

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Harris County (Replacement Job # 05300)
Location: to be determined (Baytown)

**ASHBEL SMITH, M.D.
(1805-1886)**

BORN IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, THIS PROMINENT PHYSICIAN, STATESMAN, SOLDIER AND EDUCATOR RECEIVED HIS DEGREE FROM YALE MEDICAL COLLEGE IN 1828. AFTER A PERIOD OF STUDY IN FRANCE, SMITH RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

HE DETERMINED TO GO TO TEXAS UPON HEARING NEWS OF THE EVENTS OF THE MID-1830s AND ARRIVED IN 1837, TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REVOLUTION. HE SOON, HOWEVER, WAS APPOINTED SURGEON GENERAL OF THE TEXAS ARMY AND ESTABLISHED A HOME, KNOWN AS EVERGREEN PLANTATION, IN THE PRESENT BAYTOWN AREA. SMITH LATER SERVED THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS AS SECRETARY OF STATE AND AS MINISTER TO GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, BELGIUM AND SPAIN. AFTER TEXAS ATTAINED STATEHOOD, SMITH SERVED SEVERAL TERMS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE. A CIVIL WAR VETERAN, HE WAS ELECTED CAPTAIN OF THE BAYLAND GUARDS AND COLONEL OF THE SECOND TEXAS INFANTRY OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.

ALSO NOTED FOR HIS WORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION, ASHBEL SMITH SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE FIRST BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AND LED SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS MEDICAL BRANCH IN GALVESTON.

A SIGNIFICANT LEADER DURING TEXAS' FORMATIVE YEARS, ASHBEL SMITH DIED AT HIS HOME ON EVERGREEN PLANTATION AND IS BURIED IN THE TEXAS STATE CEMETERY IN AUSTIN.

(1984, 2000)

Incise on reverse:

SPONSORS
DR. DREW WILLIAMS
VILLAMAE WILLIAMS
SONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Harris County (Order #7611)

Location: SH 146 right-of-way, 1.8 mi. E. of tunnel, Baytown

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(1984)***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

Incise on back: ERECTED BY
 THE SONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

JOSEPH G. GINN FRANK TRITICO
PRESIDENT GENERAL SESQUICENTENNIAL CHAIRMAN

DREW WILLIAMS, D.D.S.
DONOR

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

A written history, signed by the author, must accompany this form before it will be accepted.

HARRIS

SEPT. 12, 1983

OCT 18 1983

County

Date

1. Title of marker

ASHBEL SMITH, M.D. (1805-1886)

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2. Name of building, cemetery, public square, park, archeological site, etc., where marker is to be placed.

3. Marker site (street address or highway number)

STATE HWY 146 MEDIAN - 1.8 mi. east of Baytown Tunnel

4. City or nearest city. If marker is to be placed on a highway or in a small community, you must briefly explain how to get there from nearest town shown on a Texas Highway Department road map. For example, "Marker will be in Bastrop Beach, which is 6 miles southeast of Angleton on FM 523."

BAYTOWN

5. Distance (miles, yards, feet) and direction (north, south, east, west) of subject from marker site. For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile southwest of marker site."

EVERGREEN PLANTATION - 1 mile east of MARKER site

6. Owner of marker site

Address

City

THE SONS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

519 HYANNIS PORT

CROSBY

7. Sponsor of marker

Address

City

8. FRANK TRITICO

Frank E. Tritico 11531 Kimberly Houston

County chairman

Address

City

"I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy."

9. TEXAS HWY DEPT

Person to whom marker is to be shipped

Street Address

City

Note: If marker is to be placed on a highway right-of-way, it will automatically be shipped to your district highway engineer.

10. POST

Surface to which marker will be attached (i.e., wood, brick, stucco over stone) if not on post.

ORDER FORM

Please consult page 7 for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Then mail this application and narrative history, together with a check made payable to the TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, to the address above. No applications will be accepted unless payment is included. If marker application is cancelled after the inscription is written, the Texas Historical Commission will deduct the cost of writing the inscription from the refund.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

5% state sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax exempt organization.

		With Tax
<input type="checkbox"/>	16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar)	\$175 \$183.75
<input type="checkbox"/>	16" x 12" building marker with post	\$225 \$236.25
<input type="checkbox"/>	16" x 12" building marker without post	\$175 \$183.75
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Register plaque	\$ 35 \$ 36.75
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27" x 42" subject marker with post	\$575 \$603.75
<input type="checkbox"/>	27" x 42" subject marker without post	\$525 \$551.25
<input type="checkbox"/>	18" x 28" subject marker with post	\$325 \$341.25
<input type="checkbox"/>	18" x 28" subject marker without post	\$250 \$262.50

MARKER REPLICA PAPERWEIGHT

This item should be ordered at the same time marker is ordered. Indicate quantity desired. Allow six months for completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.

<input type="checkbox"/>	3" x 4" plastic paperweight mounted with replica of marker	With tax \$ 75 \$ 78.75
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medallion paperweight, allows four lines of engraving	\$ 25 \$ 26.25

1982

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Please indicate quantity desired and location:

24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$ 65 \$ 68.25

These will be placed by the District Highway Engineer

- ☐ Black and white (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
- ☐ Green and white (for interstate highways)

18" x 22" Historical Marker (in black and white only) . \$ 65 \$ 68.25
For city and county roads. Applicant must supply post.

- ☐ With arrow pointing straight ahead
- ☐ With arrow pointing left
- ☐ With arrow pointing right

CUT AND DETACH ON DOTTED LINE

ASHBEL SMITH (1805-1886)

He was born August 13, 1805 in Hartford, Connecticut, to Moses and Phoebe Ann Adams Smith. His mother may have been related to President John Adams as noted in the Handbook of Texas but the writer has seen no proof of this.¹

Records reflect that the family was fairly prosperous and that all its members were probably highly intelligent. One of his brothers became a Chief Justice of the District of Tennessee and the other studied medicine. This family history was related by Dr. Chauncy D. Leake of Galveston in 1951 in a biographical sketch introducing a reprint of Yellow Fever in Galveston which was researched and written by Dr. Smith in 1839, the year the great yellow fever epidemic occurred.²

In times when we can look on any clear day in the Houston-Galveston area and see the tops of magnificent medical institutions where bed capacities exceed the thousands, it is perhaps difficult for us to conceive that this epidemic was handled in a small hospital which was little more than a shack.

Dr. Ashbel Smith attended Yale University (then College), obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1824. He intended to practice law, but later returned to Yale and received his Master of Arts degree and his M. D. degree Magna Cum Laude in 1828. Dr. Leake noted that his research revealed that Dr. Smith was also Phi Beta Kappa. Following his graduation Dr. Smith went to Paris, France to study and was there during the great cholera epidemic of 1832.³

After his return from Europe he practiced medicine for a

short time in North Carolina, but like many others of the period, he determined to go to Texas as a volunteer in the Texas Revolution. In 1837 he did go to Texas, too late to participate in the Revolution.⁴

He served as Surgeon General of the Texian Army from 1837 to 1839 and following this he established his home at Evergreen Plantation adjoining the plantations of Moseley Baker and A. C. Allen on Galveston Bay.⁵

From 1842 to 1844 he served as Charge d'Affaires to Great Britain, France, Belgium and Spain by his friend Sam Houston. He had been instrumental in establishing business relations between his adopted State and Europe during the Republic period.⁶

When Texas joined her sister southern states in withdrawing from the Union and forming the Southern Confederacy in 1861, Ashbel Smith was one of those in the forefront ready to defend his adopted way of life as a Southerner.⁷

He raised a company of infantry for service against the Union invaders. This company was made up primarily of men from east Harris and west Chambers counties and soon became known as the "Bayland Guards." There seemed to be little question as to who the leader of the company would be. Dr. Smith was quickly elected by the soldiers as Captain.⁸

The Bayland Guards soon became one of the companies which made up the Second Texas Infantry Regiment. Following Smith's wounding at the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee and the death of the regiment's commander in Mississippi, Captain Smith became Colonel of the entire regiment. Fighting in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas throughout the War Between the States, the Second

Texas, under the command of Col. Ashbel Smith, left a legacy of devotion to their cause of independence.⁹

Ashbel Smith's humanity was demonstrated by his defense of a Confederate soldier who went to sleep while on guard duty and would likely have been put to death had it not been for the sympathy of Smith, who sat on a general court martial of review at the trial of the man, who was only sixteen years of age at the time.¹⁰

Columnist Lynn Ashby, writing of Dr. Smith noted:

He was a physician, linguist, inventor, a graduate of Yale University at age 19 where he was Phi Beta Kappa and of Yale Medical College a few years later. He was a Connecticut Yankee... Between battles he read Latin and for his own amusement. In 1881, he gave the commencement address at the Texas Medical Hospital in Galveston completely in Latin.

He helped start the University of Texas Medical College at Galveston (1881) and what later became the Texas Medical Association. Once when bitten by a rattlesnake, he refused to take any treatment, and kept a minute by minute diary of the bite and its effects. He nearly died...

Smith never married but seemed to have had a great many affairs, and did have "a child of passion", while teaching school in North Carolina... 11

Of particular interest to the Baytown area is his carefully kept Evergreen plantation ledger, copy of which will be seen as Exhibit following the text of this application.¹² In 1856 "hands" (slaves) were listed by his overseer, S. D. Whitehead, totalling 21.¹³ Some of the descendants of these persons are probably living in the area today.

This "diary" or "journal" shows transactions with many area citizens. Of much interest to the Chambers County area is several accounts of his business dealings with Solomon Barrow of Chambers County (then Liberty County). He attended Solomon Barrow from time ^{to} time. Of special interest in this connection,

is the entry:

January 4 to 9
1858

Attendance on Solomon Barrow for 14
several days...

