and vegetables such as tomatoes, peas, corn, okra, peaches and watermelon and raised animals for sale at local markets. They also sold timber from their property. The profits from these ventures eventually allowed the Dirdens to purchase additional property in the area. The Dirdens were active in the community and members of Old Sweet Union Baptist Church, one of the oldest Baptist congregations in Jacksonville. After the deaths of Taylor and Lucy, Will and Beulah lived on the Dirden family farm for the rest of their lives, during which time the farm did not have 20th century amenities such as running water, electricity or phone access.

Purchased as a means of self-determination and escape from the sharecropping lifestyle, the Dirden family farm, which is still owned by Dirden descendants, is a testimony to the diligence and resilience of Taylor and Lucy and their family for over one hundred years.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/6/2023, ed (BB) 10/30/23, 12/21/2023,
1/25/2024, 2/26/2024

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Collin County (Job #23COL04) *Subject (Atlas 23938) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N*
Location: Wylie, 405 N. Ballard Ave.

E.A. AND LYDIA HOUSEWRIGHT HOUSE

In January 1901, Sadie (Cook) (1882-1976) and Bolivar Columbus (B.C.) Barrier (1874-1934) purchased a one-acre lot on N. Ballard Avenue from James V. Russell. B.C. had moved to establish the First National Bank of Wylie and, at 26, was among the youngest bank presidents in the state. The couple quickly built this Queen Anne Cottage house, probably using a mail-order construction plan designed by George F. Barber. The assymetrical one-and-a-half-story house is topped with a hip-and-gable roof and finished in fish-scale wood shingles. The L-shaped porch features doric columns and the original front door.

The barriers only lived in Wylie a short time and sold the house in October 1903 to E.A. (1844-1905) and Lydia (1850-1911) Housewright. The family had previously lived in a smaller residence a few blocks away, with several of their adult children living in houses nearby. E.A. Housewright came from a prominent family whose father, Jichonias (1811-1894), owned gristmills and cotton gins. E.A., his second son, operated a livery stable in Wylie and helped form the Wylie Cemetery Company. He also was a stockholder and director of the First National Bank of Wylie, and a county bondsman. After E.A. and Lydia's deaths, the house remained in the family. William McDonald, Lydia's nephew, purchased the house and lived there until 1923. McDonald is credited with bringing electricity to Wylie.

In 1930, Helena Borchardt Silvis purchased the property. Under her ownership, the property was reduced to its current size of one-half acre. When she died in 1954, Mae (1894-1982) and Carl (1892-1963) Hicks purchased the house and remained until 1974. They began repairs and restorations of the property. As one of the earliest surviving residences in the community, the house embodies early Wylie history.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN) 12/5/2023, ed (BB) 1/9/24, 1/12/24, (CTS) 2/22/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Collin County (Job #23COL02) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: Farmersville, 132 McKinney Street

GUSSIE NELL DAVIS

Educator Gussie Nell Davis was a role model to many young girls and women through her creation of the first girls' drill team in America. Born to Robert Augustus Davis and Mattie Lavinia (Callaway) Davis on November 4, 1906, she and her family settled in Farmersville. After graduating high school in 1923, Davis earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from the College of Industrial Arts in Denton and participated in various groups. After graduation in 1927, she moved to Los Angeles to attend the University of Southern California. However, her sister Vera convinced Gussie to apply for a physical education job at Greenville (Hunt County). She agreed and moved back to Texas and began teaching at Greenville High School in the fall of 1928.

During a football game, Gussie had the idea to start the first all-girl pep squad. They performed using head, hand and marching drills with the local community band during halftime. Drums, bugles, marching and precision dancing were incorporated and the pep squad became the Greenville High School Drum and Bugle Corps. Baton twirling was added and in 1932, the use of sparklers, firecrackers and roman candles were used in their performances, leading to the group being renamed the "Flaming Flashes." They performed at the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition in Dallas and their performance was seen as a huge success. In 1938, Davis received her master's degree from the University of Southern California.

In 1940, Davis started working at Kilgore Junior College and built a precision dance and drill team, called the Kilgore College Rangerettes. It was the first all-girl dance-drill team in the U.S. to perform during halftime at a college football game. Davis retired in June 1979 and passed away on December 21, 1993. The Rangerettes achieved worldwide recognition; Davis remains a hero to many and her pioneering legacy lives on in drill teams across the country.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN) 9/20/2023, ed (BB) 12/27/23, 1/3/24, 1/17/24, (CTS) 2/22/24

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Collin County (Job #23COL01) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: Tatum/Jones-Yearly Cemetery

SUGAR HILL

Located in the eastern part of Collin County near the Hunt County line, Sugar Hill, one of the area's earliest communities, was established around 1849. The origins of the name center around Captain John Yearly's store known as Yearly's Place. Its ideal location at two major crossroads, the Lower Greenville Road and the Millwood-White Hall Road, made Sugar Hill a center of commerce, trade and settlement.

Some of the earliest settlers were the families of John Yearly and his sons David, Jim and Walter; Thomas Bailey; Dr. Moses Jones; and Hugh Gotcher. By 1857, Sugar Hill consisted of two stores, a saloon, a blacksmith, three doctors, a school, a mill and a church. Pecan Point Primitive Baptist Church was organized November 1850 and many of the founding settlers were members. A few years later, some of the members formed the Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church.

An incident on December 24, 1854, began the demise of Sugar Hill. A brawl had broken out at a saloon and some belligerent people wanted more alcohol. John Yearly had closed his store early due to the holiday and refused to open and serve them. Another fight broke out and someone started shooting, killing John Yearly. Two of his sons went after the men and one of the sons was killed. Two innocent bystanders, brothers John H. and Samuel Mason Glass, were also killed. The merchants of Sugar Hill did not want to be associated with a violent town and started a new community about 2 1/2 miles away, later known as Farmersville. Sugar Hill established the area as a major commercial and trade center, and although it no longer exists, its legacy lives on in surrounding communities.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 11/2/2023, ed (BB) 1/2/2024, 1/12/24
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Comal County (Job #23CM03) Subject (Atlas 23909) UTM:
Location: New Braunfels, 2100 Independence Dr

MISSION HILL

The highest point in the city of New Braunfels, this site is long believed to be important to Native American and Spanish interests. It is unknown if there was a mission on the exact site, although the name was associated with this hill by the 1840s. In 1856, German immigrants Friedrich Ludwig Hermann (F.L.H.) and Georgine Conring purchased the land. During the Civil War, Ernst Conring operated a saltpeter kiln. In 1883, the Conrings sold the land to Franz and Minna Coreth. In the 140 years the Coreth family owned the property, they built significant homes on the property and engaged in goat, sheep and cattle ranching. Mission Hill recalls early activity and settlement in the area.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/8/2023, ed (BB) 10/23/23, 12/6/2023, 1/16/2024,
1/25/2024, (CTS) 2/23/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Comal County (Job #23CM01) Subject (Atlas 23862) UTM:
Location: Spring Branch, 221 Mexican Hat Drive

BENEDICT AND ANETTA KADERLI FAMILY

Benedict and Anetta Kaderli were early European settlers to north Comal County. Benedict was born September 7, 1832 in Mülchi, Canton Bern, Switzerland. Anetta Zund was born May 7, 1839 in St. Gallen, Canton Appenzell. The two married in 1862. Benedict worked as a "sticker" or embroiderer. Two of Benedict's brothers, Johann and Jacob Kaderli, had immigrated to Comal County in 1845. On September 15, 1873, Benedict, Anetta, and their four children, Alma, Albert, Emil and Emilie, boarded the vessel *Hamburg* and landed in New Orleans, and traveled via a smaller vessel to Indianola.

In Texas, Benedict and Anetta welcomed two more children, Louis and Frieda. In 1877, Benedict obtained a preemptive land grant from the State of Texas. He claimed 160 acres in northern Comal County. The family built a two-story stone house near Bates Creek, now known as Suche Creek. The home was sited over an active spring, and a large round hole in the floor provided safe spring access without needing to go outside. On their new farm, they raised cattle and goats and grew their own food.

In 1883, the family received the deed for their farm. Five years later, Benedict's oldest son, Albert, claimed 80 acres bordering the family farm and in 1889 married Elizabeth "Betty" Spangenberg. Benedict died in 1893 from a snake bite. Anetta lived with her adult children until her death in 1923. For several subsequent generations, the Kaderli descendants remained near the family homestead and greater Comal County, becoming business owners, teachers and law enforcement officers, and serving in government and civic organizations. The original Kaderli land grants were later replatted as part of the Mystic Shores subdivision.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 11/2/2023, ed (BB) 12/28/23, 1/12/24, (CTS) 2/23/24
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Comanche County (Job #23CJ01) Subject (Atlas 23824) UTM.
Location: De Leon, 148 South Texas

LAURA VALENTA

Born in 1883 to Bohemian immigrants Anton and Mary Freytag, Laura Freytag married Wenzel Valenta in 1898. Wenzel died in 1907, leaving Laura a young widow with four children. She ran a boarding house to support her family. In 1920, the 54-room travelers hotel opened in De Leon, and by 1926, Laura was dining room supervisor. In 1929, she bought the business. Under Laura's supervision, the hotel became well-known for its excellent service. Civic minded, Laura hosted fundraisers at the Travelers and opened rooms to people in need of lodging or food. A couple of her children assisted her with hotel operations. When Laura's health began to fail, the hotel was sold for housing. Laura died in 1971 and is buried in San Antonio.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/10/2023, ed (BB) 11/7/23
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Cooke County (Job #23CO02) Subject (Atlas 23946) UTM:
Location: Gainesville, 2718 W. Hwy. 82

COOKE COUNTY POOR FARM

As part of a county effort to improve the lives of its rapidly growing population, on April 23, 1880, Cooke County Judge J.P. Hall purchased 100 acres out of the Adam Dozier survey to establish a farm for the county's indigent citizens. Living quarters were built soon after. Under the direction of overseers contracted by the county, an average of 12 residents managed production of cotton and consumable crops as well as raising livestock including hogs, chickens and cattle. In 1888, necessity dictated the creation of a cemetery. The poor farm site remained active until 1915, when the farm was relocated to a ten-acre tract of land on rice avenue, near Old Denton Road.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 8/11/2023, ed (BB) 9/26/23, 12/21/23
18" x 28" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post
Cooke County (Job #23CO01) Subject (Atlas 23885) UTM:
Location: Callisburg, 633 CR 107

AKERS CEMETERY

In the years immediately following the Civil War, George and Mary Akers arrived from Denton to settle in the area. In 1869, they established this burial ground when they interred their infant twins. More settlers arrived, establishing the farming community of Westview. Members of several pioneer families are interred here, including the Boaz, Cannon, Hudgens, Lanier, Price, Russom, Sewell, Shook and Smith families. Burials include veterans of the Civil War, World War II and the Vietnam War. Although most families moved away in the mid-twentieth century as jobs and technology advanced, the cemetery is still active as descendants are buried next to their ancestors.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2023
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/29/2023, ed (BB) 11/1/23, 12/6/2023, 12/27/2023
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post
Dallas County (Job #23DL07) Subject (Atlas 23911) UTM:
Location: 3902 S. Malcolm X Blvd

OAKLAND CEMETERY

In 1891, O.S. Rigger (1852-1891) purchased 60 acres in rural Dallas County, outside the city limits, with the vision to establish a rural garden cemetery. Rigger succeeded in interesting others to join the venture, but died before his vision could materialize. That same year, Oakland Cemetery Company incorporated and, in 1892, purchased 60 acres each from Z.E. Coombes and W.B. Gano; W.H. Lewis; and Joe Weil and W.N. Coe. Landscape architect Benjamin Grove (1823-1915) designed and mapped 120 of the cemetery's 180 acres. John McCoy purchased the first lot for his wife, Mary Alice McCoy, on November 11, 1892. McCoy also had six family members reinterred here.

Oakland Cemetery Company sold and acquired land, causing the borders to be redrawn several times. The company dissolved and Oakland Cemetery Lot Owners Association (OCLOA) was incorporated as a non-profit in 1924. Notable burials include those of Dallas Mayors Henry Ervay (1834-1911), Winship C. Connor (1849-1921), Franklin Pierce Holland (1852-1928), William Meredith Holland (1875-1966), and Louis Blaylock (1849-1932), Lieutenant Governor Barnett "Barney" Gibbs (1850-1904), U.S. Representatives Edwin le Roy Antony (1852-1913) and James Andrew Beall (1866-1929). The site contains several impressive monuments and gravestones, including an obelisk measuring 42 feet 7 inches for J.F. Strickland, a Texas interurban builder, and a memorial of Georgian marble for Louis A. Pires, philanthropist and senior director of City National Bank of Dallas. Amongst the 27,000 interments are numerous gravestones with fraternal markings, such as Masons, Shriners, Knights of Pythias, and Woodmen of the World. Today, the cemetery serves as a reminder of early Dallas and the final resting place of generations of citizens.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 8/24/2023, ed (BB) 10/27/23, 1/3/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Dallas County (Job #23DL06) Subject (Atlas) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N
Location: Dallas, 3201 Wendover Road

BROMBERG HOUSE

Famed Texas architect O'Neil Ford (1905-1982) and his partner, Arch Swank, designed this home in 1939 for Alfred Lionel (1889-1975) and Juanita Hazel (1902-1999) Bromberg. Alfred was born to Isaac and Belle (Mayer) Bromberg, a prominent Jewish family who belonged to Dallas' Temple Emanu-El. Juanita, the daughter of Irvin and Mae Kramer, made her social debut in 1923 at the Columbian Club, and married Alfred there in 1924. They had one son, Alan (1928-2014). The Brombergs are best remembered for their promotion of Dallas' art scene. Juanita was a founding member of the Dallas Print and Drawing Society and held leadership roles in Dallas' Little Theater. The couple donated over 200 prints to the Dallas Museum of Fine Art, resulting in successful exhibitions.

For their home, the Brombergs chose a rural setting on ten acres, which paired well with Ford's still-burgeoning rustic Texas regionalism. Ford and Swank utilized indigenous materials throughout, including native stone and brick, as well as exposed wood beams. The house was oriented to take advantage of prevailing breezes. The home embodies modernist ideals, such as a focus on horizontal design, and encompasses two main parts in the main home and the garage. Its brick rectilinear form when built was one room deep with large windows and placed an emphasis on outdoor living spaces. The common red brick was originally whitewashed. The main house features a low-pitched gabled roof with chimneys at each end. The house is an enduring jewel of the signature Texas regionalist style pioneered by O'Neil Ford.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 12/14/2023, ed (BB) 1/9/24
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post
Denton County (Job #23DN03) Subject (Atlas 23886) UTM:
Location: Lewisville, 1450 S. Stemmons Freeway

CHAMPION – MACEDONIA CEMETERY

In 1881, African American farmer James “Jim” Champion (d. 1924) and his wife, Antonette (Cassady), purchased 80 acres on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. By the time the couple sold the land in 1902, a family cemetery existed on the property. The cemetery was later opened to those outside the Champion family and many founding members of the black community in Lewisville were buried at Champion. The earliest gravestone is that of Laura Wright (d. 1875).

