

Texas Historical Commission

Post-Visit Guide
Grade 4

LANDMARK INN

— STATE HISTORIC SITE —

Castroville, Texas



Post-Visit Guide

TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
visitlandmarkinn.com

Overview: On the Edge of the Frontier

When Henri Castro founded Castroville in 1844, the fledgling settlement was on the edge of the western frontier. The lives of Native Americans, settlers, enslaved people, traders, soldiers, and adventurers intersected at Landmark Inn, built at the entrance to town on the Chihuahua-San Antonio Road. In this lesson, students explore primary source materials from those who lived and worked at Landmark Inn.

Social Studies TEKS

- (12) Economics. The student understands patterns of work and economic activities in Texas. The student is expected to:
- (A) explain how people in different regions of Texas earn their living, past and present, through a subsistence economy and providing goods and services;
 - (B) explain how geographic factors such as climate, transportation, and natural resources have influenced the location of economic activities in Texas.
- (21) Social studies skills. The student applies critical-thinking skills to organize and use information acquired from a variety of valid sources, including electronic technology. The student is expected to:
- (A) differentiate between, locate, and use valid primary and secondary sources such as computer software; interviews; biographies; oral, print, and visual material; documents; and artifacts to acquire information about the United States and Texas;
 - (B) analyze information by sequencing, categorizing, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, comparing, contrasting, finding the main idea, summarizing, making generalizations and predictions, and drawing inferences and conclusions;
 - (C) organize and interpret information in outlines, reports, databases, and visuals, including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps.

Materials

- ★ Historical images for display distribution
- ★ Making a Living on the Medina primary
- ★ KWL activity resource

Vocabulary

- advertisement:** a public notice promoting a product, service, or opportunity
- bias:** favoring some ideas or people over others
- unbiased:** free from bias



Activity: Landmark Inn Visit

5 minutes

Ask students to reflect on their visit to the Landmark Inn by completing all columns of their **KWL chart**. Have students share their experiences including any new questions raised by the visit.

Activity: Come to Castroville!

25 minutes

Display the **1842 newspaper advertisement**. Ask students to give at least two observations about the source. [appears to be old, not written in English (in French and German), is probably about Castroville due to the headlines]

Display this translation of the final paragraph in each article:

Castroville is generally known as the most considerate and European-devoted settlement. Mr. Castro agrees to give each family 15 hectares of land free of charge, and all single persons 8 hectares, plus two hectares in the city, if only the conditions indicated in the prospectus are met.

Ask:

- ★ **What can you learn from this paragraph?**
[free land was available to settle in Castroville]
- ★ **What was the purpose of these articles published in 1842?**
[advertisement to persuade people to come settle Castroville]
- ★ **Why are these articles not written in English?**
[Article was aimed at people living in the Alsace region of France who spoke mainly French or German.]
- ★ **Besides having land available, how else is Castroville described that might be appealing to foreign citizens?**
[European-devoted which implies a friendliness to European settlers]
- ★ **How is this 1842 newspaper advertisement like something you would see today? How is it different?**
[alike: has a specific purpose and audience, makes an emotional appeal, provides specific information, is written in languages other than English]
[different: is in a print medium only, advertises something that no longer exists (free land)]
- ★ **If you lived in the crowded European region of Alsace in 1842 and you saw this ad, would it have persuaded you to move to Castroville? Why or why not?**
[answers will vary]



Activity: A Traveler's Journal

15 minutes

Distribute or display the activity resource excerpts from *Adventures of a Castrovillian* by Auguste Fréteillère, a journal of his travels from France to Castroville in the summer of 1843 through the winter of 1844. Without giving any context, ask students to read and reflect on the entries.

Discussion questions might include:

- **What is your reaction to Auguste's description of traveling across Texas in 1843?**
- **What were some challenges he encountered as he traveled?**
- **Did he have any positive comments about his journey?**
- **Once he got to Castroville, what challenges did he encounter there?**
- **Would you have made this journey from France to Castroville in 1843 if you had read Auguste's journal before deciding? Why or why not?**

Extension: Have students write the letter Auguste might have written to his mother asking for help to return to France.

Context: Auguste Fréteillère stayed in the Castroville settlement for only a year before writing his mother that he wanted to return to France. Many of the French and German immigrants who set out for Castroville died on the journey, turned back, or settled in other places along the way. Lipan Apache, Comanche, or Kickapoo tribes were likely the "Indians" mentioned in Auguste's account. Remind students that even when Castroville was considered a new settlement, the land had been settled or occupied by Native Americans long before Henry Castro's arrival.