This was likely the date of death of Solomon Barrow, who had been poisoned by a vindictive slave.¹⁵

He was often seen in Barbers Hill at the home of Amos Barber. Colonel Gillett, who had an orphan's home near Goose Creek, General Sam Houston, whose summer home was at Cedar Point, were also guests in the home of Amos Barber. Amos Barber lived on "The Hill" as Barbers Hill was sometimes known, and he and his wife, Susan Ann maintained a room in their large residence to accomodate overnight guests. Doubtless these three personages were often among those overnight guests.¹⁶

Dr. Smith is known to have attended Church at Cedar Bayou at times and was known and respected by all. Mrs. Varuna Hartman Lawrence remembered seeing him,"a short man in a rather long snuff-colored coat, and asking who he was, one time at the Methodist Church at Cedar Bayou".¹⁷

Dr. Ashbel Smith was at Evergreen Plantation in April of 1885 when he sent for Dr. Nicholas T. Schilling, pioneer physician in Cedar Bayou.¹⁸ He was found with symptoms of congestive heart failure for which he had been taking digitalis. He was given medication to treat his symptoms and was ordered to "take a small dose of whiskey rather strong at times if feeling weak and give chicken tea, well seasoned, if not more than a spoonful at a time, but get him to take it." ¹⁹

Dr. Schilling does not record that he saw him again until in August of 1885. complaining of a fall which had not seriously

injured him, but occasioned some painful swelling. He was seen again on August 11 and on August 13, which he was found to have been much improved.²⁰

He was not seen again until on January 18 of 1886. Dr. Schilling records that he found him "very ill, with a sound in the throat like the death rattle". Dr. Schilling was with him on January 20. The last entry in Dr. Schillings notes was dated January 21, 1886:

He died at 1:17 o'clock A.M. Jan. 21st, 1886.
The heart stopt acting and he passed off without a struggle²¹ Mr. J. C. Massey being with him at the time.

Any story on the life of Dr. Ashbel Smith of Texas would be only a repetition of the many writings already on record. His papers, on file in the Eugene C. Barker Texas History Library in Austin, have been widely researched. The recent biography by Elizabeth Silverthorne Ashbel Smith of Texas, Texas A. & M. University Press (1982) is an outstanding example of comprehensive research into his life.

This application for an Official Texas Historical Marker honoring Dr. Ashbel Smith. Certainly a short paper could not begin to cover all the events of the life of this important personality, who was so active in so many areas other than medicine.

Nothing remains of his old home, where he lived and died, known as Evergreen Plantation. The site is on Tabbs Bay overlooking the Houston Ship Channel. Only a small plaque placed there by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas marks the site. Other than this, no public recognition exists.

When we lose the information provided by the accounts and records of the great physicians who have lived in our past, we lose more than a part of our history. We lose the understanding, the empathy, the compassion of the treatment of patients under great adversity.

Dr. Ashbel Smith served his country well, not only in the field of medicine and medical research, but as a soldier, politician and statesman. It is our duty to honor him for his achievements.

NOTES

1. Handbook of Texas: Walter Prescott Webb (ed.) The Handbook of Texas (Austin, 1952) 2 vols. Vol. 2, p. 620, 621.
2. Yellow Fever in Galveston, Republic of Texas, 1839, An Account of the Great Epidemic by Ashbel Smith, M. D. A.M. Ex-Surgeon-General of the Texian Army, Together With a Biographical Sketch by Chauncey D. Leake, and Stories of the Men who conquered Yellow Fever. University of Texas Press (Austin, Texas, 1951) Hereafter cited as "Yellow Fever".

Also: Of The Yellow Fever Which Appeared In The City of Galveston, Republic of Texas, in the Autumn of 1838, With Cases and Dissections. Ashbel Smith M. D. A. M. Ex-Surgeon General of the Texian Army (Hamilton Stuart, Galveston: Cruger & Moore, Houston; and J. W. Cruger, City of Austin. Pub. 1839.
3. Yellow Fever. 1951.
4. Handbook of Texas: Vol. 2, p. 620.
5. Handbook, Vol. 1, p. 577.
6. Smith, Ashbel, Papers. Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas, Austin. This collection contains letters, documents, journals, legal papers, certificates, appointments. Hereafter, Smith Ashbel, Papers.
7. Clark, Kendon L. Anahuac, Texas, former historian of the Chambers County Historical Commission and widely known researcher of Civil War period. Research notes.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.

"Proceedings of a General Court Marshall Convened at Galveston, Texas, by virtue of the following order by: Headquarters Military Department, Galveston, No. 16, 1861. General Order No. 17" National Archives, Ashington, D.C. Copy in possession of Kendon Clark, Cove, Texas, June 1983.
11. Lynn Ashby, The Houston Post. copy seen by writer n.d.
12. Smith, Ashbel, Papers.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Galveston Weekly News, Jan. 19, 1958 and Mar. 30, 1858
The Weekly Telegraph, Houston, April 7, 1858.

16. Barber, Amos, Papers. A collection of unpublished papers, (1836-1910) of the Amos Barber family. Originals in files of Chambers County Archives, office of Chambers County Clerk, Anahuac, Texas. Copies in files of family.
Letter to Amos Barber, 1871. "Politeness of Col. Ashbel Smith"
17. Lawrence, Varuna Hartman. Texas Coastal Pioneers. Privately published. 1952. Page 71
18. Schilling, Dr. Nicholas T., papers. Chambers County Archives, Office of County Clerk, Chambers County. Original patient treatment books are part of these files. Incomplete copies in University of Texas Medical Branch Library, Galveston, Texas.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid.
21. Ibid.

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- Saxlehner, Andreas. Hunyadi Janos, Budapest, 1898
- Silverthorne, Elizabeth, "Once right in the eyes of God". Civil War Times, Illustrated, Vol. XIX No. 8. December, 1980.
- Smith, Ashbel, Of The Yellow Fever Which Appeared In the City of Galveston, Republic of Texas, In the Autumn of 1839. With Cases And Dissections. Galveston: Hamilton Stuart, Houston: Cruger & Moore, Austin: J. W. Cruger, 1839.
- (Also used in this paper, reprint of the above sketch with introduction by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1951)

The Arlington Chemical Company. Law And The Doctor.
Arlington Chemical Company, comp. Yonkers, N. Y.,
Vol. II

Webb, Walter Prescott (ed.) The Handbook of Texas. Austin,
1952. 2 Vols.

NEWSPAPERS

The Baytown Sun, History Highlights , "Ashbel Smith Trained
Civil War Unit Here". Thursday, Jan. 8, 1981.

The Baytown Sun, "Baytown Pioneer called 'Father of Texas
Medicine'". September 19, 1982.

The Baytown Sun, Sun Dimension, "Bayland Guards Return to
Community". April 19. 1983.

The Houston Post. "Smith Gave All To Represent Texas Republic".
September 12, 1982.

UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

Barber Papers, 1838-1910. Patient treatment notes. Chambers
County Archives, office of Chambers County Clerk.
Privately owned.

Schilling, Dr. Nicholas T. collection. Chambers County Archives
Office of Chambers County Clerk.

Texas. Slocum, in southeastern Anahuac, was named by a local wit because of a securing a post office which was in 1898. A cyclone in 1929 destroyed the settlement, killing 150 persons. The community is a local market and post office and a population of 125 were killed.

At least two Texas streams are named after the creek. Arranged in alphabetical order to the counties in which they head, they are: *Aransas*, an intermittent stream rising in Franklin County and flowing south into White Oak Bayou. *Aransas*, an intermittent stream rising in Lamar County and flowing north into the Gulf of Mexico.

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Dr. Smith was appointed professor of pathology and bacteriology at the newly organized Medical Branch of the University of Texas in 1891. In addition to pathology and bacteriology, he lectured in histology, mental and nervous diseases, inorganic chemistry, and medical jurisprudence. Because of the school's limited funds, he also did the janitor work in his department. He became dean of the faculty in 1893 and held that position until 1909, when he became professor of pathology and director of courses in tropical medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He was dean of the Pennsylvania faculty, 1909-1912, and acting dean, 1917-1918. During World War I he was a lieutenant colonel and in charge of the laboratories at Camp Pike, Arkansas.

Who Was Who in America (1943).

Smith collaborated with Dr. Charlotte Schaefer in establishing the hookworm as endemic in this country; he found the bedbug was a carrier of the plague. In 1914, with Dr. M. T. Barrett, he discovered that the mouth amoeba produced pyorrhea. He was the author of *Lessons in Laboratory Bacteriology* (1902). Smith married Harriet W. Brooke in 1887; they had one son. After her death in 1896, he married Pearl L. Pearce in 1899. He died on August 19, 1926, and was buried at Gettysburg.

Who Was Who in America (1943).

Smith, Ashbel, Ashbel Smith, son of Moses and Phoebe (Adams) Smith, was born on August 13, 1805, in Hartford, Connecticut. He was graduated from Yale in 1824 at the age of nineteen and shortly thereafter immigrated to Salisbury, North Carolina, where he "kept school" to pay the debts of his college days. In 1826 he gave up the little school and returned to Yale to study medicine. He received his medical degree in 1828 and soon thereafter returned to Salisbury, devoting himself to his profession for the next three years.

Who Was Who in America (1943).

Smith again left Salisbury in 1831, planning to practice medicine in the North, but little practice came, and on October 12, 1831, he went to France for further study. In March, 1832, he began his attendance at Neckar Hospital during an epidemic of Asiatic cholera. During his leisure hours he enjoyed the society of the Marquis de Lafayette, S. F. B. Morse, then studying art in Paris, and James Fenimore Cooper in residence there. Smith returned to Salisbury in 1832 and continued his practice, but more and more he became identified with political affairs as editor and part owner of the *Western Carolinian*, a nullification paper. In 1837, Smith went to the newly-created Republic of Texas and in the same year was appointed surgeon-general of the Texas Army. In 1838, he was one of the commissioners to negotiate a treaty with the Comanche. In the same year he retired from the office of surgeon-general and went to Galveston, where he was practicing at the time of the first yellow fever epidemic in 1839. Smith was charged d'arraires to England and France from 1842 to 1844. In 1843 he made known to his government certain plans being made in England for the abolition of slavery in Texas and the Southern states. These he also communicated

to the United States Senate. Texas desired to secure annexation, if possible; if not, peace and permanent independence. To the latter end, Ashbel Smith, appointed secretary of state in 1844, negotiated with Mexico the Smith-Cuevas Treaty, by which that nation agreed to acknowledge the independence of its former province. Tyler, meanwhile, signed on March 1, 1845, the joint resolution offering annexation to Texas. The issue rested with the people who voted overwhelmingly in favor of annexation. Although Smith had done much to accomplish this end, a torrent of abuse swept upon him because of the Smith-Cuevas Treaty, and twice he was burned in effigy.