Macedonia Cemetery, formerly known as Mt. Olive Cemetery, was deeded in 1899 as a cemetery for the African American people of Lewisville. In 1900, deacons for Mt. Olive Colored Baptist Church (established 1885) bought the property for a church site and maintained the cemetery until at least the mid-20th century. The earliest gravestone is that of George McKenzie (d. 1880).

In 1953, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seized the site of Champion Cemetery and surrounding properties by eminent domain as part of a flood control project that would eventually form Lewisville Lake. Official documents cite 51 graves from Champion Cemetery were reinterred to the Mt. Olive Cemetery site between June and December of 1953. Mt. Olive’s property was selected as a prime relocation site for the Champion burials due to the strong ties between community members buried in Champion and Mt. Olive.

Sometime later, Macedonia Baptist Church, a Lewisville church organized in 1885, assumed care of Mt. Olive Cemetery, and the cemetery was renamed. Macedonia had close relationships to the community and families buried in both cemeteries. Three of the eight founders of Macedonia, John Gordon, Gilbert Brotherton and L.D. Berry, were interred at Mt. Olive. Today, these two still-active cemeteries on one site share a special unified history of the Lewisville community.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 12/7/2023, ed (BB) 1/9/24
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Denton County (Job #23DN02) Subject (Atlas 23895) UTM;
Location: Flower Mound, 3615 Grant Court

GIBSON-GRANT LOG HOUSE

This 1861 log house, measuring 16 feet on each side, was built as a family home by Tennessee natives William (1801-1865) and Rebecca (Wallis) Gibson (c. 1810-c. 1885) and their four youngest children. The logs are hand-crafted native post oak, cut into timber planks flush with half-dovetail notching and filled with chinking. After William's death, it was sold to Amanda Gay (1870), William Kerr (1890) and Marion Hackler (1937), and many other owners. The home was scheduled for demolition until testing revealed its age and nature as a log house. Restoration included removal of several additions to reveal the original design. The home features the original stone chimney.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN), 7/20/22, rev (BB) 5/19/23, 10/13/23, 1/12/24, 1/24/24, (CTS) 2/22/24)

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

DeWitt County (Job #20DW01) Subject ED, EB, VR (Atlas: 23228) 29.091500,-97.290860

Location: Cuero, 205 North Terrell St

ENGLISH-GERMAN SCHOOL

Beginning in the 1840s, European immigrants flowed into south Texas through the Port of Indianola. After hurricanes in 1875 and 1886, many German families from Indianola relocated to Cuero. These new arrivals included well educated, middle-class families who became very involved in their new community. The English-German School Association incorporated in 1877, and by 1880, classes were held in this frame two-room schoolhouse on South Line (later Newman) Street. 1880 teachers included Principal Thomas M. Colston, Professor Otto Forth and Olga Vahldeck. The English-German School operated as a private tuition school until 1890, when Cuero established public schools. Cuero Graded School purchased the building to house its intermediate grades.

The structure was purchased by Judge Edward Koenig in 1894 and by John H. Thormahlen in 1909 for his family's residence. In 1911, Robert Mernitz bought the building, his family living in it until 1965. In 1998, a devastating flood damaged the building. In 2014, it was condemned and slated for demolition. Descendants of the Mernitz family donated the structure to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum if it would be moved, renovated and used for educational purposes.

The building represents a vernacular style with a rectangular plan with center entry, simple wooden framing, clapboard siding and a pier and beam foundation. Notable features include double-hung windows and four-panel doors. The schoolhouse embodies significant aspects of Cuero's cultural heritage and the emphasis that early German generations placed on education.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 1965

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/8/2023, 10/17/23, 11/30/23, 12/21/23
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with no post – mount to masonry
Ellis County (Job #23EL02) Subject (Atlas 23855) UTM:
Location: Ennis, 201 NW Main St

ENNIS BLUEBONNET TRAILS

In the 1930s, Ennis resident John Louie Clarke (1868-1956) recognized the beauty of Country Club Hills as yearly a profusion of bluebonnets swept across the meadow near his home. Clarke began clearing a walking path to view the wildflowers across the Kachina Prairie, complete with hand-lettered signs. John Blasingame, an Ennis native who was employed as a landscape architect with the Texas Highways Department, mentioned to Edna May McMurray and Elizabeth Stout of the newly formed Ennis Garden Club that the abundant fields would interest nature lovers. In 1952, Ennis Garden Club, with McMurray and Stout as co-chairs, sponsored the first annual bluebonnet trails, held over two weekends in mid-April. The event, which was comprised of three trails totaling 41.8 miles, attracted an estimated 1,000 visitors, including several cars with out-of-state license plates. Just three years later, attendance had grown to 10,000 persons.

The Ennis community rallied behind the garden club and, in 1957, the Ennis Bluebonnet Festival was born. The festival included a parade, costumes, dances, industrial display, races, calf show and rodeo and crowning of the Ellis County Bluebonnet Queen. The state legislature later named the Ennis Trails the Official Bluebonnet Trail of Texas. Although visitors have never been charged admission to drive along the bluebonnet trails, the event has consistently brought economic growth to local businesses during the weekends of the festival. Later community efforts have included bluebonnet conservation and reseeding campaigns in partnership with TxDOT, and bluebonnet-themed art shows, essay contests, and other events.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/11/2023, ed (BB) 11/10/23, 12/27/23, 1/25/24, 2/6/24, (CTS) 2/22/24

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Ellis County (Job #23EL01) Subject (Atlas 23849) UTM:

Location: Ennis, 7000 Hwy 34

SAND LAKE

For Daniel Buckley's sacrifice in the 1836 Battle of Goliad, the Republic of Texas granted his heirs some 2,200 acres on the west bank of the Trinity River, in what became Ellis County. In 1871, his widow sold Alsdorf Faulkner (1838-1901) some of her land. In 1882, Faulkner deeded a 150-foot strip of land for the construction of the Texas Midland Railroad. The railroad added a stop at Sand Lake, and it soon became a popular destination for camping, fishing and hunting. Subsequent owners sold land to the U.S. Government next to the Trinity River and to the Ellis County Levee District. Landowner Homer Newton Chapman (1891-1931) installed a water system for the growing town of Sand Lake in the early twentieth century.

The town had a blacksmith's shop, grocery store and post office, icehouse, some forty houses and a cemetery. The town's two schools, one for white students and one for black students, also held occasional church services. The community remained rural in nature. By 1938, Miles Durham Glaspy (1871-1955) and his son J. Roy (1900-1980) had acquired Sand Lake Farm plus additional land amassing 3,300 acres. The land produced cotton, wheat and maize crops, but was home to a large cattle operation as well. By 1940, the community had over 200 residents.

The community suffered levee breaches in 1942 and 1946, the latter of which washed out the railroad tracks. The community of Sand Lake did not recover, and most of the population moved to other areas. Later uses of the land have included extensive sand and gravel mining.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 3/20/2023, 10/23/23, rev. (CTS) 2/22/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gillespie County (Job #23GL01) Subject (Atlas 23936) UTM:
Location: Fredericksburg, 302 W. Schubert St.

JULIUS AND SOPHIE SPLITTGERBER

Julius Theodor Splittgerber (1819-1897) was a German immigrant and prominent member of early Fredericksburg. He was born in Brandenburg, Germany to David (1741-1823) and Johanna Susanna Sophia Seiffert (1764-1829) von Splittgerber. Julius attended the University of Breslau to study farming. After graduation, he entered required military service and achieved the rank of second lieutenant in 1842. Splittgerber joined an endeavor led by Prince Carl von Solms Braunfels to settle German emigrants in Texas, arriving in 1845 on board the *Arminius*.

In 1848, newly settled in the outpost town of Fredericksburg, he married Sophie Dorothee Mieke (c. 1832-1906) of Gadenstedt, Hanover. The couple had nine children: Carl (1850-1851), Theodor (1851-1927), Ida (1853-1935), Emma (1856-1943), Clara (1858-1862), Nina (1860-1928), Hulda (1863-1865), Elfriede (1866-1948) and Julius Alex (1869-1946). Julius Theodor operated a quarry and lime kiln. Around 1851, the Splittgerbers constructed a limestone house at what is now the corner of Schubert and Orange Streets. He resigned his Prussian army commission in 1853 and became an American citizen.

When the Gillespie County sheriff died in 1862, Julius stepped in to serve the remainder of the term. However, his determination not to fully endorse the Confederates' cause brought increasing social pressure. Splittgerber decided to move to Menard in the 1870s, but the plan was financially disastrous. He spent the last twenty years of his life writing early historical accounts of Gillespie County and tutoring. Sophie decided to live with their children who had moved to Mason. Julius is buried in the family plot at Pioneer Rest Cemetery in Menard; Sophie is buried in the family plot at Gooch Cemetery in Mason.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/26/2022, ed. (BB) 4/25/2023, 7/20/2023, 9/13/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gillespie County (Job #22GL01) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: Fredericksburg

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN GILLESPIE COUNTY

Enslaved African Americans were brought to Gillespie County beginning in the 1850s. By 1860, 33 enslaved people were recorded as owned by seven families. John and Thomas Doss owned 13 of the enslaved. At this time, the population of the county was mostly first-generation German immigrants who opposed slavery.

In 1863, John Doss died, his will listing 9 enslaved people: Jack, Silas, George, Wash, Paris, Mary, Millie, Bella and Ellen. It is believed that several of these individuals settled in Gillespie County after Emancipation. Millie, in particular, was gifted 100 acres in John Doss' will. These former slaves were perhaps some of the earliest members of the African American community that continued for the next 100 years. The 1870 census records more than 50 African Americans living in Gillespie County. In 1877, African Americans William McLane, Silas Russel and James Tinker purchased and donated land to establish a "colored school." Additional donations from the African American and German community funded the school building, the 1922 iteration of which is now located at 107 E. Schubert. In 1887, James Tinker et al purchased land and the community united to build the Colored Christian Methodist Episcopal Church at 520 E. Main Street. While the African American community dwindled over the years, descendants still live in this area.

Unlike many southern communities which regulated separate cemeteries, the area's oldest German Lutheran churches permitted burials of African American residents with white residents in the cemetery, albeit in a separate section of *Der Stadt Friedhof* Cemetery. The African American burial ground, school and church serve as living reminders of the challenges these generations faced.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 8/9/2023, ed (BB) 8/17/23, 12/27/23, 10/20/24
Official Texas Historical Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post
Gonzales County (Job #23GZ03) Subject (Atlas 23948) UTM
Location: Gonzales, 706 St. George Street

J.H. AND EMILY BOOTHE HOUSE

This three-story prairie style home featuring front entry and octagonal shed dormer was the brainchild of Joseph Henry (1851-1911) and Emily "Jimmie Lea" (1853-1930) Boothe. Born in North Carolina, J.H. Boothe moved to Gonzales in the 1870s and built a career as a successful merchant. He married Emily Lea, and the couple had five children. In 1886, J.H. was elected to the 20th Texas Legislature, and later served as county clerk and mayor of Gonzales. He died before the house was finished. Emily oversaw its completion in 1913 and lived here until her death. It passed out of the Boothe family in the 1990s.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/22/2023, ed (BB) 10/30/23, 1/4/2024
Official Texas Historical Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post – MOUNT TO MASONRY
Gregg County (Job #23GG01) Subject (Atlas 23931) UTM
Location: Kilgore, 1201 Brook Dr.

NOYES HOUSE

This Meadowbrook Addition home, designed by architect Charles T. Freelove, was built in 1939. The first residents were Alvin Peter "A.P." (1899-1965) and Jane (Branch) Noyes (1906-1992) and their two children. A.P. served Kilgore as a city engineering consultant, designing several civic improvements. He also was active in professional associations and boards. A.P. and Jane remained in the home the rest of their lives, after which the home was sold to new owners. The Tudor revival structure features a travertine exterior with oak and plaster gables and tile shingle roof, as well as original interior details.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/17/2023, ed (BB) 11/13/23, 1/12/24
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post
Guadalupe County (Job #23GU01) Subject (Atlas 23867) UTM:
Location: Staples, 11011 FM 621

STAPLES AFRICAN-AMERICAN FREEDMEN COLONY ASSOCIATION CEMETERY

This cemetery, one of the last reminders of the community of Staples, is the burial place of many members of the historically African American community in the area. Efforts to establish a freedmen colony began shortly after the Civil War, however, the plan fell through. In 1871, landowner John Douglas Staples opened a store and a community developed known as Staples Store. By 1878, Emancipation Day celebrations began in the area. In 1905, Q.J. and Mellie Lowman and R.P. and Nunnie Lowman sold two acres to trustees for Methodist Protestant Church trustees Mintus Martindale, Mose Gray and Jim Walker, for worship and burial purposes. The land became the site of Pleasant Hope Church and the Pleasant Hope Memorial Cemetery. When the land was conveyed, it contained the grave of Merritt Anderson (c. 1837-1895). The Reverend Jim Walker served as the first pastor of Pleasant Hope. A school, called the Word School after local landowner David Alexander Word, operated on the site until around 1947. The Staples community dwindled in the 1940s. The church closed and was torn down after Jessie Lewis (1880-1959), the last African American in Staples, died.

The cemetery is the final resting place of many of the African American residents of the Staples community. There is a large number of unmarked graves. At least two of the three original trustees for the Methodist Protestant Church are buried here. The cemetery includes four veteran burials, three of which have military markers. Two markers bear masonic symbols. Longtime resident Marvin Merriweather Sr. looked after the cemetery until his death in 2006. Larry Harris (1957-2005) was the last known burial in the cemetery. A fence was erected in 1963. An association was later formed to protect this beloved burial ground.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/25/2022, ed (BB) 1/17/23
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Harris County (Job #22HR07) Subject (Atlas 23581) UTM:
Location: Houston, 3743 Garnet Street

SOUTHSIDE PLACE PARK

Southside Place Park is the geographic and civic center of the City of Southside Place, an early Houston suburb. From 1895-1922, the area was part of the Harris County Poor Farm, a county-owned facility for the indigent. However, as residential development spread towards the farm, county commissioners deemed the land too valuable for public use and built a new "county home" on 100 acres east of Houston. In 1924, Edward Lillo Crain (1885-1950) purchased the southern tract of the former poor farm, as well as frontage along Bellaire Boulevard, on which to develop Southside Place. The combined parcel of about 107 acres cost Crain \$101,542. Crain developed the park first, with plans to fill the development with inexpensive, uniformly-designed homes under the banner of the Crain ready-cut house company.