Primary Source Activity: Making a Living on the Medina

30 minutes

The Landmark Inn State Historic Site reflects the stories of Texas through physical location, architecture, commerce, and industry. The Inn's location on the Medina River and along the Chihuahua-San Antonio Road contributed to the long and profitable history of its mercantile and milling enterprises.

In this activity, students investigate multiple primary source resources for information. Display or distribute all **Primary Source resources** and the **Making a Living on the Medina worksheet**. Preview each resource. Discuss the challenges of reading historical documents and address any issues with reading written script. This activity can be conducted as a whole class, individual, or small group investigation. Share responses when completed.



Answer Key

1. Col. Clark L. Owen
2. \$732.75
3. Answers should include any five of the following: kegs of powder, bags of coffee, bars of lead, rice, bread, tin cups, bacon, sugar, coffee pots
4. After dinner at nine o'clock
5. Cleaning corn
6. Castroville Hotel
7. John Vance
8. Beef hides and deer skins
9. German
10. cypress
11. Answers should include any five of the following: dry goods, groceries, hardware, boots and shoes, hats and caps, ready-made clothing, books, stationery
12. Answers should include any five of the following: produce, corn, wheat, dried beef, hides, dressed deer skins, sheep and goat skins, wool, bacon, lard, pecans, honey, bees-wax
13. February 8, 1859
14. Answers will vary.
15. Answers will vary.

ELAR Activity: Coming to Castroville-- or Not

(18) Writing/Expository and Procedural Texts. Students write expository and procedural or work-related texts to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students are expected to:

(A) create brief compositions that:

- (i) establish a central idea in a topic sentence;
- (ii) include supporting sentences with simple facts, details, and explanations; and
- (iii) contain a concluding statement.

(B) write letters whose language is tailored to the audience and purpose (e.g., a thank you note to a friend) and that use appropriate conventions (e.g., date, salutation, closing).

(19) Writing/Persuasive Texts. Students write persuasive texts to influence the attitudes or actions of a specific audience on specific issues. Students are expected to write persuasive essays for appropriate audiences that establish a position and use supporting details.

Ask students to imagine that they are living in early Castroville in the 1840s. They are to write a letter to a friend living elsewhere to persuade him/her to come to Castroville, or to persuade him/her that the opportunity of moving and living doesn't live up to the expectations. Either viewpoint must be supported with examples.



Activity Image: Come to Castroville!

TEXAS, CASTRO-VILLE.

Des calomnieurs et des faussaires continuant contre la colonisation du soussigné au Texas, un système de dénigrement inqualifiable, le public est invité à s'informer sur la prospérité de CASTRO-VILLE, près la belle rivière Médina, en s'adressant aux personnes suivantes dont la moralité et la bonne fois sont à l'abri de tout soupçon.

A Bremen : M. W. Robertson, consul des Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

A la Haye : M. le colonel d'Engerfield, chargé d'affaires du Texas.

A Paris : A la Legation du Texas et chez M. Jussaud, notaire.

A Neufreystädt, pour le grand duché de Bade : MM. Huth et comp., banquiers.

A Anvers : MM. J. Decock et Bisehop, armateurs.

P. S. CASTRO-VILLE est notoirement connue comme l'établissement le plus considérable du Texas, et peuplé d'Européens.

M. Castro continue à donner gratis à chaque famille 13 hectares de terres, et à tout célibataires 8 hectares, plus deux ares dans la ville, pourvu qu'ils soient dans les conditions indiquées au prospectus qu'on peut se procurer chez M. Grandpré, représentant de la maison Th. de Cok et F. Bissehop, Castro hôtel des Deux-Clefs, à Colmar.

Texas, Castroville.

Da Verläumber und Verfälscher gegen die Colonisation des Unterzeichneten im Texas fortfahren dieselbe auf eine unbefschreibliche Weise zu verschwärzen, so wird das Publikum aufgefordert, sich über den Wohlstand von Castroville an dem schönen Flusse Medina bei nachbenannten Personen zu erkundigen, deren Moralität und Rechtlichkeit außer allem Zweifel sind.

