TEXAS STATE HISTORIC SITES

Official Guide

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

OUR 42 STATE HISTORIC SITES

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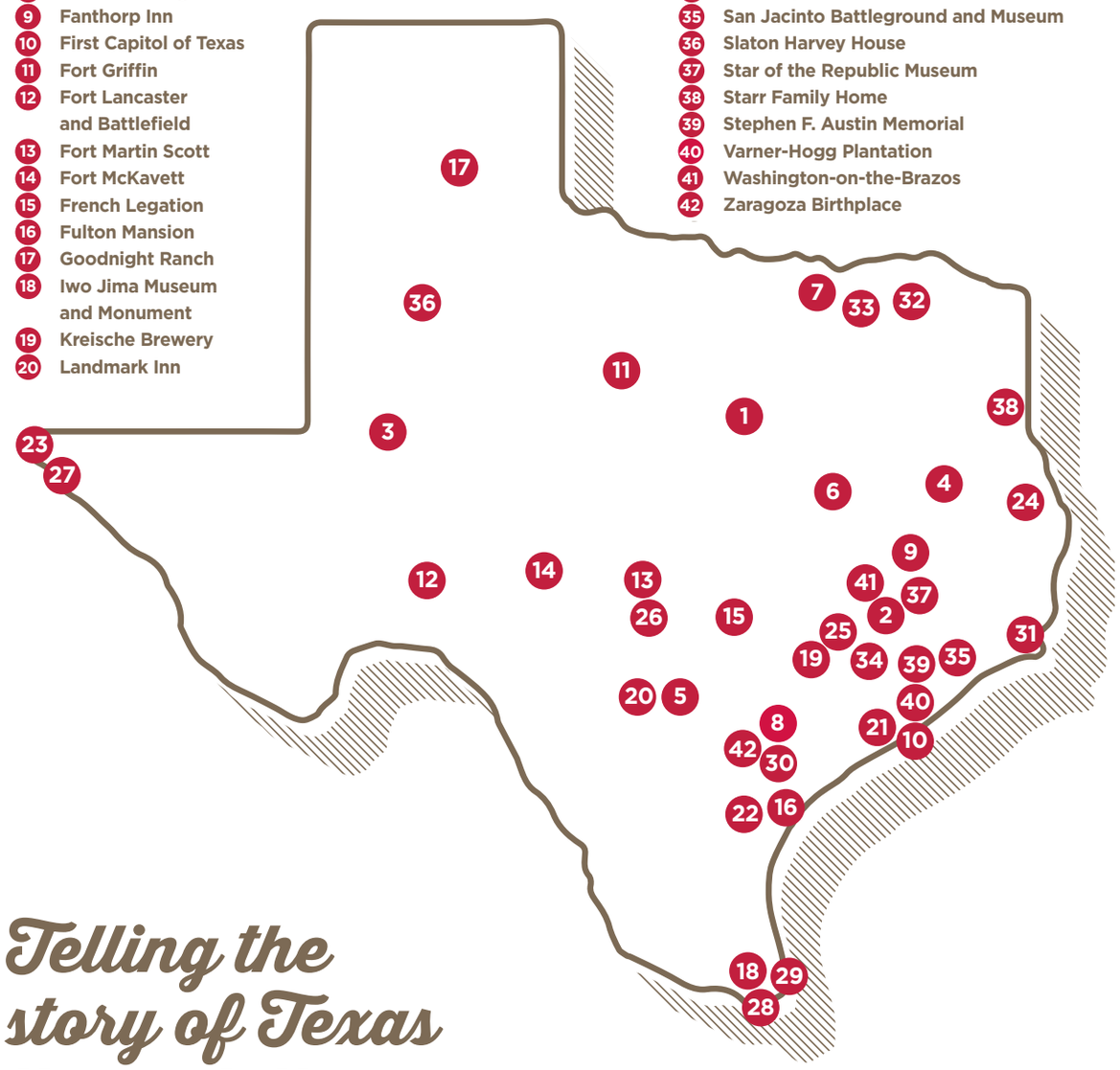


