

texas parks and wil dl ife

R E M E M B E R

TEXAS

The Official Guide to State Historic Sites



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fROM PREHISTORIC ROCK ART TO A 20TH-CENTURY BATTLESHIP, TEXAS HISTORY IS READY TO STIR YOUR IMAGINATION AND LEAVE YOU WITH A GREATER APPRECIATION OF THE PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS THAT SHAPED THIS STATE. ★

Step through the doors of historic homes and inns, and imagine the lives of the people who inhabited these places. Explore the grounds where the Spanish missionaries established the first large cattle ranch in Texas, or have a picnic at a living history farm where oxen work the fields as they did a hundred years ago. ★ Explore the frontier forts that protected early Texans, and walk along the paths where the Buffalo Soldiers served. Visit the birthplace of Texas liberty, and imagine what Texas soldiers must have felt as they fought for and won independence. ★ If you're a native Texan, a naturalized Texan or simply passing through, experience the heritage of Texas by visiting our treasured state historic sites. Many offer tours, special events, re-enactments and living history presentations to bring Texas history alive. Discover the places that helped make Texas what it is today and gain new insight into where it may be headed in the future.



FORT RICHARDSON

STATE PARK & HISTORIC SITE

HUECO TANKS

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Factoids



- ★ The post hospital included surgical equipment, a dispensary and 24 beds.
- ★ Other forts in the TPWD system include Fort Griffin, Fort McKavett, Fort Leaton and Fort Lancaster.



Location: 50 miles NW of Fort Worth

Contact: (940) 567-3506

The mid- to late-19th century saw columns of cavalry and infantry moving onto the North Texas frontier. They came to protect settlers and travelers from Comanche and Kiowa tribes who resented the newcomers. As the northernmost Federal army outpost in the state, Fort Richardson served for more than a decade as the all-important anchor in a defensive line of fortifications. However, many more soldiers died from disease caused by unhealthy conditions than they did from battle wounds. When you visit the old buildings you can imagine how lonely life must have been on the rugged and desolate frontier.

This unique place is largely unchanged from thousands of years ago when prehistoric hunters and foragers sought refuge in these mountains. Here they quenched their thirst with water from rock basins, some large enough to hold thousands of gallons of trapped rain water.

They used the rock surfaces on which to paint images representing their lives and rituals. More than 3,000 pictographs still exist at the site, including religious masks, dancing figures, birds, jaguars, deer, lightning and complex geometric designs.

Thousands of years later other American Indians and early European settlers were drawn to this site and also left their own paintings and writings. Modern-day visitors will feel the magic as they seek to understand the meaning of the record left by those who came before.



Factoids

- ★ In 1692 Spanish explorers wrote that they had found water-filled rock basins, or "huecos," throughout the area; thus giving the site its name.
- ★ Another important pictograph site is Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site.



Location: 32 miles NE of El Paso

Contact: (915) 857-1135



BATTLESHIP *TEXAS*

STATE HISTORIC SITE

MISSION ESPÍRITU SANTO

STATE HISTORIC SITE AT GOLIAD STATE PARK



Factoid

- ★ Battleship *Texas* took part in the invasion of Okinawa, the largest amphibious assault of the Pacific theatre. For six weeks she bombarded the coast, using up four shiploads of ammunition and finished her mission unscathed.



Location: 14 miles east of Houston (in La Porte)

Contact: (281) 479-2431

Battleship *Texas* is the only surviving battleship to have fought in both world wars.

Considered the most advanced military weapon in the world when it was first commissioned in 1914, the battleship was modernized many times over its active duty years to make use of the latest in cutting-edge technology. It was the first U.S. battleship to launch an aircraft and the first U.S. Navy ship to have commercial radar.

Moored at Buffalo Bayou near the San Jacinto Monument and San Jacinto Battleground since 1948, the vessel has been restored to her former glory as a warship. She receives ongoing repair and maintenance to keep her in the condition worthy of a memorial battleship.

In 1749 Mission Espíritu Santo was relocated from earlier sites to Goliad, near the banks of the San Antonio River. This was perfect grazing land, and before long the mission boasted the first large-scale ranch in Texas, with as many as 40,000 head of cattle and hundreds of thousands of acres of grazing land.