After a short period of service in the Mexican War, Smith retired to his plantation. In 1848 he was appointed on the board of visitors to the United States Military Academy at West Point. In 1849 he delivered the annual oration before the Phi Beta Kappa society of Yale. In 1851 he was one of the commissioners from the United States to the London Industrial Exposition. In 1876 he was appointed one of the jurors of the centennial at Philadelphia and in 1878 was an honorary commissioner from Texas at the World's Exposition at Paris. As a member of the legislature in 1855 and again in 1866 and in 1878, he sponsored legislation aiding railroad construction, the common schools, and the payment of the public debt.

Smith served in the Civil War as captain of the Bayland Guards and as colonel of the 2nd Texas Infantry. After the fall of Vicksburg, as brevet brigadier general he commanded the forces at the head of Matagorda Peninsula and saved the rich coast country from invasion. Later he was placed in command of the defenses of Galveston Island. At the close of the war he was sent to New Orleans with William P. Ballinger as commissioner to surrender the state.

Ashbel Smith was a leader in all movements for the advancement of education in Texas. He was president of the board of trustees of Texas Medical College and was one of the commissioners appointed to locate the Agricultural and Mechanical College for Colored Youth (later Prairie View University). The chief labor of his later years was the establishment of the University of Texas. As president of the board of regents, he endeavored to get the best men on the faculty that could be induced to come to Texas in order that the institution might start with an established reputation for scholarship. He was the author of several scientific and historical treatises. He was never married. On January 21, 1886, he died at Evergreen Plantation, his home on Galveston Bay, and was buried in the State Cemetery at Austin.

Biography: Ashbel Smith, *Reminiscences of the Texas Republic* (1876); Justin H. Smith, *The Annexation of Texas* (1919).

Harriet Smith

Smith, Benjamin Fort, Benjamin Fort Smith, son of David and Obedience (Fort) Smith, was born on January 2, 1796, in Logan County, Kentucky. With his father and older brother, he served in the Natchez Expedition and in the Creek Campaign. As a member of Andrew Jackson's staff he fought at the battle of New Orleans and was pro-

in Mississippi and served as Hinds County's first representative in the Sixth Mississippi Legislature. On July 25, 1823, he was appointed United States agent to the Chickasaw Indians, resigning on December 16, 1829, because of friction with the Colberts, chiefs of the Chickasaw nation. In the spring of 1832 he fought in the Black Hawk War.

Activity in the slave trade led Smith to Texas, where he was identified with Stephen F. Austin's colony late in 1832 and became a resident citizen in 1833. He acquired land on Oyster Creek and the upper Brazos River and in the winter of 1833-1834 made a trip to Cuba to procure African slaves to work those lands. Importation of slaves from Africa was contrary to Mexican law; so his vessel was seized and half of his cargo confiscated. The remaining Negroes later worked on fortifications during the Texas Revolution.

During the revolution, Smith commanded a company of volunteers in the early activities fought at Gonzales and relieved J. M. Collinsworth at Goliad and was with Austin in the siege of Bexar. Although a delegate to the Consultation, he did not attend, but on November 8, 1835, he placed eleven leagues of land at the disposition of the Texas government. Late in November he set out for Mississippi to recruit troops for the Texas Army. His recruiting work and the settlement of his father's estate delayed his return to Texas until February. He re-entered the army as a private on March 13, 1836, but the company he had recruited did not arrive until late in March. During the retreat from Gonzales he served as quartermaster and as acting adjutant to Sam Houston. Although enlisted in the company of William H. Patton, Smith was transferred before the battle of San Jacinto to the cavalry company of Henry W. Karnes. Smith remained in the army until August 5, 1836, serving after May 6 as adjutant general under Thomas J. Rusk. After the signing of the treaty of May 11, 1836, Smith and Henry Teal were commissioners to overtake Vicente Filisola's retreating army and secured Filisola's ratification of the treaty of Velasco at the Mexican camp west of Goliad on May 26.

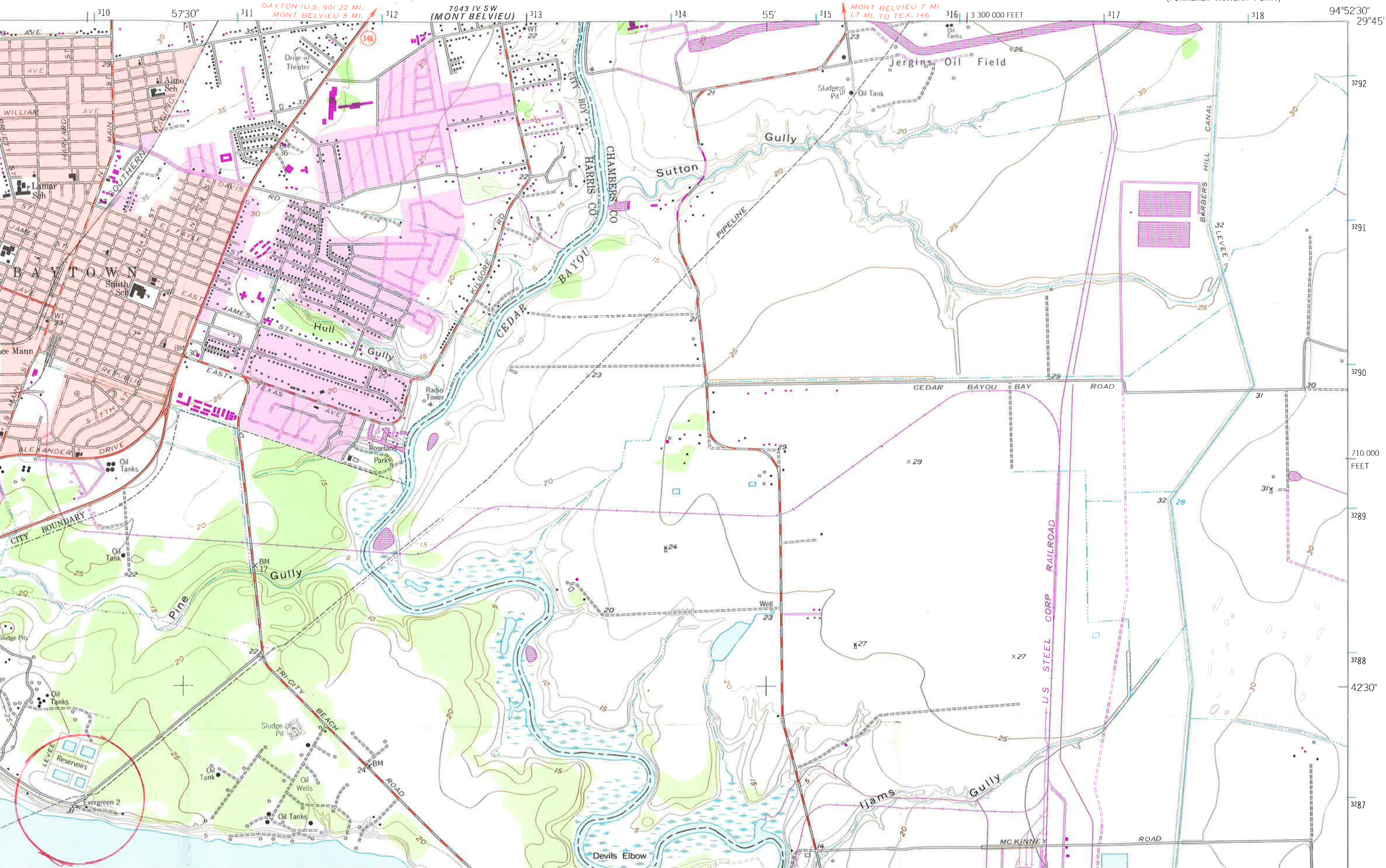
On September 10, 1836, Smith sold Point Pleasant, his home plantation in Brazoria County, and moved to Houston, where he built a hotel early in 1837, operated it a few weeks, and sold it on June 8. In December, 1837, he was appointed president of the board of land commissioners for Harrisburg County. In 1838 he moved to present Grimes County to his headright land. In the fall of 1839 he served on a six-weeks expedition up the Brazos River against the Indians.

Smith represented Montgomery County in the Fifth Congress, November 2, 1840, to February 5, 1841, and was author of the insolvent debtors' law. An act of the Fifth Congress on January 23, 1841, permitted him to free his slaves. Smith was never married, but another act of Congress confirmed his adoption of his nephew Benjamin Josiah Smith, son of his deceased brother, Josiah C. Smith. Benjamin Fort Smith died at the home of another brother, Shelby Smith, at White Sulphur Springs on July 10, 1841.

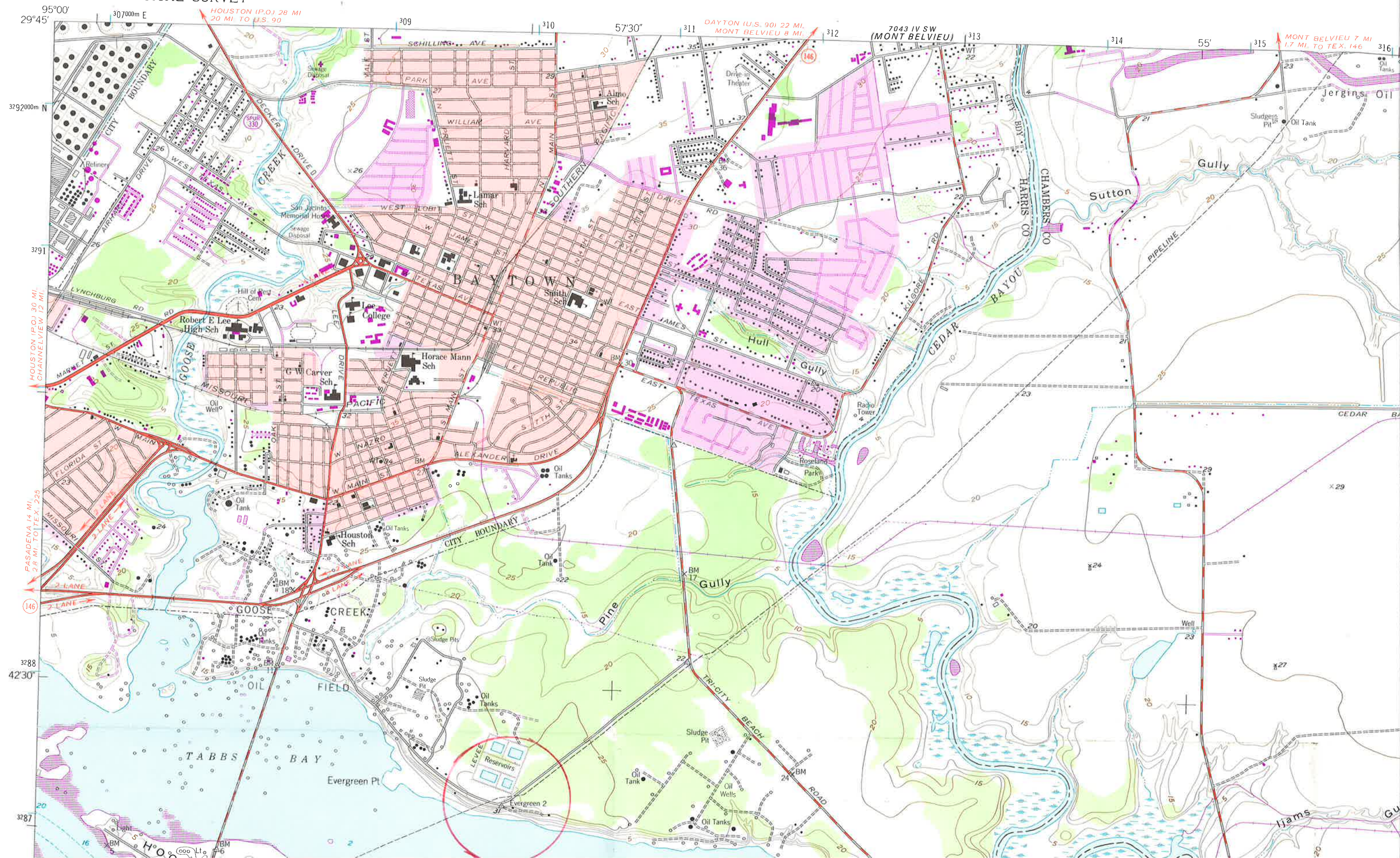
Biography: William C. Binkley (ed.), *Official Correspondence of the Texas Revolution*, I and II