In Bremen bei dem Hn. W. Robertson, Consul der Vereinigten Staaten Amerikas;

Im Haag bei dem Hn. Obristen von Engerfield, Geschäftsträger im Texas;

Zu Paris bei der Legation des Texas und bei dem Hn. Jussaud, Notarius;

Zu Neufreystädt, für das Großherzogthum Baden, bei den Hn. Huth und Comp., Bankiers;

Zu Antwerpen bei den Hn. J. Decock und Bisehop, Rheder.

N. S. Castroville ist allgemein als die beträchtlichste und mit Europäern bevölkertste Niederlassung bekannt.

Hr. Castro gibt fernerhin jeder Familie unentgeltlich 320 und jedem Ledigen 160 Acres, ferner ein Loos in der Stadt, wenn sie nur die in dem Prospectus angedeuteten Bedingungen erfüllen, welche man sich bei Hn. Grandpre, Repräsentanten des Hauses Th. de Cok und Bissehop, im Gasthause zu den Zwei Schlüsseln zu Colmar, verschaffen kann.

1842 newspaper advertisement



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Activity Resource: A Traveler's Journal

Photograph, [Auguste Fréteillère], undated, SC889.50.2.9, Gentilz-Fréteillère Family Papers, 1793-1962, Col 889, Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library, San Antonio, Texas.

Activity Resource: A Traveler's Journal



“We had found ruts in the plain of Lavaca, but nothing could compare with the muddy roads filled with overturned stumps, and giving out a pestilential odor, that we now traversed. Here and there black serpents, alligators, toads, and other objectionable animals were to be seen. Add to all that mosquitoes by the million and you will believe without doubt, as do I, that the distance is magnificent, but the near at hand exactly the contrary. They were obliged to double and sometimes triple the teams. Notwithstanding, two days were required to drag our wagons and carts out of that wretched bog. Decidedly, all the forests of America were not like those so well described by J. Fennimore Cooper in *The Last of the Mohicans*. When all our carts were dragged from the mire we camped one day on a magnificent prairie to repair the yokes and those parts of the wagons which were most damaged. The only loss that we experienced in this short journey of two miles was a steer belonging to one of the Germans in the caravan.” (Fréteillère 1915:88-89)

Building a new settlement in Castroville

“Mr. Castro had ordered the construction of a great shed so that everyone would have a shelter for the winter season. He had left us temporarily on business, and put the direction of the building in the hands of my friend Louis [Huth]. One evening the Americans, and our guide Charley [de Montel], who returned from hunting, warned us that two bands of Indians were prowling about. Thereupon, great uneasiness spread among the inhabitants. The agent assembled everyone to prepare the defense. Half of the colonists were German and the other half were French—the majority of whom were from Alsace...five colonists ventured four or five miles along the banks of the Medina to get material for shingles. Three were killed by the Indians.” (Fréteillère 1915: 95)



Primary Source Investigation: Making a Living on the Medina

1854 Monod Claim

1. What was the name of the officer who purchased supplies from Cesar Monod?
2. Add the amounts in the final column. What was the total amount of the claim?
3. List at least five (5) different goods supplied by Monod.

Rowena Vance Letter, 1854

4. When did Mr. Vance go missing?
5. What had Mr. Vance been working hard at all day?

Newspaper Advertisements

6. What was the name of the first Vance family hotel in Castroville?
7. In the 1853 ad, who purchased the old stand from C. Monod?
8. In the 1853 ad, what is Vance willing to purchase for cash or trade?

9. In what language did Haass and Quintle advertise their cotton gin?

10. What kind of wood shingles did Vance advertise in 1855?

11. List five (5) things that Vance advertised for sale in the 1870 ad.

12. List five (5) things that Vance wanted to buy in the 1870 ad.

Water Wheel Patent

13. On what day was the water wheel patented?

Reflections

14. Write two (2) things you learned from reading these primary sources.

15. Write two (2) things you would like to know more about after reading these primary sources.



Activity Image: Monod Claim Against the Republic

Republic Claims, Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives
Commission, Austin, TX.

The Claim of Caesar Monod a Citizen of the
County of Medina, State of Texas, against the late
"Republic of Texas" for supplies furnished the Troops
under the command of Col. Clark L. Owen at
Victoria in 1842..