During this time Franciscan missionaries sought to convert the Aranama Indians and make them citizens of New Spain, while also teaching them cattle raising, farming, spinning, carpentry and blacksmithing. The mission existed for 108 years, longer than any other Spanish colonial mission in Texas.

Today the reconstructed mission offers a glimpse into the tremendous influence Spanish Colonial Era settlers had on Texas.



Factoid

- ★ The Goliad area is also home to other important state historic sites such as Fannin Battleground and General Zaragoza's Birthplace.



Location: At Goliad State Park; 80 miles from San Antonio

Contact: (361) 645-3405



FULTON MANSION

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Factoid

- ★ Other TPWD historic homes include the Sam Bell Maxey House, Starr Family Home and Sebastopol House.



Location: 20 miles NE of Corpus Christi

Contact: (361) 729-0386



LYNDON B. JOHNSON

STATE PARK & HISTORIC SITE



Elegant and stylish are fitting descriptions of this historic home. Located in the resort town of Rockport-Fulton, the mansion is an excellent example of the French Second Empire architectural style, and one of the few surviving examples of a grand Victorian villa in Texas.

Breezes from Aransas Bay rustle the live oaks that grace the stately grounds. This three-story wooden structure with its mansard roof must have appeared surreal in 1877 as it rose from the flat coastal terrain. George Fulton designed and built the home after returning to South Texas to manage the vast cattle ranch his wife had inherited upon her father's death. The mechanical systems employed in the home reflect his skills as an inventor and engineer. It was the first house in Texas to have indoor plumbing, fed by a tank in the tower attic; and the house was cleverly heated and ventilated through a system of ducts and flues from the basement's cast-iron furnace to the decorative fireplaces.

Factoid



In the early 1900s, as our country was poised to cross the threshold into a modern era, a young boy of modest means and immense compassion dreamed of making a difference. Lyndon Baines Johnson, born in 1908, grew up in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, living a simple rural life.

The Visitor Center is the focal point of the state park and contains exhibits about President Johnson's Hill Country heritage. From here, one can take a National Park Service bus tour to his ranch, which served as the "Texas White House" during his presidency. The bus tour also passes by Johnson's birthplace, the one-room school he attended and the family cemetery. As visitors tour the lovely Hill Country of our 36th president, they will develop a better understanding of why he loved this part of Texas so much.

- ★ The Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm, located at the park, presents farm life as it was during the early 20th century.