MORGANS POINT QUADRANGLE
TEXAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
(FORMERLY MORGAN POINT)

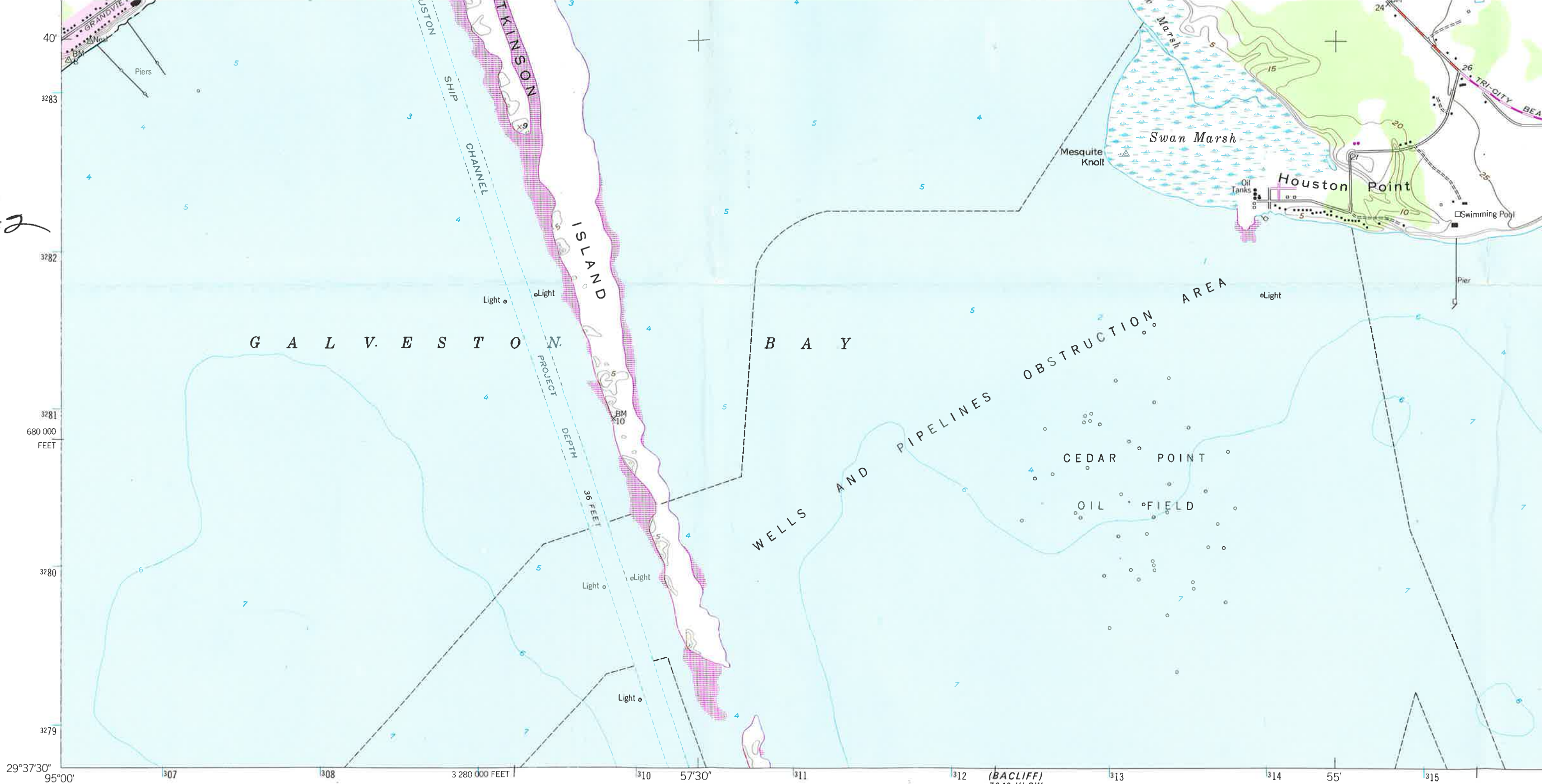
7043 IV SE
(COVE)



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

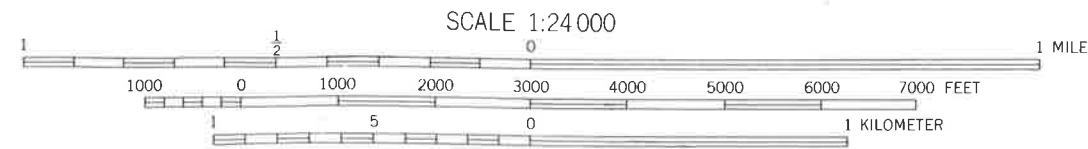
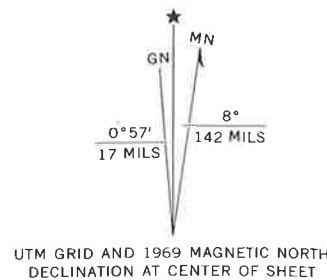


#2



(LEAGUE CITY)
6943 II SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and TVA
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 588 and 1282
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1954-1955. Topography from 1943 map of U. S. Corps of Engineers, revised by USGS planetable surveys 1956
Morgans Point 7.5 minute quadrangle originally mapped by USGS 1916
Polyconic projection 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Water stages in this area vary with meteorological conditions
Approximate limits of occasional inundation shown by dashed blue lines where mean high water is undetermined for lack of visual evidence

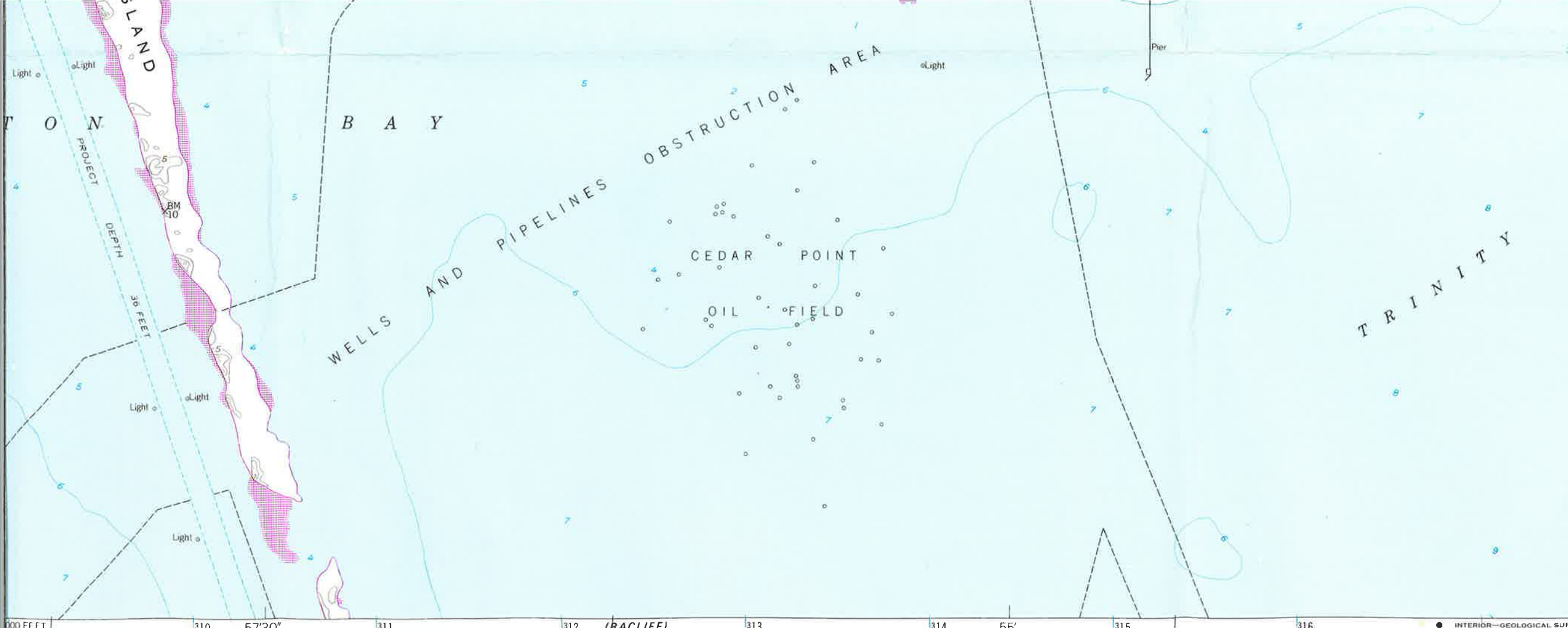


SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1 FOOT
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