Telling the story of Texas through the ages

CADDO MOUNDS

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

MAGOFFIN HOME

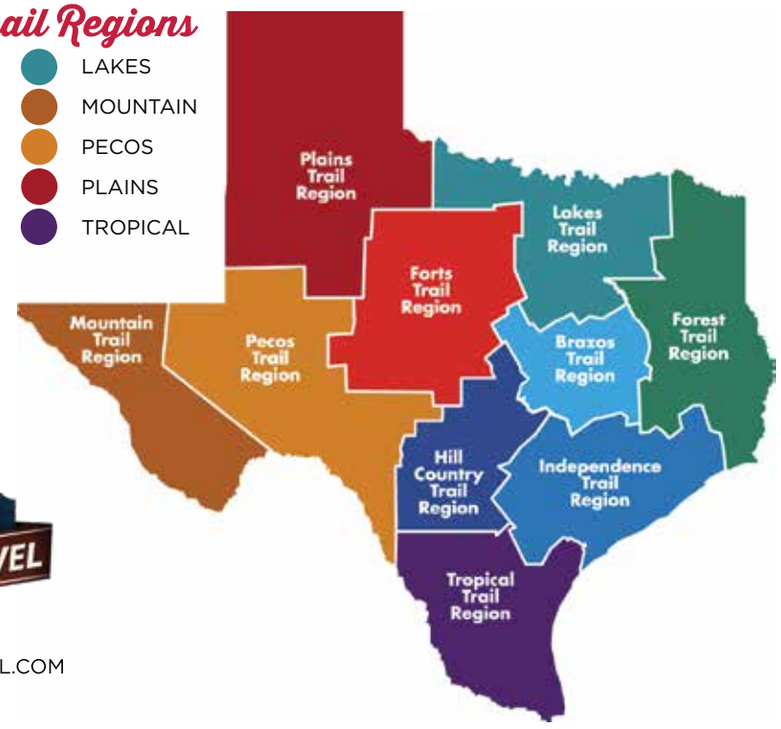
At 42 historic sites across the state, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) invites Texans and visitors to experience firsthand the varied stories and cultures that impacted the history of the Lone Star State.

These unique places honor the past and inspire an understanding of what it means to be a Texan. They enhance the learning experience of children, families, and adults and ensure that our heritage is passed on to future generations.

From Native American sites to frontier forts, common and elegant homes and the social and political leaders who lived in them, these sites enrich people's lives through history. Please visit and enjoy them!

Texas Heritage Trail Regions

- BRAZOS
- FOREST
- FORTS
- HILL COUNTRY
- INDEPENDENCE
- LAKES
- MOUNTAIN
- PECOS
- PLAINS
- TROPICAL



Texas TIME TRAVEL

TEXASTIMETRAVEL.COM

BUSH FAMILY HOME

House Museums

The THC's house museums represent Texas' various cultures, lifeways, and architectural heritage. Gain insight into the daily lives of Texans over time, both free and enslaved, prominent and unheralded. These historic homes will make you feel as if you have walked into Texas' past.

BUSH FAMILY HOME

The Bush Family Home is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the residence of an exceptional political family who shaped state and national politics in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. This place was home to two U.S. presidents, a first lady, a vice president, a second lady, and two state governors.

1412 W. Ohio Ave., Midland, TX 79701
432-685-1112 visitbushfamilyhome.com

EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE

EISENHOWER BIRTHPLACE

The modest white frame house at this site is where the 34th U.S. president and WWII commander, Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower, was born in 1890. Period furnishings illustrate the family's working-class life in the town of Denison, once a hub for the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad.

609 S. Lamar Ave., Denison, TX 75021
903-465-8908 visiteisenhowerbirthplace.com

FULTON MANSION

The Fulton family's impressive home overlooks scenic Aransas Bay. This home—with its mansard roof and ornate trim work—was progressive, luxurious, and rare in this part of Texas in the late 1800s. It reflects George Fulton's engineering skill and success as an inventor and rancher.

317 S. Fulton Beach Rd., Rockport, TX 78382
361-729-0386 visitfultonmansion.com

FULTON MANSION

GOODNIGHT RANCH

In 1877, Charles Goodnight and his business partner John Adair established the first cattle ranch in the Texas Panhandle. Ten years later, a successful Goodnight established the Goodnight-Thayer Cattle Company and built a spacious two-story ranch house that is an eclectic mix of late 19th century revival styles. The site features bison that are descendants of the herd raised by Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight.

2000 US-287, Clarendon, TX 79226
806-944-5591 visitgoodnightranch.com

GOODNIGHT RANCH

LANDMARK INN

Located on the banks of the Medina River and nestled in the historic town of Castroville, this historic bed-and-breakfast inn tells the story of Alsatian settlement and early commerce in Texas. The 1850s inn, store, and mill provided services to travelers and the community into the 20th century. Overnight room rentals are available.

402 E. Florence St., Castroville, TX 78009
830-931-2133 visitlandmarkinn.com

LANDMARK INN

MAGOFFIN HOME

This house features the stories of a multicultural family who influenced the early development of the Southwest borderlands. Magoffin family members actively participated in U.S. expansion, West Texas settlement, trade on the Santa Fe-Chihuahua Trail, Civil War turmoil, and U.S.-Mexico relations. Built in 1875, the restored adobe structure reflects southwestern Territorial architecture.