	The Republic of Texas	Dr.
March 8 th 1842	To 2 kegs of Powder 45 ⁰⁰ @ 50 ⁰⁰	\$22. 50.
	2 Bags of Coffee 325 ⁰⁰ @ 25 ⁰⁰	81. 25.
	50 Bars of Lead 10 ⁰⁰	5. 00
" 9 th	300 ⁰⁰ Rice 18 ⁰⁰	54. 00
"	1 Bbl. Bread	15. 00
" 10 th	10 Doz Tin Cups	10. 00
" 11 th	28 Bars of Lead 10 ⁰⁰	2. 80.
" 12 th	16 Tin Cups	1. 60
"	70 ⁰⁰ Rice 18 ⁰⁰	12. 60
" 15 th	4 Sacks Coffee 672 ⁰⁰ @ 25 ⁰⁰	168. 00
" 18 th	600 ⁰⁰ Bacon 20 ⁰⁰	120. 00
"	400 ⁰⁰ Rice 18 ⁰⁰	72. 00
April 1 st	1 Box Sugar 480 ⁰⁰ @ 20 ⁰⁰	96. 00
"	4 Bbls Bread \$15	60. 00
"	1 Doz Gallon Coffee Pots	12. 00



Activity Image: Rowena Vance Letter, 1854

Another accident has happened equal to the Indian scrape. Last night after supper Mr. Vance started to bathe and at nine o'clock at night had not been seen. We searched for him all over the house, town, river oc. and till near 11 he was not found. then we discovered him asleep out doors on the wheel barrow. 6 or 7 men were going with a lantern up and down the River. He had been working hard cleaning corn all day and sat down on the barrow to wait for me to bathe too when first he knew he was asleep. I supposed he was tired of waiting and had gone alone. Sleepy head.



Activity Image: Newspaper Advertisements

1852

TO LET,
CASTROVILLE HOTEL. at Castro-
ville, on the Medina. The above 
hotel, with store, bar-room, and extensive gar-
den, will be vacant on the 1st November next.
For terms, apply to **H. CASTRO, Castroville,**
or to **VANCE & BRO.,**
24t **San Antonio.**

1853

Notice to the Public.

THE undersigned has purchased the old stand of C. Monod, in **CASTROVILLE**, at the Medina Crossing, on the direct route to Eagle Pass and Chihuahua, where he intends keeping a constant supply of

**Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats, Boots, Shoes;
Groceries, Hardware, Tin-Ware, Willow
Ware and Saddlery,
Liquors, Tobacco and Segars.**

He will also supply all orders for Corn, within a reasonable distance, at the shortest notice.

He also wants to purchase Beef Hides and Deer Skins, for cash or trade.

JOHN VANCE.
Castroville, June, 1853 37-3m



1854

COTTONGIN.

Da wir in Castroville eine Mühle und Cotton-Gin zu errichten beabsichtigen, wozu bereits alle Anstalten getroffen sind, so daß die Maschinen im Herbst dieses Jahrs in Thätigkeit treten können: so machen wir die Herren Farmer von Castroville und Medina-County hierauf mit dem besondern Bemerkten aufmerksam, daß wir Baumwollen-Saat, den Buschel zu 35 Cents — unserem Einkaufs-Preis — vorräthig halten und an alle diejenigen ablassen wollen, welche sich auf Erzeugung von Baumwolle dieses Jahr legen wollen.

Castroville und San Antonio, 20. Februar.
G. L. Haasß. Laurent Quintle.

Turn-Verein.

Translation: “Whereas we intend to erect a Mill and Cotton-Gin in Castroville, the preparations for which are already under way with completion of the machinery projected for this fall; we are making the farmers of Castroville and Medina County particularly aware of our offer to sell cottonseed at 35 cents a bushel – our own wholesale purchase price – to all those who would like to raise a cotton crop this year.”

1855

46-3t F. WREDE, Ck D. C., Gillespie Co.

300,000 SHINGLES FOR SALE.

THREE Hundred Thousand Cypress Shingles, best quality now on hand. Larger orders supplied on a short notice. Bedsteads, tables and hide-seated chairs, manufactured here. Orders addressed to Castroville P. O., will be promptly attended to.

Castroville, Aug. 30th, '55. JOHN VANCE.