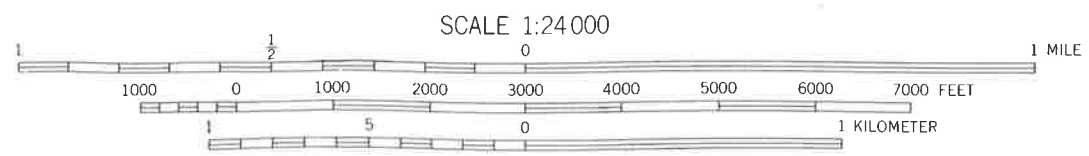
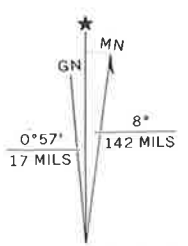


2994-323

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1969. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



000 FEET | 310 57°30' | 311 | 312 (BACLIFF) 7043 III SW | 313 | 314 55' | 315 | 316



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

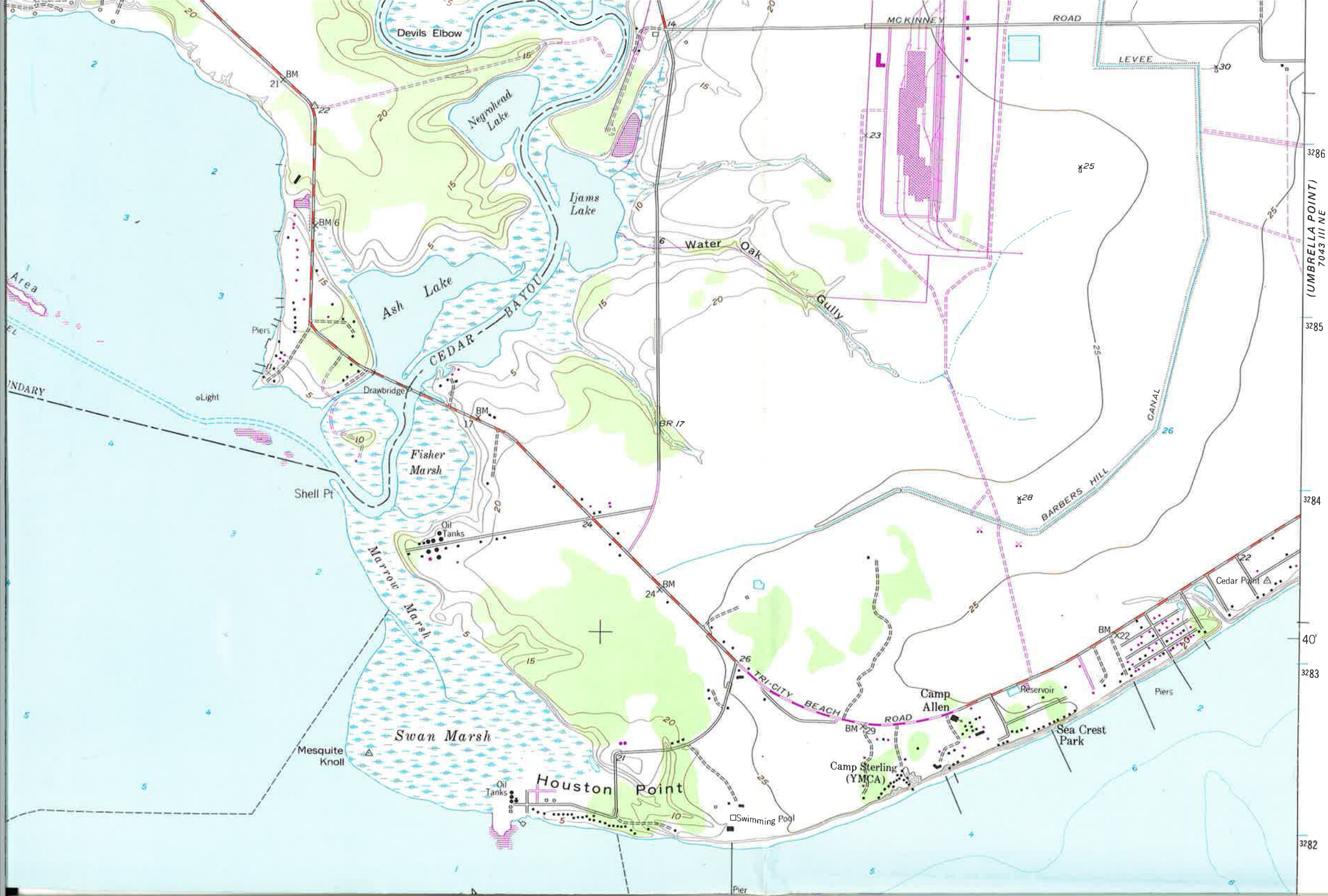


QUADRANGLE LOCATION

COUNTY CROSS CHECK, INC.
545 WASHINGTON AVENUE
P. O. DRAWER CC
ANAHUAC, TEXAS 77514
267-3141 383-2841

wn in purple compiled from aerial photographs
This information not field checked
icates extension of urban areas





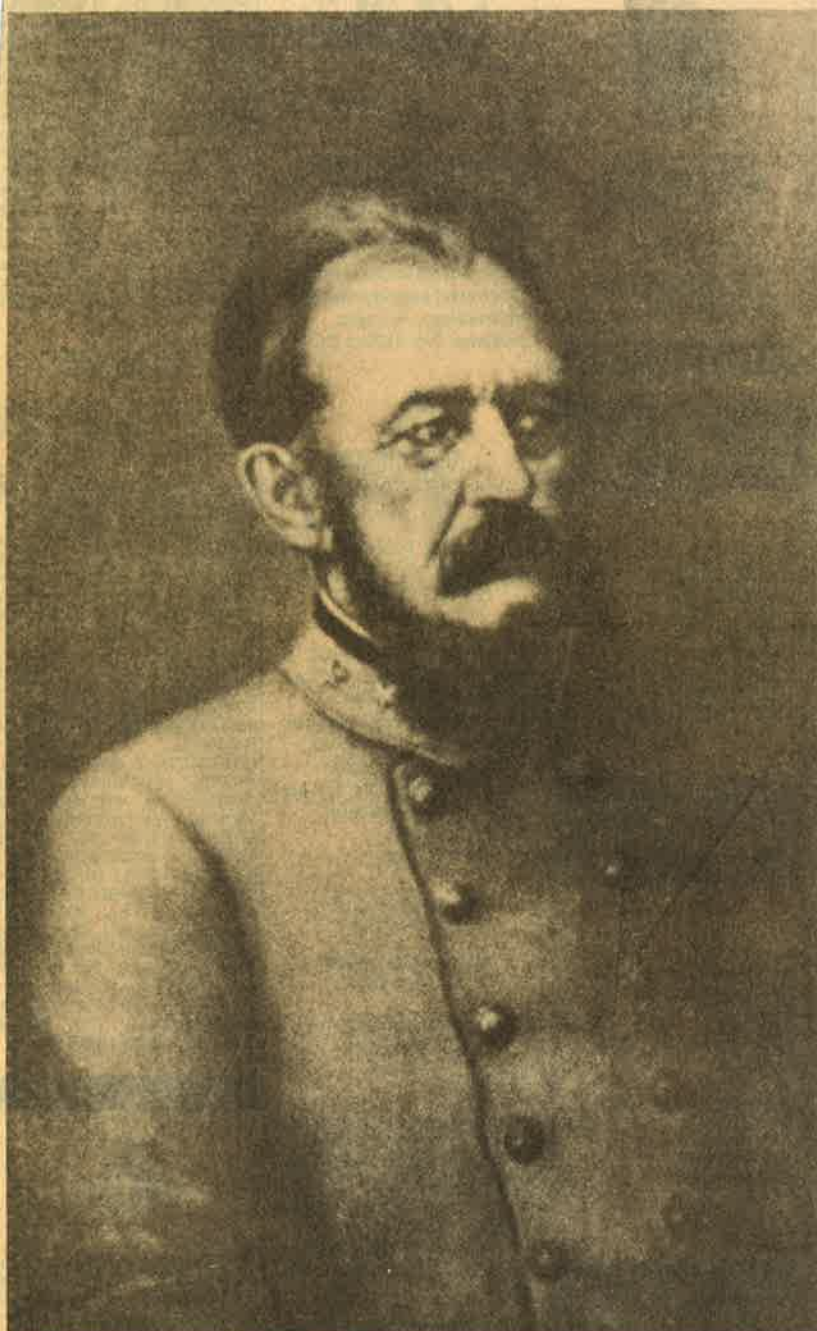
3286
3285
3284
40'
3283
3282

(UMBRELLA POINT)
7043 III NE

PRESS CLIPS
TEXAS
PRESS
ASSOCIATION
718 WEST 5th ST. AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 477-8795
Baytown Sun
Baytown, Texas
NOV 3 1985

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

At war



With the outbreak of the Civil War, Ashbel Smith began preparing for the time to march against the North.

He got together all the men he could muster. They came from East Harris and Chambers counties. He himself trained the men at Evergreen in the martial arts.

The company, called the Bayland Guards, included two of Anson Jones' sons from Goose Creek and Sam Houston's oldest son, Sam Jr., of Cedar Point.

The Bayland Guards gathered glory on the battlefield when they took part in the "Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee." Half of the men of the now famous Guards were severely wounded or killed.

While leading a charge, Smith was injured in the right armpit. He recovered in a Memphis hospital and later on a nearby plantation.

One of Anson Jones' sons, Charles, died from wounds suffered in battle.

Sam Houston Jr. was listed missing in action. From his hospital bed, Smith wrote to Sam Houston, telling him to hope for the best because many men listed "missing" were found.

As is turned out, a Yankee chaplain had discovered Sam Jr. on the battlefield and nursed him back to health.

As soon as Smith recovered from his wound he was back in action and played a major part in the Rebel defense at Vicksburg. He was promoted to a full colonel and named commander of the 2nd Texas Infantry.

CONFEDERATE HERO Ashbel Smith trained his men, the Bayland Guards, at his home on Evergreen Road. The Guards fought at Shiloh and Vicksburg. Smith's Bayland Guards killed in battle.



ASHBEL SMITH'S home no longer stands on Evergreen Road but the region is well-known as Ashbel Smith territory. The area also is closely associated with the Wright family because Smith's foster daughter, Anna Allen Wright, lived here after leaving Bayland Orphanage. Smith died at his home in 1886.