Location: 50 miles west of Austin

Contact: (830) 644-2252

The Official Guide to State Historic Sites

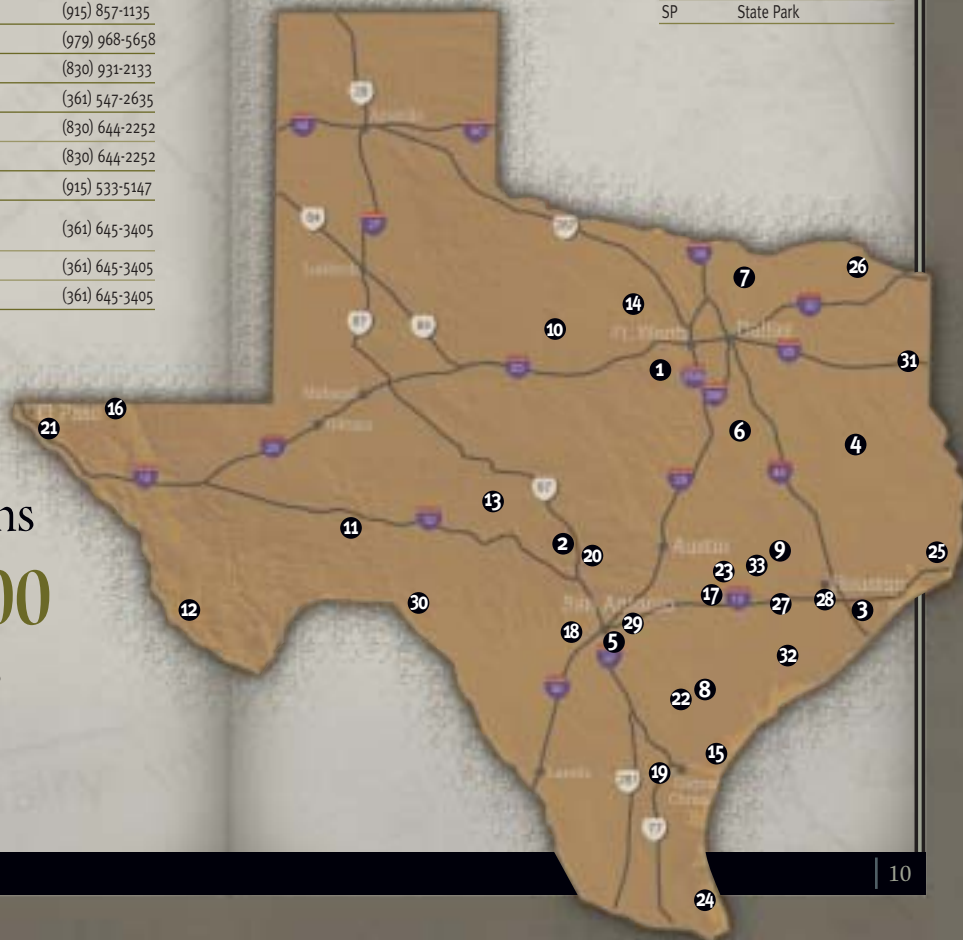
HISTORIC SITE	LOCATION	PHONE	HISTORIC SITE	LOCATION	PHONE
1. Acton SHS	30 miles SW of Fort Worth	(817) 645-4215	23. Monument Hill SHS	70 miles SE of Austin	(979) 968-5658
2. Admiral Nimitz SHS	In Fredericksburg	(830) 997-4379	24. Port Isabel Lighthouse SHS	25 miles NE of Brownsville	(800) 527-6102
National Museum of the Pacific War	At Admiral Nimitz SHS	(830) 997-4380	25. Sabine Pass Battleground SP & HS	30 miles SE of Beaumont	(409) 971-2559
3. Battleship Texas SHS	14 miles east of Houston (in La Porte)	(281) 479-2431	26. Sam Bell Maxey House SHS	50 miles north of Sulphur Springs	(903) 785-5716
4. Caddoan Mounds SHS	35 miles west of Nacogdoches	(936) 858-3218	27. San Felipe SHS	At Stephen F. Austin SP; 35 miles from Houston	(979) 885-3613
5. Casa Navarro SHS	Downtown San Antonio	(210) 226-4801	28. San Jacinto Battleground SHS	15 miles east of Houston (in La Porte)	(281) 479-2431
6. Confederate Reunion Grounds SHS	50 miles NW of Waco	(254) 562-5751	29. Sebastopol House SHS	35 miles NE of San Antonio in Seguin	(830) 379-4833
7. Eisenhower Birthplace SHS	70 miles north of Dallas (in Denison)	(903) 465-8908	30. Seminole Canyon SP & HS	40 miles NW of Del Rio near Comstock	(915) 292-4464
8. Fannin Battleground SHS	20 miles SW of Victoria	(361) 645-2020	31. Starr Family Home SHS	30 miles east of Longview in Marshall	(903) 935-3044
9. Fanthorp Inn SHS	30 miles SE of Bryan-College Station	(936) 873-2633	32. Varner-Hogg Plantation SHS	50 miles south of Houston	(979) 345-4656
10. Fort Griffin SP & HS	40 miles NE of Abilene near Albany	(915) 762-3592	33. Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS	28 miles south of Bryan-College Station	(936) 878-2214
11. Fort Lancaster SHS	90 miles SW of San Angelo	(915) 836-4391	Barrington Living History Farm	At Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS	(936) 878-2214
12. Fort Leaton SHS	80 miles SW of Alpine	(915) 229-3613			
13. Fort McKavett SHS	70 miles south of San Angelo	(915) 396-2358			
14. Fort Richardson SP & HS	50 miles NW of Fort Worth	(940) 567-3506			
15. Fulton Mansion SHS	20 miles NE of Corpus Christi	(361) 729-0386			
16. Hueco Tanks SHS	32 miles NE of El Paso	(915) 857-1135			
17. Kreische Brewery SHS	70 miles SE of Austin	(979) 968-5658			
18. Landmark Inn SHS	20 miles west of San Antonio	(830) 931-2133			
19. Lipantitan SHS	40 miles NW of Corpus Christi	(361) 547-2635			
20. Lyndon B. Johnson SP & HS	50 miles west of Austin	(830) 644-2252			
Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm	At Lyndon B. Johnson SP & HS	(830) 644-2252			
21. Magoffin Home SHS	In El Paso	(915) 533-5147			
22. Mission Espíritu Santo SHS	Next to Goliad SP; 80 miles from San Antonio	(361) 645-3405			
Mission Rosario SHS	At Goliad State Park	(361) 645-3405			
Zaragoza Birthplace SHS	At Goliad State Park	(361) 645-3405			

Abbreviations:

SHS	State Historic Site
SP & HS	State Park & Historic Site
SP	State Park

Sites in bold type are featured in this booklet.