The park featured prominently in Crain's marketing. Its amenities, including a 30-by-75-foot concrete swimming pool, a wading pool, bath house, tennis court and play equipment, distinguished the development from all others in the Houston area. Deed restrictions stipulated that the permanent park and playground was "for the exclusive use and benefit of property owners." In 1932, Crain deeded the park to the Southside Place Park Association, which owned and operated the space for 80 years. Ownership of the park was later transferred to the City of Southside Place. Over the years, the park has been expanded and modernized. One notable addition occurred in 1970 when the city's first fire truck was retired and repurposed as a piece of play equipment; thereafter, the park became known as "Fire Truck Park." For a century, Southside Place Park has been the defining feature of the community as well as a place of enjoyment and leisure for residents.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 1/2/2023, 5/26/23, 9/8/23, 10/18/23, 10/26/23, 12/19/23
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Harris County (Job #22HR06) Subject (Atlas 23567) UTM:
Location: 8819 Prairie Dr. Houston, TX 77064

THE SIKH CENTER OF THE GULF COAST AREA, INC.

In the 1960s, changes in U.S. Immigration Policy resulted in many highly skilled immigrants settling in Houston, which was experiencing an energy sector boom. Several of these families were Sikhs from Punjab, India. The Sikh faith is a monotheistic religion that originated with Guru Nanak (1469-1539) and is among the world's major religions. It is characterized by the equality of all people, service, honest work and humility. On August 1, 1971, about a dozen families held their first religious gathering in a member's apartment. They continued to meet monthly for about two years. In August 1972, a decision was made to form an organization to serve the religious, social, cultural and educational needs of the Sikh community in Houston and beyond.

By 1973, the Sikh community had grown to about two dozen families, including architects, engineers, builders, doctors and entrepreneurs. That year, they purchased two acres at 8819 Prairie Drive for a place of worship, called a *Gurdwara*. Community members, led by the engineers and architects among them, designed and built a small wood-frame building with their own hands. The *Gurdwara* features a traditional *Nishan Sahib*, a Sikh triangular flag. The Sikh Center of the Gulf Coast Area, Inc. was incorporated in October 1973. The opening ceremonies were held on November 25, 1973, on the anniversary of founder Guru Nanak's birth. In summer 1974, a fire caused by lightning destroyed the building. Once again, the community came together to design and build a new Sikh center of brick, concrete and steel. The new structure was completed by December 1975. Since then, a school, residential building, library and kitchen have been added. The Sikh center has also acquired additional land for future development. From this center, the first *Gurdwara* in Texas, the ever-growing Sikh community continues its tradition of education and public service for humanity.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/30/2022, ed BB 5.23.23, 8/31/23, 2/7/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Harris County (Job #21HR01) Subject (Atlas 23279) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N
Location: Houston, 115 E. 14th St

HOUSTON HEIGHTS ODD FELLOWS LODGE NO. 225 HALL

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows is a fraternal organization that has been in Texas since 1838. After the City of Houston Heights was incorporated in 1896, it did not take long for members of existing Odd Fellows lodges to settle there. In 1905, a group of Odd Fellows residing in Houston Heights petitioned the Grand Lodge of Texas to charter a lodge in their area. As the Houston Heights area grew, so too did the lodge, becoming one of the most active Odd Fellows lodges in the Houston area. They boasted 43 members in their first year-end report. Members included William G. Love, first mayor of Houston Heights and the namesake of Love Elementary School; Hugh Cook Colley, noted civil servant; and George Hawkins, one of the first Houstonians to own an automobile.

At first, the lodge rented meeting space in the Wallace & Johnson building on 19th at Ashland. In 1906, members of the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias jointly built "Fraternal Hall" on 12th at Yale, but it was destroyed by an electrical fire in 1911. For the next dozen years, the lodge met in a room over member Fred Dexter's general store on 17th at Rutland.

In February 1923, the Heights Odd Fellows Hall Association purchased a lot on 14th just east of Heights Blvd. and began construction of a two-story building, which was dedicated on April 28, 1923. The first floor contains offices, informal spaces, and a kitchen; the formal lodge meeting room is upstairs. The exterior of the building features a variegated brick veneer with door and window openings accented by contrasting brick trim. Decorative features such as roof brackets on the front of the building and exposed rafter ends along the sides echo the many craftsman-style bungalows in the Houston Heights. Today, the Odd Fellows still host regular meetings in the same building that has served them for a century.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2021

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/13/2022, ed (BB) 9/18/23, 12/6/23
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Harrison County (Job #22HS04) Subject (Atlas 23634) UTM:
Location: Marshall, 101 E. Houston St.

FIRST TELEGRAPH OFFICE IN TEXAS

The Red River and Texas Telegraph Company opened Texas' first telegraph office in Marshall on February 14, 1854. Since the first demonstration of the telegraph in 1844, with communication between Washington D.C. and Baltimore, inventor Samuel Morse (1791-1872) had been offering revenue from his invention to various outlets. At the time, the impoverished Texas Embassy in Washington D.C. was not interested in the project. It would be another ten years before the existing Shreveport Telegraph Line would extend into Texas. By 1852, New Orleans-based financial backers founded the Red River and Texas Telegraph Company to install the first commercial telegraph lines into the state. A telegraph office was opened in Marshall, a distance of 49 miles from Shreveport. Lines were quickly extended to Henderson, Rusk, Crockett, Montgomery, Houston and Galveston. The telegraph office was housed in Travis George Twyman's store on the courthouse square.

The telegraph became the primary technology for industries like railroad and newspapers. During the Civil War, the telegraph became an important line of communication for both the Union and the Confederacy. Union soldiers attempted to reach Shreveport to cut off telegraph communication to Texas but were unsuccessful. From October 1, 1879 to July 1, 1880, more than a quarter million messages flowed through Western Union wires across the state. By 1938, Western Union provided service to 228 of the state's 254 counties, maintaining 12,400 miles of poles and 80,700 miles of wire. In 1972, Western Union closed the Marshall office which had been in operation since 1854. Later turned into a city park, the space around the old Marshall office recalls the advance of technology and communication in the state.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AD/AVC), 10/12/2023, ed (BB) 1/18/24

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Hutchinson County (Job #23HC02) Subject (Atlas 24012) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N

Location: Borger, SH 207/136/162

PLEMONS BRIDGE

In May 1926, two months after the discovery of oil in Hutchinson County led to establishment of the city of Borger, county commissioners awarded a contract to the Austin Bridge Co. of Dallas for construction of a bridge to cross the Canadian River. The bridge was located at Dixon Point—where Dixon Creek empties into the Canadian River—at the settlement of Plemons, between the newly formed towns of Stinnett and Borger. At the time, the undammed Canadian River spanned widths of over a mile and was treacherous to cross during flood periods; even when the river was manageable the wide riverbed contained perilous patches of quicksand and frustrating mud. The bridge was built at a cost of \$135,000 as a toll bridge, operated by the Austin Bridge Co., until the cost of the bridge was recouped. Pedestrians were charged 10 cents to cross the bridge, a one-horse buggy cost 35 cents, and driving an automobile across brought a charge of one dollar.

The bridge is one lane, with a 16-foot clearance for traffic. Steel members of the bridge are stamped from Bethlehem steel in Pennsylvania and Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. in Colorado. The bridge is composed of thirty riveted and bolted warren pony trusses with verticals, each approximately 80 feet long. Although the warren pony truss is the most common historic bridge design, the distinctive feature of this bridge was the incorporation of such a large number of this type of truss into one long bridge. Including approaches, the bridge is 2471 feet long. Although the Plemons Bridge has been replaced as the route of choice of Hutchinson County travelers over the Canadian River, it remains as an artifact of the early days of Hutchinson County history.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2009

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/26/2023, ed (BB) 10/30/23, 12/13/23, 1/10/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Jefferson County (Job #23JF01) Subject (Atlas 23940) UTM:
Location: Beaumont, 500 Main St.

GEORGE O'BRIEN MILLARD
(FEBRUARY 22, 1847 – JANUARY 26, 1909)

Born in Berwick Bay, St. Mary's Parish, Louisiana, to Sidney Hosmore and Mary (O'Brien) Millard, George O'Brien Millard was a pioneer Beaumont civic leader and educator. George moved to Texas with his extended family after his father died in 1854. George followed his uncle Henry Millard to Beaumont in 1870 and found jobs with J.C. Craig's General Store and Eagle Sawmill. Eventually, he opened his own business, the George Millard Hardware Company. In 1877, he married Amma Reeves (1850-1952), daughter of John and Barbara Reeves, and the couple had two children, Paul Horace (1880-1968) and Minnie Mae (1883-1969).

He was active in the Beaumont community, serving in 1882 as Commander of the Beaumont Fire Company #1, a volunteer-based firefighting organization. George was also a member of First Methodist Church and chaired their building committees in 1889 and 1906. George was known for excellent stewardship during the building process. George and Amma were among the founders of the Temperance League and Temperance Hall Company in 1889, undergoing building campaigns in 1889 and 1902. He also constructed the Millard Building in 1898 to house his hardware business, later also housing the masonic lodge and salvation army.

Mayor Wheat appointed George to the school board in 1901. During his eight years as president, he presided over the vote to build Ogden and Junker Schools and two schools for the city's African American community, South End School and North End School. After his untimely death, Beaumont teachers established a community fund to erect Pompeo Coppini's statue of Millard, dedicating it January 1, 1912.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/18/2023, ed (BB) 10/30/23, 1/4/24, 1/16/24, 1/25/24,
(CTS) 2/22/24

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Kendall County (Job #23KE02) Subject (Atlas 23810) UTM:

Location: Boerne, 208 E. San Antonio Avenue

EARLY KENDALL COUNTY JAILS

Due to financial strains caused by the Civil War, the newly created Kendall County (1862) paused plans to build a courthouse. In 1869, the court accepted a design by Phillip Zoeller (1818-1900) for a courthouse with internal jail facility to be built on land donated by Boerne founders, John James and Gustav Theisen. Stonemason Johann Franz Stendebach (1826-1890) contributed to both design and construction. In that same year, Stendebach also became sheriff, a position he held until 1878. For the next decade, Kendall County experienced economic prosperity, attracting more settlers. The larger population strained the existing court facilities by the mid-1870s, and county officials decided in 1876 to build a stand-alone jail, again designed by Zoeller, on the courthouse grounds. The commissioners court accepted a bid of \$2,375 from Thomas F. Cavanaugh & Co. while the building was under construction, new sheriff John Reinhard and others boarded prisoners.

The one-story stand-alone jail was completed in late 1878, but within a few months experienced a jailbreak. Once again, the sheriff and others boarded prisoners while the structure was improved to prevent another escape. The jail opened once more in late 1881. In 1883, Dr. Jacob West's report of the jail's unsanitary conditions laid the groundwork for calls to build a new facility. As Kendall County's population continued to grow, additional plans were passed to build a new structure, again on the courthouse grounds. The commissioners court accepted a bid from the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company for a new two-story jail. The 1887 jail utilized more sophisticated designs and building materials. Kendall County continued to utilize the 1887 structure as a jail for 99 years, until a new corrections facility was constructed in 1986.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/29/2023, ed (BB) 1/29/24, 2/9/24, (CTS) 2/22/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Kendall County (Job #23KE03) Subject (Atlas 23811) UTM;
Location: Boerne, 40300 IH 10 N Frontage Road

REV. ANDREW JACKSON POTTER

Called "the Fighting Parson," Andrew Jackson Potter is a well-known figure in 19th century Texas history. He was born in Chariton County, Missouri on April 3, 1830, to Joshua Potter (1776-1840) and Martha (Johnson) Potter (d. 1840). His mother instilled in him a deep respect for religion and a love of the frontier. In 1846, Potter joined the army during the Mexican American War, accompanying wagon trains and trading. He gained a reputation among his fellow travelers for shrewdness and courage. In 1852, Potter settled in Texas, where he met and married Emily Catherine Guin (1838-1922) in Bastrop; the couple would go on to have 15 children. In 1856 at a religious camp meeting, Potter reported a religious conversion and began studying to become a methodist minister. In 1859, he was licensed by the West Texas Conference of the Methodist Church.

Between 1862-1865, Potter served as a chaplain in the Confederate Army. After being discharged, the Methodist church appointed Potter to the Prairie Lea circuit in Caldwell County. Fellow circuit rider Reverend John Wesley Devilbiss convinced Potter to become a circuit rider on the Kerrville circuit, which was at that time the frontier of the west Texas conference. The Potters first relocated to Comfort, then to a 308-acre farm near Boerne in 1871. Many of the Potter children married into neighboring communities and established significant families in Kendall County. Rev. Potter helped found several churches in the region. He organized the First Methodist Church of San Angelo in 1880, and in 1883, moved his family to that city. Rev. Potter died at the pulpit of Tilmon Chapel, near Lockhart, in Caldwell County on October 21, 1895. He is buried near Dale in Caldwell County.

(1965, 2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN), 8/29/2023, ed. (BB), 9/29/23, 12/11/23, 1/10/24
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Lamar County (Job #23LR01) Subject (Atlas 23838) UTM:
Location: Paris, 36 North Plaza

PLAZA THEATRE

Built in 1916, the Parisian Theatre was remodeled and renamed the Plaza Theatre in 1926. The exterior was a modern American adaptation of the Spanish-Moorish style with rounded cream-colored brick arches, glittering mirror insets, multi-paned windows, wrought iron fixtures, a red-tiled roof and an ornate marquee complete with a huge electric sign bearing the name of the theater in scarlet chasing letters. On Dec. 13, 1928, the first "talkie" in Paris was shown. For the next fifty years, the theatre hosted many movies and performances. On Feb. 25, 1981, the Plaza Theatre became the home of the Paris Community Theatre. It continues to provide entertainment for the citizens of Paris.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/25/2023, ed (BB) 11/15/23, 12/13/23, (CTS) 2/22/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Lavaca County (Job #23LC01) Subject (Atlas 23888) UTM:
Location: Shiner, 103 East 7th St.

PALACE SALOON AND CAFE

References to a Palace Saloon, managed by A. Kubitz, date back to at least 1890. The establishment was housed in a one-story wood frame structure at the corner of Ave E and 7th Street, facing the railroad tracks. Sometime between 1890 and 1893, German immigrant Anton William Hinrichs (1868-1936) became manager of the Palace Saloon. By 1894, the palace installed a lunch stand run by Ed Ruhman, which served food for free to patrons of the saloon. The palace featured a very popular cock fighting ring behind the building. For the next few years, the Palace experienced turnover of several managers, including Ed Ruhman and Louis Richter, former mayor J.C. Blohm, Paul Stuerke, Fred Hillmer, E.J. Wangemann, Adolph Darilek and William Zappe.