Dr. Ashbel Smith, famed Texas patriot, lived here

He was called the "sage of Evergreen," "the Ben Franklin of Texas," "the best educated man in Texas" and a "Texas institution." His name was Ashbel Smith and he made his home in what is now Baytown.

He was born in 1805 in Hartford, Conn., to Moses and Phoebe Smith, and researchers say his mother was a relative of President John Adams.

His family was highly intelligent and fairly prosperous. One brother became Chief Justice of the District of Tennessee and the other studied medicine.

Dr. Ashbel Smith attended Yale, obtaining a bachelor of arts degree in 1824 at age 19. He intended to practice law but later returned to Yale and

He was instrumental in establishing business relations between Texas and Europe during the Republic period.

In 1844 he served the Republic as Secretary of State.

His list of accomplishments and activities seems limitless. He was in politics, agriculture, education; he was a colonel in the Confederate Army. He even headed the first Texas State Fair in 1852 at Corpus Christi.

He helped organize the Bayland Orphans Home for Children of Confederate Soldiers. His cousin Henry Gillette became superintendent

for the tiny girl to come to Evergreen to receive temporary treatments where he found it more convenient.

Anna became like his own child after a time and her eyes became stronger and stronger. She stayed on at Evergreen and kept house for the old colonel and he treated her as his own child.

Although she was never officially adopted, she is known as his foster daughter. Many of her descendants live in Baytown.

In his will, Ashbel Smith left Anna Allen Wright the acreage that sat atop the Goose Creek oil

Ashbel Smith's close friend Sam Houston appointed him to serve as Charge d' Affaires.



CONFEDERATE HERO Ashbel Smith trained his men, the Bayland Guards, at his home on Evergreen Road. The Guards fought at Shiloh and Vicksburg. One of the Bayland Guards killed in battle was Anson Jones' son. Sam Houston's son was critically injured. Historians say this portrait was probably painted in Memphis in 1862 after the Battle of Shiloh.



BAYLAND PARK, across the waterway from the Goose Creek Oil Field was familiar territory for Ashbel Smith. He was the staff physician for Bayland Orphanage, located at the site of the

son, Sam Jr., of Cedar Point. The Bayland Guards gathered glory on the battlefield when they took part in the "Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee." Half of the men of the now famous Guards were severely wounded or killed.

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As soon as Smith recovered from his wound he was back in action and played a major part in the Rebel defense at Vicksburg. He was promoted to a full colonel and named commander of the 2nd Texas Infantry.

The Bayland Guards were recognized by the Confederate Army as one of the best.

present-day park, and his home was located on nearby Evergreen Road overlooking Tabbs Bay.

(Photo by Bryan Nethery)

Dr. Ashbel Smith, famed Texas patriot, lived here

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His family was highly intelligent and fairly prosperous. One brother became Chief Justice of the District of Tennessee and the other studied medicine.

Dr. Ashbel Smith attended Yale, obtaining a bachelor of arts degree in 1824 at age 19. He intended to practice law but later returned to Yale and received his master of arts degree and his medical degree, graduating magna cum laude in 1828. Afterward, Dr. Smith went to Paris to study and was there during the cholera epidemic of 1832.

After returning from Europe he practiced medicine a short time in North Carolina. Like many men of the period, he was determined to go to Texas and fight in the revolution. He arrived in 1837, too late to participate.

From 1837 to 1839 he served as surgeon general of the Texas Army and then established his home at Evergreen on Tabbs Bay.

Dr. Smith's close friend Sam Houston appointed him to serve as Charge d' Affaires to Great Britain, France, Belgium and Spain.

He was instrumental in establishing business relations between Texas and Europe during the Republic period.

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Ashbel Smith's close friend Sam Houston appointed him to serve as Charge d' Affaires to Great Britain, France, Belgium and Spain. He was instrumental in establishing business relations between the Republic of Texas and Europe.

and Ashbel donated his services as a physician. The orphanage was across Goose Creek Stream. The site is now Bayland Park just south of Highway 146 and on the west side of Goose Creek in Baytown.

Anna Allen was one of those orphans at Bayland Orphanage. At the age of 11 she suffered from an eye disease that gave her little sight. She could manage to make candles, but this was the extent of her chores.

Dr. Smith started treating Anna and the treatments had to be made twice a day. He arranged

field. In 1944 Mrs. Wright was listed as the richest person in Harris County.

Ashbel Smith was always too busy making Texas history than he was writing about it. Many of his peers constantly coaxed Ashbel to pen his memories on the birth and growth of Texas.

Smith was called the "Father of University of Texas." He served as first President of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas.

He also was the father of the University of Texas Medical Branch, in Galveston.

New marker to be dedicated Sunday

The Harris County Historical Commission and the Sons of the Republic of Texas will dedicate a marker honoring Ashbel Smith at 2 p.m. Sunday on Highway 146 at Lee Drive.

The Bayland Guards will serve as color guard.

The speaker will be Dr. William Leavin, president of the University Medical Branch in Galveston.

Frank Tritico, chairman of the Harris County

Historical Commission, will welcome guests. Greetings from the SRT will be given by Joseph Ginn, president general.

Dr. Drew Williams, a Baytown physician, will introduce the speaker. Justice of the Peace Lindon Williams will introduce dignitaries.

Erin Patrick, second vice president general of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, will give the benediction.



BAYLAND PARK, across the waterway from the Goose Creek Oil Field was familiar territory for Ashbel Smith. He was the staff physician for Bayland Orphanage, located at the site of the

present-day park, and his home was located on nearby Evergreen Road overlooking Tabbs Bay.

(Photo by Bryan Nethery)

Smith outlined his plan for life at 25

'Much time is now at my command'

At age 25, Ashbel Smith wrote in his journal an outline on a plan for his life:

"I am now a man in the prime of life and intellectual vigor. This is the time to make those acquisitions in knowledge which shall conduct me to competency and fame. Much time is now at my command. I will waste no more of it on trifles.

"Every night shall find me having made some acquisition in medical knowledge, some advancement in Latin, Greek or French literature and by the grace of God, some moral improvement. Light, miscellaneous reading shall occupy but little of my time.

"There shall be more certainty in my information. Truth. I will always speak the truth, even in jest, nay more, I will not jest. Many good friends have been separated by words uttered in jest. Perhaps a person never attempts to jest . . . to throw ridicule on an esteemed friend.

"Temperance. I will be more temperate in eating. Satiety oppresses and tarifies the intellect.

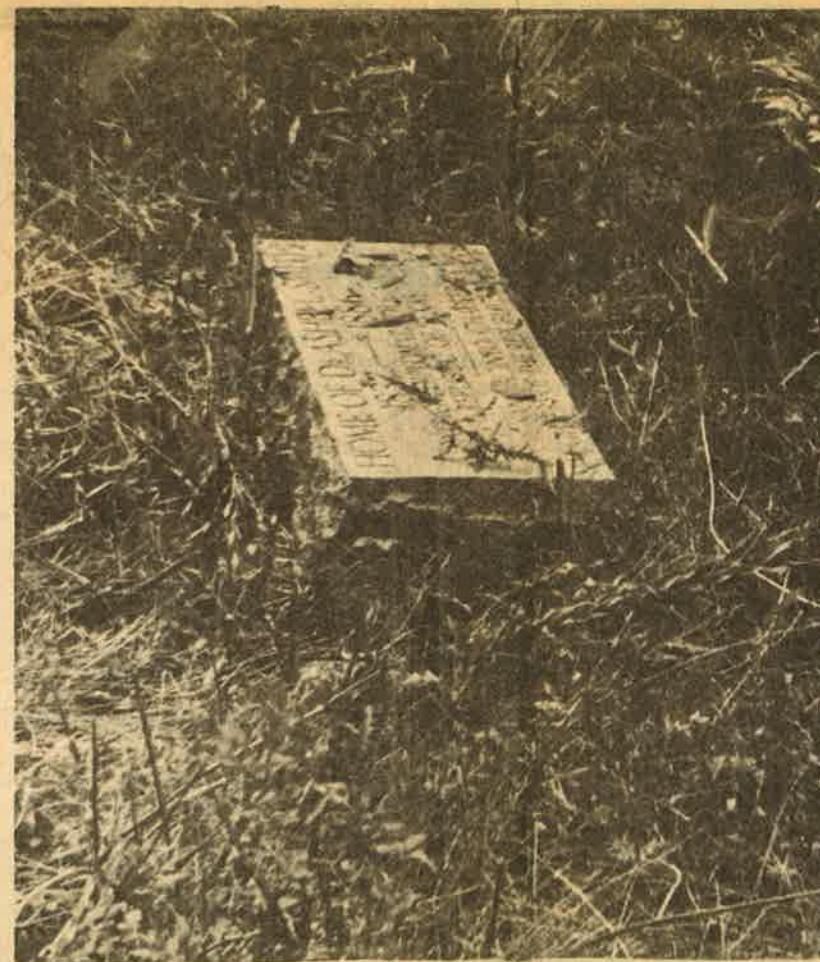
"Silence. When I have nothing to say I will say nothing.

"Propriety. My conversation shall always be chaste — no obscene allusion — no profanity — language always elegant and grammatical in defiance of the sneers of the ignorant.

"Punctuality. In this I often fail — letter writing. Courteous to all, servile to none.

"Conduct to patients — I will be as attentive to the needy and helpless as to the rich and powerful.

"Will God in his goodness grant me his grace to observe the preceding determinations. — Amen."



ON EVERGREEN Road this marker was donated by the San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, at the site of Ashbel Smith's home. The marker, however, is difficult to find and the new one to be dedicated Sunday will be in full view on Highway 146.

(Photo by Bryan Nethery)

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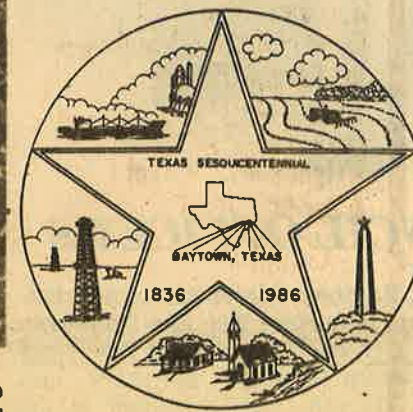
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Baytown Sun staff stories by Jim Kyle



IN 1878 this portrait was made of Ashbel Smith when he attended international exposition there. Smith was no stranger to France, having studied medicine there as a young man and years later having served as the ambassador to France for the Republic of Texas.

he practiced medicine a short time in North Carolina. Like many men of the period, he was determined to go to Texas and fight in the revolution. He arrived in 1837, too late to participate.