For Park Reservations
(512) 389-8900
 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us



LANDMARK INN

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Factoid



- ★ The stone grist mill, built in 1850s, proved a real boon to the local residents since they no longer had to take their corn to San Antonio for grinding.



Location: 20 miles west of San Antonio

Contact: (830) 931-2133

Resting atop a bluff overlooking the gentle Medina River and the renowned Old San Antonio-El Paso Road, Landmark Inn is located in Castroville, "The Little Alsace of Texas," an area rich in Texas history. Since 1849, processions of the famous and infamous have crossed the river near Landmark Inn, including the Forty-niners on their way to the gold fields of California.

Over the centuries, Landmark Inn has served as a frontier store, mail stop, residence, hotel and boarding house for military families. The current site consists of seven historic buildings, including a 19th-century washhouse and the riverside remains of an old grist mill and hydroelectric plant.

All the buildings reflect the frontier architecture of Texas, with a special Alsatian flair traced to the area in France where most of its first settlers emigrated. The two-story bed and breakfast still welcomes overnight guests today, with 10 beautifully appointed guest rooms and the experience of a tranquil sojourn in the countryside.

KREISCHE BREWERY

STATE HISTORIC SITE

Imagine the delight German immigrant Heinrich Kreishe must have felt in 1846 when he first laid eyes on the panorama of lush rolling hills along the banks of the Colorado River near La Grange. He liked it so much that he chose to spend the rest of his days here.

Some years after setting up his home along the river, Kreishe changed his occupation from master stonemason to brewer and established one of the first commercial breweries in Texas. He took advantage of a steep slope and used gravity to harness cold spring waters to keep the fermentation area cool. By 1879, the Kreishe Brewery ranked third in production in all of Texas. Competition from beers mass-produced in San Antonio, St. Louis and elsewhere resulted in the brewery's demise at the turn of the century.

Factoids

- ★ Kreishe named his lager "Kreishe's Bluff Beer," to credit his ideal location overlooking the Colorado River.

- ★ A flag was raised on the property to announce when the beer was ready to be consumed: "Frisch Auf!", an old German slogan meaning "Freshen Up!"



Location: 70 miles SE of Austin

Contact: (979) 968-5658



WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Factoid



★ Barrington Living History Farm, based on the home of the last president of the Republic, Anson Jones, is a recreated 19th-century farm located at the site, complete with costumed staff.



Location: 28 miles SE of Bryan-College Station

Contact: (936) 878-2214

On March 1, 1836, a group of 59 men convened in the rough-hewn town of Washington, located on the western side of the Brazos River at Robinson's Ferry crossing on La Bahia road.

The elected delegates met in an unfinished frame building, with the intention of launching a new nation. On March 2, while the forces of General Santa Anna laid siege to the Alamo many miles away, they declared independence for Texas and wrote a constitution to establish the Republic of Texas.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site and Star of the Republic Museum are located where the town of Washington once flourished, honoring the men and women who risked their lives and gave us Texas.

FANTHORP INN

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Factoid

★ Henry Fanthorp and his wife Rachel took sick with Yellow Fever in 1867 and died. Shortly thereafter the inn closed.

In 1834 English immigrant Henry Fanthorp built a modest log house on his property, along an intersecting road that was a popular east-west route for stagecoaches. Before long weary travelers began arriving on his doorstep. One year later the Provisional Texas Government appointed him the postmaster for the area.

Recognizing the advantage of his location, Fanthorp enlarged his residence, established an inn and began offering many services and goods to his guests. Many notable Americans stayed at Fanthorp Inn during these times, including Anson Jones, Ulysses S. Grant, Zachary Taylor, Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee.

Visitors are welcome to tour Fanthorp Inn and to ride a replica 1850 Concord stagecoach for a true taste of what life was like in the early days of Texas.