Under the ownership of Zappe, the frame structure was torn down and replaced with a two-story brick building, constructed by William Green. After Texas ratified prohibition in 1919, Zappe sold the palace to Rudolph Chlastak, who then operated a "cold drink business." In 1921, Chlastak sold the palace to Hugo Pohler, who would often advertise under the names Pohler's Cold Drink Bar or Pohler's Palace Bar. The Palace also sold candy, fruit, fireworks and cigars. In 1934, Pohler renovated the interior to a modern dining room and changed the name of the establishment to the Palace Café. The new café became a meeting place for the residents of Shiner. During this time, Kamila (Mikes) Lee waited tables. In 1942, Lee purchased the restaurant. In 1947, Lee and her new husband, Hugo Schwabe, purchased the business. The Schwabe family operated the Palace until 1989. After renovations, the Palace later reopened for a new generation of Shiner residents.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 1/23/2024, rev (CTS) 2/22/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Limestone County (Job #22LT02) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: Mexia, TX

ST. PAUL INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE

In 1906, African American members of three Texas districts within the Primitive Baptist Church expressed desire to build an institute of higher education for their communities. In 1919, trustees Thornton Carter (1858-1941), Arthur Randolph Foreman (1885-1944), Rev. Samuel M. Britt (1889-1956) and Lee Wilder Thomas (1873-1953) purchased 76.5 acres of land northwest of Mexia. After some difficulty getting started, St. Paul Primitive Baptist College was incorporated in 1924. The trustees secured a loan from Mexia businessman Julius Nussbaum (1856-1935) and construction began on a two-story red brick classroom and dormitory building. The school was completed in February 1929, and the doors opened in September. The Rev. E.M. Cooper served as the first dean. Teachers included Edith J. Boston, Joanne Cooper, Maggie Pulliam, Janie Stout and P.M. Williams.

Every student was required to do both classroom and laboratory-based work. St. Paul taught several different types of courses, including the core academic subjects, and also vocational subjects such as carpentry. Due to its affiliation with the Primitive Baptist Church, the school featured religious training and an annual weeklong revival hosted by area Primitive Baptist Church leaders. In addition to classrooms and laboratory spaces, St. Paul had boys and girls dormitories and athletic facilities for a football team. After World War II, Carter's son Elijah secured federal subsidies for cabinet making and shoe repair instruction for veterans. Throughout its existence, St. Paul struggled financially, and the school closed for good in 1953. Although the main building was demolished around 1980, the school's legacy could be seen for many decades through the skills of St. Paul graduates.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/25/2023, ed (BB) 11/15/23, 1/5/24
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker withOUT post – MOUNT TO WOOD
Llano County (Job #23LL01) Subject (Atlas 23979) UTM;
Location: Llano, 807 Wright St.

WILSON-SHRANK HOUSE

Robert E. Wilson (1862-1915) and his wife, Nancy (Byfield) (1866-1930), built this two-story home in 1912. Robert had previously been a successful Llano County cattle rancher and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Llano public schools. The home passed to descendants. In 1927, respected chiropractor Dr. Lewis Theodore Schrank (1892-1967) and his wife, Gertrude (Carrington) (1897-1989), purchased the home. Gertrude was active in civic affairs, serving as Red Cross Home Nursing Course chairwoman for Llano County, girl scout leader, and executive committee member for the Llano Parent-Teacher Association. The home features original interior woodwork with dark natural finish, full-length galleries, doric columns and decorative cornice brackets.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TEN), 2/21/2023, ed (BB) 1/19/24
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post
Lubbock County (Job #23LU03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: Lubbock, 2011 E. 31st Street

CITY OF LUBBOCK CEMETERY

In March 1892, a delegation of Lubbock residents requested five acres of pasture land from pioneer minister H.M. Bandy for use as a cemetery. At the time, about fifty people were living in the community. That same month, they held the first burial, that of a Cochran County cowboy, Henry Jenkins, who died of pneumonia while staying at Lubbock's Nicolette Hotel. The first Lubbock resident buried at the city cemetery was Joseph R. Coleman, who died in June 1892. His small cross-shaped headstone, no longer in existence, was the first erected in the cemetery. Both graves are located in the southeast part of the cemetery, in the oldest grouping of burials.

The cemetery has held as many as four separate burial grounds, segregated by race, faith and economic level. Records indicate various and distinct cemetery associations maintained these burial grounds throughout the twentieth century. One such group, "*Los Socios del Sementerio*", or associates of the cemetery, organized in 1926 and provided for the burial of area migrant workers, with many headstone inscriptions written in Spanish. The cemetery was integrated in the late 1960s.

With more than sixty thousand graves and covering 160 acres, the City of Lubbock Cemetery is one of the largest in Texas. Burials here represent a broad cross-section of the city's history. Among those interred here are noted rock and roll musicians and songwriters Charles Hardin Holley (Buddy Holly) and Mac Davis.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2002

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/15/2023, ed (BB) 10/17/23, 12/6/23
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
McClennan County (Job #23ML01) Subject (Atlas 23851) UTM:
Location: 140 Prairie Chapel Road, Crawford, TX 76638

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

In 1921, German-speaking settlers living between Crawford and McGregor came together to found a new Lutheran church to serve their spiritual needs. The community met at Wasp Creek School and organized a congregation, named Peace Lutheran Church. On July 25 of that year, H.W. Englebrecht sold two acres of land to be the location of the new church building. The building was dedicated on October 30 of the same year, and two months later, the church called its first pastor, August Beteit (1879-1967), who served until 1932. Beteit simultaneously served St. John's Church in Coryell City, Coryell County. For several decades, the church held German language services semi-monthly. In the mid-1940s, regular services were increased to every Sunday and the language of worship changed to English, except every third Sunday, which remained in German.

In October 1947, the church voted to move the congregation to three acres in Crawford purchased from G.H. Kelling. The same year, another vote changed the name of the church to St. Paul Lutheran Church. The church building was moved in its entirety to its new location on Prairie Chapel Road. The congregation grew at the new site, and several building projects, including additions to the structure and new structures, were undertaken, with all work being done by members of the congregation. The growth necessitated a new sanctuary, which was dedicated in early 1964. The church continued to be a gathering place, implementing youth programs and expanding meeting areas. From humble beginnings, St. Paul has continued to enrich the Crawford area for over a century.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/29/2023, ed (BB) 1/8/24, 2/7/2024, (CTS) 2/23/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
McLennan County (Job #23ML03) Subject (Atlas 23875) UTM:
Location: Lorena, 300 FM 2837

M. DENTON STANFORD LODGE NO. 594

Shortly after the town of Lorena was laid out (1881) and incorporated (1882), three Master Masons, Andrew J. Shelton, Charles C. Hawkins and William A. Stanford, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Texas to form a masonic lodge in Lorena. On December 12, 1884, the lodge's charter was granted. The lodge rolls listed 27 men, some living in neighboring Falls County. Membership ranged from 16 members in 1889 to 133 members in 1981. The lodge has had four meeting halls in its history. Tragically, the first was destroyed in an 1886 storm one week after the lodge received the title. The lodge constructed two more structures, in 1886 and 1911. By the 1980s, the lodge began to raise funds for a new structure. Lodge member M. Denton Stanford, grandson of original Mason W.A. Stanford, gave a total of \$40,000 to build a new meeting hall. After his passing in 1989, the lodge was renamed for him. The meeting hall opened in 1992. The meeting hall has been shared with Lorena's Chapter no. 1124 of the Order of the Eastern Star since its inception in 1983.

M. Denton Stanford Lodge No. 594 has dedicated time and effort into charitable endeavors since its founding. In 1886, the lodge gave funds to support the widow of a lodge member. Funds have also been donated to the masonic home and school for children, masonic home for old masons, funeral costs for lodge members, flood and tornado victims, Lorena Cemetery Association and Lorena volunteer fire department. The lodge has also undertaken several endeavors related to education, including programs focusing on student reading skills, hygiene, scholarships and school lunches. For over 100 years, M. Denton Stanford Lodge has served the community.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/28/2022, ed (BB) 10/5/22
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Medina County (Job #22ME01) Subject (Atlas 23666) UTM:
Location: Castroville, 1230 County Road 477

CASTRO OUT-LOT NO. 60

To retain colonists in his new town, Henri Castro gifted a 40-acre farming "out-lot" and one "town lot" to those who would live in Castroville. Out-lot no. 60 was originally owned by Gaspard Sax, who quickly sold it along with six acres of adjoining lot 61 to Jules Simon Bourgeois in 1846. It is believed Bourgeois built the "Casa Fuerte," a dwelling type developed by Mexican settlers in San Antonio, on the property. Later owner, Texas Ranger Louis Moehring constructed a one-room German house, which was moved to its current location after flooding. Other notable owners include the Lamons, Groffs, Charles Suehs, and veterinarian Woodrow Sharp. Out-lot no. 60 reflects the rich European traditions of Castroville's earliest colonists.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/4/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Midland County (Job #23MD01) Subject (Atlas 23834) UTM:
Location: Midland, 911 West Texas Ave.

**MABEL HOLT
(1905-1972)**

Born in Midland to Oscar Braxton "Brack" (1861-1927) and Viola Josephine Bell (1879-1933) Holt, Mabel Holt was an early Midland businesswoman. She first understood the ranching business from her father, Oscar, who operated a large ranch in the Midland area. Mabel attended Midland High School and the College of Industrial Arts (now Texas Woman's University). Upon graduation, she returned to Midland to teach school. During this time, she also began participating in the family ranching business, controlling 25,000 acres of land in Midland and Andrews Counties and contracts regarding the oil, gas and mineral rights to her land.

In 1928, Mabel left teaching and married George Washington Glass (1900-1981) and the couple had two children, Monta Josephine (1929-1999) and George H. Glass (1932-1997). In addition to her expansive ranching business, she was prominent in church and social affairs, and involved in local civic and religious movements. Mabel assisted in the Charters of the Wednesday Club, Boone bible class at the First United Methodist Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Auxiliary of Midland Memorial Hospital and the Midland County Historical Society.

Mabel died on October 25, 1972, at the age of 67 and was buried in Fairview Cemetery. Her husband and children erected the Mabel Holt Glass Memorial Chapel on the corner of Main and Illinois in Midland. A few years later, the family home was donated to Hospice of Midland in continuation of Mabel Holt's commitment to the educational, spiritual, social and cultural development of midland.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/7/2023, ed (BB) 1/9/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Milam County (Job #23MM01) Subject (Atlas 23902) UTM;
Location: Rockdale, 1700 Hillcrest

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

From the town's founding in 1874, Rockdale Methodists worshipped in shared facilities. The first Methodist pastor to serve in Rockdale was Reverend R.F. Beasley. In 1882 under the leadership of Rev. W.H. Henderson, John S. Barnes and Jacob S. Wetmore sold two lots on East Cameron Street to "A.B. Leach, J.N. Redding, R. Robinson and C.M. Keith, trustees, Methodist church in Rockdale." A frame structure, with stained glass and concave tented steeple, opened in 1883. The site soon served the local population as not only a site for religious activity, but also education. Early educator Maggie Hall moved her school to the site in the 1880s or 1890s. To house the 1881 school bell, the steeple was remodeled into a bell tower. The church hosted the Methodists' 1900 Texas Annual Conference. In the 1950s, the Alcoa Plant brought jobs to Rockdale, and the church experienced growth. In 1960, the church celebrated groundbreaking at a new site on Hillcrest Drive. A new \$350,000, 320-seat building was constructed, complete with the 1881 bell. The Rev. Robert A. Greaves was the first pastor to serve the new church.

St. John's organized mission societies since at least 1898, including the Ladies Home Mission Society, which took care of church facilities and visited the sick, and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, which supported foreign missionaries. The two societies eventually merged and renamed themselves the Women's Society of Christian Service. In the 1970s, the All Stars Sunday School Class for Special Needs Adults started. Notable persons associated with the church include longtime members Vaughnie Dudley and Juliet Frankyn, and writers George Sessions Perry, Leila M. Batte and Mary Belle Batte. St. John's continues to be a place of community and hope.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/15/2023, ed (BB) 10/10/23
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Nolan County (Job #23NL01) Subject (Atlas 23915) UTM.
Location: Blackwell, 401 N. State Hwy 70

DAVIS HOUSE

In 1916, John Barton "J.B." Wimberley purchased land from the Orient Land Company and soon after built a frame house. Rancher and mercantile store owner Joseph Edgar "J.E." Davis and his wife, Esther, purchased the property in 1926. Around ten years later, J.E. and Esther hired local contractors to remodel the home into a front-gabled craftsman style with a "giraffe rock" exterior. Native rock and raised concrete is embellished with petrified wood, quartz and fossil rocks. Classic elements of craftsman architecture, such as overhanging eaves, a wide front porch, and interior wood accents, are present throughout. The home was sold in 1992 after Esther's death.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (JRR) 11/18/2023, ed (BB) 1/8/24, (CTS) 2/23/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Nueces County (Job #23NU02) Subject (Atlas 23813) UTM:
Location: Corpus Christi, 1202 Ramirez St.

TITO P. RIVERA

Born in Sinaloa, Mexico, Tito P. Rivera (1843-1894) was the eldest son of Julian and Josefa Herrera Rivera. His father was a silver mining engineer, which allowed Rivera to receive a private education. In 1853, Rivera joined a supply train heading to the neighboring state of Durango to gather food for miners. During the trip, though, a Comanche party seized the supplies and took hostages, including Rivera. He quickly became of value to the Comanche for his ability to read and write. He also learned the spoken Comanche language, which he could translate to Spanish.

He spent the next two years serving as an intermediary for the Comanche and agents of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. By 1855, Rivera was able to secure his release after slipping a personal plea for help in one of the Comanche correspondences to a U.S. Agent. Unable to return to Mexico, Rivera settled near San Antonio. In 1861, Rivera enlisted in a unit for the Confederacy. He first served on the Texas frontier, taking military forts from federal control. Later, he joined another unit as a clerk in the trans-Mississippi theater of the Civil War.

After a brief stint of cattle driving, Rivera worked in commission houses in Victoria, Port Lavaca and Galveston. There, he made his fortune and married Mary H. "Mollie" Holloway (1854-1902) in 1870. Three years later, the couple moved to Corpus Christi, where Rivera started a print shop and book store. He successfully ran for and served on the city council from 1884 to 1888. As an alderman, he helped oversee the finances and operations of the city's public schools. He also served in civic organizations and in the Episcopal church. Rivera was survived by his wife and five children.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 8/16/2023, ed (BB) 1/9/24, rev 2/16/24, (CTS) 2.23.24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Parker County (Job #23PR01) Subject (Atlas 23842) UTM:
Location: Weatherford, 2606 S. Main Street

COMTE DE BRESSON STABLE

In the 1870s, French interests entered the region through the railroad, eventually forming the Franco Texan Land Company. Through this company, a number of Frenchmen arrived in Texas, including Marie Clément Paul, Comte de Bresson (b. 1867). In 1889, Parker County resident Alfred Hammond (de Voisins), on the advice of his stepfather in France, arranged for the arrival of the Comte de Bresson, including purchasing 175.7 acres. On the site, Hammond constructed a stable since the Comte had determined to engage in selling thoroughbred horses. The Comte arrived in October 1889 and Hammond sold the land to him.