From 1837 to 1839 he served as surgeon general of the Texas Army and then established his home at Evergreen on Tabbs Bay.

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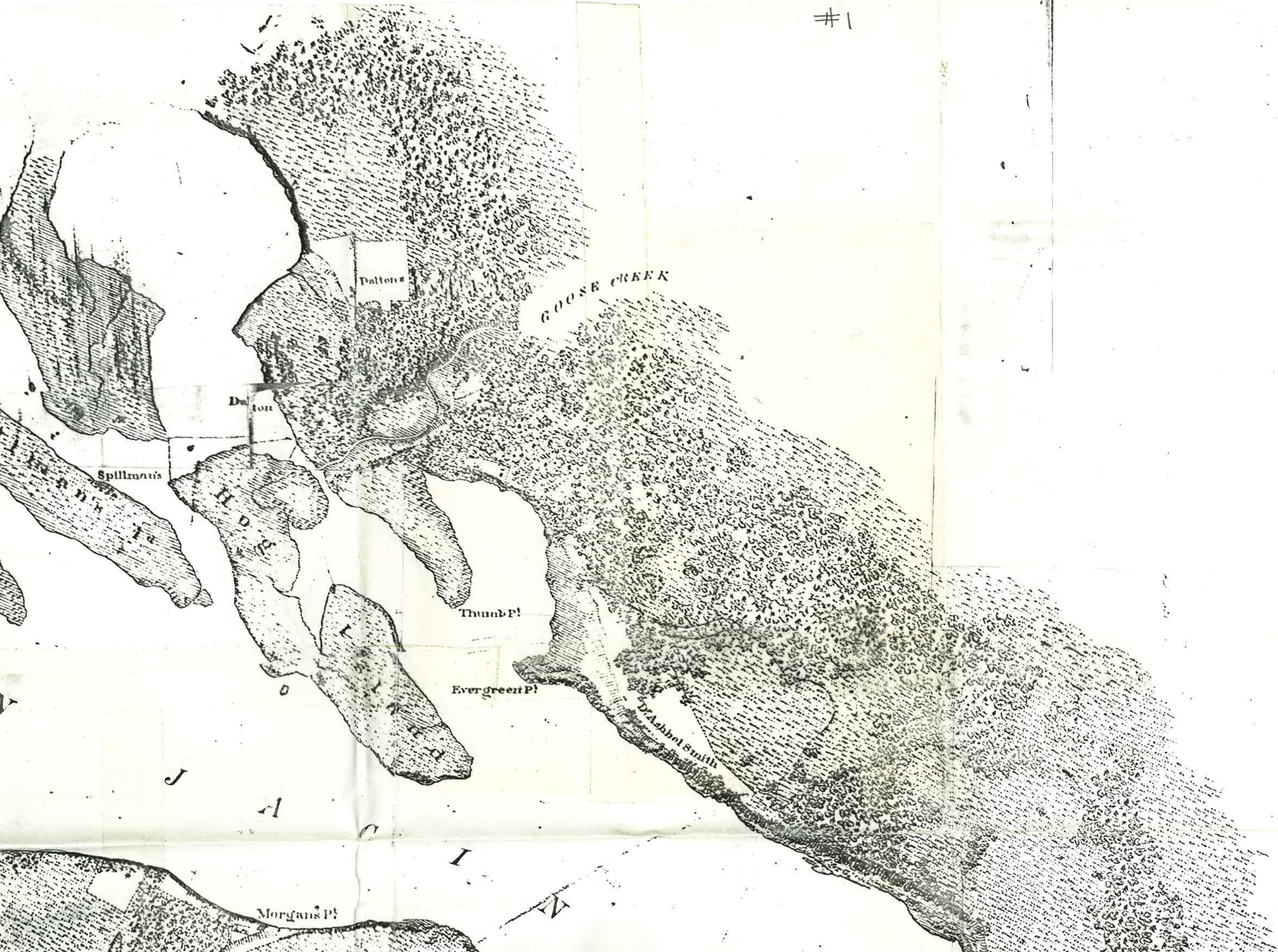
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#1



Dutton

GOOSE CREEK

Dutton

Spillman's

Thumb Pt.

Evergreen Pt.

Dr. Ashbel Smith

Morgan's Pt.



Ship Yard

Dallons

Dallons

Spillman's

H. D. P.

Thumb P.

Evergreen P.

Morgan's P.

MAP

OF

GALVESTON BAY

FROM D. HARRIS' TO LAWRENCE

U.S. COAST SURVEY

A.D. BACHE SUP'T

Sheet N° 331

Topog'l Survey made by J.M. Wampler Sub Assist't
IN
January, February, March, April, and May

1851

Scale $\frac{1}{20,000}$

Register N° 331.

J. M. Wampler
Sub-ass't U.S.C.

RECORD OF POINTS

D. Harris	29,57,58.6	+00,07,24.6
Bungely	39,34.2	+06,49.8
Clappers	40,53.4	+04,46.3
Maryline	40,55.7	+05,40.4
Spillmans	42,02.9	+06,56.6
Shipyard	42,47.6	+07,43.7
Dalton's	42,53.5	+06,26.9
Dalton's Ho.	42,59.8	+06,23.5
Men	41,10.9	+02,43.4
Pottary	40,35.8	+02,23.0
Magquit Knoll	39,36.8	+02,16.2
Houston	39,20.4	+01,11.1
Cedar Pt	40,08.8	-00,50.5
Fisher	42,17.5	-02,25.5
Barrow's Ho.	44,40.5	-03,46.6
Barrow's Beach	44,52.9	-03,58.4

That these points are correct and true as shown on the map and as given by the surveyors.

22 miles from Galveston
20 miles from Galveston
10 miles from Galveston

That there is a large error in the above data, as the angle is 50' and not 40'.

MARKER WORKSHEET

TITLE ASHBEL SMITH, M.D. SUBJECT MD, ML
 ADDRESS SH 146, 1.8 mi. E of tunnel DATE 84
 TOWN Baytown RTHL -----
 COUNTY Harris SIZE L, with post

ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION:

HISTORICAL EVALUATION: The subject of a recent Texas A & M Press book, Ashbel Smith led a very productive life. A veteran of the Republic of Texas Army and a leader during the Civil War, Smith was a founder of Galveston's Texas Medical College and of the Texas Medical Association. The historic main building (Old Red) at the UT Medical School is officially known as the Ashbel Smith building. This marker, however, will be placed in Harris County, near the site of Smith's plantation home, Evergreen.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Recommended for
subject marker


 (Director of Research)

RECOMMENDATION OF STATE MARKER COMMITTEE MEMBER: _____

COMMENTS: _____

 (Signature of State Marker Committee member)

INSCRIPTION:

Frances Rickard
 (writer)

4/24/84
 (date)


 (Director of Research)

5-1-84
 (date)

Leslie Whitaker
 (editor)

5/8/84
 (date)

D. Cottrell
 (editor)

5-8-84
 (date)

Harris County

ASHBEL SMITH, M.D. (1809-1886)

I approve of the inscription for

27" x 42" Subject marker without post

as sent to me on 5/9/84

Frank E. Intico

signature

5/17/84

date

Research and Markers Department
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711
512/475-3092

September 26, 1984
Mr. Bill Southwell, Jr.
The Southwell Company
P.O. Drawer 299
San Antonio, Texas 78291

NO. 7611

RE: 27" x 42" Subject Marker with post

ASHBEL SMITH, M.D.

Harris County

Dear Mr. Southwell:

Enclosed is an application for 27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker
with post, Ashbel Smith, M.D., Baytown, Harris County, Texas.

PLEASE NOTE INCISING ON BACK--SEE ATTACHED TEXT

We would appreciate a rubbing of this inscription.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frances

Frances Rickard
Research and Markers

SHIP TO: Mr. Omer F. Poorman
District Engineer
State Dept. of Highways & Public Transportation
7721 Washington
Houston, Texas 77007



COMMISSION

ROBERT H. DEDMAN, CHAIRMAN
JOHN R. BUTLER, JR.
ROBERT C. LANIER

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

DEWITT C. GREER STATE HIGHWAY BLDG.
September 20, 1984
HIT & BRAZOS
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

ENGINEER-DIRECTOR
MARK G. GOODE

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO.

Mr. Omer F. Poorman
District Engineer
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Poorman:

Attached herewith is a copy of correspondence from the Texas Historical Commission requesting us to erect the historical marker "Ashbel Smith, M.D. (1805-1886)" on SH 146 in Harris County.

It is requested that you contact Mr. Frank Tritico, Harris Co. Historical Commission Chairman, to discuss a mutually acceptable location if the desired marker site is not acceptable.

It is requested that you erect this marker along with the advance informational signs in accordance with the established policy.

Sincerely yours,
Original Signed By
Craig A. Steffens

By:

For: Henry A. Thomason, Jr., Chief Engineer
Safety and Maintenance Operations

CAS:mjh
Attachment
✓cc: Mr. Curtis Tunnell

This marker should be shipped to:

Mr. Omer F. Poorman
District Engineer
State Department of Highways
and Public Transportation
7721 Washington
Houston, TX 77007

Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery
Diplomate of the American Board of Quality
Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians

RECEIVED

MAR 11 1998

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Drew Davis Williams, MD, FACS
1217 Kilgore Road
Baytown, Texas 77520-3912
(281) 422-7969 (home)
March 7, 1998

Former Secretary-Treasurer and
President of the Texas State Board
of Medical Examiners (1983-1989)

Texas Historical Commission
1511 Colorado St.
PO Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

Attn.: Curtis Tunnell—Executive Director

Honorable Sir,

Approximately 15 years ago my mother, the late Villamac Williams from Anahuac, Texas completed the necessary research and successfully petitioned the Texas Historical Commission for a Historical Marker marking the home plantation of Ashbel Smith, the first Surgeon General of the Republic of Texas. My mother was a certified genealogist and Chairperson of the Chambers County Historical Commission for several years. I believed she gained approval for some 23 such markers.