Location: 30 miles SE of Bryan-College Station

Contact: (936) 873-2633



FORT MCKAVETT

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Factoid

- ★ Native Americans reportedly gave the black soldiers the name “Buffalo Soldiers” because Indians likened the soldiers’ courage and strength to that of the buffalo.



Location: 50 miles south of San Angelo

Contact: (915) 396-2358



General William T. Sherman called Fort McKavett “the prettiest post in Texas,” no doubt taking in the view of the rolling hills that surround the fort and overlook the headwaters of the San Saba River. Today visitors can still enjoy this scenic view, virtually unchanged since the 19th century.

The fort was commissioned in 1852 to protect frontier settlers and travelers on Upper El Paso Road, many of whom were heading to California gold fields. The fort was abandoned for a period when the problems with the Indians had subsided, but it was reactivated after the Civil War when Indian raids once again became more frequent. Various infantry and cavalry units served at Fort McKavett over the years, including units from four regiments of the Buffalo Soldiers who played an important role in the settlement of the Texas frontier.

ADMIRAL NIMITZ

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Factoid

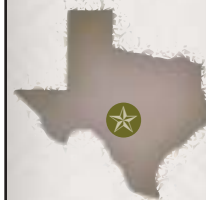


- ★ The Pacific Combat Zone also has exhibits complete with bunkers and pillboxes.

Strolling along the picturesque main street of Fredericksburg, visitors come upon the impressive Admiral Nimitz State Historic Site and the National Museum of the Pacific War.

The site’s focal point is the restored Nimitz Hotel, the boyhood home of Admiral Chester Nimitz, whose grandfather built the hotel after arriving here from Germany in 1846. The Admiral Nimitz Museum honors this five-star admiral who commanded Allied Forces in the Pacific during World War II and who signed the Japanese surrender documents on board the USS *Missouri*.

This site is home to the world’s foremost museum on the United States’ involvement in the Pacific War. This war’s story is retold with authentic military artifacts, special exhibits and riveting photographs. Visitors can see what a B-25 bomber, a Pacific assault beachhead or the deck of a “mother” submarine looked like, and imagine the intensity of the fighting that took place in the distant islands.



Location: In downtown Fredericksburg

Contact: (830) 997-4379

VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Factoid

- ★ Governor Hogg's daughter Ima donated the plantation and a decorative arts collection to the state in 1958.



Location: 50 miles south of Houston

Contact: (979) 345-4656



Travel back to Colonial Texas with a visit to this impeccably maintained and handsomely furnished antebellum plantation home. Martin Varner, one of Stephen F. Austin's original settlers, put down roots here after receiving almost 5,000 acres from a Mexican land grant.

In 1830 Varner sold his sugar plantation to the Patton family. With the help of enslaved African-Americans, this family turned the plantation into one of the leading sugar producers in the "Texas Sugar Bowl." The Patton slaves were also carpenters, brick masons, hunters, fishers, tanners and carvers and were most responsible for the plantation's success.

By the turn of the 20th century, the former Governor of Texas, James S. Hogg, bought the plantation, convinced that there was oil on the land. The field that was drilled in 1918 proved him right, and soon oil derricks replaced sugar cane, producing great wealth for the Hogg family.

MAGOFFIN HOME

STATE HISTORIC SITE



Factoid

When it was built in the late 1800s, this 7,000-square-foot residence just outside of the city of El Paso was considered a rural palace. Constructed by Joseph Magoffin, one of the incorporators of the City of El Paso, the magnificent house was home to four generations of Magoffins. The 20-room adobe house is filled with elegantly carved Victorian furnishings and artwork.

Legend has it that some of the Magoffins still occupy the site, albeit in a more ethereal form. Joseph's wife Octavia, who was a passionate gardener, is said to still keep loving watch over the home and its beautifully tended grounds.



- ★ Joseph Magoffin served as mayor of El Paso four times, two terms in the early 1880s and two more terms in the late 1890s.



Location: El Paso

Contact: (915) 533-5147

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

You can receive a free Park Information Guide with comprehensive information on the locations, phone numbers, facilities and activities available at 120 state parks and state historic sites by calling toll-free 1-800-792-1112 or submitting a request on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Web site at www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Find the most recent up-to-date information on special events and re-enactments at state historic sites at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/events . Then get out there and explore the real Texas with your family and friends!



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