1120 Magoffin Ave., El Paso, TX 79901
915-533-5147 visitmagoffinhome.com

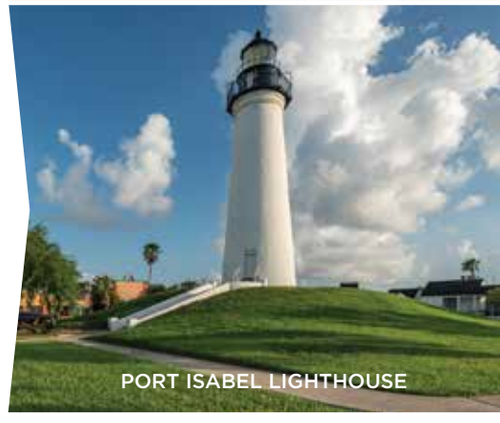
MAGOFFIN HOME

PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE

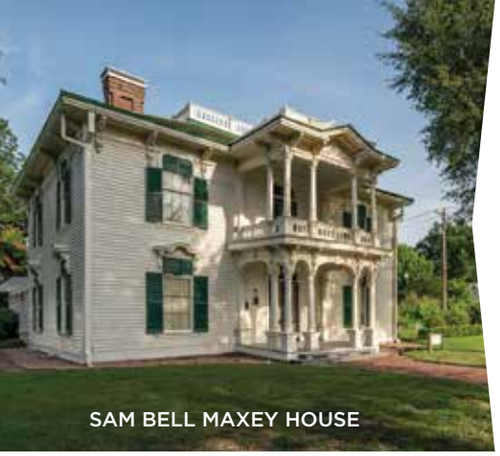
The last Texas lighthouse that is open to the public, this historic structure was built in 1852 and remained lit until the early 1900s. Tour the exhibits in the reconstructed Keeper's Cottage, then climb up the 72-foot lighthouse and enjoy the beautiful coastal views.

421 E. Queen Isabella Blvd., Port Isabel, TX 78578
956-943-0735 visitportisabellighthouse.com

Operated by the City of Port Isabel in cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission.



PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE


SAM BELL MAXEY HOUSE

SAM BELL MAXEY HOUSE

In 1868, Sam Bell Maxey, a West Point-educated Mexican War veteran, Confederate general, and future two-term U.S. senator, moved his family into their fashionable new home on the south side of Paris. There, the Maxey family, and later the Long family, navigated the political and social turbulence of Reconstruction-era Texas and its aftermath.

812 S. Church St., Paris, TX 75460
903-785-5716 visitsambellmaxeyhouse.com

SAM RAYBURN HOUSE

SAM RAYBURN HOUSE

Sam Rayburn was one of the most powerful and influential U.S. politicians of the 20th century, serving 24 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, with 17 terms as Speaker of the House. The house, a National Historic Landmark, is still furnished as it was at Rayburn's death, with his belongings and memorabilia from the 1930s to the 1960s.

890 W. State Hwy. 56, Bonham, TX 75418
903-583-5558 visitsamrayburnhouse.com

STARR FAMILY HOME

STARR FAMILY HOME

James Harper Starr, president of the board of land commissioners in Nacogdoches County, and his son Frank were important land agents, surveying and issuing titles for more than one million acres in 90 Texas counties during the 19th century. Maplecroft, Frank's richly appointed 1871 home, is the focal point of this site.