The stable was most likely constructed by French stonemasons, as its features resemble those of stables in France. Parker County once boasted several now-lost stables of this style. This south-facing structure measures 87 feet by 17 feet with a 46 degree pitched roof. It features six stables, with a central staircase leading to a hay loft spanning the length of the building. Each stable is accessible by a south-facing door and has a small, north-facing window for light. Internal walls between the stables are nine inches thick.

The Comte de Bresson took his sorrel blooded mare, ribaude, and his stallion, Scotland Glory II, to the 1889 State Fair in Dallas. His thoroughbred business was brief, however, and newspaper advertisements ceased in early 1890. De Bresson appointed Paul Chaptine as his agent and returned to France in 1890. The Comte de Bresson sold his Parker County land in February 1896. Due to the small number of French settlers in Texas, this stable remains one of the few examples of historic French country architecture in the area.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 8/23/2023, ed (BB) 10/23/23, 12/7/2023, 1/26/2024
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post
Polk County (Job #23PK01) Subject (Atlas 23919) UTM;
Location: Livingston, FM 350 N

BOLD SPRINGS CEMETERY

American settlement in this area began when families and enslaved persons from Louisiana arrived in the 1840s to engage in farming. The neighboring community of Colita grew, organizing Bethel Baptist Church in Colita in 1849. A few years later, the church built another church building in Bold Springs, also named Bethel Baptist Church, on two acres from Mary M. Poindexter. Services utilized the two buildings on a rotating schedule. The Bold Springs area became an attractive alternative in the 1860s when Colita experienced decline, and in 1871, Bethel Baptist Church officially moved to Bold Springs. Recognizing the need for a burial ground, the church set aside part of its land for that purpose. More land was added in 1893 from Thompson & Tucker Lumber Company and in 1987 from Wirt Davis estates bringing the total land area for the cemetery to 3.41 acres.

The first recorded grave is that of Mary Watts (1830-1882). Gravestones reflect fraternal orders such as the Masons, Eastern Star and Woodsmen of the World, as well as at least eighty recognized veterans. Previous pastors of Bethel Baptist Church, including Patrick Henry Bilbro and J.C. Hand, are interred here. Bold Springs is also the final resting place of early residents such as Bethel deacon and county commissioner George Grimshaw (1884-1979) and postmistress Nettie Burgess (1854-1927).

Bethel Baptist Church retained control of the cemetery, trusting its upkeep to the deacon board. Caretakers of the cemetery in the 1900s include deacons George Grimshaw and Roland Wilder. In 1988, Bethel transferred ownership of the cemetery to the newly formed Bold Springs Cemetery Association. The association maintains the still-active burial ground. Bold Springs Cemetery is a testament to generations of residents of this small community.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2022

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 11/20/2023, ed (BB) 1/8/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker without post (attach to masonry)
San Patricio County (Job #23SP01) Subject (Atlas 23830) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N
Location: Odem, 500 Voss Ave

N.R. SMITH BUILDING

Opened in 1922, the N.R. Smith building was an early mercantile structure built by Norman Reed Smith (1870-1952). Smith's parents, Aaron and Rebecca, settled in Waco from their native Tennessee in the 1870s. In 1881, Aaron and a Waco neighbor, Isaac Parker, purchased 180 acres of ranchland in San Patricio County near present day Odem. When Aaron died in 1887, Norman's older brother, Charles, took over the ranch. Norman, the third son, went to work at a mercantile store in Sharpsburg. Smith married Jean Isabell "Belle" Boyd (1878-1962) in 1893. Norman opened one of two mercantiles in the newly platted community of Angelita in 1906. Angelina was soon absorbed by the growing town of Odem. Smith sold his Angelita mercantile in 1913 and opened a mercantile in Odem in 1916 in a rented building. Norman and Belle purchased a property in 1917 that burned down sometime around 1920.

The current N.R. Smith building was finished in August 1922. The one-story corner commercial building features a chamfered entry and decorative brickwork. Norman operated his mercantile until his retirement in 1932 but continued to own the building until his death in 1953. Wayman Tewes (1912-1997) opened a grocery business in the N.R. Smith building in 1933, complete with drug store and café. For a short time beginning in 1945, Tewes and Norman's son, D.R. Smith, partnered together to open Tewes & Smith Grocery. When that partnership dissolved, Tewes Grocery was established and served the Odem community for many generations. Notably, the grocery featured a seasonal section called "the granddaughter's store," operated by Tewes' young granddaughter, selling a variety of used items. In the 1990s, the property was sold for other commercial uses. For over 100 years, the building has been at the center of Odem's commercial architecture and history.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/20/2023, ed. (BB) 11/13/2023, (CTS) 2/23/24
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post
Shelby County (Job #23SY02) Subject (Atlas 23858) UTM:
Location: Center, 12555 SH 7 West

WHITE ROCK CEMETERY

Land for the White Rock Cemetery was deeded in the years after the founding of White Rock Church. The church also served as the schoolhouse and masonic lodge. Church tradition states that the original acreage of the cemetery was one acre. On September 13, 1913, George Edward "Buster" Davis (1870-1950) and his wife, Sarah Francis (Savell) Davis (1872-1922), deeded to church deacons one acre for cemetery purposes. The cemetery continued to grow. On January 10, 1921, Robert H. Chandler (1891-1966) and his wife Nora (1895-1973) sold one acre to the deacons and masons of White Rock Baptist Church. In May 1945, Robert and Nora sold an additional one and a half acres for burial purposes.

White Rock Cemetery has over one thousand burials. The most common last names include Chandler, Davis, Koonce, Smith and Williams. The oldest gravestone is that of Sarah Tyler (1827-1887). Some tombstones are adorned with decorations from visitors. The oldest marked birthdates are those of the Reverend James Carroll Koonce, who church tradition states was the first pastor of White Rock Church, and his wife Susan, both born in 1815. Several grave markers give years indicating the person was over one hundred years old when they died, including that of Raymond Crawford, Samantha Renfro Hendricks, June Jolly and Carl B. Russell. There are 82 veterans' markers in White Rock Cemetery, representing the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, along with 18 who served in the military during peacetime. For over a century, White Rock Cemetery has been a lasting reminder of the early community of White Rock.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2023

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 3/20/2023, ed. (BB) 11/6/2023, 12/27/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Smith County (Job #23SM01) Subject (Atlas 23954) UTM:
Location: Winona, CR 371

SILOAM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Around the end of the Civil War, area African Americans gathered together as a Baptist congregation to serve their spiritual needs. In 1872, several families organized a congregation including the Hampton, Van, Ward, Kelly, Norman, Miller, Bell, Kay, Smith, Powell, Williams, Cooks, Hasting, Thomas, Young, March and Wright families. The Reverend John Baptist served as first pastor of the Siloam Church. In the 1880s, church members built a church on land donated by Riley Hampton, having been purchased from the Kay family. The building was also used as a school, and Siloam church members served as school trustees. Teachers in the school included Mr. North, Todd Briggs, Osborne Kennedy and Ordella Holmes. The site also included a burial ground known as Siloam Cemetery.

In the twentieth century, under the leadership of Rev. Charlie Mayfield, Siloam Church was rebuilt in 1911. By 1965, this campus was torn down and replaced by another facility. The 1965 church building was designed by church member James Hampton, with assistance from Joe Van, Lenion Hampton, Maurice Hampton, and others. During the church's incorporation in the early 21st century, the name changed from just Siloam to Siloam Missionary Baptist Church. Several choirs and the family gospel singing groups the jubilettes and the jubilairs provided music for the congregation and the surrounding area venues. Youth outreach women's conferences, mission society, vacation bible school, hospitality, usher board and deacons serve the members and community. For over one hundred years, Siloam Missionary Baptist Church has continued a tradition of faithful service to the surrounding community.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/5/2023, ed (BB) 11/1/23, 12/13/2023, 1/12/2024
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Tarrant County (Job #23TR04) Subject (Atlas 23961) UTM:
Location: Fort Worth, 1312 5th Ave

B.D. AND MARGARET KENNEDY HOUSE

The earliest owners of this home built in 1910 in the Fields-Welsh Addition were Barney de Jurnett and wife Margaret (Wilson) Kennedy. The couple rented the property to John Benjamin Helton and lived next door at 1316 5th Ave. Family lore conveys that a stranger knocked on their door one night, offering to purchase the 1316 property. The two parties agreed, and the Kennedy family sold 1316 and moved into 1312. The Kennedys raised several generations in the home, selling it in 1963 to William Pike and Mattie Ethel James. The home was built in the style of a vernacular hipped-roof bungalow with a wide wrap-around porch, round wooden columns, 6/1 windows with diamond topped panes and numerous interior pocket doors.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2023
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 9/29/2023, ed (BB) 10/30/23, 12/21/2023, 1/3/2024
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Taylor County (Job #23TA03) Subject (Atlas 23920) UTM:
Location: Abilene, 1900 Pine Street

HENDRICK MEDICAL CENTER

In 1915, Millard A. Jenkins (1872-1962), the new pastor of Abilene's First Baptist Church, saw a need for a hospital that prioritized serving all people, whether or not they were able to pay for treatment. His congregation shared his vision and donated \$35,000 to establish a Baptist hospital. A committee formed of First Baptist congregants and officials from Simmons college (now Hardin-Simmons University). Judge Clifton Mott Caldwell and his wife, Cora (Keathley) Caldwell, donated six acres for a Baptist hospital. David S. Castle designed the 52-bed facility, which opened on September 15, 1924, as the West Texas Baptist Sanitarium. The hospital's modern facilities included three operating rooms, three elevators and an x-ray department. The hospital also hosted a nursing school. Notable early leaders include Earl Matthew Collier (1898-1981), the longest serving superintendent from 1929-1970.

The new hospital experienced strain during the Depression. In 1936, Thomas G. Hendrick (1862-1946) and his wife, Ida (Nations) Hendrick (1866-1946), paid off the hospital's existing debt and financed a four-story east wing, including two specialty wards for children. The hospital was renamed Hendrick Memorial Hospital in their honor. Regular additions followed, including a four-story west wing (1943), a four-story north wing (1946), a six-story service wing (1957), student nursing housing (1959), the Millie L. Anderson building (1963), Mary Meek School of Nursing building (1966), and more. In 1971, the facility was renamed Hendrick Medical Center to reflect its regional healthcare role. For 100 years, Hendrick has committed to provide high-quality healthcare in west central Texas.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (RAG) 8/31/2023, ed (BB) 10/30/23, 12/19/2023, 1/16/2024,
(CTS) 2/23/24

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Taylor County (Job #23TA01) Subject (Atlas 23906) UTM:

Location: Abilene, 518 N. 6th St.

NEW LIGHT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The initial Baptist church to serve African American residents of Abilene was founded in 1885, four years after the town was established by cattlemen as a stock shipping point. New Light Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1923 by Mary Yates, Mariah Bennett, Lillian Wells and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Weir after separating from Macedonia Baptist Church, which had been established in 1898. The Rev. S.H. Hubbard was the first pastor. The newly formed congregation held worship in a small house located on Magnolia Street (now known as N. Treadway).

The Rev. R. F. Bonner served as pastor of New Light from 1927 through 1948. He led efforts in fundraising and construction of a new church building, erected across the street facing the original home where services were first held. This new facility was affectionately referred to as "the Little Cobblestone Church." Due to the growing congregation, a new building was completed in 1958 under the leadership of the Rev. Alton Hurd.

Through its long-serving leadership, New Light is also known for its contribution to community efforts, education and the arts in the city. The church sponsored a daycare center, adult education classes, a young men's mentoring program and a church choir which was featured on the radio and in the community. The choir was also the special guest of Governor Ann Richards at the Texas Capitol. The Rev. Dr. Leo F. Scott was the first African American to serve on the Abilene City Council. Pastors and the congregation have participated in the progressive West Texas Baptist District Association, Abilene Negro Ministerial Alliance, and the General Baptist State Convention. New Light Missionary Baptist Church continued to be an integral part of the Abilene community.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 9/25/2023, ed (BB) 1/9/24, 1/25/2024
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Throckmorton County (Job #23TH01) Subject (Atlas 23907) UTM:
Location: Woodson, 200 Hwy 183 N

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The area's earliest ranching families worshipped in each other's homes, occasionally organizing circuit rider visits and camp meetings. After a camp meeting in 1904, O.J. Wood conveyed land for a church site. Members constructed the church building and dedicated it in early 1905. Soon after, members elected deacons and elders and formally organized First Christian Church, with a Brother Weaver as the first pastor. An early community school met in the church building. The church built additional structures in the latter half of the 20th century. For over one hundred years, First Christian Church has continued to serve the spiritual needs of the Woodson community.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 3/1/2023, rev 1/17/24, 1/25/24, 2/15/24, (CTS) 2/23/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Travis County (Job #22TV06) Subject (Atlas 23629) UTM:
Location: Austin, 300 Comal Street (Comal Pocket Park)

THE HERRERA FAMILY

Since their arrival in east Austin, generations of the Herrera family dedicated their lives to education. In 1911, Valentin (1859-1942) and Josefa (1898-1963) Herrera, originally from Mexico, and their seven children moved into a house near the corner of 3rd and Chicon Streets. The house became the center of both a bakery run by Josefa and a Spanish-language school taught by Valentin.

Their daughters, Consuelo Herrera Méndez and Mary Grace Herrera, were some of the first Tejana women to teach in a major Texas school system. Consuelo began teaching in Austin Independent School District (AISD) at Comal Street School, a segregated *escuelita* from 1927-1935, located here at the current site of Comal Park, and Zavala Elementary from 1936-1956. After earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas, Consuelo taught at Brooke Elementary School from 1956-1972. Mary Grace taught first at Fulmore Junior High, then at Palm School for over 35 years. Mary Grace also was the second generation to occupy the family home. Consuelo and her husband, Patricio J. Méndez, founded the Zavala Parent-Teacher Association and were active in local politics. In 1961, Consuelo became president of Ladies League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council No. 202 and served as chair of the state LULAC convention the same year. Mary Grace advocated on behalf of her students and was a key witness in a 1973 federal desegregation trial. Two years after Consuelo's passing, AISD named the new Mendez Middle School in her honor.