Ashbel Smith was a prominent physician and public servant during both the few years of the Republic and during the early years of statehood. "Old Red" the first medical school building in Galveston was named in his honor. His plantation at the mouth of Goose Creek here in Baytown, Texas, barely 5 minutes from my home, was named "Evergreen" the title of the historical marker that was placed on HW 146 as it crosses Lee Drive on the Baytown side of the Fred Hartman Bridge.

The ceremony for the dedication of this marker was held in a small church on HY 146 and Missouri Street. Dr. William Levin, then the President of the University of Texas Medical Branch gave the principal address and then State Senator Lindon Williams acted as the master of ceremonies. I personally paid for the marker.

Today the Evergreen plantation is involved in the "Ashbel Smith Land Company" and has been developed into an excellent golf course- "Evergreen point Golf Course" and I see signs on the south side of HW 146 advertising "Ashbel Smith" land for sale.

The Evergreen marker was placed on the side of the road (HW146) closest to the homesite of Ashbel Smith but is actually 1 mile from the actual homesite. Unfortunately the curve of the road on that side is such that cars going at high speed that lose control endanger the marker (and themselves) as well as the fence behind it. Within 5 years the marker disappeared and then reappeared several months latter. A vehicle owned by the city of Pasadena struck and damaged the marker. It had been repaired and replaced.

In May 1996, I found the marker that had again been struck and was left at the roadside. It was repairable when I found it and I carried it to my home and called the Baytown Police Dept. They were very helpful and promptly took the marker to the police station. A license plate was found at the site and I gave the number to the officer in the Baytown police department. The officer expressed doubt that we would ever find out who did this but called an hour latter informing me that an accident report had been filed earlier.

The damaged marker was then moved by someone to a warehouse of the Texas Department of Transportation where it now awaits repair and replacement. I spoke with an authority at the warehouse on at least 2 occasions and was informed that it could not be replaced until it was repaired and "we are not funded for the repair of these markers".

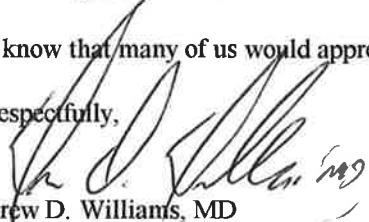
Today, there is a sign on 146 as one approaches the Fred Hartman Bridge from Baytown calling attention to a marker in one mile. Then at the marker site on the opposite of the road is another sign pointing to the opposite side of 146 where nothing is present.

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I know that many of us would appreciate any help that the Commission can give.

Respectfully,



Drew D. Williams, MD
1217 Kilgore Road
Baytown, Texas 77520-3912

CC "The Baytown Stuff"

State Senator (Dist. 11) Jerry Patterson
State Representative (Dist. 127) Joe Crabb
State Attorney General Dan Morales



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor

John L. Nau, III • Chairman

Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

March 20, 1998

The Hon. Jerry Patterson
State Senator, District 11
State Capitol Room 3E.16
Austin, Texas
Interagency Mail

Dear Senator Patterson:

Thank you for your letter of March 10 addressed to Curtis Tunnell. Curtis asked me to respond to your inquiry.

We received a letter from Dr. Drew Davis Williams regarding the missing historical marker for Ashbel Smith. We were unaware that it was missing until notified by Dr. Williams' letter. I have responded to him with information on repair or replacement of the marker, whichever is most feasible depending on its current condition. I have asked Al Davis, chairman of the Harris County Historical Commission, to assist Dr. Williams in this effort.

We will be happy to assist in whatever ways we can to help return the Ashbel Smith historical marker to a publicly-accessible location.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia J. Beeman".

Cynthia J. Beeman
Director, Local History Programs
History Programs Division

c: Al Davis

P.O. BOX 12068
CAPITOL BUILDING
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
512/463-0111
TDD: 512/475-3758

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1109 FAIRMONT PARKWAY
PASADENA, TEXAS 77504
713/948-0111

305 21st STREET, SUITE 246
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550
409/763-4696

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



JERRY PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR

CB
Let's get it replaced
asap!
CT

DISTRICT 11
PORTIONS OF HARRIS, BRAZORIA
& GALVESTON COUNTIES

Committees:

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TRADE
& TECHNOLOGY - Vice-Chairman
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
ADMINISTRATION

March 10, 1998

Mr. Curtis Tunnell, Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

RE: ASHBEL SMITH HISTORICAL MARKER

Dear Mr. Tunnell

Enclosed is a letter from Dr. Drew Davis Williams. As you will see, Mr. Williams is concerned about maintaining the Ashbel Smith historical marker.

As I am sure you will agree, preservation of our history is a necessary venture in order to progress as a species, nation, and state. I feel that Dr. Williams has a valid complaint and that we must address his concern.

Please keep me advised as to the outcome of this issue.

Very Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Patterson".

JERRY PATTERSON
State Senator-District 11

JP/gb

y/ashbel

cc: Dr. Drew Davis Williams
1217 Kilgore Rd
Baytown, TX 77520-3912



Make sure he is in District -

Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery
Diplomate of the American Board of Quality
Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians

Drew Davis Williams, MD, FACS
1217 Kilgore Road
Baytown, Texas 77520-3912
(281) 422-7969 (home)
March 7, 1998

Former Secretary-Treasurer and
President of the Texas State Board
of Medical Examiners (1983-1989)

Texas Historical Commission
1511 Colorado St.
PO Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

Attn.: Curtis Tunnell—Executive Director

Honorable Sir,

Approximately 15 years ago my mother, the late Villamae Williams from Anahuac, Texas completed the necessary research and successfully petitioned the Texas Historical Commission for a Historical Marker marking the home plantation of Ashbel Smith, the first Surgeon General of the Republic of Texas. My mother was a certified genealogist and Chairperson of the Chambers County Historical Commission for several years. I believed she gained approval for some 23 such markers.

Ashbel Smith was a prominent physician and public servant during both the few years of the Republic and during the early years of statehood. "Old Red" the first medical school building in Galveston was named in his honor. His plantation at the mouth of Goose Creek here in Baytown, Texas, barely 5 minutes from my home, was named "Evergreen" the title of the historical marker that was placed on HW 146 as it crosses Lee Drive on the Baytown side of the Fred Hartman Bridge.

The ceremony for the dedication of this marker was held in a small church on HY 146 and Missouri Street. Dr. William Levin, then the President of the University of Texas Medical Branch gave the principal address and then State Senator Lindon Williams acted as the master of ceremonies. I personally paid for the marker.

Today the Evergreen plantation is involved in the "Ashbel Smith Land Company" and has been developed into an excellent golf course- "Evergreen point Golf Course" and I see signs on the south side of HW 146 advertising "Ashbel Smith" land for sale.

The Evergreen marker was placed on the side of the road (HW146) closest to the homesite of Ashbel Smith but is actually 1 mile from the actual homesite. Unfortunately the curve of the road on that side is such that cars going at high speed that lose control endanger the marker (and themselves) as well as the fence behind it. Within 5 years the marker disappeared and then reappeared several months later. A vehicle owned by the city of Pasadena struck and damaged the marker. It had been repaired and replaced.

In May 1996, I found the marker that had again been struck and was left at the roadside. It was repairable when I found it and I carried it to my home and called the Baytown Police Dept. They were very helpful and promptly took the marker to the police station. A license plate was found at the site and I gave the number to the officer in the Baytown police department. The officer expressed doubt that we would ever find out who did this but called an hour later informing me that an accident report had been filed earlier.

The damaged marker was then moved by someone to a warehouse of the Texas Department of Transportation where it now awaits repair and replacement. I spoke with an authority at the warehouse on at least 2 occasions and was informed that it could not be replaced until it was repaired and "we are not funded for the repair of these markers".

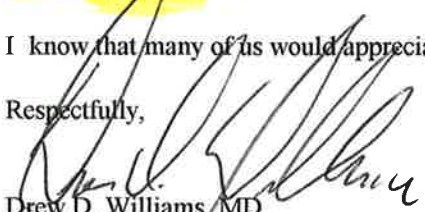
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I know that many of us would appreciate any help that the Commission can give.

Respectfully,



Drew D. Williams, MD
1217 Kilgore Road
Baytown, Texas 77520-3912

CC "The Baytown Sun"

State Senator (Dist. 11) Jerry Patterson
State Representative (Dist. 127) Joe Crabb
State Attorney General Dan Morales



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
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John L. Nau, III • Chairman
Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

March 12, 1998

Drew Davis Williams, MD
1217 Kilgore Road
Baytown, TX 77520

Dear Dr. Williams:

Thank you for your recent letter, addressed to Curtis Tunnell, regarding the historical marker for Ashbel Smith that was on State Highway 146 near Baytown. We are sorry to hear that it has been damaged, but hope that repairing it will be an option.

You should work with Al Davis, Chairman of the Harris County Historical Commission, since the marker is in Harris County. I've listed his address below. Someone will need to retrieve the marker from the TxDOT office, determine its condition and whether it can be repaired. If it cannot be easily repaired locally, you might consider shipping it back to the foundry for repair.

In previous cases like this one, repairs and/or replacement costs have been covered by the driver's auto insurance. I'm sorry we didn't know about this sooner, but hopefully there is still time to pursue that option.

If you have any additional questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman
Cynthia J. Beeman
Director, Local History Programs
History Programs Division

c: Al Davis, Harris County Historical Commission
929 Waxmyrtle
Houston, TX 77079



HARRIS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
929 WAXMYRTLE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77079

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Atha Marks Dimon
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Mrs. William T. Keenan
Dr. Keith L. King
Thornwell Kleb
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Judge Lamar McCorkle
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Dr. Charles C. Nathan
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Dr. Merline Pitre
C. David Pomeroy Jr.
Nedaye Gray Potts
Patricia Smith Prather
Dr. Emilio Sarabia
Paul R. Scott
Kay Shillock
Mrs. Nina Smith
Lee Stevens
Mrs. Pearl C. Suel
Anne Thomas
Lessie Upchurch
Patrick Van Pelt
Louise W. Ware
Rosie Zamora

Cynthia-

We are making progress on the
Ashbel Smith marker. Dr. Williams
located it in the TxDOT warehouse
and then had it shipped to
Southwell to see if it could be
repaired. I'll keep you posted.

Al Davis



HARRIS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

929 WAXMYRTLE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77079
713-468-6771

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Anne Thomas
Lessie Upchurch
Patrick Van Pelt
Louise W. Ware

Cynthia -
Please give me a call
when you receive these
photos.

Al Davis
713-209-3002

Ashbel Smith marker,
Baytown