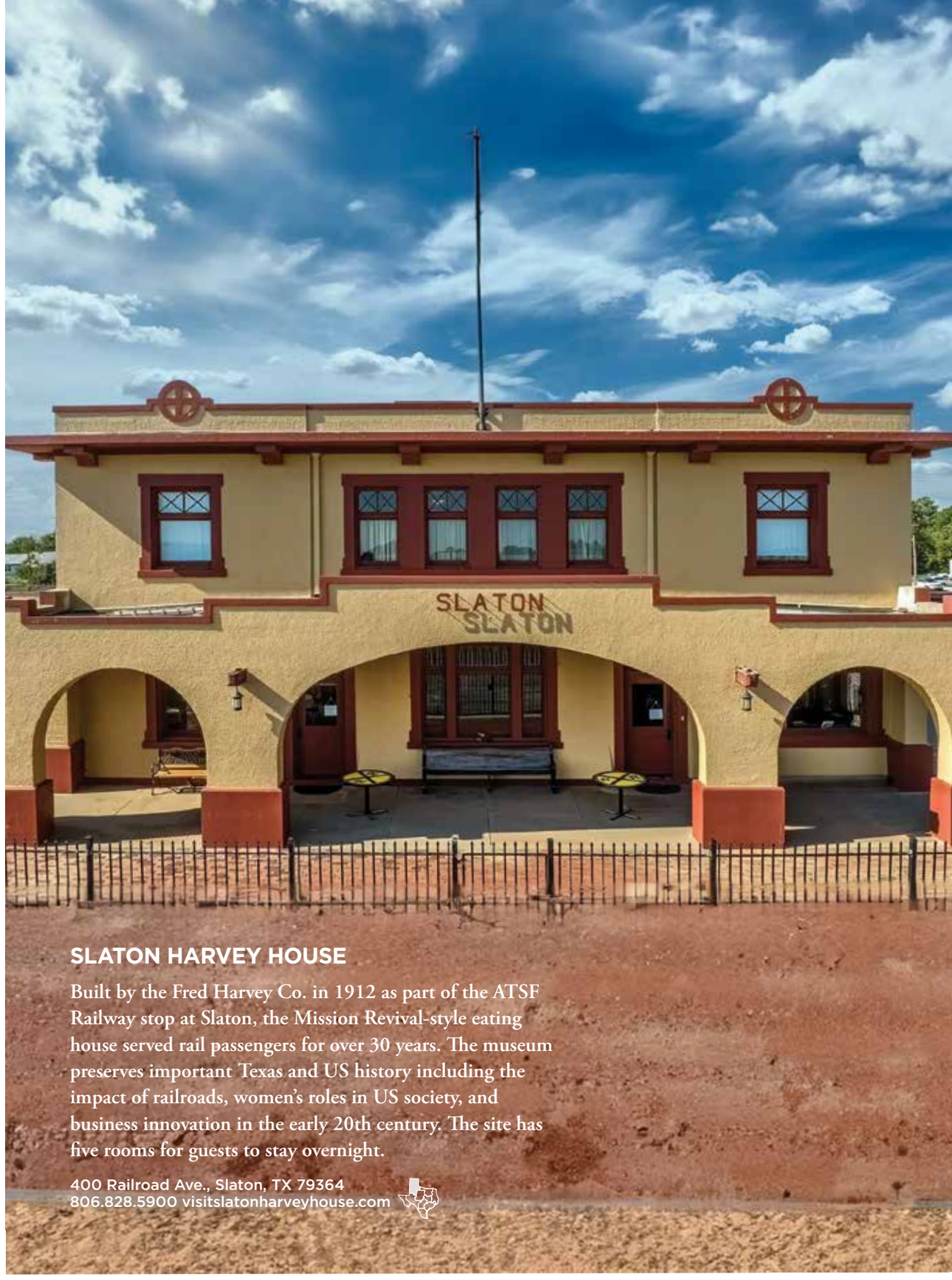
407 W. Travis St., Marshall, TX 75670
903-935-3044 visitstarrfamilyhome.com

VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION

VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION

Settled in 1824 by one of Texas' first colonizers, Martin Varner, and developed as a sugar plantation by Columbus Patton, this site was later owned by Texas Gov. James S. Hogg and furnished by his philanthropist daughter, Ima Hogg. Visitors can explore Ima Hogg's outstanding decorative arts collection while learning about the enslaved people who lived and worked on this property.

1702 N. 13th St., West Columbia, TX 77486
979-345-4656 visitvarnerhoggplantation.com



SLATON HARVEY HOUSE

Built by the Fred Harvey Co. in 1912 as part of the ATSF Railway stop at Slaton, the Mission Revival-style eating house served rail passengers for over 30 years. The museum preserves important Texas and US history including the impact of railroads, women's roles in US society, and business innovation in the early 20th century. The site has five rooms for guests to stay overnight.

400 Railroad Ave., Slaton, TX 79364
806.828.5900 visitslatonharveyhouse.com

CADDO MOUNDS

Archeological Sites

Texas' heritage isn't limited to its above-ground resources. Some of the state's most fascinating stories are subterranean: Native American ceremonial grounds, foundations of enslaved workers' dwellings, and remnants of Spanish Colonial-era life.

CADDO MOUNDS

More than 1,200 years ago, a group of Hasinai Caddo built a village and ceremonial center here. Today, three earthen mounds still rise from the lush Piney Woods landscape. Discover the everyday life of the Caddo people through exhibits and programs.

1649 State Hwy. 21 West, Alto, TX 75925
936-858-3218 visitcaddomounds.com

KREISCHE BREWERY

Master stonemason and German immigrant Heinrich Kreische built his 1849 home and one of Texas' first commercial breweries in the 1860s. Walk the ruins of this once-bustling brewery and see how it remains a lasting example of prosperity by immigrants in Texas. The Kreische Brewery and home are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

414 TX-92 Spur, La Grange, TX 78945
979-968-5658 visitkreischebrewery.com

LEVI JORDAN PLANTATION

Levi Jordan moved his family and 12 enslaved workers to Texas to establish a sugar and cotton plantation on the San Bernard River in the 1840s. The site highlights the multiple perspectives and evolving relationships of those who lived and worked on the land during the 19th century.

7234 FM 521, Brazoria, TX 77422
979-345-4656 visitlevijordanplantation.com

MISSION DOLORES

A Spanish mission built in 1721 in what is now San Augustine County, this site tells the important history of the Native American experience with Texas' earliest European settlers. Visitors can explore the site's history at the museum, where interpretive displays tell the story of Mission Dolores. The property also has an RV park, picnic area, and group pavilions.