From the family home, third generation Diana Herrera Castañeda continued the Herrera's legacy of education and advocacy until her death. She was elected to the AISD school board in 1992 and was active in LULAC. For three generations, the Herrera family tirelessly advocated on behalf of the students and residents of east Austin.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/22/2023, ed (BB) 2/5/2024, (CTS) 2/23/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Trinity County (Job #23TN02) Subject (Atlas 23943) UTM:
Location: Trinity, 203 S. Elm Street

TRINITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

After a devastating fire destroyed much of the downtown Trinity district in 1910, city leaders chartered the Trinity Volunteer Fire Department on February 14, 1914. The twelve founding members elected Jim Wilkinson as chief, Jesse Renfro as assistant chief and E.C. McDonald as secretary. The additional nine members were A.L. Arnold, C.P. Goyen, S.S. Manry, H.S. McKay, O.V. Ramey, S.E. Vann, C.P. Wade, L.F. Waller and H.E. Warner. The department kept equipment in a barn on what is now Highway 19 between East Main Street and Madison Street. In 1915, the department purchased a Ford Model T, allowing them to rapidly respond to emergencies.

In the 1920s, the department acquired a Ford Model A chemical truck and REO pumper. To house the new equipment, the department relocated to Railroad Street. Firefighters won second place in two pumper race competitive drill contests. By 1931, Trinity had 19 members and was considered one of the best volunteer fire departments in east Texas. The department retired the REO in 1949 and purchased a Chevrolet pumper.

After Chief Wilkinson's death in 1951, others who served as chief included Jesse Renfro, Allen Chamberlin, Bert Smith, Winston Ainsworth, Pete Trow and Coby Smith. Under the leadership of Chief Hayne Huffman in the 1970s, the department made several upgrades, including three new trucks and a new fire station at South Elm Street and Madison Street. From this site, the firefighters responded to a big fire in 1975 that burned half a city block on the west side of Robb Street. The fire was extinguished due to the firefighters' skill and assistance rendered from Huntsville and Crockett Fire Departments. For over 100 years, the Trinity Volunteer Fire Department has faithfully and skillfully served the city.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 10/31/2022, ed (BB) 9/28/23, (CTS) 2/23/24
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Upshur County (Job #22UR01) Subject (Atlas 23578) UTM;
Location: Gilmer, 8509 Toad Rd.

BETHLEHEM SCHOOL

The African American community in Upshur County has long valued education, building schools soon after Emancipation. In the Bethlehem community, assistance from the Rosenwald fund resulted in an improved four-room schoolhouse in 1922. J.W. Sharp (1872-1960) and his daughter, Catha M. McDaniel (1918-2001), were longtime educators here. Students competed in academic and athletic activities and won many trophies. Consolidation with Union Hill closed the school in 1968. The Bethlehem Community Center was later built on the site. Despite vast imbalances in resources due to segregation, the school benefited the students and the whole community through education and events.

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (JZ) 9/27/2023, ed (BB) 10/30/23, 12/6/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Webb County (Job #23WB01) Subject (Atlas 23977) UTM:
Location: Laredo, 1520 Marcella Ave

LA INDIA PACKING COMPANY

La India Packing Company is a family owned and operated supplier of herbs, spices, and Mexican chocolate. The company has served as an integral part of Laredo's Hispanic community while offering buyers the unique flavors of Mexican and south Texas cuisine.

In 1924, Mexico natives and husband and wife Antonio and Antonia Rodriguez opened La India Packing Company in Laredo out of their family home. Aimed at preserving Mexican cuisine and supplying the city's growing Hispanic population brought on by the Mexican Revolution, Antonio began selling Mexican chocolate, medicinal herbs, spices, and kitchen staples. As business grew, the family purchased a small frame home on Marcella Avenue to serve as a storefront. A brick building was later added to provide additional space to accommodate their growing product line of spice blends that produced traditional Mexican dishes in a fraction of the time.

In the 1990s, La India Packing Company was sold to daughter-in-law Maria Guadalupe (Caudillo) de Rodriguez (1932-2008). Under continuing family management, the company updated their logo, developed additional spice blends, published a bilingual book on traditional herbs, and expanded their product line to include flavors from diverse cultures. In 2000, the company expanded once again to include a cafe.

In 2005, La India Packing Company was recognized as a Southwest Certified National Minority Supplier. The company's products are available in stores throughout south Texas with international shipping available. La India Packing Company has preserved Hispanic culture and introduced traditional Mexican and south Texas cuisine to audiences worldwide.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC), 12/20/2023, ed (BB) 1/17/24
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Wharton County (Job #23WH02) Subject (Atlas 23957) UTM:
Location: Louise, 202 S. Pearl Street

RAILROAD IN LOUISE

In 1881, the community of Louise was platted as a result of the New York, Texas and Mexican Railway laying tracks through Wharton County. That same year, the railway built a frame depot in Louise which included a platform, section house and telegraph office. Passenger and freight rail service were very popular. Rail and depot ownership changed several times, including Southern Pacific (1885); Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio (1905); Texas and New Orleans (1927); and Southern Pacific (1961). The depot remained an active area for commerce and socializing. After rail's popularity dwindled, Louise continued to honor its rail history by restoring the depot.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/28/2023, ed (BB) 1/8/24, 1/25/2024
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Wheeler County (Job #23WE01) Subject (Atlas 23951) UTM:
Location: Shamrock, 201 North Madden

E.L. WOODLEY

Born in Jacksonville, Alabama, on August 14, 1872, to farmers Jackson Monroe and Alice (Pike) Woodley, Edward Leonidas (E.L.) Woodley was an early Shamrock pioneer, landowner and political leader. In 1885, the Woodley family moved to Iredell, Bosque County. On June 25, 1895, he married Alice Minerva "Minnie" Roberts (1874-1969) in Comanche. They had four children: Opal, Edward Jr., Mary Lynn and James. In 1902, E.L. served as the first railroad agent for the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Texas Railroad, which caused the family to relocate to the area that would become Shamrock. Woodley helped organize a townsite company to create Shamrock, and seeing its success, bought out the company and opened a land office. His sale of 120 acres to the Shamrock Investment Company became 35 blocks known as "Woodley's South Side Addition," and many streets were named for family members. When the company dissolved in 1912, Woodley was the president and majority shareholder.

After Shamrock incorporated in 1911, E.L. Woodley became the first mayor, securing necessary infrastructure to support the growing city. He also personally donated land for a community cemetery and five churches, and to expand the city park. Woodley led major business endeavors, including banking, lumber, petroleum, ranching, tea, orchards, mining and farming. E.L. amassed an incredible fortune in these businesses. The Woodley family split their time between Dallas and Shamrock. After the 1929 stock market crash, E.L. lost much of his fortune. The family moved to Baird, Callahan County, where he continued civic and business interests. The Woodleys retired in Brownwood, where E.L. died January 12, 1952. He and Minnie are buried in Shamrock Cemetery.

(2023)

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Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/9/2022, ed (BB) 12/14/22, rev 1/20/23, 1/23/24, (CTS) 2/22/24)

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Wheeler County (Job #21WE02) Subject (Atlas 23286) UTM:

Location: Shamrock, 200 Main St.

GLENN TRUAX

Born in Cherryville, Kansas, in 1896 to parents Abraham Lincoln and Lucretia Belle (Hart) Truax, Alvah Glenn Truax was a famed musician and creator of the Shamrock St. Patrick's Day Festival. Truax was a talented violinist from childhood. After serving in the military band during World War I, he graduated from Kansas State Teachers College and married Helen Brittain. Truax gained renown organizing school music departments and bands. During the Great Depression, parents often paid him with barter instead of cash. In 1935, the City of Shamrock offered Truax a salary to direct a municipal band. Upon arrival, he was astonished to learn the city did not have a festival celebrating Irish heritage, despite its extremely Irish name. Truax and the booster club worked together to stage the first annual St. Patrick's Day Festival in 1938. The event's programming included a parade, boxing matches, football game, lecture on Irish history and the crowning of the first Miss Irish Rose. Twelve thousand people attended. This celebration would continue yearly, with tens of thousands attending. Later, the Texas Legislature designated the Shamrock St. Patrick's Day Festival as the official Texas celebration of the holiday.

In 1940, Glenn Truax left Shamrock to direct Perryton's Ranger Band. Later, he obtained a master's degree and served as President of the North Texas Band and Orchestra Association. Then, he served as the Director of the West Texas State College Band. In 1949, he attempted to retire, but love of music pulled him back each time to direct bands and music departments in panhandle towns such as Canyon, Groom, Gruver and Morse. Truax died in 1968 in Wichita, Kansas, and is buried in Gruver (Hansford Co.).

(2022)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (TT), 6/30/2014, ed (BB) 1/28/2015, 11/1/23
27" x 42" Historic Texas Cemetery Marker with post
Williamson County (Job #13WM04) Subject (Atlas 17812) UTM.
Location: Georgetown, Memorial Drive

CITIZENS MEMORIAL GARDEN CEMETERY

Referred to historically as Oak Hill Cemetery, Georgetown Negro Cemetery, Colored Cemetery, Georgetown Citizens Cemetery, and Masonic Cemetery, Citizens Memorial Garden Cemetery is a historic burial ground in Georgetown. Due to the common racial segregation of public spaces and resources, the cemetery was set aside for African American and Hispanic residents, paupers and any others who wished to be buried here. The site was then west of the city limits on the Liberty Hill Road. In 1906, Mayor R.E. Ward appointed Zenie Henley, George Davis, Henry Smith, Anthony Price and Esau Beard as the first trustees. Some of the individuals buried here were formerly enslaved and lived to experience post-Civil War Emancipation and Reconstruction. Hundreds of individuals have been laid to rest here. Issues such as headstone degradation and unmarked graves make it difficult to complete a full assessment of the exact number of burials.

African Americans have historically been a significant portion of Williamson County's demographics, representing 10 percent of the county's population in 1850 and 19 percent of the population in 1860. Although Citizens Memorial Garden Cemetery is most often recognized as an African American cemetery, dozens of Hispanics are also interred here. Formerly, a barbed wire fence separated the African American and Hispanic sections of the cemetery. Records indicate that the City of Georgetown conveyed the cemetery to the African American community in 1906 for grounds maintenance. A local masonic lodge maintained the cemetery for many years until 1980, when the Citizens Memorial Association assumed responsibility for its care.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY – 2023

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Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/11/2023, ed (BB) 11/10/23, 12/28/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Wilson County (Job #23WN01) Subject (Atlas 23865) UTM:
Location: Floresville, Peach and Goliad St.

RANCHO DE PATAGUILLA

In 1731, the Spanish government relocated Mission San José de Los Nazonis, founded in east Texas, to a new site on the east bank of the San Antonio River. They renamed the mission San Juan Capistrano. There, Franciscan missionaries from the College of Santa Cruz de Querétaro instructed Native Americans in Christianity and European methods of farming and ranching. Later, San Juan Capistrano was transferred to the administration of the College of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Zacatécas. The Spanish government allocated large quantities of land to each mission for farm and ranch land to supply the missions with the food, meat, horses and other needed products to those living in the mission. Around 1740, the Spanish government granted Mission San Juan Capistrano 15 leagues, or around 66,420 acres of land as a ranch, which they named Rancho de Pataguilla. The land sprawled across present-day Bexar, Wilson and Karnes Counties.

Moderate improvements, such as corrals, and jacales are noted in traveler's diaries. The corrals are thought to have been at Laguna de Pataguilla in Lodi, near present-day Floresville. The La Bahía Road, re-named the Goliad Road in 1829, ran through the land of Rancho de Pataguilla. The ranch reported thousands of sheep and cattle during the mid-1700s. Vaqueros of Spanish and Native American descent cared for livestock, driving herds to the mission regularly. In 1757, a land dispute arose between Andrés Hernández and Luís Menchaca. As a result, Rancho de Pataguilla's southern border was fixed at Pajarito Creek. The rancho's cattle were subject to numerous branding requirements and consolidation in the late 1700s. After the mission was secularized in 1794, the rancho land was subdivided and developed.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/2/2023, ed (BB) 11/6/23, 12/20/2023, 1/25/2024, (CTS) 2/23/24

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Wood County (Job #23WD02) Subject (Atlas 23916) UTM:

Location: Quitman, FM 515 and FM 69 (SW Corner)

LLOYD COMMON SCHOOL NO. 17

Also known colloquially as "Coke School," the Lloyd Common School No. 17 educated children of the rural community known as Coke for generations. After the Texas Legislature passed significant funding for the public school system in the 1880s, local officials organized the Coke School District for the purposes of education. By 1888, a school building had been built for the Coke community, and Dr. Jim Wilson was teaching. The school grew, and for the 1913-1914 school year, Mattie Brewer and Florence Beard taught in the school. In 1941, Bill Pittman began teaching at Coke School. His wife, Corene, also taught at Coke. Bill left to join the army in 1944.

In 1942, the Amerada Petroleum Company began drilling test wells near the Coke community, and by the end of the year, struck oil and completed more wells in the area. With an influx of funds associated with the oil boom, the community built a brick schoolhouse. In August 1945, Henry Azariah Robinson and his four sons, Ralph, Maston, Clarence, and Idas, donated a tract, and Ralph and Laura Robinson donated an adjoining tract, forming a lot at the southwest corner of FM 515 and FM 69. When Bill Pittman was discharged, he returned to the new Coke School as its principal. Continued drilling allowed the school to be fiscally independent, rejecting all state and federal funds, and providing all students free lunches and school supplies.

The new building became the center of community life, and hosted dance performances by the Coquettes, sports, art exhibits, carnivals, plays and more. The lower grade room at different times housed an alligator caught from Caddo Lake: Poboy and Poboy number 2. As Texas schools began to combine in the 1960s, Coke was the last common school to merge with a larger independent school district when it consolidated with Quitman ISD in 1965.

(2023)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/1/2023, rev 1.3.24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

ALLEN W. WILDER

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED AS DELEGATES TO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS PRIOR TO 1870, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICANS ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE WERE ELECTED TO THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONVENE IN PROVISIONAL SESSION ON FEBRUARY 8, 1870.

PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: ALLEN W. WILDER (c. 1845 – 1890), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 13TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTING WASHINGTON COUNTY.