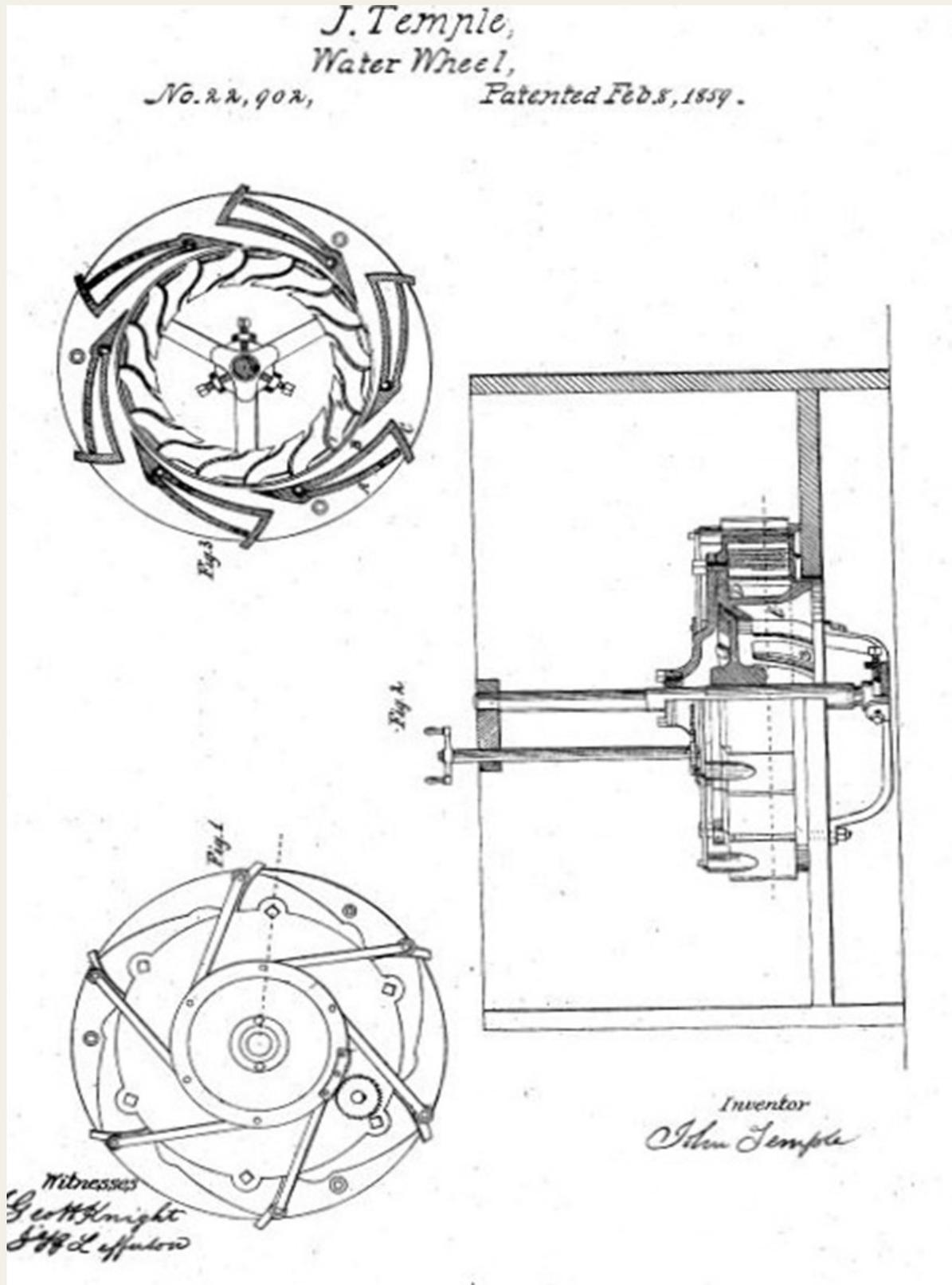
TAKEN UP.



Activity Image: Water Wheel Patent

Temple, J. "United States Patent: 22,902 – Water Wheel." February 8, 1859. Accessed July 31, 2016.

<http://patft1.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?patentnumber=22902>.



1870

JOHN VANCE.

JOHN VANCE,
CASTROVILLE, TEXAS
DEALER IN

**Dry Goods, Groceries, Hard
ware, Boots and Shoes,**

**HATS AND CAPS, READY MADE
CLOTHING, BOOKS, STATIONERY,
&C., &C.**

And all goods usually kept in a retail store,
at lowest prices

He will pay Cash for country Produce,
such as Corn, Wheat, Dried Beef, Hides,
Dressed Deer Skins, Sheep and Goat Skins;
also for

**Wool, Bacon, Lard, Pecans,
Honey, Bees-wax, &c.**

Retail Merchants supplied at lowest San
Antonio prices. (1-2-70 dlmw3m

NEW STORE! NEW GOODS!!