701 S. Broadway St., San Augustine, TX 75972
936-275-3815 visitmissiondolores.com

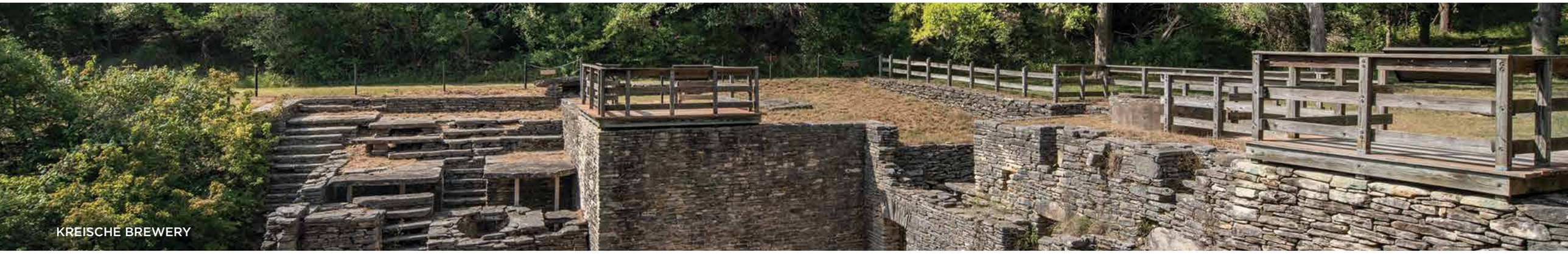
OLD SOCORRO MISSION (Not shown)

The Old Socorro Mission site is a Franciscan mission named Nuestra Señora de La Limpia Concepción de los Piros de Socorro del Sur, founded in 1682 to serve Spanish families and Native American communities displaced from New Mexico during the Pueblo Revolt. **There are currently no public services or facilities at this site.**

10551 Nicholas Rd., Socorro, TX 79927
512-463-5930 visitoldsocorromission.com

LEVI JORDAN PLANTATION

MISSION DOLORES


KREISCHE BREWERY

Military Sites

Texas' illustrious military history ranges from the frontier era to 20th-century international warfare. Honor the state's proud record of service at battlegrounds, forts, and sacred grounds.

FORT MCKAVETT

This 150-year-old West Texas fort is one of the best-preserved examples of a Texas Indian Wars (1850–75) military post. Gen. William T. Sherman once described it as "the prettiest post in Texas." Visit the original barracks, headquarters, schoolhouse, and officer's quarters. Take a short hike to the original lime kiln, stone quarry, and Government Spring. There is no camping at Fort McKavett.

7066 FM 864, Fort McKavett, TX 76841
325-396-2358 visitfortmckavett.com

CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS

CONFEDERATE REUNION GROUNDS

On the banks of the Navasota River, Civil War veterans met for reunions from 1889 to 1946. Today, the site remains a gathering place for recreation and family reunions. The 1893 dance pavilion and a Civil War-era cannon remind visitors about the past.

1738 FM 2705, Mexia, TX 76667
254-472-0959 visitconfederatereuniongrounds.com

FORT GRIFFIN

Holding command over the Southern Plains, Fort Griffin was one of the U.S. Army's defensive forts from 1867 to 1881, during the Indian Wars. The site is home to the Official State of Texas Longhorn Herd, the breed that helped create the cowboy mystique. Fort Griffin offers overnight camping at 33 campsites on nearly five acres. All sites include a fire ring, outdoor grill, and picnic table on a concrete pad.

1701 N. U.S. Hwy. 283, Albany, TX 76430
325-762-3592 visitfortgriffin.com

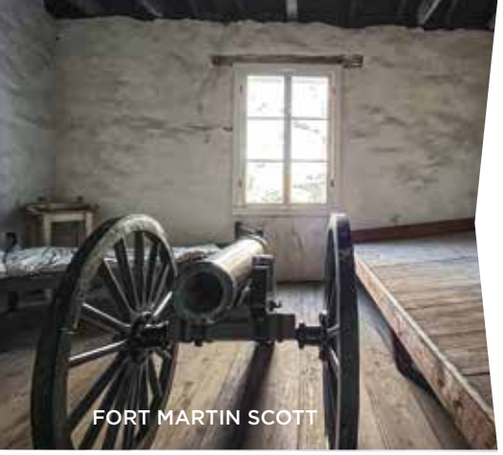
FORT LANCASTER AND BATTLEFIELD

This site preserves the remnants of one of four U.S. Army posts established in 1855 to protect the overland route between San Antonio and El Paso. Travelers can explore the visitors center and fort ruins, imagining the 25 military buildings that once stood there.