WILDER WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN NORTH CAROLINA AROUND 1845. HE MARRIED ANNIS (AMIS) SKINNER IN DECEMBER 1865 IN AUSTIN, WITH WHOM HE HAD FIVE CHILDREN. BY 1870, WILDER MOVED TO CHAPPELL HILL. IN 1872, VOTERS ELECTED HIM TO THE 16TH DISTRICT, REPRESENTING WASHINGTON COUNTY. WILDER SERVED ON THE PUBLIC LANDS AND LAND OFFICE COMMITTEE. HE DID NOT SERVE IN THE 14TH LEGISLATURE, INSTEAD RETURNING TO CHAPPELL HILL AND WORKING AS A LAWYER. HE WON A SEAT IN THE 15TH LEGISLATURE; HOWEVER, THE RESULTS WERE CONTESTED. A HOUSE COMMITTEE DETERMINED ILLEGAL VOTES WERE CAST, AND WILDER WAS UNSEATED ON MAY 16, 1876. HE UNSUCCESSFULLY RAN FOR TEXAS SENATE TWO YEARS LATER. WILDER WAS PRACTICING AS A LAWYER IN HOUSTON WHEN HE DIED.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/29/2023, rev (CTS) 1.3.24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WILLIAMS

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WILLIAMS (c. 1819 – 1886), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE REPRESENTING COLORADO AND LAVACA COUNTIES.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WILLIAMS, BORN IN VIRGINIA, WAS BROUGHT TO COLORADO COUNTY AROUND 1859. AFTER EMANCIPATION, HE BECAME A TRAVELING METHODIST PREACHER AND CHURCH LEADER, FOUNDING ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN COLUMBUS. WILLIAMS ALSO BECAME INVOLVED IN THE UNION LEAGUE, SERVING AS CHAPLAIN. HE WAS ELECTED TO REPRESENT COLORADO AND LAVACA COUNTIES (25TH DISTRICT) IN THE 12TH LEGISLATURE; WALLER, FORT BEND AND WHARTON COUNTIES (37TH DISTRICT) IN THE 16TH LEGISLATURE; AND WALLER AND FORT BEND COUNTIES (53RD DISTRICT) IN THE 19TH LEGISLATURE. WILLIAMS HELPED FOUND THE TOWN OF KENDLETON AND SERVED AS ITS FIRST POSTMASTER. HE AND WIFE CAROLINE HAD ONE SON, THOMAS.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/14/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

DAVID ABNER SR.

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED AS DELEGATES TO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS PRIOR TO 1870, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICANS ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE WERE ELECTED TO THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONVENED IN PROVISIONAL SESSION ON FEBRUARY 8, 1870.

PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: DAVID ABNER SR. (c. 1826 – c. 1902), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 14TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTING RUSK AND HARRISON COUNTIES.

ABNER WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN SELMA, ALABAMA. IN 1843, HE WAS BROUGHT TO UPSHUR COUNTY. AFTER EMANCIPATION, ABNER MOVED TO MARSHALL AND REGISTERED TO VOTE. HE BECAME A PROSPEROUS FARMER AND ACTIVE IN REPUBLICAN POLITICS. IN 1873, VOTERS ELECTED ABNER TO REPRESENT THE 5TH DISTRICT IN THE 14TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, WHERE HE SERVED ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. AT HOME, ABNER WAS INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONS FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, INCLUDING BETHESDA BAPTIST CHURCH, BISHOP COLLEGE AND AT LEAST TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. ABNER AND HIS SECOND WIFE, MOLLIE, RAISED EIGHT CHILDREN. HE IS BURIED IN POWDER MILL CEMETERY IN MARSHALL.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/20/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

DAVID MEDLOCK JR.

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED AS DELEGATES TO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS PRIOR TO 1870, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICANS ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE WERE ELECTED TO THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONVENEED IN PROVISIONAL SESSION ON FEBRUARY 8, 1870.

PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: DAVID MEDLOCK JR. (c. 1824 – UNKNOWN), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTING LIMESTONE, FALLS AND McLENNAN COUNTIES.

DAVID MEDLOCK JR. WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN GEORGIA IN 1824 AS PART OF THE STROUD ESTATE. MEDLOCK, HIS FIRST WIFE ELVIA (ELVY) AND THEIR CHILDREN WERE BROUGHT BY THE STROUD FAMILY WHEN THEY RELOCATED TO ROBERTSON COUNTY. AFTER EMANCIPATION, MEDLOCK JR. MOVED TO LIMESTONE COUNTY TO BE CLOSER TO EXTENDED FAMILY. THERE, HE WON A SEAT IN THE 12TH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 1869. HE SERVED ON THE EDUCATION AND TOWN AND CITY CORPORATION COMMITTEES. DURING MEDLOCK'S TERM IN THE LEGISLATURE, ELVIA DIED, AND HE MARRIED HER SISTER, FRANCIS. THESE MARRIAGES PRODUCED A LARGE FAMILY. MEDLOCK DID NOT RETURN TO SERVE ANOTHER TERM IN THE LEGISLATURE AND DIED BEFORE 1880.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/20/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

D. W. BURLEY

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED AS DELEGATES TO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS PRIOR TO 1870, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICANS ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE WERE ELECTED TO THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONVENED IN PROVISIONAL SESSION ON FEBRUARY 8, 1870.

PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: D. W. BURLEY (c. 1844 – UNKNOWN), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTING FREESTONE, LEON AND ROBERTSON COUNTIES.

BURLEY WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN VIRGINIA AROUND 1844. BY THE TIME SLAVERY WAS ABOLISHED, BURLEY HAD ALREADY OBTAINED FREEDOM AND SERVED AS A CAPTAIN IN THE UNION ARMY, DEFENDING ST. LOUIS FROM CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS. HE MOVED TO CALVERT IN 1865 AND BECAME INVOLVED IN RADICAL REPUBLICAN POLITICS. BURLEY SERVED AS ONE OF 11 AFRICAN AMERICAN DELEGATES TO THE 1868-1869 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. IN 1869, VOTERS ELECTED BURLEY TO REPRESENT THE 18TH DISTRICT IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE. HE WAS SEATED FEBRUARY 10, 1870 AND SERVED ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. BURLEY ONLY SERVED ONE TERM. LITTLE IS KNOWN OF HIS LIFE AFTER HIS POLITICAL SERVICE.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/19/2023, rev (CTS) 1/3/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

EDWARD "ED" BROWN

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED AS DELEGATES TO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS PRIOR TO 1870, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICANS ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE WERE ELECTED TO THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONVENED IN PROVISIONAL SESSION ON FEBRUARY 8, 1870.

PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: EDWARD "ED" BROWN (c. 1840 – UNKNOWN), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 14TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTING HARRISON AND RUSK COUNTIES.

EDWARD "ED" BROWN WAS BORN AROUND 1840 IN ALABAMA. IT IS UNKNOWN WHEN HE CAME TO TEXAS, BUT HE LIKELY SETTLED IN RUSK COUNTY AND WORKED AS A CARPENTER. IN 1873, VOTERS FROM DISTRICT 5 REPRESENTING HARRISON AND RUSK COUNTIES ELECTED BROWN TO THE 14TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE. HE WAS SEATED JANUARY 18, 1874. BROWN WAS ONE OF SIX AFRICAN AMERICAN MEMBERS IN THE LEGISLATURE. HE SERVED ON THE AGRICULTURE AND STOCK RAISING COMMITTEE. DURING HIS TERM, BROWN VOTED ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO TRANSPORTATION, EDUCATION, AND COUNTY BOUNDARIES, AMONG OTHER ISSUES. HE DID NOT SERVE ANOTHER TERM. LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT HIS LIFE OUTSIDE OF HIS POLITICAL CAREER.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/21/2023, rev (CTS) 1/3/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

GILES COTTON

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: GILES COTTON (c. 1814-c. 1884), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTING ROBERTSON, LEON AND FREESTONE COUNTIES.

GILES COTTON (ALSO STYLED AS JILES OR SILAS) WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN SOUTH CAROLINA. HE ARRIVED IN ROBERTSON COUNTY IN 1837. AFTER EMANCIPATION, HE LIVED NEAR CALVERT IN ROBERTSON COUNTY, AMASSING PROPERTY AND FARMING HIS LAND. COTTON REGISTERED TO VOTE IN 1869 AND BECAME INVOLVED IN RADICAL REPUBLICAN POLITICS. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE 12TH LEGISLATURE TO REPRESENT THE 18TH DISTRICT AND SERVED ON THE AGRICULTURE AND STOCK RAISING COMMITTEE. COTTON SUPPORTED LEGISLATION THAT MADE CALVERT ROBERTSON'S COUNTY SEAT. AFTER HIS SERVICE, HE RETURNED TO ROBERTSON COUNTY AND CONTINUED FARMING WITH HIS WIFE RACHEL AND SEVERAL CHILDREN.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/27/2023, rev (CTS) 1/3/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

GEORGE THOMPSON RUBY

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED AS DELEGATES TO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS PRIOR TO 1870, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICANS ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE WERE ELECTED TO THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONVENED IN PROVISIONAL SESSION ON FEBRUARY 8, 1870.

PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: GEORGE THOMPSON RUBY (JULY 1, 1841 - OCTOBER 31, 1882), SENATOR IN THE 12TH AND 13TH TEXAS LEGISLATURES REPRESENTING GALVESTON, BRAZORIA AND MATAGORDA COUNTIES.

RUBY WAS BORN FREE TO PARENTS REUBEN AND RACHEL (HUMPHREY) RUBY IN NEW YORK AND RAISED IN PORTLAND, MAINE. AFTER TEACHING SCHOOL IN LOUISIANA, HE JOINED THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU IN GALVESTON IN 1866, FIRST ADMINISTERING SCHOOLS, THEN SERVING AS A TRAVELING AGENT ESTABLISHING CHAPTERS OF THE UNION LEAGUE. RUBY BECAME THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION LEAGUE IN 1868. THE NEXT YEAR, HE WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS AT GALVESTON. WHILE THERE, RUBY EDITED HIS FIRST BLACK NEWSPAPER, THE GALVESTON *STANDARD*. NOT SEEKING RE-ELECTION IN 1873, HE SETTLED IN NEW ORLEANS AND EDITED THE NEW ORLEANS *OBSERVER*. HIS MARRIAGE TO LUCY PRODUCED NO OFFSPRING.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

[STATE SEAL]

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/14/2023, rev (CTS) 1/3/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM;
Location: TBD

HENRY MOORE

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: HENRY MOORE (c. 1810 – c. 1880), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH AND 13TH TEXAS LEGISLATURES REPRESENTING HARRISON COUNTY.

MOORE WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN ALABAMA AROUND 1810. HE MAY HAVE PURCHASED HIS FREEDOM PRIOR TO EMANCIPATION. AFTER REGISTERING TO VOTE IN 1867, MOORE BECAME A RADICAL REPUBLICAN AND WAS ELECTED TO THE 12TH AND 13TH LEGISLATURES. HE SERVED ON THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, MILITIA COMMITTEE, AND THE ROADS, BRIDGES AND FERRIES COMMITTEE. MOORE SUPPORTED LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING HARRISON COUNTY'S HALLSVILLE MASONIC INSTITUTE. AFTER POLITICS, HE LIVED IN MARSHALL WITH HIS WIFE, HARRIETT, AND FOUR CHILDREN. HE DOES NOT APPEAR ON OFFICIAL RECORDS AFTER 1880, AND BURIAL INFORMATION IS UNKNOWN.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/1/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD
S

HENRY PHELPS

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: HENRY PHELPS (c. 1829 – c. 1878), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 13TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTING AUSTIN, FORT BEND AND WHARTON COUNTIES.

PHELPS WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN VIRGINIA c. 1829. HE WAS LIVING IN FORT BEND COUNTY BY 1869, WHEN HE BECAME INVOLVED IN VOTING RIGHTS AND WAS A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE UNION LEAGUE. IN 1870, THE CENSUS SHOWED PHELPS WAS A SHARECROPPER WITH HIS WIFE MARIA, AND YOUNG CHILDREN ABRAHAM AND MAY ELLA. IN 1872, HE WAS ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE 13TH DISTRICT, SERVING ON THE ROADS, BRIDGES AND FERRIES AND THE PENITENTIARY COMMITTEES. PHELPS INTRODUCED A BILL PROHIBITING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FIRST CLASS RAILWAY PASSENGERS. WHEN HE RETURNED HOME, HE SERVED AS FORT BEND COUNTY'S HIDE INSPECTOR. HE DIED AROUND 1878.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/1/2023
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Location: TBD

JACOB ESAN FREEMAN

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: JACOB ESAN FREEMAN (c. 1841 – c. 1900), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 14TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTING WALLER, FORT BEND AND WHARTON COUNTIES.

JACOB E. FREEMAN WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN ALABAMA AROUND 1841. WHEN HE WAS 11, FREEMAN WAS BROUGHT TO TEXAS. AFTER EMANCIPATION, HE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN 1868. FREEMAN SERVED AS A DELEGATE TO THE 1873 STATE COLORED MEN'S CONVENTION. HE WAS WORKING AS A MECHANIC IN HEMPSTEAD WHEN VOTERS ELECTED HIM TO REPRESENT THE 13TH DISTRICT IN THE 14TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE. FREEMAN SERVED ON THE MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PENITENTIARY COMMITTEE. HE DID NOT SERVE IN THE 15TH LEGISLATURE BUT WAS ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE 37TH DISTRICT IN THE 16TH LEGISLATURE. EXTANT RECORDS SHOW FREEMAN WAS MARRIED BUT DETAILS OF HIS FAMILY ARE UNKNOWN.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/16/2023, rev (CTS) 1.3.24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

J. GOLDSTEIN DUPREE

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: J. GOLDSTEIN DUPREE (c. 1846 – APRIL 1872), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE REPRESENTING MONTGOMERY AND HARRIS COUNTIES.

J. GOLDSTEIN (GOLDSTEEN) DUPREE WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY AROUND 1846 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. IN 1868, HE REGISTERED TO VOTE AND BECAME INVOLVED WITH RADICAL REPUBLICAN POLITICS. DUPREE WAS ELECTED TO THE 12TH LEGISLATURE TO REPRESENT THE 14TH DISTRICT. HE SERVED ON THE STATE AFFAIRS AND THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEES. AFTER HIS SERVICE COMPLETED IN 1871, HE RETURNED TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY. THE NEXT YEAR, DUPREE WAS REPORTED DEAD. IN FEBRUARY 1873, DUPREE'S BROTHER TESTIFIED THAT HE WAS HANGED BY THE KU KLUX KLAN FOR MAKING A SPEECH IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR EDMUND J. DAVIS.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

STATE SEAL

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/1/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

JAMES H. WASHINGTON

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: JAMES H. WASHINGTON (1850 – DECEMBER 23, 1916), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 13TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTING GRIMES, MADISON AND WALKER COUNTIES.