629 Fort Lancaster Rd., Sheffield, TX 79781
432-836-4391 visitfortlancaster.com

FORT GRIFFIN

FORT LANCASTER



FORT MARTIN SCOTT

FORT MARTIN SCOTT

The first U.S. Army outpost on the Texas frontier (1848–1853), it played a crucial role in protecting settlers and travelers and was the site of the unratified Fort Martin Scott Treaty of 1850 with Native American tribes. It features one restored original garrison building and three reproductions.

1606 E. Main St., Fredericksburg, TX 78624
830-304-1848 visitfortmartinscott.com

IWO JIMA MUSEUM AND MONUMENT

IWO JIMA MUSEUM AND MONUMENT

The Iwo Jima Monument stands as a powerful tribute to the heroic actions of six Marines on February 23, 1945, who raised an American flag atop Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima. Honoring the sacrifice of Marines throughout history, the monument's black Brazilian granite base bears their names, while the adjacent Iwo Jima Museum educates visitors about their valor.

414 State Loop 92, La Grange, TX 78945
979-968-5658 visitiwojimamemorial.com

MONUMENT HILL

MONUMENT HILL

The monument marks the tomb of the men who died during the Dawson Massacre of September 1842, the ill-fated Mier expedition of November 1842, and the dramatic Black Bean Incident. Nearby residents reinterred the soldiers' remains here in a common tomb so they could be honored for their sacrifice. The site also includes a 1936 Texas Centennial Marker.

414 TX-92 Spur, La Grange, TX 78945
979-968-5658 visitmonumenthill.com

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

The only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to the stories of the Pacific Theater in World War II and the continuing global impact of its lessons. The six-acre campus includes 55,000 square feet of exhibits, Memorial Courtyard, Japanese Garden of Peace, and the Pacific Combat Zone living history battlefield and amphitheater.

311 E. Austin St., Fredericksburg, TX 78624
830-997-8600 pacificwarmuseum.org

PALMITO RANCH BATTLEFIELD

The Battle of Palmito Ranch was the final land battle of the American Civil War. The battle, a Confederate victory, took place more than a month after Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia to Union forces and 13 days before the Army of the Trans-Mississippi under Gen. Edmund Smith surrendered in Galveston on May 26. There are currently no public services or facilities at this site.

43296 Palmito Hill Rd., Brownsville, TX 78521
936-870-6180 visitpalmitoranchbattlefield.com

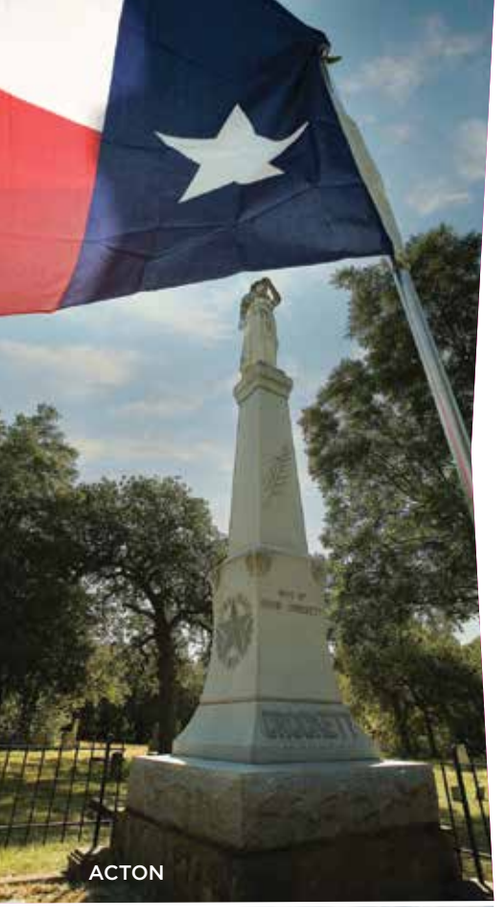
SABINE PASS BATTLEGROUND

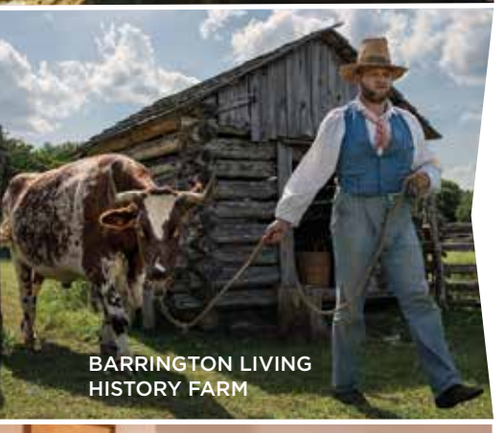
The location of a significant Civil War battle, this site honors a small band of Confederate soldiers who defeated four Union gunboats and prevented Union forces from invading the Texas interior in 1863. The site features a memorial to Confederate Lt. Richard "Dick" Dowling and text panels·

6100 Dowling Rd., Port Arthur, TX 77655
979-325-1582 visitsabinepassbattleground.com

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

SABINE PASS BATTLEGROUND


ACTON


BARRINGTON LIVING HISTORY FARM

CASA NAVARRO

Texas Independence and Republic Sites

Texas' mid-1800s history is brimming with valor, tragedy, and victory. Trace the tracks of the Texas Revolution and the republic era where major battles occurred, independence was forged, and soldiers and their families lived. Experience the epic story of legendary Texans and their quest to form a new nation.

ACTON

The gravesite of Elizabeth Crockett, the second wife of celebrated folk hero David Crockett, is marked by a 1911 monument to Crockett's widow, who died in 1860. The site is within Acton Cemetery.

FM 167, Acton, TX 76049
512-463-7948 visitactontx.com

BARRINGTON LIVING HISTORY FARM

Explore the original home of Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas. The Jones family lived at the plantation for over a decade, farming cotton with enslaved labor after Texas joined the union. This living history site is complete with period-costumed interpreters preserving 19th-century farming practices, including working livestock. Experience the daily lives of those who labored in Texas nearly 200 years ago.

23100 Barrington Ln., Washington, TX 77880
936-878-2214 visitbarringtonplantation.com

CASA NAVARRO

Casa Navarro, a National Historic Landmark, explores the life of one of early Texas' most influential leaders, José Antonio Navarro, through interactive exhibits in his restored 19th-century home. A rancher and merchant, Navarro was one of only two native-born Texans to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence. He was a leading advocate for Tejano rights and a proponent of Texas secession in the Civil War.

228 S. Laredo St., San Antonio, TX 78207
210-226-4801 visitcasanavarro.com

FANNIN BATTLEGROUND

This site memorializes the brave soldiers who fought and lost the battle of Coleto Creek in 1836 during the Texas War of Independence. Exhibits tell the story of the battle and the fate of Fannin's men. Their defeat helped galvanize the will of Texans to win the War of Independence.

734 FM 2506, Fannin, TX 77960
361-645-3752 visitfanninbattleground.com

FANTHORP INN

Built in 1834 by English immigrant Henry Fanthorp, this historic stagecoach stop and inn provides visitors a realistic look into travelers' experiences in the 1850s. At Fanthorp Inn, visitors can travel to the past for a glimpse into 19th-century hotel accommodations.

579 S. Main St., Anderson, TX 77830
936-873-2633 visitfanthorpinn.com

FIRST CAPITOL OF TEXAS (Not shown)

On October 22, 1836, Columbia (now West Columbia) became the site of the capitol of the new Texas Republic. Here, Sam Houston took the office as President and Stephen F. Austin as Secretary of State. There are currently no public services or facilities at this site.

200 North 14 St., West Columbia, TX 77486
979-345-3123 hmdb.org/m.asp?m=43057

FRENCH LEGATION

One of the oldest houses in Austin, the French Legation opened in 1841 as a home and diplomatic outpost for the French chargé d'affaires to the Republic of Texas, Alphonse Dubois, after France recognized the Republic of Texas as a sovereign nation. The site tells the story of Texas' settlement and the growth of one of the capital city's most vibrant neighborhoods.

802 San Marcos St., Austin, TX 78702
737-226-1454 visitfrenchlegation.com

FANNIN BATTLEGROUND

FANTHORP INN

FRENCH LEGATION

PRESIDIO LA BAHÍA

SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND

STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM

LIPANTITLÁN (Not shown)

This site was named after the Lipan Apaches who camped in the vicinity. In 1831, a picket fort was constructed by Mexican forces in anticipation of Anglo immigration. In 1835, the small guard force that held the fort surrendered it to the Texan forces without a shot being fired. **There are currently no public services or facilities.**

Lipantitlan Park Rd., Sandia, TX 78383
361-645-3752 visitlipantitlan.com

PRESIDIO LA BAHÍA

The Presidio, established in 1749 on this site during the Spanish colonial period, was crucial to the development of Texas. Witnessing filibustering expeditions and playing a role in the Mexican War for Independence from Spain, the Presidio was the site of the Goliad Massacre in 1836, and marked one of the bloodiest chapters in Texas' quest for independence from Mexico. Tour the museum, chapel, barracks, blacksmith's shop, parade grounds, and Zaragoza's Birthplace nearby. Reserve The Quarters to stay overnight.

217 Loop 71, Goliad, TX 77963
361-645-3752 visitpresdiolabahia.com

SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND

The decisive Battle of San Jacinto resulted in Texas' independence from Mexico in 1836. This 1,200-acre site includes the towering San Jacinto Monument and the San Jacinto Museum of History. Come tour the grounds, explore the museum, and experience where Texas' independence was won.