BORN IN FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON ATTENDED OBERLIN COLLEGE AND THEREAFTER LIVED BRIEFLY IN WASHINGTON D.C. HE SETTLED IN NAVASOTA IN THE EARLY 1870s, WHERE HE WAS PRINCIPAL OF THE CITY SCHOOL. DISTRICT 15 VOTERS ELECTED WASHINGTON TO THE 13TH LEGISLATURE. AFTER HIS TERM, HE MOVED TO GALVESTON, SERVING ON THE CITY COUNCIL AS ALDERMAN OF THE EIGHTH WARD AND AS CUSTOMS INSPECTOR. IN 1890, HE MOVED TO LA MARQUE TO FARM UNTIL HIS DEATH. HE IS BURIED IN GALVESTON'S NEW CITY CEMETERY. WITH HIS WIFE MARY CAMPBELL, DAUGHTER OF BAPTIST PREACHER REV. ISRAEL CAMPBELL, HE HAD ONE DAUGHTER, ELVIE.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/12/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

JEREMIAH J. HAMILTON

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: JEREMIAH J. HAMILTON (JULY 1838 – c.1905), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE, REPRESENTING BASTROP AND FAYETTE COUNTIES.

HAMILTON, BORN ENSLAVED IN TENNESSEE IN 1838, WAS BROUGHT TO TEXAS IN 1847. HE WAS ILLEGALLY TAUGHT TO READ WHILE A SLAVE. AFTER EMANCIPATION, HAMILTON TAUGHT SCHOOL, ADVOCATED FOR BASTROP COUNTY BLACK FARMERS, REGISTERED VOTERS AND SERVED AS A LAND TRUSTEE. HAMILTON WAS ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE 26TH DISTRICT IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE. AFTER HIS TERM, HE STAYED IN AUSTIN, WORKING AS A CARPENTER, NOTABLY CONSTRUCTING THE 1876 JEREMIAH HAMILTON HOUSE. LATER, HAMILTON RAN NEWSPAPERS INCLUDING THE AUSTIN *CITIZEN* (1880s) AND THE *NATIONAL UNION* (1890s), AND WORKED AS AN AGENT FOR THE AUSTIN *WATCHMAN*. HE ALSO SERVED IN STATE PARTY CONVENTIONS. HAMILTON PROBABLY DIED IN 1905. HE WAS MARRIED TO ELLEN AND HAD SEVEN CHILDREN, FIVE OF WHOM SURVIVED TO ADULTHOOD.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/20/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

JOHN MITCHELL

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: JOHN MITCHELL (1837-1921), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH AND 14TH TEXAS LEGISLATURES REPRESENTING BURLESON, BRAZOS AND MILAM COUNTIES.

MITCHELL WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY AND CAME TO TEXAS IN 1846. AFTER EMANCIPATION, HE BECAME ACTIVE IN RADICAL REPUBLICAN POLITICS. MITCHELL PURCHASED LAND IN THE BURLESON COUNTY AREA AROUND 1870. IN THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, MITCHELL REPRESENTED THE 12TH DISTRICT, ENCOMPASSING BURLESON, BRAZOS AND MILAM COUNTIES. IN THE 14TH LEGISLATURE, HE REPRESENTED THE 16TH DISTRICT, ENCOMPASSING BURLESON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES. MITCHELL SERVED ON THE EDUCATION AND PENITENTIARY COMMITTEES. HE WAS ONE OF FIVE BLACK DELEGATES ELECTED TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1875 AS A MEMBER OF THE GREENBACK PARTY. MITCHELL AND HIS WIFE, VINEY, HAD SEVEN CHILDREN. HE DIED ON APRIL 10, 1921.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 10/31/2023, rev (CTS) 1.3.24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

MATTHEW GAINES

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: MATTHEW GAINES (c. 1840-1900), SENATOR IN THE 12TH AND 13TH LEGISLATURES REPRESENTING WASHINGTON COUNTY.

GAINES WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY ON A PLANTATION IN ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA. HE ILLEGALLY TAUGHT HIMSELF TO READ. IN 1859, HIS ENSLAVERS SOLD HIM TO A TEXAS PLANTATION OWNER. BEFORE EMANCIPATION, GAINES WAS A SLAVE PREACHER, A CAREER HE CONTINUED THE REST OF HIS LIFE. HIS CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY GAINED ATTENTION, AND HE WAS ELECTED TO THE TEXAS SENATE. DURING HIS POLITICAL CAREER, GAINES WAS INTEGRAL TO THE FOUNDING OF TEXAS A&M AND PRAIRIE VIEW A&M, AND ADVOCATED FOR INTEGRATION OF THE NEWLY CREATED TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND BLACK OFFICE-HOLDING. HE LATER RAN AFOUL OF HIS PARTY AND RETIRED TO GIDDINGS, WHERE HE CONTINUED PREACHING AND MAKING CIVIL RIGHTS SPEECHES. HIS TWO MARRIAGES, FIRST TO FANNY SUTTON, AND SECOND TO ELIZABETH HARRISON, PRODUCED TEN CHILDREN.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/3/2023, rev (CTS) 1.3.24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

MITCHELL KENDALL

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: MITCHELL KENDALL (c. 1822 – c. 1885), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE REPRESENTING HARRISON COUNTY.

MITCHELL KENDALL WAS BORN IN SLAVERY IN GEORGIA. HE WAS BROUGHT TO TEXAS AROUND 1850. AFTER EMANCIPATION, KENDALL WORKED AS A BLACKSMITH AND BECAME INVOLVED IN THE UNION LEAGUE AND THE RADICAL REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION IN MARSHALL. HE WAS ELECTED AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1868-69. DURING THE CONVENTION, KENDALL SERVED ON THE PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE, VOTING IN FAVOR OF DIVIDING TEXAS INTO THREE STATES. HE WAS ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE 7TH DISTRICT IN THE 12TH LEGISLATURE. KENDALL SERVED ON THE COUNTIES AND COUNTY BOUNDARIES COMMITTEE. AFTER THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, HE RETURNED TO BLACKSMITHING AND THE NEW TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD OF MARSHALL. HE AND WIFE ADELINE HAD SEVERAL CHILDREN.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/16/2023, [rev \(CTS\) 1/3/24](#)
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
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Location: TBD

RICHARD ALLEN

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: RICHARD ALLEN (1830-1909), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH AND 13TH TEXAS LEGISLATURES, REPRESENTING HARRIS COUNTY.

RICHARD ALLEN, BORN ENSLAVED IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, WAS BROUGHT TO TEXAS IN 1837 AND EVENTUALLY TO HOUSTON. HE EARNED A REPUTATION AS A SKILLED BUILDER, AND WHILE STILL A SLAVE, DESIGNED AND BUILT THE HOUSTON MAYOR'S MANSION. ALLEN BECAME INVOLVED IN POLITICS AFTER EMANCIPATION, OVERSEEING VOTER REGISTRATION AS AN AGENT OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU AND PARTICIPATED IN THE ORGANIZATION OF HARRIS COUNTY'S REPUBLICAN PARTY. AS A LEGISLATOR, HE SERVED ON THE NUMEROUS COMMITTEES. AFTER HIS TIME IN THE LEGISLATURE, ALLEN RETURNED TO LOCAL SERVICE, HOLDING SEVERAL OFFICIAL POSITIONS. HE WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN PRINCE HALL MASONRY, PRESIDING AS GRAND MASTER; SAT ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE GREGORY INSTITUTE; AND HELPED FOUND EMANCIPATION PARK. HIS MARRIAGE TO NANCY PRODUCED FIVE CHILDREN. ALLEN IS BURIED IN OLIVEWOOD CEMETERY.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/11/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

RICHARD WILLIAMS

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: RICHARD WILLIAMS (c. 1822 – UNKNOWN), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH AND 13TH TEXAS LEGISLATURES REPRESENTING WALKER, MADISON AND GRIMES COUNTIES.

WILLIAMS WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN SOUTH CAROLINA AROUND 1822. HE WAS BROUGHT TO HUNTSVILLE IN 1856. AFTER EMANCIPATION, WILLIAMS BECAME INVOLVED IN LOCAL RADICAL REPUBLICAN POLITICS. HE WAS ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE 15TH DISTRICT IN THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, WHERE HE SERVED ON THE COUNTIES AND COUNTY BOUNDARIES, PRIVATE LAND CLAIMS AND PUBLIC LANDS AND LAND OFFICE COMMITTEES. WILLIAMS' ELECTION TO THE 13TH LEGISLATURE WAS CONTESTED DUE TO A CLERICAL ERROR, BUT HE WAS SEATED BY FEBRUARY 1873. WILLIAMS INTRODUCED A SUCCESSFUL BILL TO INCORPORATE THE TEXAS WELLS AND IRRIGATION COMPANY AND SPOKE AGAINST SEGREGATED SCHOOLS AND THE CONVICT LEASING SYSTEM. AT HOME, HE SERVED AS A TRUSTEE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/19/2023, rev (CTS) 1/3/24
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Location: TBD

SHEPPARD "SHEP" MULLENS

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED AS DELEGATES TO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS PRIOR TO 1870, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICANS ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE WERE ELECTED TO THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONVENED IN PROVISIONAL SESSION ON FEBRUARY 8, 1870.

PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: SHEPPARD "SHEP" MULLENS (c. 1829 – AUGUST 6, 1871) REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE REPRESENTING McLENNAN, LIMESTONE AND FALLS COLONIES.

SHEPPARD (ALSO SHEP, SHEPPERD, SHEPPERT) MULLENS (ALSO MULLINS) WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN LAWRENCE COUNTY, ALABAMA AROUND 1829. HE WAS BROUGHT TO TEXAS IN 1854. AFTER EMANCIPATION, MULLENS ACQUIRED SEVERAL LOTS IN WACO AND OTHER LAND IN McLENNAN COUNTY. ON DECEMBER 29, 1866, HE MARRIED SALLIE DOWNS. MULLENS EMERGED AS A COMMUNITY LEADER, WAS APPOINTED TO REGISTER VOTERS IN THE COUNTY, AND SERVED AS A DELEGATE TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY CONVENTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1868-69. MULLENS WON A SEAT IN THE 12TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE. HE SERVED ON THE IMMIGRATION AND PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEES. WHILE STILL IN HIS TERM OF SERVICE, MULLENS DIED ON AUGUST 6, 1871 IN WACO AND WAS BURIED AT FIRST STREET CEMETERY.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/1/2023
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

MESHACK "SHACK" ROBERTS

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

WHILE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED AS DELEGATES TO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIONS PRIOR TO 1870, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICANS ELECTED TO SERVE IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE WERE ELECTED TO THE 12TH LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONVENED IN PROVISIONAL SESSION ON FEBRUARY 8, 1870.

PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: MESHACK "SHACK" ROBERTS (c. 1821 – UNKNOWN), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 13TH AND 14TH TEXAS LEGISLATURES REPRESENTING HARRISON AND RUSK COUNTIES.

MESHACK "SHACK" ROBERTS WAS BROUGHT TO GILMER, UPSHUR COUNTY BEFORE 1850. AFTER EMANCIPATION, HE WAS GIVEN LAND BY HIS FORMER OWNER, BUT AFTER THE KU KLUX KLAN BRUTALLY ATTACKED HIM, ROBERTS MOVED TO MARSHALL. IN HIS NEW CITY, ROBERTS BECAME INVOLVED IN REPUBLICAN POLITICS. IN 1873, HE WAS ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE 7TH DISTRICT. DURING THIS TIME, HE HELPED ESTABLISH WILEY COLLEGE. IN 1874, HE WAS ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE 5TH DISTRICT. TWO YEARS LATER, ROBERTS WAS ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE 10TH DISTRICT. IN 1878, HE SUPPORTED DEMOCRAT O.M. ROBERTS FOR GOVERNOR. MANY DETAILS OF HIS PERSONAL LIFE ARE UNKNOWN, INCLUDING HIS DEATH AND BURIAL DETAILS.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 12/19/2023, rev (CTS) 1/3/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

THOMAS BECK

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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PRIOR TO THE END OF FEDERAL RECONSTRUCTION IN 1870, TWELVE AFRICAN AMERICANS SERVED IN THE TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TWO SERVED IN THE TEXAS SENATE.

THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: THOMAS BECK (c. 1819 – UNKNOWN), REPRESENTATIVE IN THE 14TH, 16TH AND 17TH TEXAS LEGISLATURES, REPRESENTING GRIMES, WALKER SAN JACINTO, AND MADISON COUNTIES.

THOMAS BECK WAS BORN IN KENTUCKY AROUND 1819. HE CAME TO TEXAS SOMETIME BEFORE 1860. AT THE BEGINNING OF HIS POLITICAL CAREER, BECK WAS A FARMER LIVING IN NAVASOTA. VOTERS FROM THE 5TH DISTRICT ELECTED HIM TO SERVE IN THE 14TH LEGISLATURE. BECK DID NOT SERVE IN THE 15TH LEGISLATURE; HOWEVER, HE SERVED IN THE 16TH AND 17TH LEGISLATURE AS THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM DISTRICT 30. BECK WAS APPOINTED TO TWO COMMITTEES: AGRICULTURE AND STOCK RAISING AND PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS. HE SUPPORTED CHILD LABOR RESTRICTIONS AND FUNDING OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS. WITH HIS WIFE MARTHA, HE HAD SEVERAL CHILDREN.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)

Texas Historical Commission staff (AC) 11/2/2023, rev (CTS) 1/3/24
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
X County (Job #23XX03) Subject (Atlas) UTM:
Location: TBD

WALTER MOSES BURTON

FOLLOWING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN 1865, IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1871 THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TEXAS WERE ABLE TO UNIFORMLY REGISTER TO VOTE, FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF THE 15TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

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THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN HONOR OF: WALTER M. BURTON (c. 1840-1913), SENATOR IN THE 14TH LEGISLATURE REPRESENTING AUSTIN, FORT BEND AND WHARTON COUNTIES.

WALTER MOSES BURTON WAS BORN INTO SLAVERY IN NORTH CAROLINA ON THE PLANTATION OF THOMAS BURTON. THOMAS BROUGHT WALTER TO TEXAS AND ILLEGALLY TAUGHT HIM TO READ AND WRITE. UPON EMANCIPATION, WALTER PURCHASED SEVERAL LARGE PLOTS OF LAND FROM HIS FORMER MASTER. WALTER BURTON BECAME ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CITIZENS OF FORT BEND COUNTY. HE SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL UNION LEAGUE CHAPTER AND IN 1869, WAS ELECTED SHERIFF AND TAX COLLECTOR, BECOMING THE FIRST BLACK SHERIFF IN TEXAS AND PERHAPS THE COUNTRY. IN 1873, HE WAS ELECTED TO THE TEXAS SENATE, SERVING A TOTAL OF SEVEN YEARS. BURTON SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY. HE IS BURIED IN MORTON CEMETERY.

ERECTED BY THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AS AUTHORIZED BY SB 667.

(2023)