3523 Independence Pkwy. S., La Porte, TX 77571
281-479-2431 visitsanjacinto.com

STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM

The Star of the Republic Museum was created by the Texas Legislature and is administered by the Texas Historical Commission as a cultural and educational institution. Its purpose is to collect and preserve the material culture of the Texas Republic (1836-1846) and to interpret the history, cultures, diversity, and values of early Texans.

23400 Park Rd. 12, Washington, TX 77880
936-878-2214 visitstaroftherepublic.com

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN MEMORIAL

A great lawn and marker indicate the home of George B. McKinstry where Stephen F. Austin, the Father of Texas, died on December 27, 1836. The site has no interpretation (other than the marker) and no services for visitors.

900 Oil Field Rd., West Columbia, TX 77486
979-345-4656 visitstephenfaustinmemorial.com

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS

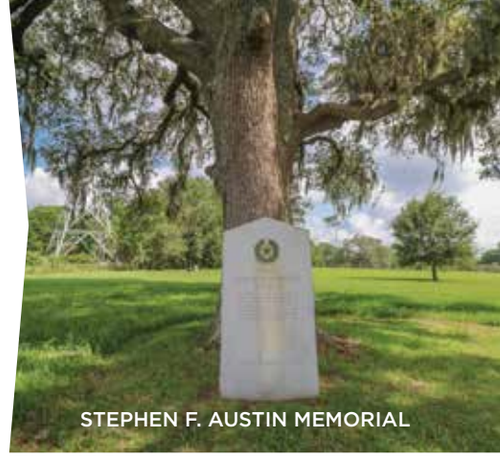
On March 2, 1836, the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed at this location, marking the birthplace of the Republic of Texas. Today, the historic site rests where Washington once flourished and contains a reconstruction of Independence Hall, the Star of the Republic Museum, and Barrington Living History Farm, home of Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic.

23400 Park Rd. 12, Washington, TX 77880
936-878-2214 visitwashingtononthebrazos.com

ZARAGOZA BIRTHPLACE

On May 5, 1862, in the Mexican city of Puebla, Zaragoza and his soldiers overpowered French expedition forces in the Battle of Puebla. The victory helped solidify President Benito Juarez's reform movement, which was organized to resist French occupation of Mexico and restore the Mexican Republic. Today, the victory is celebrated in both Mexico and the United States and is commonly known as Cinco de Mayo.

217 Loop 71, Goliad, TX 77963
361-645-3752 visitzaragozabirthplace.com


STEPHEN F. AUSTIN MEMORIAL

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS

ZARAGOZA BIRTHPLACE

SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN

The site preserves the location where Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas," established his colony in 1823. A 10,000- square-foot visitors center shares the stories of Austin and his settlers through museum exhibits, multimedia and graphic displays, and outdoor tours of the historic landscape with its reconstructed townsite block.

220 2nd St., San Felipe, TX 77473
979-885-2181 visitsanfelipedeaustin.com

SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN

Explore More

HANDS-ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Visitors of all ages can enjoy everything from guided tours led by site staff to hands-on experiences. Learn everything from open-hearth cooking to how to train as a soldier, play lawn games from a distant era, or relax in a downward dog pose. Special opportunities are available to teachers, homeschooling parents, and school administrators. Join living historians portraying life as it was at frontier forts, elegant homes, and working plantations. Visit **thc.texas.gov/events** to see upcoming events.

STAY THE NIGHT

Extend your visit with a memorable overnight stay at select historic sites. From the officers quarters in a Spanish fort and rooms in a historic inn to full hook-up RV sites, our overnight accommodations let you experience Texas history like never before. Availability varies by site: **visittexashistoricsites.com** to learn more.

BLUE STAR MUSEUM PROGRAM

Active-duty military personnel (with ID) and their families are invited to enjoy free admission at all Texas Historical Commission state historic sites, as part of the National Endowment for the Arts' Blue Star Museums program. Select sites provide free admission to active-duty military year-round.

CHARLES AND MARY ANN GOODNIGHT RANCH STATE HISTORIC SITE

PRESERVE THE FUTURE

By visiting these historic sites, you are helping the Texas Historical Commission preserve the past. Please be mindful of fragile historic artifacts and respectful of historic structures. We want to ensure their preservation for the enjoyment of future generations.

JOIN US

Support the preservation of these special places. Consider making a donation to support ongoing preservation and education efforts at our sites at thcfriends.org.

Many of our sites offer indoor and outdoor facility rentals for weddings, meetings, and special events. Contact the site for more information.

TAKE HISTORY HOME

Every purchase made at our museum stores supports the preservation and interpretation of Texas history. Discover unique gifts, souvenirs, and Texas-themed items that support the mission of the Texas Historical Commission. Visit us in person or browse a curated collection online at texashistorygifts.com.

Plan Your Next Trip

texashistoricsites.com

HISTORIC SITES DIVISION
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711
512-463-7948
historic-sites@thc.texas.gov

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

Texas TIME TRAVEL